

## Matia sees no big difference between JMB and Jamaat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Matia Chowdhury on Sunday said there is no big difference between the Jamaat-e-Islami and the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

She was addressing a public meeting organised by the local unit of 14-party Opposition Alliance at Jhenidah Shapla Chatter.

Justifying her views, she said both of the organisations have a common objective to establish Islamic rule by force in the country.

Matia blamed the BNP for rise in militancy and communal politics. She warned that time is not far away when Jamaat will come out with its real face.

The meeting was presided over by Jhenidah unit president of Awami League (AL) Abdul Hye MP.

Matia told the meeting that very soon people would no longer tolerate any communal force like Jamaat-e-Islami in state power.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Awami League central organising secretary Abdul Mannan, Nazmul Haq Pradhan of Jatiya Gonoranktrik Dal, Mafizul Islam Khan of Gono Forum, Bazlur Rahman of Gano Azadi League, Dhiren Saha of Samyabadi Dal, Anisur Rahman Malik of Workers' Party, Advocate Abdul Wahab of Mazdur Party and Jhenidah district unit general secretary of Awami League Advocate Azizur Rahman.

## Akhaura shrine blasts: 2 confess to involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two suspected bombers of Akhaura shrine blasts yesterday confessed to their involvement in the incident that killed one person and injured over 100 on August 12.

According to Detective Branch (DB) police sources, a team of police headed by DB OC ANM Yeahiya arrested Muhammad Sarker, 30, and Ershad Mia, 38, from their villages in Akhaura upazila on Sunday.

During interrogation, they confessed that they along with a gang hurled bombs at Akhaura Peer Kalla Shaheed Mazar on August 12. They gave their statement under Section 161 to police.

One person was killed and more than 100 were injured when a series of bombs exploded at the shrine.

A case has been filed and IO Yeahiya is investigating the case.

## PANIC-STRICKEN MAGURA

# Lawyers remove their nameplates, cops keep doors shut

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Prominent lawyers in Magura town have started removing nameplates from their residences and chambers fearing militant attack.

The main gates of Police Superintendent's office and 4 police stations have also been closed and the visitors are allowed to enter only after checking their identities and registering their names and addresses.

Panic gripped the town after the JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) suicide bombers carried out twin attacks on Gazipur and Chittagong court premises that killed 9 people including a lawyer on November 29.

Referring anonymity, an eminent lawyer said, "I have removed my name-plate from my chamber and residence to avoid any JMB and Harkat-ul-Jihad (HuJI) attack because we have information that there are cadres of these two militant groups. The August 17 bomb blasts in the town and on the judge court premises are proof of their existence."

"As security has been tightened in court areas, the militants may now attack lawyers' residences because they are determined to destroy the judiciary", he said.

"But police has miserably failed to make any headway in the blasts. The

suspects are moving freely on their noses", he lamented.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in Magura Mia Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury talking to this correspondent however said, "Although we are yet to make any list of militants, police will be able to make a major headway soon as we have launched operation to nab the militants involved in August 17 blast here".

On August 17, 5 bombs went off in different areas of the town including court compound while another unexploded bomb was recovered from Bhaina Square. No charge-sheet has yet been submitted as police is still clueless to the incident, sources in police said.

Although police had arrested two suspected members of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) Moshirur Rahman Mollah of Pamanduali and Abul Kashem Mollah of Benga-Beroil villages in Magura sadar upazila, they could not collect any important information regarding their activities. They were later released on bail.

Police in Magura still believe there is no stronghold of Islamist outfit in the district but suspect a strong network of bombers like other parts of the country. "So far our investigation says there is no stronghold or training camp of militant groups in Magura. But there may be a strong network which carried

out the August 17 blasts," the SP said.

The SP, however, admitted the presence of two top cadres of HuJI and JMJB (Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh) and said police hunt was also on to track down the culprits.

According to sources in the intelligence agencies, police and locals, Abu Sufian, 45, a top cadre of HuJI, hailed from Khamarpara village in Sreepur upazila, was arrested earlier by army men along with 39 other militants when he was training them in a jungle in Rangamati district. He was convicted in the case but later released on bail following an order from the higher court.

Sources said, Sufian is also a suspect in the August 17 blasts in Magura. He fought against Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan as a 'Mujahid'. Sufian fled home after the August 17 blast and was arrested again when he tried to go to Afghanistan. This time also he was released on bail.

Intelligence agencies also have identified another militant, Yousuf, 25, an alleged cadre of JMJB. Son of Dabir Munshi of village Madhabpur in Magura Sadar upazila, he reportedly went to Rajshahi about six months ago and took training at a JMJB camp.

He is also absconding after the August 17 blast incident. Police said they are also hunting for Yousuf.

## Voter list: AL men lay siege to UNO office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Several hundred Awami League (AL) activists yesterday laid a siege to Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) office protesting alleged selection of BNP and Jamaat supporters as supervisors and enumerators for preparing voter list.

Earlier, a procession was brought out in Kaliganj. The procession started from the party office and terminated at the UNO office. Processionists paraded the main streets of the town and chanted slogans.

A rally was held in front of the UNO office. It was presided by party's upazila unit president Sheikh Wahiduzzaman.

