

## BOMB THREAT

## Police on high alert in western zone railway

EAM ASADUZAMAN, Nilphamari

Railway police at 12 thanas and 17 outposts under BR's Western Zone are on high alert and security have been tightened in all important railway installations under it following the recent arrest of two suspected JMB militants from two mail trains.

But the security apparatus is too inadequate to the need, a high official of BR (Bangladesh Railway) told this correspondent yesterday.

BR's western zone covers 22 districts but the manpower and equipment have not been increased to face the present situation.

An urgent message has been sent to higher authorities in Dhaka from the GRP headquarters in Saidpur to increase the manpower and to supply sophisticated equipment to match the present situation, he said.

Md Nazrul Islam, Superintendent of Rail Police in Saidpur, said security measures have been tightened to ensure safety. Hawkers are not allowed into stations and illegal makeshift shops have been evicted from railway compounds.

He also admitted that there is acute shortage of police and equipment. The present strength is meagre to ensure security in all railway

compounds and installation under the western zone in the face of militants' threats. At least four platoons of police are needed only in Saidpur, he said. On Friday and Monday police arrested two suspected JMB militants including a woman from the Mohananda Express shuttling between Saidpur and Rajshahi and the Rocket Mail running between Saidpur and Khulna. They are Ambia Begum, 40, of Naldanga village in Natore district and Iqbal Hossain, 20, a student of Harina Kunda Koumi Madrasa in Jhenaidah district. Police also recovered explosive-like substances from their possession. The official said that after arrest of the two suspected militants, police are apprehending bomb attack in passenger trains also.

Security has been tightened in all inter-city, mail and local trains, at rail way stations, Saidpur railway workshop and all other important installations.

Passengers are being checked with metal detectors at important railway stations before they board trains. But this is inadequate because of lack of manpower, the officials said seeking anonymity. Passengers should be properly checked at all stations because the

militants may choose small stations to board a train, he said. On November 27 morning, inter-city train Borendra Express running between Nilphamari and Rajshahi narrowly escaped an accident as the fish plate of the rail track was removed at Baniapara, about three kilometres from Saidpur railway station. An accident could be averted as some local people saw the track and hoisted a red flag. Sources in police and railway employees suspect that fish plates could have been removed by saboteurs because telephonic threats were made earlier to railway offices in the region to blow up trains and installations with bomb.

On 11 November, one person identifying himself as a JMB activist made a telephone call to Saidpur railway hospital and threatened to blow up the hospital, important installations and passenger trains. Dr Ahsan Habib, Divisional Medical Officer (DMO) at the hospital while talking to newsmen acknowledged the threat.

Saidpur, a railway town, also accommodates the largest railway workshop in the country.

## Unprecedented security at Khulna University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students seeking admission to Khulna University had to undergo body checking with metal detectors by members of Rab yesterday.

Admission tests began yesterday and will continue till December 18. All admission seekers had to pass through makeshift gates, erected at the entrance for checking one by one.

This decision was taken at an emergency meeting of teachers, held on Thursday with the Vice-chancellor in the chair.

None but candidates for admission tests, teachers and staff of the university was allowed to get into the campus. Guardians and guests

were provided with a separate arrangement to wait outside the campus.

Besides, no private car was allowed to park on the campus. Cars of the Vice-chancellor and other teachers of the university were also checked by Rab as part of security measure in view of a recent threat by JMB to blow up the university.

The university authorities have asked students to carry their identity cards. If necessary, Rab will carry out search in residential halls on the basis of any secret information received from intelligence agencies, said an official at the Public Relations Department of the university.

## Protests against JMB carnage



PHOTO: STAR

(From top) Mourning procession by Udichi Shilpi Goshti in Sirajganj, a Chhatra League protest match in Tangail and protest by devotees in Sirajganj yesterday against Thursday's suicide bombing in Netrakona that killed eight people.

## PHULBARI COAL MINE

## Locals protest open pit mining

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hundreds of people from Phulbari, Parbatipur and Birampur upazilas in Dinajpur district on Thursday protested the proposed open pit method in extracting coal from Phulbari coal mine by the Asia Energy company.

They formed a big human chain, brought out processions and held a rally protesting the mining method, alleging that this will damage the environment and displace hundreds of families.

They also demanded punishment to the officials and political leaders concerned who allowed the open pit mining method.

The programmes were organ-

ised by the Phulbari Coalmine Implementation Resist Committee, an organisation formed in May this year to resist the project.

The protestors who gathered from the three upazilas formed a human chain stretching from Dinajpur Municipality Office to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. They carried banners, posters and feostons protesting open pit mining method.

