

# JMB death threat to five journos in Kishoreganj

## 2 cadres held in Tangail and Rajshahi

STAR NATIONAL DESK

JMB yesterday issued death threats to five senior journalists in Kishoreganj while law enforcers arrested two cadres of the militant Islamic outfit in Tangail and Rajshahi yesterday.

Our Tangail Correspondent reported that police arrested a cadre of banned JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) in Kalihati upazila in the district along with a large number of 'jihadi' books.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Kalihati thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Jasim Uddin raided the house of one Shawkat Ali at Singair village in Balla union, arrested his son Abdul Alim, 20, and recovered a large number of 'jihadi' books from the house.

Police said JMB cadre Abdul Alim was involved in the August 17 bomb blasts in Dhaka. Abdul Alim is also a chargesheeted accused in the case filed with a police station in the city in connection with the August 17 bomb blasts there.

He was being interrogated at Kalihati police station under tight security when the report was filed yesterday evening.

Staff Correspondent in Rajshahi reported that members of

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested JMB's Bagha upazila unit 'commander'



JMB cadre Abdul Alim arrested in Tangail yesterday.

Tashikul Islam from in front of Bagha High School gate.

A Rab press release said, Tashikul, son of Jatu Malitha of the upazila, confessed that he used to collect subscription from local JMB activists and sent the money to 'upazila commanders' in Rajshahi and Naogaon.

He was handed over to Bagha police.

A correspondent reported from Kishoreganj that JMB yesterday threatened to kill the president and the secretary of Kishoreganj Press Club and three editors of local dailies for their reports against JMB.

The threats were made in a letter sent by post to Kishoreganj Press Club President Ruhul Kuddus Selim in the name of a 'JMB commander'.

The letter said there are 1500 JMB cadres in the district, who are working to establish Islamic rule in the country.

The others threatened with death in the letter are ATM Nizam, Press Club Secretary; Kamrul Aman, Editor of daily Ajker Saradain; Kazi Shahin Khan, Editor of daily Ajker Desh and Khairul Islam Chowdhury, Editor of weekly Alor Mela.

The JMB commanders name was not mentioned in the letter, which said JMB will establish its rule in Kishoreganj within a month.

# Punish my son, says father of Huji top cadre Sufian

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

"Those who are killing innocent people with bombs are enemies of Islam and the people. As my son has joined hands with militants who are killing people in the name of introducing Islamic law, I think he also should be punished," said Hasan Mian, octogenarian father of Abu Sufian a top cadre of Harkatul-Jihad (Huji) and close aide to militant kingpin Mufti Abdul Hannan.

"My dream to groom my son with the spirit of Islamic was shattered when he was lured from the madrassa to join Huji. They (militant leaders) should also be punished for misleading innocent youths", said Hasan Mian who performed Hajj twice in last three years. He was talking to this correspondent at his Kamarpara village home in Sreepur upazila recently.

Abu Sufian was sent to a madrassa in Faridpur to study Islamic theology. There he joined militant groups and went to Afghanistan to fight Soviet soldiers as a Mujahid, according to intelligence sources police and family members. Sufian was hit with bullets in the head and knee while

fighting in Afghanistan, sources said.

Villagers in Kamarpara are also aware of his activities as a 'mujahid' in Afghanistan.

"On several occasions I heard stories about Afghan war from Sufian. It was exciting when he used to narrate how he faced Soviet soldiers", a villager declining to be named said.

Intelligence sources said Sufian was arrested along with 39 other militants on December 17 in 1993 by Army when he was training militants at a camp in a jungle in Rangamati. He was released on bail following an order from higher court.

He was a close associate of Mufti Abdul Hannan, the sources said.

He was again arrested by BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) when he tried to cross the border illegally to go to Afghanistan after US soldiers attacked Afghanistan. This time he also managed to get free, sources said.

Sufian was seen in the area before August 17 blasts and is absconding since the incident, police said.

# Stolen microbus found at Barisal Jubo League leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A microbus, stolen from Dhaka by criminals in the guise of passengers in November last year was recovered from the house of a Jubo League leader in Barisal city yesterday.

The miscreants had hired the golden colored microbus (Dhaka-Metro-Ga-14-9137) from a rent-a-car shop in Bashabo in Dhaka city on November 30 in the name of a trip from Zia International Airport to Nimali in Srinagar in Munshiganj district, police said.