Speakers demanded selection of neutral people as supervisors and enumerators, failing which they threatened to launch a tougher agitation soon.

They said Kaliganj upazila election officials should have consulted with the opposition political parties before starting the selection process.

They termed selection of BNP-Jamaat men as a part of a blue print to rig the next general election.

Among others, former lawmaker Monsur Ahmed, Khan Asadur Rahman, Sheikh Nasir Uddin, Moslem Ali, Sadar Uddin, Naren Mondal, Shahin Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and DM Sirajul Islam addressed the rally.

## RUTA protests bombings

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) Sunday held a rally and brought out a mourning procession on the campus in memory of those killed in recent bomb blasts in the country.

The processionists paraded different streets on the campus.

The rally was held in front of Senate building with RUTA President Prof Nazrul Islam in the chair.

Speakers at the rally expressed deep concern over continued bomb blasts on court compounds, saying this is a deep-rooted conspiracy to destroy the judiciary and destabilise the country.

The perpetrators are enemies of the country they said and urged the government to identify the real culprits behind the incidents and to take stern action against them.

The government must bear the responsibility for the blasts, they said.

They called upon the people to unite against terrorism and bomb attacks to ensure security in public life.

The speakers included RUTA General Secretary Prof Abdul Hai Talukder, RU Student Advisor Prof Zahid Hassan Milky, Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker and Prof Abdus Salam.



Police on Sunday arrested Al-Amin, a 'regional chief' of Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) from a village in Patuakhali. Al-Amin reportedly carried out the August 17 bombings in the district town.

PHOTO: STAR

# Outlaws slay rival cadre, abduct businessman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar communist Party (PBCP-ML, War) slaughtered one of their rival party cadres in Chuadanga, while a gang of outlaws abducted a businessman in Meherpur Saturday night.

According to family members of the slain PBCP cadre, Abdul Kuddus, the rival cadres stormed into his house at village Bhangtapara in Alamdanga upazila about 10.30 pm.

They took Kuddus out of his house and slaughtered him before the family members on the courtyard.

Police said Kuddus had a long-standing feud with PBCP-ML, War over establishing supremacy in the area. He was recently granted bail in a murder case after staying two years in custody. But he resumed activities in the area just after getting bail.

One Rony Biswas introducing him as a regional leader of ML-War claimed the responsibility for the killing terming Kuddus an anti-social element.

Police Sunday morning recovered the body and sent it to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In Meherpur, a gang allegedly belonging to an outlawed party abducted a businessman from village Kulabari in Gangni upazila and demanded ransom.

Five persons including two children were injured when the gang

threw bombs during the incident.

According to police, the outlaws went to the house of one Moslem Uddin at midnight. They introduced themselves as cadres of an underground party and called out Moslem and demanded a toll of Tk. 50,000 instantly.

As Moslem refused to pay, the angry outlaws confined all family members at gunpoint and looted Tk 15,000 in cash and valuables including ornaments worth about Tk. 50,000.

The gang also picked up Moslem's son Sanwar 35, also a businessman, demanding an additional Tk. 50,000.

Police said the outlaws threw two

bombs before decamping when the family members cried for help.

The injured are Babul, 40, and Mamu, 32, two sons of Moslem, neighbour Mujibar 45, and his daughter Chumki, 7, and domestic help Sumon, 12.

Police went to the spot at about 1:am. A case was filed with Gangni police station.

As many as 57 people, mostly businessmen have been abducted in the district since January.

Of them, 14 were killed and six still missing, while the rest bought their freedom.



PHOTO: STAR

The 14-party Alliance led by Awami League brought out a procession in Barisal yesterday protesting the country-wide bomb attacks by Islamist militants.

# Diarrhoea kills 4 children, attacks 500 in Tangail

Spreading fast in 3 upazilas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Diarrhoea claimed at least four children and attacked more than 500 people in Gopalpur upazila since Friday.

The waterborne disease is also spreading fast in Madhupur and Ghatail upazilas of the district.

The dead are Romij Miah, 11, and Arif Hossen, 13, of Porabari village, Sabina Yasmin, 14, of Rannagar village and Rubina Khatun, 8, of Uttar Dhopakandi village in Gopalpur.

The worst affected areas of the upazila are: Gopalpur pourasabha area, Dhopakandi, Jhaoail, Nagda Shimla and Alamnagar.

While visiting the Gopalpur Upazila Health Complex, it was found diarrhoea patients were being treated at the hospital's floor, corridor and

entrance in an unhygienic condi-

tion.

Some relatives of the patients alleged that they had to buy oral saline and other medicine from outside the hospital.

With the latest casualties, the death toll in diarrhoea rose to 26 including 12 children across the district in last two months.

The District Health Control Room sources however confirmed only 14 deaths from diarrhoea claiming that 12 others died from pneumonia, food poisoning and other diseases.

"We have adequate supply of oral saline and other medicine in our store and 117 medical teams are working across the district to combat the disease", an official at the Tangail Civil Surgeon Office said.

# 12X2

# 4X2

# 9X2

# 5X2



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Stock Exchange president Habibullah Khan opening the Capital Market Fair at Chittagong yesterday.