They claimed that at least 8,000 acres of arable land in the three upazilas will be rendered uncultivable and hundreds of families displaced in the areas.

Besides, several lakh people will be affected in the areas, speakers at the rally said.

They claimed that the decision was taken to serve the interest of the multinational company.

They also demanded that the contract with the mining company be made public. Natural resources should be utilised for welfare of the people and the country.

Asia Energy, a subsidiary of the UK based Carbone Mining Group, is planning to start work at the mining site from next year after completion of the on-going study, sources said.

Sources in Asia Energy said about 6.5 square kilometre area will be needed for extracting coal from the mine through the open pit method.

## Father, son killed 25 hurt in road mishaps

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four people including a father and his son were killed and at least 25 injured in road accidents in Brahmanbaria and Sirajganj yesterday and the night before.

Our B'baria Correspondent reports: Md. Abdul Mannan, 50, and his son Md. Nayan Mia, 25, died on the spot when run over by a Dhaka-bound bus as they were crossing the BrahmanbariaDhaka Highway at Ashuganj Thursday night. Another person -Md. Ramzan Ali, 40was injured in the same incident. They were day labourers hailing from Mymensingh, police said. The bus sped away.

The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In another incident on the same night, 20 people were injured when

two buses collided head on at Shuhagpur under Ashuganj upazila on the same highway. They were treated at at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and local clinics.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports:

Two persons were killed and five others injured when a Bogra-bound truck from Dhaka hit another truck from behind on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Koda in Sirajganj yesterday morning.

Truck driver Nur Mohammad, 35 of Beganganj village in Noakhali district was killed on the spot and an unidentified persons aged about 30 died while being taken to hospital, police said.

The injured persons were admitted to Sadar Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were taken to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Outlaws kill 2 in Chuadanga

## 3 Gono Mukti Fouz members held in Kushtia after gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Cadres of outlawed Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) shot dead two fish cultivators at Hasnadah village in Jibonnagar upazila in Chuadanga early yesterday while police arrested three outlaws belonging to Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) after a gunfight in Pabna on Wednesday. According to Chuadanga police, Janajuddho cadres picked up two fishermen from Huglipora beel (water body) when they were fishing there at about 2.30:am. They are Thandu 19, of Mathpara and Abul Kalam 28, of Zafarabad village, who leased the water body. Police said the PBCP men shot them dead at Hasnadah. Later, one Razib Ahmed introducing himself as a 'regional leader' of Janajuddho phoned to some local journalists claiming responsibility for the killings.

The PBCP men said that a warning was issued earlier against leasing the water body, but the two fishermen ignored it.

The killings have created panic among fish cultivators in the district.

There are at least 22 big water bodies in the district and 18 of them have been leased. Police recovered the bodies yesterday morning and sent those to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police also recovered four bombs from the spot. In Pabna, the Sadar police said they got information that some cadres of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz were on a boat on Padma river in Raninagar area. The police team went to the spot in a speedboat.

Sensing presence of police, three of the gang jumped into the river and the rest opened fire.

After a gunfight, police caught tree of them along with a sawn of rifle, two country made guns and 56 bullets.

They are Nurul Islam 33, of Mukshidpurchar in Khoksa upazila; Afzal Hossain, 39, of Adabaria and Monirul Islam 29, of Damdam in Kumarkhali upazila in Kushtia.

Police said they told them that they belonged to the GMF faction led by Tikka.

## FACTIONAL CLASH IN MAGURA

## 9 JCD men hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Nine activists of Jatiyotabadi Chattra Dal (JCD) including its district unit president were injured in clashes between two rival factions of the organisation Thursday night and at noon on the day.

JCD district unit president Nazmul Hasan Liton, joint secretary of the same unit Firoj Hossain and an activist, Manik, were hacked and critically injured by rivals at Vitashair in the town at around 8 pm.

The attack followed a clash between two rival groups at noon, party sources said. They were

admitted to Magura Sadar hospital.

Meanwhile, five activists of JCD were injured when rival groups of JCD clashed with lethal weapons at around 11.30 am at Government HSS College over formation of a new committee of the party, police and witnesses said. The rival factions are led former president of the college unit of JCD Suman Hossain and incumbent president of JCD unit at the college, Maruf Hossain Munna.

On information RAB and police rushed there and brought the situation under control.

10x3

10x3



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Nayem Ahmed receiving roadblocks and umbrellas for traffic management from Ghalib Ahmed Ansari, Additional General Manager of GrameenPhone at a simple function in Rajshahi recently.