They killed its driver Selim and took away the vehicle.

Finding no trace after renting the vehicle, its owner Maminul Islam Dipu lodged a general diary (no.23) with Bashabo police station on December 1 last year.

The incident came to light when the decomposed body of Selim, 40, a native of Muladi upazila in Barisal district, was recovered from Baroikhal graveyard in Srinagar on December 6.

Srinagar police recorded a case, which was later transferred to Bashabo police station under DMP.

After investigation police arrested Zahangir, Badal and

Yunus, a ring leader of a car lifters, from Khilgaon areas in Dhaka city.

Acting on their confession, a 4-member DB team from Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) led by Inspector Md. Salahuddin, with the help of Barisal Kotwali Police, raided the house of Mahmudul Huq Mamun alias Khan Mamun, joint convener of Barisal district Jubo League Monday morning and recovered the microbus.

Its golden colour was changed to ash colour.

Mamun told police that he bought the microbus at Tk 4.5 lakh from Mozahar Hossain, a Sramik League leader in Shariatpur.

Jubo League is opposition Awami League's youth front and Sramik League is its labour front.

On other hand, arrested Yunus, a native of Babuganj in Barisal district, confessed to killing driver Selim and selling the stolen vehicle at Tk 60,000, police said.

Mamun was not arrested as he produced "proper documents", police said. After the recovery, the DB team filed a general diary with Barisal Kotwali police and left for Dhaka yesterday. The microbus was kept in the custody of Barisal police.

AUG 17 BOMB BLASTS

## Four JMB men chargesheeted in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police yesterday submitted chargesheet against four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men for their alleged involvement in August 17 bomb blast incidents here last year.

Sadar Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Abul Hossain who is also the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted the charge-sheet to magistrate's court.

The charge-sheeted accused are Al-Amin alias Abdullah, 28, and Mostafa Hasan, 30, of Islampur villager in Barguna Sadar upazila. The rest two accused remained unidentified.

Sadar police arrested JMB regional chief Al-Amin from Kibhatali health sub-centre under Mirzaganj upazila and Mostafa was arrested by Barguna Sadar police on December 4. The rest two accused remained absconding till filing of this report.

The chargesheet was submitted after four months and three days of the incident.

PIREN SLAN MURDER

## 7th hearing on naraji petition tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

There has not been any meaningful progress in the trial of murder of indigenous leader Piren Slan in Modhupur in one year.

Piren Slan was shot dead and at least 25 indigenous people including women and children were bullet-hit on January 3 last year when police and forest guards opened fire on demonstrators protesting creation of an Eco Park in Modhupur forests.

On January 14 last year, Piren's father Nezendra Nokrek filed a murder case with a Magistrate court in Tangail, accusing nine people including Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Abu Hanif Patowari and Modhupur thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abu Zafar Alam.

The court directed a First Class Magistrate Moklesur Rahman to probe the incident. The Magistrate submitted a report on August 26 after recording statements of 16 witnesses.

The report said, "Involvement of officials and employees of police and forest department in the killing is not proved".

On November 17, as the case was taken up by the court, Piren's father submitted a 'naraji' petition against the probe report. The court accepted the 'naraji' petition on the same day and fixed December 27 for hearing. But the hearing was not held on that day.

Since then, the court fixed five dates (March 30, May 10, June 25, August 30, November 14) for 'more' hearing. The court on November 14 fixed January 4 for 'more' hearing.

Talking to this correspondent, Advocate Abdul Karim Miah, Tangail District Coordinator of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said there is no instance of so lengthy hearing on a 'naraji' petition.

Indigenous people in Modhupur have taken up programmes to observe the 2nd death anniversary of Piren Slan today. These include placing of wreaths at his grave, mourning procession and a memorial meeting at the gravesite.

KHULNA EXPLOSIVES HAUL

# Rab to probe case against JMB top cadre Sabbir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has taken up the responsibility to investigate the case filed against Ziaur Rahman Shagor alias Sabbir, 'second-in-command' of outlawed JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) in Khulna, Bagerhat and Gopalganj districts.

