



Former finance minister AMA Muhith addressing participants in a token mass hunger strike at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar (left) and Manikganj Udichi members in a human chain formed yesterday to protest the JMB carnage in Netrakona on December 8.



PHOTO: STAR

Stop bombings, bring JMB killers to book

Protest rallies, processions, hunger strike across country

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests against killing of people by JMB suicide bombers continued across the country with political parties and socio-cultural organisations holding rallies, bringing out processions staging token hunger strikes yesterday demanding immediate government steps to end the carnage.

The protesters held the government responsible for the acts of violence, saying the perpetrators are doing these under the protection of a partner in the ruling alliance.

Bomb attacks and threats to life of innocent citizens will not stop so long the coalition partner remains in the alliance, speakers at the protest programmes said.

Our RU Correspondent Reports: Udichi Shilpi Gosthi at Rajshahi University yesterday held a rally in front of RUCSU building protesting the JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) attack in Netrakona in which its district assistant general secretary Khwaja Haidar Hossain and seven others were killed.

Udichi also announced a two-day programme including rallies, processions, token hunger strike and hoisting of black flags atop buildings on the campus.

Earlier, cultural activists in the

city led by Udichi leaders took out a protest procession wearing black badges.

The protesters also blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for about half an hour and staged demonstrations.

At a rally, speakers said the nation will have to rise once again like 1971 to resist zealots and communal forces.

They said bombings will not stop unless anti-liberation elements are removed from the government.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Prof Muhammad Naser, Udichi RU President Zahid Hassan and Sangsritik Jote Vice-president Anifur Islam.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at RU, Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), Sangsritik Jote yesterday took out separate processions and held rallies on the campus to protest suicide bomb attacks in Netrakona.

The protesters also demanded resignation of the government.

Udichi, Dinajpur hold a token hunger strike protesting bombing.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Leaders and activists of different political parties, journalists and human rights organisations joined a protest march in the town and a token hunger strike in front of

Dianjpur Press Club yesterday organised by Udichi.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Different political parties, socio-cultural and human rights organisations in Satkhira have condemned the December 8 bomb attacks in Netrokona that killed eight people and injured over 40.

In separate statements, they said, initiatives to check the spree of bomb blasts will be effective unless their protector in the alliance government is not removed.

They also demanded resignation of the government alleging that the attacks are operating under the shelter of a key coalition partner. They threatened to go for tougher agitation programs if the government fails to ensure security of people's life and property.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits involved in the blasts across the country.

The statements were issued by front ranking leaders of Satkhira district units of Awami League, Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), NAP (National Awami Party), District Bar Association and prominent cultural activists.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: Manikganj district unit of Udichi yesterday formed a human

chain and held a rally in front of Manikganj Press Club protesting the bomb attack in Netrakona.

Political leaders, human rights activists, journalists and professionals joined the programmes.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: A token hunger strike was staged and a rally held on the Renaissance Club premises in the town yesterday to protest JMB suicide bomb attacks in Netrokona.

Local political leaders, cultural activists including members of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, teachers, lawyers and professionals joined the programmes.

Speakers at the rally demanded resignation of the government for its failure to ensure security of people's life and property and keeping JMB protectors in the Cabinet.

Hunger strike and other protest programmes were also held in Jessore and Moulvibazar, according reports reaching The daily Star office till yesterday evening.

Two bombs recovered in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police recovered two bombs from Sirajganj town yesterday and the night before.

Local people found a bomb at BA College Road near the Agriculture Extension Department office at around 11.30 pm on Friday and informed police. A team from Sadar thana rushed to the spot and recovered the bomb weighing about two kilograms. It was wrapped with red tape, police said.

Another bomb was recovered from a tea stall at Kazipur Ghat in the town yesterday morning, they said.

Police said the recovered the bomb after locals informed them.

ASSAULT ON TEACHERS Exams at RU Geology Deptt postponed

RU CORRESPONDENT

All scheduled examinations of the Geology and Environment Science Department under Rajshahi University (RU) have been postponed allegedly due to unruly behavior with teachers by some students.

The decision was taken by the Academic Committee of the department yesterday.

Earlier, on the day, students requested departmental chairman Prof Abu Hanif Sheikh and other teachers to cancel the day's examination due to serious illness of a female student.

But ignoring it, the teachers went to the examination hall and distributed examination scripts and question papers among the examinees.

Hearing the news, agitated students went to the examination hall and ransacked it. They also allegedly assaulted the chairman and two teachers, Prof Abdul Wahab and Lecturer Moniruzzaman.

Students threatened to launch a tougher agitation against the chairman if any action is taken against them.

A departmental teacher said to this correspondent on condition of anonymity that action would be taken against the agitated students.

Police have been deployed in front of the department to avert any untoward incident.

