

# JMB threatens to blow up

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the Samokal, Siddique Alam Dayal of the Manabzamin and Rajat Kanta Barman of NNB.

"You the six are still writing against us. This is our last ultimatum. If you file any further report against JMB, none can save you except Allah," the letter reads.

"We are four now staying in Gaibandha," says the unsigned letter, ending with "JMB 3.12.05, Gaibandha."

Local journalists at a meeting at Gaibandha Press Club expressed concern at the frequent threats to them. They demanded security of journalists to carry out professional duties.

Meanwhile, Sundarganj police picked up seven suspected JMB activists at the upazila town yesterday evening.

The arrestees are Jahurul Islam, Aminur Rahman, Mahbubul Islam, Noor Hasan of Rangpur, Sajedul Islam Saju of Lalmonirhat, Enamul Haq and Abdullah Al Mon of Gaibandha.

**KUSHTIA**  
Islamic University Vice-chancellor Prof Rafiqul Islam received the threat over telephone at 9:00pm on Friday. The caller identified himself as a JMB member, reports BDNEWS.

"We will blow up the Faculty of Theology as the teachers of Dawa Department are standing in the way of establishing Islam," the caller said.

Later, the same JMB members also threatened Mostafa Kamal, dean of the Faculty of Theology, and Atiqur Rahman, chairman of the Department of Law, over telephone.

The authorities took strict security measures on the campus yesterday morning in the wake of the threat. The law enforcers conducted massive search on the campus with metal detector but found no explosives.

Meanwhile, entry of outsiders to the campus was prohibited and the students were allowed to enter the campus after checking their identity cards.

The vice-chancellor held a meeting with the provosts of five dormitories and deans of all faculties at noon yesterday. The meeting decided to deploy more law enforcers and to search the campus every day with metal detectors.

**INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY**  
An unknown caller yesterday phoned to IUB at Banani in the capital around 10:00am and threatened to blow up the private university.

Assistant Registrar of the university Masudul Haq filed a GD with the Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

**HABIGANJ**  
Habibul Islam, headmaster of Habiganj Government High School, yesterday morning received a letter containing a threat to blow up the school, BDNEWS reports.

The letter bore the name of the sender as JMB in English. The frightened students left the school without attending the ongoing annual exams.

The police rushed to the school and stepped up security there.

**RAJBARI**  
The students of Rajbari Government High School recovered a letter sent by the JMB, containing a bomb threat, as they came to the school to sit for their annual examinations yesterday morning, reports BDNEWS.

Following the incident, the school authorities suspended the classes and informed the police administration of the matter.

The police searched the school compound but found no explosives.

**NOAKHALI**

The JMB in a letter yesterday threatened to blow up the Charhazari VVTC School of Companiganj, reports BDNEWS.

The letter recovered from a room of the school said the Village Vocational Training Centre will be destroyed and its teachers and students killed within next one month.

Police have been deployed at every strategic point, including the government buildings, banks, industries and factories, in the town.

**MANIKGANJ**  
Our Manikganj correspondent reports: On secret information, sadar police arrested 11 youths at a mess house at Bradulia in the town around 4:00am.

The arrestees are Moaj Abdullah, Kamrul Hasan, Masum Billah, Abdur Rahim (1), Rahmat Ullah, Borhan Uddin, Abdur Rahim (2), Sayeed Hossain, Al Faruk, Israfil Hossain and Mashur Rahman. They hail from different districts.

Around 34 youths including the 11 have been staying at the house for the last one year.

The police, however, later released the 11 youths after district unit Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Delwar Hossain and General Secretary Advocate Anwar Hossain went to the police station and recommended for their release.

The Jamaat secretary said the arrestees are students and came

to Manikganj for coaching.

**BOGRA**

Kahalu police yesterday arrested five people including three women for their suspected link with militancy.

The arrestees are Hafez Moyejuddin, his brother Reazul, Moyejuddin's two wives Rehana Begum and Ayna Begum, and another woman Sahara.

**GAZIPUR**

Security around the district court building, which JMB suicide bombers targeted twice last week, was further beefed up yesterday.

Gazipur Superintendent of Police Atiqul Islam said additional police equipped with metal detectors have been dispatched from the Police Headquarters.

The law enforcers are frisking people and searching their bags, while policemen were seen videotaping at sensitive points.

Several kindergarten schools, business establishments and shops remained closed for apprehension of fresh bomb attacks. Attendance at opened schools and offices was very thin.

Most of the people were staying home to avoid excessive checking and also due to fear of fresh JMB attacks.

