

JMB threatens to blow up

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the Samakal, 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.

They arrestees are Jahurul Islam, Aminur Rahman, Mahibul Islam, Noor Hasan of Rangpur, Saeedul Islam Saju of Lalmonirhat, Enamul Haq and Abdulla Al Imon 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, sardar 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 Mashru 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 Majeeduddin, his brother Reazul, Majeeduddin'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.

They 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 himself up.

Amzad's quirkhani 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.

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 harboring 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, Mohammadpur, Paltan, Shyampur, Khilkhet and Uttara of the city.

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, Khorsheed 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 Khorsheed Alam with the bombs and explosives kept in a bag. In a raid at Arab Hotel on

Station Road police nabbed the other three.

RAJMANBARIA

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 Sastapur in Fatulla and two other men -- Hafez Yahiya, 42, and Joynal Abedin, 30, at the madrasa around 11:00am.

DB sources said Yahiya and Joynal 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, Alampur at Daudkandi, Abul Hashem at Homna and M Billal 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 Afzal, 25, Mesbah Uddin, 25, and Shafiqul Islam, 27.

JMB leaders said they are buying some medicines.

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

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JCD, Shibir men

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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's 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.

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

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

Mahbubey 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."

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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.

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