



PHOTO: STAR

Udichi Shilpi Goshti organised a sit-in at Barisal Shaheed Minar yesterday to protest JMB bombing in Netrakona.

More 'bombs', fresh JMB threats across country

Militants send letters to DCs, UNOs, lawyers, schools, colleges

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police on Monday recovered more bombs or bomb-like objects in districts while the JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) militants issued fresh threats to blow up DC, UNO, municipal and other offices and educational institutions.

Our Bogra Correspondent reports: Gabtali police recovered two bombs from a neighbouring village of Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, the operation commander of JMB.

Informed by the locals, police recovered the bombs from a hair dressing shop at Ranipara village. Bangla Bhai hails from village Kornipara under Gabtali Upazila.

One bomb weighs about one and-a-half kilogram. Both the bombs were wrapped in black tapes in two tin cans with wires around it.

Gabtali Police said, they sought help from the experts to ascertain whether the recovered objects were bombs or not.

Police kept the bombs in to a bucket of water A few days ago police recovered a one-kg bomb from the campus of a local government college under Sonatala Upazila.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Police on Monday morning recovered two live bombs in Dattabari crossing near Alia madrasa in the town.

Local people saw the bombs and informed police. A police team of Sadar thana went to the spot at a round 6.30 am and recovered two bombs wrapped in red tape.

Our RU Correspondent reports: Motiher police Monday night recovered two bomb-like objects near the boundary wall of the 'Janani' students' dormitories at Rajshahi University.

Some students, who saw the object wrapped in red tape, at about 8pm informed police.

Police from Motiher thana visited the spot and took it away in a bucket of water. But later they said it was a hoax to create panic among students.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports: JMB in separate letters threatened Akhaura UNO, Pourasabha (municipal) chairman and post master to blow up their offices within seven days.

The letters were sent to them by post and delivered on December 12.

As soon as the UNO and pourashabha chairman received the letters, they separately filed two general diaries No 351 and 352 with Akhaura police.

The incident triggered panic and police tightened security measures.

Earlier, an unidentified group threatened Md Gulam Mustafa, Vice Principal of Brahmanbaria Government College over phone that several bombs have been

planted around the college which will go off any time.

Two police teams and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed to the college and searched the bombs here and there on college camps but found nothing.

Police also recovered a bomb like object from Brahmanbaria Annanda High School.

Our Bogra Correspondent adds: JMB in a letter threatened to blow up Shahid Zia College under Gabtali Upazila in Bogra.

Mozaffer Hossain, Principal of the college, received the letter sent by post on Sunday.

Without mentioning any particular reason, JMB said in the letter that they will blow up the college between December 16 and 18.

The Principal of the college filed a General Diary (GD) with Gabtali Police on Monday seeking strong security.

A Correspondent from Pabna reports: JMB militants threatened to blow up Pabna Deputy Commissioner's office, Pabna judge court building and Bar association office in the next few days.

A hand written letter was sent to Pabna Deputy Commissioner's office last Sunday, police said. Meanwhile, security measures have been tightened around Pabna Deputy Commissioner's office and court buildings.

Our Satkhira Correspondent

reports: JMB sent letters to five lawyers including Bar Association Secretary to kill them and to blow up their houses within a week.

Satkhira Bar association secretary Advocate Shah Alam, Advocate SM Haidar, Advocate Tapan Chakraborty, Advocate Abdul Majid and lawyer Ahsan Hasib Munna received the hand written letters yesterday. The letters, sent by post, rebuked them for earning money by illegal means.

The lawyers filed diaries with Sadar thana immediately after receiving the letters.

Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Shah Jahan confirmed the incident and said that they have taken security measures.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: JMB militants threatened to kill the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sherpur t and blow up the Ghatail UNO office in the district.

In a letter on Monday to M.A.S Siddiquee, JMB vowed to kill him in seven days for arresting one of their activists from Kekaiatalin Nakla upazila.

A general diary (GD) was filed with the concerned police station in this regard, sources said.

In another letter, JMB on Monday threatened to blow up the office and house of Ghatail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Shahed.

The letter issued in the name of JMB local commander N Islam, asked the UNO to leave Ghatail within 10 days.

He also filed a general diary (GD) with Ghatail Police Station.

IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH SECTOR

Transparency and commitment pre-conditions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday stressed on transparency, accountability of the authorities and commitment of the political leaders for ensuring quality health service to people.

They also urged the health department officials to be sincere, honest, corruption free, and committed to the welfare of society.

The roundtable was organised by Committee for the Concerned Citizens (CCC) of Rangpur unit and sponsored by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Held at the CCC auditorium, the speakers observed that people of the district would get better medical service if the officials concerned were honest and dutiful.

The discussion on 'Health Service Improvement' was presided over by CCC Rangpur unit member Prof Reza Shah Toufique Rahman.

It was also addressed by G.M

Quader MP, Director of RMCH Dr Shahjahan Biswas, Asstt Director Masudur Rahman, Civil Surgeon Dr Taslim Uddin Ahmed, Prof Dr Azizul Islam, and CCC Rangpur unit convener Sadrul Alam Dulua.

