

Panic grips Satkhira as JMB gives bomb threats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Panic has gripped Satkhira after JMB (Jama'atul Mujahidin, Bangladesh) issued several threats to explode bombs and to kill some officials.

On Monday and Tuesday, it threatened to detonate nine bombs in the district. On Tuesday, in a letter sent to the office of Assistant Commissioner, Land (AC Land) Nayeb Ali, it threatened to kill the official.

In another letter sent to the Satkhira Press Club president on the same day, JMB also threatened that AC Land Nayeb Ali would be killed.

Bomb scare mounted in the district town yesterday after police arrested three JMB suspects from the bus stand. Law enforcers are on alert since the fresh threats, a senior police official told this correspondent.

Police have been deployed at key installations and paramilitary BDR is patrolling the town streets.

Entry of visitors have been restricted at the Collectorate Building, court premises, Police

Superintendent's office and other important offices and installations.

Main gates of Judge Court building, Deputy Commissioner's office and Police Superintendent's office remain closed and visitors are allowed to enter only after checking their bodies with metal detectors and ascertaining their purpose of visit, sources said. The number of litigants in courts have also dropped.

Seeking anonymity, an intelligence official said, militants may now attack other installations as law enforcers have tightened security in court areas.

Some town dwellers talking to this correspondent said they are scared after the threats and arrest of the JMB suspects.

"This is affecting life and business", a trader said. "This is a new deadly menace which will paralyse everything", he said.

"I pull down the shutter before dusk and go home. I remain worried after sending my children to school", another shopkeeper said.

A senior leader in Satkhira district BNP declining to be named said



PHOTO: STAR
The three suspected JMB men arrested from Satkhira bus stand yesterday.

he is worried about security after the threats. Bomb blasts can not be ruled out as Satkhira is a stronghold of JMB. They may retaliate, he said.

An Awami League leader said, bomb attacks are not unlikely as police failed to make any headway in nabbing members of JMB suicide squads though they are reportedly

moving freely in certain areas.

Police Superintendent Abdur Rahim said, a drive to nab JMB suspects has been launched although they have gone into hiding. He hoped that police would be able to detect dens of militants and nab the kingpins.

Five JMB suspects arrested in Tangail

3 accused of Aug 17 blasts surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Police arrested five JMB suspects in the district yesterday and the day before.

Three others, accused of carrying out the August 17 blasts in Tangail, surrendered to a Magistrate court on Monday.

Two JMB suspects were arrested from a hotel in the town's Niralar More area yesterday. They are Shaheen Gazi, 36, of Dighuliapara in Chandpur district and Zakir Hawladar, 35, of Char Mushuria in Madaripur district.

Another JMB suspect -- Saiful Islam, 45, was arrested from Biswas Betka Ahle Hadith Mosque in the town Monday night. He was the Imam of the mosque.

The three persons are being quizzed at Tangail Sadar police station, police sources said.

On Monday, three of the 15

persons allegedly involved in the August 17 bomb blasts in the district surrendered to a magistrate court here. They are Habil, 20, Ahad, 22, and Rustam, 24, of Madarkol village in Delduar upazila. The court sent them to jail, police said.

On the same day, villagers in Barapusha in Nagarpur upazila caught two alleged JMB men and handed them over to police. They are Shaheed Miah, 21, and Abdul Awal, 30.

Police said villagers caught them on suspicion and informed Bekra Atpara Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Bari. The UP chairman handed them over to Nagarpur police.

They were being interrogated at Nagarpur police station, police said yesterday.



4 year-old boy held for 'violating' labour law freed on bail

RAFIQUE SARKER, *Rangpur*

At last four-year-old Uday Chandra Das was freed on a seven-day ad-interim bail, granted by a Magistrate court here yesterday.

Uday and his father Umesh Chandra Das sought ad-interim bail after issuance of an arrest warrant against them by the Cognizance Court 2.

According to the prosecution story, the district labour inspector lodged a case one-week before the last Eid-ul-Fitre against Uday and his father Umesh Chandra Das for 'violating' labour laws.

The inspector alleged that the accused persons engaged child workers at their hotel-Uday Restaurant-- at Station Road in the town, violating labour laws.

In the case, he also alleged

that they compelled child workers to work at their restaurant for more than eight hours a day.

Kazi Mohammed Faruque, lawyer of the accused, said the restaurant is named after Uday but its proprietor is his mother Banaya Das.

