

Organised grand rally in Paltan does not mean public support

Kader Siddiquee says at Mymensingh public meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) President Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddiquee, Bir Bikram yesterday said the mammoth rally organised by the four-party ruling alliance at Paltan Maidan in Dhaka does not prove public support to them.

People at grassroots have withdrawn their support from the government as it has failed to give leadership to lead them towards prosperity and maintain peace.

He was addressing a grand rally marking the 6th founding anniversary of KSJL at the local Circuit House ground yesterday.

He criticised both the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami league, saying both are behaving irrespon-

sibly while Islamsit militants are killing people in the name of Islam.

The government should step down if it can not stop recurring bomb attacks, the legendary freedom fighter said.

He alleged that there has not been any significant development work in greater Mymensingh 34 years after independence. Socio-economic condition of people is going from bad to worse.

"Krishak Sramik Janata League wants to serve the people of Mymensingh and of the country as a whole", he said and called upon the people to rally round the party for peace and development.

He also criticised BNP for not inviting Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) to the dialogue to stop militant activities. He warned that action

will be taken if any activist of BDB is harassed in Mymensingh by any political party.

The meeting was also addressed by KSJL General Secretary Fazlur Rahman, its central leaders Principal Zohirul Islam Raju, Habibur Rahman Talukder Khoka, Iqbal Siddiquee, BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury, Saidur Rahman Swapon and Abdul Malek Ratan, central leaders of JSD (Rab), Kader Siddiquee's wife Begum Nasreen Siddique and Tangail Municipality Chairman Jamilur Rahman.

People from Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Gazipur, Dhaka, Sirajganj, and Jessore also attended the meeting.

JMB threat to blow up Khan Jahan Ali Instt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

JMB militants yesterday threatened to blow up Khan Jahan Ali Science and Technology Institute.

Principal of the institute Abul Kalam Azad filed a general diary (No. 1360) with Khulna thana at 11 am yesterday seeking security on the campus.

According to the GD, Principal Azad received a hand written letter on the afternoon of December 22, sent by post by Moulana Ataur Rahman, who identified himself as the 'second-in-command' of outlawed JMB in Khulna division.

The letter said JMB suicide bombers will blow up the institute anytime between December 25 and December 30 for not recasting education in Islamic style.

The institute is situated in the KDA building at Shib Bari intersection in the city.

MYMENSINGH ARMS HAUL JMB 'commander' Asad on 5-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ten persons out of 12 arrested earlier in connections with the December 17 recovery of bombs, explosives and bomb-making materials from two JMB dens at Akua in the town were produced before a First Class Magistrate court here yesterday.

They are JMB 'area commander' Asaduzzaman; Hafez Saidur Rahman; Sayeeda Noor, her daughter Shamima Akhtar and son Shafiqur Rahman; Zeson Khan, Hamman Khan, Rubel Alam, Delwar Hossain and Abu Sayeed before the court today.

Police sought ten days' remand for Asaduzzaman and Hafez Saidur Rahman but the court granted eight days' remand.

The other arrestees were sent to jail hajat.

Another arrestee, Khorshed Uddin Ahmed, could not be produced before court as he is undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). He will be produced before the court after his recovery, court sources said.

DEATH OF 4 CHILDREN IN BAUPHAL Disease may be Viral Enkepalities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The 'mysterious' disease that killed four children and affected 20 people in a remote village in Bauphal upazila in 12 hours on Friday has been primarily identified as Viral Enkepalities, according to Patuakhali Civil Surgeon Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum.

More experiment is needed to ascertain the disease, she told this correspondent yesterday. There not been any fresh attack till yesterday noon, she added.

Two medical teams have been sent there, one led by Dr. Mazharul Islam, Senior Consultant of



PHOTO: STAR
The Progressive Teachers Association (PTA) at Rajshahi University yesterday brought out a procession on the campus demanding trail of the killers of Prof. Mohammad Yunus. It was led by former RU VC Prof Dr. Saidur Rahman Khan.

SECURITY STATE IN MODHUPUR Xmas programmes slashed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Christian indigenous people in Madhupur region in Tangail have changed the schedule of their Christmas Day programmes.

Though there was no threat from Islamist militants, the programmes have been changed and shortened against the backdrop of bomb blasts in different areas of the country by militants.

There are about 21,000 indigenous Christians in Pirgachha and Jalchhatra areas in Modhupur upazila. There are 19 churches in Jalchhatra and 27 in Pirgachha.

Father Subrata, Chief Priest at Jalchhatra Mission said changes all programmes earlier held at night have been cancelled.

The programmes scheduled for 12 noon on December 25 started at 4 pm yesterday. "The programmes will conclude before sunset. But prayer and religious sons at houses will continue ti night," he told this correspondent.

Father Homeric, Chief Priest at Pirgachha Mission said the programmes scheduled for 12 noon

tomorrow were rescheduled for 8 pm yesterday and will conclude within one hour.

When contacted, the Officer-in-Charge of Modhupur thana Aminul Islam told this correspondent from

Jalchhatra over cell phone that full security has been ensured in the Christian areas and a large number of law enforcers includingt Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) personnel have been deployed.

Christian community people are holding their programmes in a befitting way. "I am now in Jalchhatra. The programmes that began here at 4 pm concluded peacefully amid great enthusiasm", he said over cell phone.



PHOTO: STAR
Visitors to courts and the Collectorate building in Dinajpur are thoroughly chacked as part of security measures.

Unite against protectors of militants

CPB rally in Netrakona protests Dec 8 carnage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) held a rally at Netrakona Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to protest the December 8 carnage by JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) in the town.

The suicide bomb attacks on a Udichi function killed eight people including cultural activists Kawaja Haider Khan and Sudipta Paul Sheli and injured 42 others.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and other central leaders of the party addressed the rally presided over by Shah Abdul Motalive, its Netrakona unit president.

The speakers included CPB central leader Azharul Islam Arzu, Dr. Dibalok Singh, Emdadul Millat and local leaders Khandaker Anisur Rahaman, Kawja Humayan Kabir and Joly Talukder.

The speakers condemned the bomb attack by Islamists and bitterly criticised the alleged inaction by Netreakona police to arrest the culprits.

They alleged that the police lax in arresting the culprits is due to political influence by some ruling party leaders in Netrakona.

Police so far arrested only one JMB activist involved in the bomb

blasts.

They said ruling party leaders in Netrakona are protecting militants as a partner in the ruling coalition is their godfather.

The bomb attacks are part of a blue print by the government to create a chaotic situation in the country and cling to power, they said and called upon all progressive forces to unite to dislodge the government which protects militants who are killing people in the name of Islam.

The government was warned by opposition political parties time and again, but it did not care. So it can not disown its responsibility as regards JMB, Bangla Bhai and other groups of Islamist militants who are also defaming Bangladesh as a country of fundamentalists abroad. This is also ruining the economy.

Arrested militance have been charged under the Explosives Act instead of sedition. This proves the government's attitude towards the militants, the speakers said.

Such violence will not stop till the government is dislodged, the CPB leaders said and urged the people to rally round the progressive political forces in the anti-government agitation.

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