

# Over 50 Delduar JMB men yet to be hunted down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Over 50 JMB cadres including two 'district commanders' and 10 suicide bombers still evade arrest in Delduar upazila in Tangail.

A high police official here seeking anonymity said Delduar is an area from where perhaps the highest number of JMB militants have been recruited.

JMB recruited about 100 cadres from the area, the police official told this correspondent. Twelve of the 30 JMB suicide bombers recruited from Tangail district are from Delduar, the police official said.

Police so far arrested 30 militants including three suicide bombers and busted four dens of JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) since the serial bombings on August 17 last year.

Police also recovered huge quantities of explosive and bomb making materials from the dens in Baropakhia, Lawhati, Putijani and Elachipur in Delduar upazila and adjacent Madarkol, Kamarnaogaon, Herendrapara, Bhurhuria and Baruha villages.

Police are hunting for JMB's Narayanganj 'district commander' Mollah Omar alias Shakil Ahmed, 25, Tangail 'district commander' Abdullah Taslim, 30, and nine suicide squad members, all hailing



JMB cadres in custody (from left) Yameen, Delwar, Dipon and Sumon.

from Delduar, he added.

Others from Delduar on the hunt list include JMB Tangail district trainer Ilyas, 27; Afghanistan-returnee Zubayer, 37; and 'regional commanders' Mohammad Fazlu, 30; Hafez Abdul Kader, 27; Khaled Siddiki, 22.

Abdul Alim, Office-in-Charge (OC) of Delduar police station, was closed earlier for failure to nab the militants.

JMB started its militant activities in the upazila centering Baropakhia Qaumi Madrasa, two kilometres from the upazila headquarters in 2003, police sources said.

In two years, the militant outfit set up four dens in Baropakhia, Lauhati, Putijani and Elachipur, where militants were given training on use of arms and bomb making, the sources said.

JMB chief Shaiekh Abdur Rahman and his younger brother and military wing chief Ataur Rahman Sunny, younger brother of Abdur Rahman, used to visit the training camps and held meetings.

JMB in their first operation in Delduar blasted a bomb at a jatra (opera) function at Tukchandpur on January 8 last year. Ataur Rahman Sunny along with Molla Omar alias Shakil Ahmed and another cadre in Delduar led the attack, police sources claimed.

The three arrested suicide bombers are Toriqul Islam, 16, of Mouloubipara village and two brothers—Mir Suman, 22, and Mir Dipon—of Bhurhuria village in Delduar. The rest nine suicide bombers recruited from the upazila are still evading arrests.

Mir Sumon and Mir Dipon were

arrested in a raid by police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a fish firm at Bhurhuria village on December 10 last year. A huge quantity of explosives and bomb making materials, enough to make over 200 bombs, were recovered during the raid.

Eight bombs were blasted in different spots in Tangail including the office premises of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Judge on August 17.

After the blasts, police arrested Delwar Hossen, 25, and Yameen Miah, 16, from Baropakhia Quami Madrasa on August 28. The arrestees gave confessional statements under Section 164 before a First Class Magistrate on September 6 and 7.

After their arrest, 11 JMB cadres surrendered to police.

## JMB 'second in command' in Khulna remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

JMB leader Sabbir Hossain alias Shagor, 28, has been taken on seven days' remand for interrogation by Bagerhat police. The petition praying for his remand was granted by first class Magistrate Md Sabur Hossain.

Sabbir Hossain, son of late Gedu Molla of Shain Kola village in Bagatpara upazila of Natore district, was arrested by Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) on December 31 last year from Toodpara area of Khulna city.

Sources in Khulna Rab-6 said, during interrogation Sabbir admitted that he was being a member of Majlis-e-Shura (ehsar) of outlawed JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh).

Sabbir further admitted that he was the 'second-in-command' of JMB in Khulna division and acted as the main coordinator in the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Jessore and Gopalganj districts last year under the leadership of JMB 'operations commander' Hafez Mahmud.

Sources in Bagerhat police said Sabbir was brought to Bagerhat on February 24 from Gopalganj.

Shabbir admitted to Bagerhat police Sunday night that he was arrested by Khulna Rab just before a planned bomb attacks on same key installations in Khulna city with help of a 'strong squad of suicide bombers'.

He was moving at large in the guise of a contractor in Khulna city to carry out another bomb attack, Bagerhat police said.

Rab also interrogated him for several days at its Khalishpur headquarters.