Lawyers begin a seven-day work abstention programme today to protest against Tuesday's and Thursday's suicide bomb attacks on the office of Gazipur Bar Association and the entrance to the deputy commissioner's office.

They took out a procession on the court premises and asked all lawyers not to attend office.

Advocates Amzad Hossain and Golam Faruk were killed in the Tuesday's attack when a JMB suicide bomber in lawyer's gown blew himself up.

Amzad's kulkhwani was held at Chhayabithi in the town yesterday afternoon.

All but one of the 15 wounded bomb victims, who are under treatment at the DMCH, are recovering. The hospital has released 20 others.

Although the government is bearing the expenses of their treatment, the victim's relatives said they are buying some medicines.

The number of visitors crowding the hospital wards and emergency unit has reduced because of beefed up security.

Meanwhile, President of Krishak Sramik Janata League Kader Siddiqui, MP yesterday accused Jamaat-e-Islami of harbouring bombers.

Jamaat is the source of bombing and the party has planned the recent attacks, he said at a protest rally at Joydevpur.

Emphasising an immediate step to crush the militants, he asked the ruling coalition to drop Jamaat, saying, "The bombing can't be stopped keeping Jamaat in the coalition."

"We didn't fight the Liberation War to witness these bombings and killings of innocent people this way," he added.

Iqbal Ahmed Siddiqui, Advocate Fazlur Rahman, Abu Enayet Karim and Habibur Rahman Khoka Bir Pratik, among others, addressed the rally.

Police continued manhunt and security checks and arrested four more suspects at Tongi and Sreepur on Friday night, reports UNB.

The arrestees -- all in their late twenties -- are Wahid, Baku Sarkar, Nasir Uddin and Anwarul Islam.

**DHAKA**

Rab, BDR, police and members of intelligence agencies started joint combing operations and block raids to hunt down suspected militants hiding in and around the capital.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman said the raid will continue but declined to say for how long.

He also said no militants were arrested during the drive.

When asked how many forces are taking part in the drive, Rahman told The Daily Star that he would not disclose that.

However, a top official of Rab said their forces visited, in most cases, the hotels and messes in the capital. He said the teams asked the hotel owners to inform them of any suspects checking in to their hotels.

Several teams of Rab, police and intelligence agencies raided Badda, Madartek, Bashabo, Khilgaon, Mohammapur, Paltan, Shyampur, Khilkhet and Uttara of the city.

**DINAJPUR**

Four suspected militants of JMB were held and four powerful bombs and explosives were recovered at Dinajpur on Friday night, our Dinajpur correspondent reports.

The arrestees are Golam Ibne Mizan Sultan, 23, Khorshed Alam, 23, Hafez Mohammad Abul Bashar Mithu, 20, and Abu Taher Sumon, 20. Sumon hails from Rajshahi while the rest are locals.

Police raided a house at Balubari in the district town and arrested Khorshed Alam with the bombs and explosives kept in a bag. In a raid at Arab Hotel on

Station Road police nabbed the other three.

**BRAHMANBARIA**

Ashuganj police arrested two suspected JMB cadres from Ashuganj bazaar area yesterday, our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports.

The arrestees are Mohammad Asad and Habibur Rahman, who hail from Kishoreganj.

Sources said they were staying at a house at Ashuganj which they rented a few days back.

**NARAYANGANJ**

Members of Detective Branch (DB) of police and Narayanganj police arrested an alleged JMB leader and three others including the principal of a madrasa at Narayanganj yesterday.

They were all arrested on suspicion, reports our correspondent in Narayanganj.

The detectives arrested Khaled bin Sayem, 50, principal of Karimia Madrasa at Sasapur in Fatulla and two other men -- Hafez Yahiya, 42, and Joyanal Abedin, 30, at the madrasa around 11:00am.

DB sources said Yahiya and Joyanal are chief organisers of an Islamist organisation, Islami Dawat Sangstha. They visit different parts of the country but the recovered books and magazines suggest they are involved in militant activities, said the detectives.

Narayanganj police also arrested an alleged JMB activist Abdullah, 22, at Farazikanda area in Bandar upazila at noon.

Police claim they gained significant information from the suspected militants during primary interrogation.

**COMILLA**

Police arrested four suspected members of the outlawed JMB from different parts of the district on Friday night, UNB reports.

Of the five, Jahangir was nabbed from the District Judge Court area, Alamgir at Daudkandi, Abul Hashem at Homna and M Bilal Hossain at Burichang upazila. They were being interrogated.

**SAVAR**

Savar police yesterday arrested three youths suspecting them of having links to JMB. The arrestees are Nurul Afzar, 25, Mesbah Uddin, 25, and Shafiqul Islam, 27.

