

JMB regrouping in Satkhira

Top leaders still evade arrest: SP says hunt for them on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Activists of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) are regrouping in Satkhira, using mosques and madrasas in the rural areas, as law enforcers are yet to arrest the chargesheeted accused four months after the August 17 bomb blasts in the district.

Six chargesheeted accused in Satkhira are evading arrest. Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also IO of five cases filed in connection with the August 17 blasts, submitted charge sheet against 17 JMB activists including JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and JMB chief Bangla Bhat on October 20.

Different organisations staged demonstrations in the district town to arrest the militants. On Thursday, freedom fighters under the banner of Amra Muktijoddha formed a human chain at Shahid Nazmul square protecting bomb blasts and demanding arrest of the perpetrators.

Police so far arrested seven chargesheeted accused but the 'top five' including four chargesheeted accused who recruited and organised militants in the district are yet to be nabbed.

Police said, they are hunting for the four chargesheeted accused including JMB Khulna divisional chief Fakar Uddin Raji of Patharghata, JMB Satkhira district operation chief Nayeem of Putuni, Noor Ali Member of Kullah, Momtaz of Kharibila, Asadullah of Keshabpur and Abul Khair of Satani. They are hiding since the incident, police said.

Police are also hunting for Maulana Washiqur Rahman of Talugachha in Sadar upazila who is one of the top organisers of JMB



Freedom fighters under the banner of Amra Muktijoddha formed a human chain in Satkhira town on Friday demanding arrest of Islamist militants involved in bomb attacks.

in the district.

Intelligence sources said that the JMB leaders are often visiting their areas in remote places in Assassuni, Tala, Kalaroa, Shyamnagar and Sadar upazilas and maintaining contact with grassroots level operatives.

They are holding secret meetings at mosques and madrasas in Pratabnagar, Khajra and Sreeula unions in Assassuni upazila; Baikari, Banshdah and Kushkhali unions in Sadar upazila; Nagarghata, Kumira Tentulia and Khalilnagar unions

in Tala upazila and Munshigonj, Gabura, Kaikhali and Burigoalini unions near the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar upazila.

Seeking anonymity, some villagers in certain areas in Sadar upazila told this correspondent that unidentified persons often visit madrasas. Students mostly from poor families are their targets in recruitment, they said.

Meanwhile JMB has sent several letters to Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC), Police Superintendent (SP), some UNOs, Magistrates, schools and

colleges to follow Islamic rules.

On contact, Police Superintendent Abdur Rahim said, security has been beefed in and around key installations in the district. Several check posts manned by armed police have been set up on streets around Satkhira court premises and jail. The drive to nab militants have also been intensified, he added.

"Police are also hunting suicide squad members and top (JMB) cadres including Raji, Nayeem, Noor Ali member, Washiqur and Khair will arrested", the SP said.

Acting principal charged for looting wheat from LSD!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A case was filed with Saidpur thana yesterday against Acting Principal of Saidpur College Moslem Uddin Ahmed for 'looting' food grains from a government LSD (Local Supply Depot) godown on Friday.

Police later on Friday recovered 400 kg looted wheat from the acting principal's residence, Saidpur thana Officer-in-Charge Lutfor Rahman told newsmen yesterday. Moslem Uddin is absconding since the incident, the OC said.

The OC and local people said that the Acting Principal along with some others looted wheat from bags on a truck on the LSD compound Friday evening.

LSD Officer-in-Charge Abdul Baten tried to stop them. But he was beaten and injured by the looters, Lutfor Rahman said.

Being informed, police from Saidpur thana reached the spot and the looters fled away. Police then searched the residence of Moslem Uddin and recovered 400 kilograms of looted wheat.

When contacted, Moslem Uddin Ahmed said he was a victim of conspiracy.

Erosion: Agitation in Sirajganj for dam protection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Several thousands people from Kazipur and Shahzadpur brought out a procession and held several rallies in Sirajganj town yesterday demanding construction of a dam to protect the areas erosion by Jamuna river.

The processions held the rallies at Blew MaraB, Shailabari, Khokshabari and Bazar Station compound with Mokhlesur Rahman in the chair.

The rallies were addressed by among others, Nobokumar Karmaker, Mohiuddin, Ashraf Ali, Sanwar Hossain.

Two more Aug 17 JMB bombers held in Khulna

They came to city to bomb key installations, Rab said

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two more Ehsars (leaders) of outlawed JMB Friday night from two areas in the city.

They are Md Matiur Rahman alias Masud, 20, son of Banat Ali of Haradamage village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district and Abdur Rakib alias Nuruddin, 22, son of Mohammad Ishaque Ali of Moupura village in Mohonpur upazila in Rajshahi district.

Masud, leader of JMB unit for Sharsha and Jhikargacha upazilas in Jessore, was arrested from Khalispur New Road in the city.

Rab quoted Masud as saying that he detonated a bomb on August 17 in Jessore bus terminal area. Masud acted on

orders from Hasan alias Mintoo, Jessore 'district commander' of JMB.