11 JMB suspects held in 3 districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police arrested at least 11 suspected cadres of Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) from different areas of Tangail, Jamalpur and Sherpur districts since Thursday.

Of the arrestees, eight were netted in Tangail, one in Jamalpur and two including an Indian citizen in Sherpur.

In Tangail, Delduar police arrested Mollah Aman Ullah, 45, Meer Soliaman, 55, and Shohel, 20, from Baruha Bhurbhuria village in the upazila on Friday.

Mirzapur police arrested Maolana Yisha-al-Magazi, an Imam of Taktarchala Purba Para Mosque on Friday and four others from Bawer Kumarjani and Postkamuri

villages in the upazila on Thursday. They are Habibur Rahman, Pappu, Saddam and two brothers Rana and Rabin. All of them are students of Mirzapur SK Pilot High School, police said.

Ashrafur Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirzapur Police Station, however said they were arrested on suspicion.

In Jamalpur, Islampur thana police arrested JMB suspect Manjur Rahman alias Manjurul, 25, of Malpara village on Friday. Police said Manjurul is a student of the Northern University in Dhaka.

In Sherpur, BDR personnel of Nakshi border outpost nabbed Indian citizen Monoranjan Chakraborty, 42, from Rangtia area under Jhinaigati upazila, suspecting his involvement with militants.

During interrogation Monoranjan introduced himself as son of one Hemonto Chakraborty of Jagatkura Nandi village in Roudrapur Para thana in Uddamonsha Nagar district of Meghalay.

Monoranjan Chakraborty entered in Bangladesh without any passport and other documents. He is being interrogating but police are yet to find out the real motive for his illegal entry into Bangladesh, sources said.

Earlier, Sherpur Sadar thana police arrested one Shadhu Ramachandra Brammachari from Noya Bazar area in the town on Thursday. He has been sent to jail.



Scared by suicide bombings, Tangail Sadar police are checking identity of every visitor to the police station.

GAIBANDHA AUG 17 BLASTS No progress in probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

There has not been any meaningful progress in investigation into the August 17 bomb blasts in Gaibandha about four months after the incident.

Police arrested 12 suspects but could not submit any charge sheet in the case. Sources said police could not extract any important clue from the arrestees allegedly because of

On August 17, seven bombs were exploded on and around the Deputy Commissioner's office premises, court compound and pourashava canteen, injuring several people. Police filed a case in this connection on August 21 under Section 3/4/6 of the Explosives Act.

The arrested persons are Tofazzal Hossain, 35, of Mamudpur village; Jahid Rahman Shimul, 27, Sanowerul Islam, 25 and Khallullah

Jewel, 30, of Basanterpara; Abdul Jalil, 45, of Akanderpara; Atiqur Rahman Bikul, 26, of Monmothpur under Shagahta upazila; ATM Taibur Rahman, 37, of Hasem Bazar village; Rafiqul Islam, 38, of Malibari and Jaharul Islam Surat, 40, of Khidir under Gaibandha Sadar upazila; Azizul Huq, 45, of Sonaroy village and Piyera Alam, 35, of Dulal under Sunderganj upazila; Rashedul Islam Naju, 27, of Santinagar village in Pabna district.

Police took them on remand several times but interrogation yielded almost nothing, the sources said.

Julfique Ali, OC of Gaibandha DB police said submission of charge sheet is being delayed as the investigation officer (IO) of the case has been changed three times since filing of the case.

Pichchi Hannan's accomplice held in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Pichchi Hannan's accomplice Babul Mia was arrested by Benapole immigration police yesterday when he was returning from India.

The Officer-in-Charge of Benapole Immigration Police Station, Shahidul Islam Shaheen said, Babul Mia, son of late Abdul Gafur of Kalishima village in Brahmanbaria Sadar thana had gone to India on December 6. His particulars were given to police and BDR earlier.

Pichchi Hannan and Babul Mia were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) earlier this year. Pichchi Hannan was killed in cross fire with Rab but Babul Mia was on bail.

There are four cases including a murder case against Babul Mia with Ramna police station in Dhaka, the OC said.

Khagrachhari AL council today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The 3rd Annual Council of Khagrachhari district Awami League (AL) will be held at Kharapur here today.

The council will be opened by party Presidium Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir while Awami League General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Jalil will attend it as chief guest.

Party leaders Obaidul Kader, Dr Mostafa Zalat Mohiuddin, Bir Bahadur MP, Dipangkar Talukder are expected to be present as special guest.

Khagrachhari district Awami League president Babu Zatinralal Tripura is likely to preside over the council at Kharapur.



A five-kilometre human chain, organised by local NGO Manob Mukti Sangstha was formed on the western side of Jamuna Bridge yesterday marking the World Human Rights Day to create awareness.

PHOTO: STAR

6x3

6x2

7x3