## Clarification

Referring to a report run by The Daily Star on December 2, Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahubey Alam in a clarification said he did not make the comment on killing of the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh militants by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Quoting Mahubey Alam, the report titled "Hartal observed with call to resist militancy" said, "The government's special force Rab can kill the Sarbahars (leftist extremists), but why can't they kill militants."

Mahubey Alam clarified that he said, "Rab has been able to arrest and even kill the extremists, but the fanatic militant leaders are not being arrested."

## Edn system

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He also demanded that the government make good the loss of about Tk 1,000 crore that they have already invested to publish the new textbooks under the uni-track education system.

The policymakers of the NCCC are now misleading the people by saying about the insufficient preparation for introducing the uni-track education system, Taher viewed.

The association thinks the government's decision to introduce the uni-track secondary education has already been implemented, he said, adding, "We have already completed all the formalities for publishing the new textbooks under the uni-track education system."

At the press conference, the association leaders also warned that they will not hesitate to resort to "legal or illegal" stances if the government retreats from its decision to introduce uni-track education without considering their problems.

According to the proposed uni-track education system, students would have to take up various subjects comprising disciplines from science, commerce and humanities groups in class nine under the SSC course from the next academic year.

While the education ministry claimed that the new system will help abolish a discriminatory system of education and have students acquire some elementary knowledge of the subjects, a number of academics said the new system will lower the standard of education.

Academics, schoolteachers, students and guardians under the banner of "National Committee to Resist the Proposed Uni-track Education" are carrying out extensive programmes to build up opinion against the new system.

# JCD, Shibir men

**FROM PAGE 1**

years. According to PSC sources, 14,095 persons were appointed to the cadre and non-cadre services by the BNP-Jamaat led alliance government in the last four years while a total of 25,585 public servants were employed since the country won independence.

**FRUSTRATION**

The allegations of leaks have emerged anew after the question papers of recently held 27th BCS preliminary tests had been widely distributed across the country ahead of the exams. Educationists blame the alleged practice of the current regime of appointing officials to the PSC based on political persuasions, especially to the posts of the PSC chairman, members, controllers and senior officials, as the reason for proliferation of corruption surrounding the BCS entrance exams.

They emphasised on the urgent need to stop such appointments to put a stop to the leakage.

"Bright students are frustrated by the repeated leaks of question papers and corrupt people without merit are being recruited as government officials by dint of the leakage, which is very harmful for the nation," said Dr Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, an educationist.

"What will we expect from these officials whose entry process is corrupt," he said expressing dissatisfaction over the PSC's lack of action against the illegal practice.

**BRISK BUSINESS**

Despite repeated leaks, the PSC authorities and the government did not acknowledge it, let alone taking action.

A JCD leader of Shahidullah Hall in Dhaka University (DU) earned Tk 2 lakh by selling copies of the leaked question papers of the 27th BCS preliminary examinations in the residential hall, said another leader of the same student organisation on condition of anonymity.

He claimed that he himself earned Tk 20,000 within two hours in the morning just before the examination began.

"What will be the effect of writing against this illegal practice?...nothing....our top leaders in connivance with some PSC staff, who were politically appointed, are leaking out question papers to achieve two aims....one is earning a huge amount of money from sales and another is creating an opportunity to appoint their student leaders to government posts," a JCD leader of DU told this correspondent.

**PSC'S DENIAL**

PSC officials however said it had held several meetings following newspaper reports about the leaks on November 19, but had not formed any investigation committee, as no specific proof had been submitted before or during the examination.

PSC Member Dr Ashrafur Islam Chowdhury suggested that law enforcers should be deployed at educational institutions, especially at university dormitories to check the illegal practice.

**27TH BCS EXAM**

A good number of leader of the JCD and ICS were seen busy selling copies of leaked question papers among the candidates at different dormitories of different universities and at college hostels through out the country in the early hours of November 18.

JCD leaders were the first to start selling the copies from the extension building-1 of Shahidullah hall in DU at 2:00am. The news of the sale spread out like wild fire to other DU dormitories. Soon the leaked ques-

tion papers spread out to the dormitories of other universities over cellphones.

In some instance as many as 98 of the 112 leaked multiple choice questions (MCQs) were found to be authentic, examinees said adding that the sale was started at 2:00am to prevent possible news-flash as most of the daily newspapers go to press before that time.

Denying any link between their activists and the leak, JCD President Azizul Bari Helal said, "We don't select the questions or get question papers before the exams. How can we engage in such an illegal act?"

A number of BCS candidates who have been continuously protesting against the leaks think that the reason behind the government's denial is that it wants to appoint its own men to the administration.