Rab took up the case as per a directive from the Home Ministry, according to sources in Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

Sabbir was arrested by Rab Thursday night from Tootpara under Khulna thana. The case was filed with Daulatpur thana Friday night under the Explosives Substances Act.

The investigation by Rab will begin today after the Investigation Officer (IO) Sub Inspector Ajit Kumar Majumdar of Daulatpur thana hands over the case docket.

The arrested JMB leader handed over to Rab was taken on five days' remand on Saturday for interrogation in connection with the recovery of a huge quantity of explosives from his possession and his involvement in the August 17 serial bomb blasts last year.

This will be the first case in Khulna against an Islamic militant to be investigated by Rab on orders from Home Ministry, the sources said. The government has taken seriously the explosives haul. The militant (Sabbir) supplied 34 bombs to JMB cadres in three districts for attack on specified targets, the sources said.

Sabbir who is also an 'ehsar' (leader) of JMB told police during interrogation on the second day of remand on Sunday that he rented a room at 'Jessoro Chattrabash' (students' mess) at Daulatpur to hide the explosives and stayed

there along with 12 other cadres including four 'ehsars'.

But all of them left the mess on August 21 last year to escape arrest, Sabbir said.

Sabbir is yet to disclose the source of explosives and other materials for making bombs and grenades, said Zahur Chowdhury, Assistant Police Commissioner of KMP Detective Branch.

Mentionably, a total of 22 JMB leaders and cadres have so far been arrested from different areas in Khulna city and district since the August 17 serial bomb blasts. Of them, four were arrested by Rab and 18 by police.

The four arrested by Rab are all 'ehsars' of JMB. They are Sabbir, Matiur Rahman alias Masud, Abdur Rakib alias Nooruddin and Ismail Hossain alias Habib.

# 2 cops among 12 injured in JCD factional clashes in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 12 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists including two police officials were injured in sporadic clashes here by two factions of the party yesterday and day before.

Yesterday's clash erupted when a JCD faction led by its pouro (municipal) committee president and secretary Habibur Rahman Shishir and Hasanuzzaman Touhid tried in vain to occupy the district JCD office.

This has resulted in injuries to 4 JCD activists. The faction was demanding formation of a new district committee after expiry of the existing body led by its president Aktaruzzaman Jewel and general secretary Morshed Azam.

Earlier, 8 people including two police officials were injured in a fierce clash when processionists of two separate processions coming

from the opposite direction clashed each other on the Haji Mohsin Road. The processions were brought out in the town by two feuding groups to mark the 27<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of JCD on Sunday.

As police intervened, two police officials and six members of both the groups were injured. The injured police officials are sub-inspector (SI) Shahid and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Mizan.

Among the injured JCD activists, Abdullah, 23, Biplob, 20, and Roman, 20, were admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital for treatment. After the incident, additional police forces led by a magistrate were deployed to control any untoward incident further.

Following the clash, the district BNP leaders organised a compromise meeting at its office with the

leaders of both the groups the same night.

In the meeting, leaders of both the factions brought allegations and counter allegations against each other. Pouro sabha unit JCD president Habibur Rahman Shishir brought specific allegations of extortion, tender manipulation and some serious allegations against the president and secretary of the existing date expired district committee. He demanded formation of a new district committee of the party without further delay.

On the other hand, district JCD president Akhtaruzzaman Jewel alleged that his rival group is acting as per conspiracy of an expelled BNP leader.

However, the compromise meeting ended without yielding any fruitful result. From then on tension mounted in the town.



BAPEX drilling Titas-16 gas well in Brahmanbaria

STAR FILE PHOTO

# Titas-15 well drilling starts next month

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Bbaria

Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company) will start digging Titas-15 gas well in Brahmanbaria in the first week of next month.

It will supply 25 million cubic feet of gas to the National Grid.

Bapex, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) under Petrobrangla, earlier this month commissioned Titas-16 gas well in the district from where 20 million

cubic feet of gas is being supplied to the National Grid since December 20. Drilling in Titas-16 well started on August 7 this year and completed on December 17.

Bapex drills gas well with its own engineers and manpower with resources from BGFC, official sources said. BGFC also supplied drilling rig to Bapex.

With drilling of Titas-16, the number wells so far drilled under Titas Gas Filed is now 15, which are supplying a total of 446 million cubic feet of gas to the National

7X3

11x3