## 2 BDR men closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members were closed after they clashed allegedly over sharing of booty on Sunday.

Havilder Hafiz and Nayek Subedar Mobarak Ali of Gazipur border outpost (BOP) in Sadar upazila were closed to 41, Rifles Battalion Headquarters at Taltala in the district town, according to BDR sources.

Havilder Hafiz allegedly took Tk 130 as 'weekly bribe' from the gamblers at Sanka village in Sadar upazila on Saturday.

As Nayek Subedar Mobarak came to know it, he became furious and had an exchange of hot words with Hafiz. At one stage, they clashed over sharing of bribe money.

When contacted, 41 Rifles Battalion 2nd-in-Command Major Asad said the two were closed after the clash.



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercepted a procession of Krishak League, peasants' forum of opposition Awami League, at Dutta Market when it was going to besiege the Rural Electrification Board (REB) office at Sakubazar in Netrakona town yesterday demanding smooth power supply for irrigation.

## Injured croc Kala Pahar dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Kala Pahar, a male crocodile in the pond of Khanjahan Ali shrine in Bagerhat succumbed to its injuries Sunday noon.

The crocodile highly esteemed by the devotees and aged over 100 years was severely injured in an attack by six other crocodiles Saturday noon.

It was under treatment of Sundarbans Forest Division Deputy Ranger Abdur Rab.

The government earlier brought six crocodiles from Madras in India on June 25, 2004.

The deputy ranger said that the jaws of the crocodile, popularly known as Kala Pahar were damaged while it bore several marks of severe injuries on its body.

Hundreds of men and women are still thronging the Khanjahan Ali pond to have a last glimpse of Kala Pahar. Many women were also seen weeping at the sight of the dead crocodile.



PHOTO: STAR

Passengers of a trawler swimming to safety after it capsized near Chormonai Ghat in Kirtonkhola river in Barisal yesterday. Body of one of the victims was recovered and 11 people were reportedly missing till yesterday evening.

# 8x3

## LONG MARCH REACHES PALASHBARI Resist Indian move for river-linking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

The 'long march' organised by Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) to protest Indian's river inter-linking project, that started from Muktangan in Dhaka city on February 25, reached Palashbari in Gaibandha district yesterday on its way to Kurigram.

The marchers held at a public meeting on Palashbari Upazila Shaheed Miner premise.

BSD convener Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan; Dr SI Khan, Vice-President International Farraka Committee; Mobinul Hyder Chowdhury, Abdullah Sarker, Bazlur Rashid Feroz and Shamsul Huq addressed the meeting presided over by Ahsanul Habib Sayeed, convener of Gaibandha BSD.

The long march will terminate at Kurigram on March 1 with holding of a public meeting at Kurigram College ground.

The speakers said India is

withdrawing waters of all most all the common rivers by constructing dams in the upstream, which will make Bangladesh a desert.

The Padma river is drying up in Rajshahi after construction of farakka barrage. Twenty tributaries of the river have turned into streamlets.

The Gajoldova dam in the upstream of Teesta that caused serious water crisis in Teesta Barrage Project. Now India is constructing another dam at Tipai in Monipur across the Barrak river, which will dry up the Surma in Bangladesh.

The Indian government has now taken up a massive plan to inter-link 37 rivers in the upstream, which will create an ecological disaster in Bangladesh, they said.

They urged the government to resist the Indian move at appropriate international forums and also called upon all socio-political organisations to organise protests across the country.

## 7 get life for murder during robbery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Seven people were given life term imprisonment by a court here yesterday for a murder in Sherpur in 1998.

Sherpur Additional District and Session Judge Mohammad Nababur Rahman handed down the punishment to Mohammad Amzad Ali, 60, Ekabbar Ali, 50, Suruj Ali, 66, Motaleb Miah, 65, Abul Kalam, 60, Mozibar Ali, 45, and Azahar Ali, 40, all from Ghughurakandi village in the Sadar upazila. Azahar Ali was tired in absentia and the rest are in custody.

The seven stormed into the house of Shamsul Hoq in

Ghughurakandi village and committed a robbery on the night of June 25, 1998.

As the inmates raised a hue and cry, the robbers attacked them with lethal weapons, killing Shamsul Hoq, 50, and injuring 10 others. The dacoits left the house with valuables before neighbours came in, earlier reports said.

Forty-eight people were accused in the case, filed by Shamsul Hoq's brother Syed-ul-Haque.

The court acquitted 41 people as charges against them could not be proved, court sources said.

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