They demanded cancellation the controversial 27th BCS preliminary tests and termination of Prof Tahmid from her post.

**OTHER CONTROVERSIAL BCS EXAMS**

Question papers of the 24th BCS preliminary tests held on February 28, 2003 was also allegedly leaked and the PSC had to cancel the test.

PSC Chairman Prof ZN Tahmidia Begum at first denied the allegation and termed it absolutely false and baseless.

But later, the commission formed a three-member committee to investigate the allegation and cancelled the test saying that the action was taken to meet the candidates' demand. No action was taken against the persons responsible for the leak though six were arrested with bundles of photocopies of the question papers.

"The PSC found about 10 of its officials involved in the question paper leak but did not publish the probe report," a source claimed, requesting anonymity.

Fresh preliminary tests were held on August 8, 2003, again amid allegation of leaks. This time also, the PSC denied the allegation and published the results after nine days.

The PSC also faces allegations of irregularities in the entrance exams for the posts of sub registrars, as well as in the mathematics and general science examinations for the 25th BCS held in the beginning of this year and in the MCQ tests for the 26th special BCS held on December 2004.

## JMB cadres

**FROM PAGE 1**

A ruling party lawmaker speaking anonymously said a certain section of madrasas are producing these elements, who are now carrying out violent acts to establish so-called Islamic rule.

Many of these madrasas do not even have the approval of the government. The law enforcers should closely monitor activities in these unapproved Islamic educational institutions, he added.

A highly placed source in Detective Branch of police said lawmakers of different parties have set up a large number of madrasas in their electoral areas to create "vote banks".

Establishment of madrasas has marked a sharp rise during the reigns of the BNP and the Awami League in the last 14 years, the DB official added.

# AL-backed groups

**FROM PAGE 16**

is proved that Jamaat has links with militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The Alem-Ulams (Islamic scholars) of the country will start jihad if the government wants to control the Kawni madrasas, Amini said at a press conference at Lalbagh Madrasa in the city.

Madrasa Hefazat (protection) Committee expressed the press conference to protest the arrests and "police harassments" of Kawni madrasa students following the bomb blasts.

Some vested quarters backed by Awami League (AL) and patronised by some foreign forces that want to destroy the country are conducting the bomb attacks, the IOJ leaders said.

Those who do not come for the dialogue are the enemies of the country," Amini said replying to a question about AL's rejection of the government's proposal for a dialogue at the crisis period.

"We won't take a moment to close the Kawni madrasas if any concrete proofs of operating militant activities are found there," he said in a mood of challenge to the intelligence forces.

"If the government continues unnecessary arrest and harassment of the madrasa students, being failed to arrest the real culprits behind the gruesome bomb blasts, we shall call the alem-olamas and decide if we will leave the 4-party alliance," Fazlul Haque Amini said.

"At this moment we are not thinking of leaving the 4-party alliance in the interest of the unity of the alliance," he noted.

On the IOJ's present role as an Islamic party in the country, he said they are in the alliance, but not in the administration.

"Yet, we are going to the people and raising awareness of the true teachings of Islam," he said.

Amini said his party has no objection if the government deploys army at the crisis period.

## Hearing

**FROM PAGE 16**

Earlier, the chamber judge of the Supreme Court had held back disposal of the government petition until Sunday for a full-bench hearing.

The government sharply reacted to the November 30 High Court order upon a writ in the wake of unabated bomb strikes on courts, killing judges, lawyers, police personnel and justice-seekers. The government moved the Supreme Court the following day to stay the HC order.

Issuing the rule, returnable in three weeks, the High Court had asked the government to explain why its continuous failure to discharge constitutional obligations to hold impartial, adequate and effective investigations into the bomb blasts on court premises since August 17 should not be declared a failure in protecting fundamental rights.

The order contained another ruling asking the government to explain causes of its alleged inaction in tackling spate of bomb attacks.

## Britain issues

**FROM PAGE 16**

"There is a high threat of terrorism in Bangladesh," the FCO said in its website yesterday revising its travel advice to ensure that British travellers are well prepared before leaving for Bangladesh.

It said that attacks using explosive devices continue to take place throughout the country, including the Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet regions. Recently the terrorists have intensified the scale and frequency of their attacks against domestic targets, the FCO further said, apprehending fresh attacks.

"Some attacks have been carried out against specific targets. The attackers themselves have been prepared to die in such incidents. But attacks can be indiscriminate and have been executed in public places, such as markets, shopping malls, cinemas, shrines and at cultural events and political gatherings. Local journalists and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have also been targeted. There is a risk that you might get caught up in such attacks."