Nuruddin was arrested from Doulatpur rail crossing area of the city. He told Rab that he was JMB unit leader for Abhoynagar and Keshabpur upazilas in Jessore and that he was involved in the August 17 blasts near Jessore Sadar thana. He also said he detonated the bombs as per order from Hasan alias Mintoo.

Masud and Nuruddin are madrasa students in Gangni and Mohanpur respectively, police said. They came to Khulna recently with new assignments make bomb attacks on key installations, they told Rab during primary interrogation.

According to their confes-

sions, they were moving in the city in the guise of rickshawpullers to determine which spots or installations should be targets for bomb attacks.

Rab officials said they are yet to confirm whether the two are members of JMB's suicide squad.

With the two, the member of JMB Ehsars caught by Rab in Khulna city in last one month is five. Intelligence personnel said JMB suicide squads comprise Ehsars.

Masud and Nuruddin said they are repented for their activities and begged to be pardoned, Rab said. They were being quizzed till filing of the report yesterday evening.

Tension in Panchagarh border

BDR protests tea plantation by BSF-backed Indian farmers along Zero Line

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Tension is mounting in Bhananpur border area in Tentulia upazila in Panchagarh district as several hundred Indian farmers, backed by BSF are planting tea saplings in the no-man's land near border pillar no 429/430.

BDR has strengthened its position in the area after BSF (Indian Border Security Forces) reinforces its strength by mobilising more border guards and armaments in Balabari BSF

outpost across the border, BDR sources said yesterday.

The tea plantation by Indians began on Thursday. About 50 hectares of land in the 'zero line' have so far been brought under tea plantation, the sources said.

Soon after beginning of the tea plantation, BDR lodged a strong protest but the plantation continued under protec-

tion of BSF, BDR sources and local people said.

BDR also increased its strength on Friday.

Many villagers in the border area have left homes fearing more trouble.

When contacted, BDR sources at Bhananpur BDR outpost said they sent a protest letter on Friday, but to no response yet.

6X2



GOOD BYE 2005... Thousands of visitors crowded in Cox's Bazar sea beach yesterday evening to see the last sunset of the year.

Enact new law to combat violence against women

Discussion meeting in Rangpur told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speakers at a discussion held here on Saturday stressed on enactment of new law and its proper implementation to combat violence against women

across the country.

Held at Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium, the discussion, 'Combating Violence against Women' was organised by a local NGO, Padakhep while it was presided over by Advocate Hosneara Lutfa Dalia. Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam Sarker was present as chief guest.

Speakers underscored the need for greater coordination among NGOs, elite, public representatives and newsmen to combat the social ill.

They expressed their great concern over increasing incidents of oppression against women while only a few of the incidents are published in newspapers and displayed in electronic media.

They lamented observing that about 80 per cent women are dependent on male members of their families. As a result, they can not raise their voice against oppression on them.

They stressed the need for women's self-reliance. Among others, Padakhep branch manager Shameem Hossain, district Vocal Person Selina Salwa, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) bureau chief Mamun Islam, Channel-I district correspondent Merina Lovely, The Daily Star Correspondent Rafique Sarker, The Bangladesh Observer Correspondent Abdur Rouf Sarker and The Daily News Today Correspondent Sharifuzzaman Bulu addressed.

ASSAULT OF TEACHER BY STUDENTS

Haji Danesh University teachers continue class boycott

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Teachers of Haji Danesh Science and Technology University continued to abstain from taking classes for the fourth day yesterday protesting assault of a teacher allegedly by some students belonging to a ruling party.

Associate Professor Bhabash Chandra Biswas of Genetic Department was assaulted by some first year students of Agriculture Department on Wednesday for giving poor marks.

Protesting the incident, teachers abstained from taking classes, held a rally and brought out a procession on the campus.

On Thursday, the teachers at

meeting decided to continue the class boycott.

When contacted, HSTU Teachers Association President Anisul Islam told this correspondent that they go for tougher agitation programmes from if the authorities fail to resolve within five days from (Thursday).

The students alleged that, alleged Associate professor forcibly granted fail marks to 18 students of his department which was protested by the failed students. But the teachers motivating the incidents, the students alleged.

The Vice Chancellor could not be contacted for comments despite repeated attempts.

BCC mayor seeks more funds for projects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mayor of Barisal City Corporation Majibor Rahaman Sarwar yesterday urged the government to allocate more funds for development of the city and improvement of civic amenities.

Budget for city corporations should be allocated according to their size and population, he said while talking to newsmen at his office on the eve of the New Year.

The mayor also assured of transparency in all activities of BCC.

At least Tk 400 crore is needed to implement the Master Plan and three special projects in the BCC, he said. A huge fund is needed to develop the 25 kilometre extended area of the city corporation, he added and urged all relevant government agencies to allocate funds for expending civic amenities in the expanded city area.

"Despite limitations, we are assuring citizens of our sincere efforts to change the situation next year. Transparency will be maintained in every sector", he said.

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