The labour inspector while filing the case did not take the age of Uday into consideration, the attorney said.

The child was crying when he appeared before the court on his father's lap yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent, Umesh and his wife said they are mentally upset thinking their child's future as harassment may have a psychological impact on him.

"I do not know what was the fault with me and my child", he said after coming out of the court.

Move for militant resistance bodies in Kushtia villages, wards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Kushtia district administration has decided to form 'militant resistance committee' at ward level in municipality and at villages to create public opinion against militants.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the district law and order committee held yesterday at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner (DC).

The meeting also decided to take some other steps to meet any unto-

ward incident by militants.

With DC Jamal A Naser Choudhury in the chair, the meeting was attended by, among others, Police Superintendent Masud-Ul-Hasan, Additional SP Abdul Kheleq Bhuyian., Additional District Magistrate Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, all upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) and all officers-in-charge (OCs) of police stations, Captain Refayat Hossain, Adjutant of 9 rifle battalion of BDR Mirpur sector, NSI (National Security Intelligence)

Assistant Director Jasim Uddin, Kushtia Bar General Secretary Nurul Islam Dulal, Kushtia Zila Girl High School Headmaster Farid Uddin and Vice-president of Kushtia BNP MA Shamim Arzoo.

The meeting urged the UNOs, OCs and public representatives to form militant resistance committee in all municipalities and 61 Union Parishads (UPs).

The committees will include teachers of local schools and madrasas, Imams of mosques and

youth leaders. Local administration will supervise activities of the committees.

The main objective of the committees would be to keep a vigil in respective areas and motivate people to resist Islamist militants' activities.

The meeting also urged authorities of schools and madrasas to strengthen security in their institutions.

DRIVE AGAINST SUGARCANE CRUSHING

Magistrate assaulted, police van torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A Magistrate and some policemen were assaulted by villagers when they went to confiscate an illegal sugarcane crusher machine at Daulatkhalai village in Daulatpur upazila in the district yesterday.

The angry villagers also torched a police vehicle.

At least 12 people were injured when police charged batons on the mob.

According to police and local sources, Magistrate Abdullah went

to Daulatpur with a police team to confiscate an 'illegal' power-driven sugarcane crusher in Kushtia sugar mill zone. Sugarcane crushing by power-driven machine is banned in the mill zone.

The people protested seizure of the machine, saying they have no alternative to crushing sugarcane in their own way as supplying the cane to the mill is not profitable.

When contacted Daulatpur police admitted the incident.

BDR recovers bomb, explosives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Paramilitary BDR recovered one bomb and some explosives from border area in Kanaighat upazila in Sylhet Monday night.

Official sources said, one bomb, three packets of powerful explosives, two detonators and four fuses were recovered from a hillock near Bhallukmara border by a BDR patrol team of Lohachhara Border Outpost at 10 PM Monday.

Words 'Telmix-90 Sunbrand' were written on the brown coloured packets of explosives, each weighing 110 grams.

An official of 21 BDR Battalion in Sylhet said, the explosives are powerful.



PHOTO: STAR
Police yesterday searching vehicles and passengers at Alankar More, an entry point to Chittagong city, as part of security measures taken in the wake of countryside bomb blasts.

BOMB ATTACKS BNP factions hold separate protest rallies in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Two factions of Khulna BNP held two separate rallies here yesterday afternoon as part of the party's central programme to protest bomb attacks and killing of innocent people including police men and judges.

The faction led by Khulna City Corporation Mayor held a rally at Maharaj Square. The faction recently formed a convening committee of city BNP.

The rally was presided over by Khulna district BNP president Prof Majidul Islam and addressed by, among others, former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali and Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman.

On the other hand, the faction led by M Nurul Islam MP held its rally at ferry terminal intersection.

It was presided over by M Nurul Islam MP and addressed by, among others, Nazrul Islam Manju and presidents of all five thana committees of BNP in the city and six ward commissioners.

Whip Ashraf Hossain, Joint Secretary General of BNP central committee, was not seen in any of the rallies.

Speakers of both the rallies bitterly criticised opposition Awami League for not responding to dialogue offered by the government to discuss how to stop bomb blasts by Islamist militants. They also strongly condemned the acts of violence by the militants and urged all political parties to join hands to stop this.

Speakers at both the rallies also urged the Prime Minister to drop from her cabinet if any one is found having links with the militants.

The rallies were followed by separate processions in the city.

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