The FCO also asked the citizens to avoid demonstrations and large gatherings including "hatalis".

Referring to the recent attacks, the travel advice said in late November and early December, three bomb explosions at judicial and local government facilities in Chittagong and Gazipur are reported to have caused at least 13 fatalities and injured up to 100.

## Moudud

**FROM PAGE 16**

He said speaking at the foundation training course of the newly appointed assistant judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute.

Moudud called for overcoming the present situation with courage and urged the judges to perform their responsibilities without fear.

He said evil attempt was earlier made to make parliament dysfunctional, but the government had been able to face that conspiracy by enacting 137 laws in the last four years.

The law minister said the government has taken effective steps to ensure security of courts. He urged the court administration to take its own steps to stop people loitering on the court premises.

Referring to the killing of two judges in Jhalakathi, the minister called for creating awareness among the people against the militants responsible for such incidents in the name of Islam.

## Bill Gates

**FROM PAGE 16**

city, but they need clearance from the home ministry.

Home ministry sources said they have taken such cautionary measures, considering the prevailing situation.

The Microsoft chief will give a 55-minute presentation on "Innovation and Partnership" to be attended by senior government officials, academics and IT industry leaders.

He is likely to call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during his brief stay in Dhaka, and is likely to discuss how Bangladesh can collaborate with Microsoft in bridging the digital divide in the country.

Besides, he will meet the ministers of finance and planning, education, information, science & ICT, post and telecommunications; and chairman of Board of Investment (BoI).

He will assess Microsoft's activities in Bangladesh and announce some expansion plans, the source said.

Microsoft has officially started operation in Bangladesh this year. In cooperation with their market development partner, Square Informatix, they have focused on building good relationships with their certified partners locally during the past few months.

Microsoft also launched their "Unlimited Potential" programme on June 13, one of many projects planned for Bangladesh.

"His visit is very important in the national interest of Bangladesh as it will give a new impetus to Bangladesh's nascent IT industry," the source added.

# Jamaat man

**FROM PAGE 1**

[Washiqu] is not involved in the militant outfit, rather an anti-Ahle Hadith group is spreading such falsehood about him.

Locals said Washiqu has a very close personal relationship with the local Jamaat lawmaker and if the people should meet Khaleq Mondal, they have to go through Washiqu.

The investigation also yields that JMB members would preach the outfit's objectives and ideals to the villagers in mosques across the remote locality of Sathkira in the months leading up to August 17. At least 200 people from Kushkhali, Talugachhi, Banshdah, Baliadanga, Narayanjole and Badhikhi villages regularly attended the extremist indoctrination.

Situated along the Indian border over 15 kilometres off the district headquarters, those villages would hardly come under routine surveillance of the law enforcers before the August 17 blasts.

Some 100 of the indoctrinated villagers used to take part in physical training conducted by the JMB in the dead of night while around 20 others took part in a specialised training in making bombs, said a number of villagers.

"The group of hardcore JMB cadres, who would also watch videos on Afghan and Iraq wars, took the training inside a thick bush stretched over 30 acres of land," a local of Kushkhali village told The Daily Star.

The man from Kushkhali trembled with fear while talking about those dreaded JMB men. He opened up to the correspondent not before making sure the doors and windows of his house are shut. Two youths from neighbouring Talugachhi had joined him and gave a similar picture of the militants' activities in the villages.

As the police mounted a watch on the villages soon after the August bombings, the militants went into hiding. But of late, they have started to return home with shaven beards, taking advantage of the slackness of the law enforcers, said locals seeking anonymity.

A top investigator wishing not to be named said almost every house in Kushkhali village has a JMB cadre.

After Maghreb prayers every Thursday, the local JMB activists would assemble in the village mosques where the leaders would brief them on the impending war to establish Islamic rule in the country, said a man who once had attended the preaching.

Some 50 others coming from outside the locality including Munna, Nasir and Indian national Giasuddin, who were arrested in connection with the August 17 blasts in Sathkira, used to partici-

pate in the briefing.

"The participants from the outside never gave their real names when locals queried," he added.

"About a year ago, Bangla Bhai visited South Talugachhi Jam-e mosque near the house of Jamaat Rakan Moulana Washiqu Rahman and preached to the villagers about jihad," said another man of the village.

He said people even from Kashmir and Afghanistan frequented the village mosques and delivered speeches in their mother tongues, usually translated by local JMB men.

The hands-on trainings in handling explosives were never confined to a certain place, rather they shifted from place to place, said another man of Kushkhali village.

**RAJI**

Fakruddin Raji, listed by police as a divisional commander of JMB,