G.M Quader MP told the roundtable that the service at the government hospitals has become so bad that the patients today prefer death at their houses to going for treatment there.

Despite presence of a number of efficient doctors at the hospitals, people do not get quality treatment, he observed.

Dr Shajahan said the hands of the doctors are tied as they treat people with the limited resources.

"We can improve the quality of service if we get necessary facilities. An integrated and concerted effort is needed for that," he said.

UNOCAL'S TWO NEW WELLS

Production to be delayed further

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Production in two new wells in Moulvibazar Gas Field would be delayed by a month as the US company, Unocal could not complete construction of gathering line and other relevant jobs, according to a company official.

Earlier, the company planned to raise its gas supply to national grid from the gas field by putting the two newly drilled wells into production in April this year. It was first deferred in July. Then it was again rescheduled in November.

Finally, the company fixed a target to start the job in January, 2006.

At present, 70 to 80 mmcfd (million million cubic feet per day) gas is being supplied to the national grid from two wells, MB No 2 and MB No 3. Even at times, the supply goes upto 100 mmcfd. The wells were put into production in April this year.

Work of laying the gathering line upto the gas processing plant from two wells—MB No 4 and MB No 5—would take 3 to 4 weeks more, the official added.

Last year, the Forest Department raised objection against the project,

construction of road and laying of gathering line through Lawachara national park and reserved forests at Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar district.

When the Forest Department asked the Unocal to change the track for the purpose, work on the project was suspended for several months.

Finally, the Ministry of Forest and Environment bowed to the demand of the oil giant and allowed it to construct a 3.2 kilometre road and set up pipeline through Lawachara National Park.

Unocal officials, however, assured the government to take special care in laying the pipeline through the forests, said a forest department official.

MB No 4 and MB No 5 were drilled a few months ago near the existing two wells MB No 2 and MB No 3 in Moulvibazar Gas Field.

The wells were developed by another US company, Occidental. The company left Bangladesh handing over business to Unocal in late 1999.

Nixon admin was erred

FROM PAGE 16
Liberation War, lauded Bangladesh's development towards democratic practices, education and healthcare and hoped that the freedom of speech will be strengthened.

"We feel proud and are honoured to be here in Bangladesh, which is a good friend of us. My father did not hesitate to speak the truth against the US foreign policy during the liberation war of this country," said Peter Blood, son of Archer K Blood at a press conference yesterday.

Blood's wife Margaret Blood and daughter Shireen Updegraff also spoke at the press conference at American Center as the US Embassy in Dhaka named The American Center Library in honour of Blood.

Blood is famous for signing a dissent cable written during the brutal military crackdown on the then East Pakistan. The historic cable called 'Blood Telegram' alerted the then US President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger to the genocide during 1971 and urged them to pressure West Pakistan to stop the killing.

That cable was followed by another, signed by 20 Americans stationed in the then East Pakistan with various US government agencies, denouncing the official American silence as serving 'neither our moral interests broadly defined nor our national interests narrowly defined...'

Peter Blood said he had many good Bangladeshi friends with whom he spent a very good time and meeting them again is marvellous.

Asked if the US should apologise for its foreign policy during the Liberation War, he said "I personally believe that the Nixon administration erred in judging the war and not condemning the crackdown against democracy, but it is up to the government if it would apologise now."

On his feeling about the local collaborators of the Pakistani military during the 1971 being in power at present, he said Bangladesh is a democratic country and the people of the land have their right to choose parties they like.

Asked if he is happy about the present situation of Bangladesh when religious militancy and bombings have

become everyday phenomena, Peter said that he expects all the people to speak freely, journalists write without intimidation and uphold the truth always.

"My father would be very optimistic about Bangladesh where people have the right to speak and enjoy the freedom of independence," he said.

Margaret Blood said she felt delighted to be here and was proud that the US Embassy decided to dedicate the library in honour of his husband, which will be called "Archer K Blood American Center Library" from now on.

"The time during the liberation war was miserable", she recalled her memories, "but now the scene has changed a lot." She expressed her surprise at the numbers of cars on the streets of Dhaka.

The Blood family members also termed Bangladesh's number one position in the UN peacekeeping mission as one of the greatest achievements and wished for a prosperous future of the country.

Later, they attended a function arranged at the American Center

premises where the diplomat's proud son read out from his "Personal Reflections on the Birth of Bangladesh".

Speaking at the dedication ceremony after the press conference, Judith A Chammass, Charge d'Affaires of US Embassy in Dhaka, said Blood's disagreeing with the official policy on the Pakistani crackdown has been described as career suicide, foolhardy and headstrong. "But I would term it courageous."

Due to Blood, Joe Galloway, a senior military correspondent for Knight Rider newspaper, was able to tell the world the truth about the events in Bangladesh.

"Information is the lifeblood of democracy; if people are barred from reading, exploring, studying, making their own decisions about their lives and the world, democracy withers and dies. It seems fitting that the American Center Library be named after Consul General Blood, a writer, a reader, and a tireless advocate of the people's right to know," she said.

3.50X3

4X3

6X2

10X3