

Hang militant kingpins

Relatives of detained JMB cadres demand

ABU AHMED, *Satkhira*

Relatives of detained JMB cadres have demanded capital punishment to militant kingpins Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai for misleading their near and dear ones and involving them in heinous crimes in the name of religion.

Talking to this correspondent, they also hailed the government for the arrest of JMB chief Abdur Rahman and JMB chief Bangla Bhai.

The militants misguided many promising youths, who are in jail awaiting trial. This has ruined many families, they said.

SSC (Secondary School Certificate) candidate Hurrennesa Baby, 16, daughter of detained JMB cadre Nasir Uddin Dafadar of Islampur area in the town, said the two militant kingpins lured her father and many youths into blasting bombs and killing people.

"Like many others, our family has been ruined as my father was the lone earning member", she said.

Nasir Uddin is now in Satkhira jail for involvement in the August 17 blasts in the town.

"I will appear at the SSC examination from March 9 but my family is virtually starving", she said.

"We have become isolated from the society. My friends and our



Shaekh Abdur Rahman (left) and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai

relatives have deserted us as my father was involved in the bomb blasts at the instigation of the criminals. They (militant kingpins) should be hanged in public as they did to others".

Moniruzzaman, 65, of Polashpole in the town, father of detained JMB cadre Monwar Hossain Ujjal, said Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai misinterpreted the holy Quran and the Hadith to misguide his son and many others.

He is happy to know that the two militant kingpins have been arrested.

"The two devils misguided my only son Ujjal. Now he is in jail, throwing us in a great disaster. My family has been ruined as he was

the lone earning member," said Moniruzzaman.

He said he will be more happy if Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai and their godfathers are executed.

Omar Ali, 65, of Bakal in the town, a retired staff of Satkhira Pourasava, is the father of detained JMB cadre Anisur Rahman Khokon.

"I would like to see execution of the two militant leaders as they ruined my family by misguiding my son into blasting bombs in the town on August 17", he added.

Their misdeeds only to capture power have created anarchy in the society and defamed the greatest religion on earth that never supports violence, he said.

"The two culprits should be tried

for sedition". The government should identify their patrons and protectors and punish them also, he said.

Pickpocket Rawshan Ali of Islampur feels proud and happy that he helped police to nab Nasir Uddin Dafadar.

Tipped-off by Rawshan Ali, police arrested Nasir Uddin within two hours of the serial blasts in Satkhira on August 17.

"I have done wrong throughout my life by stealing money from people's pockets. I feel proud that I did at least one good work for the country and the people by helping police to nab the JMB bomber", he told this correspondent.

"People hate me as I am a pickpocket. I believe traitors Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai are the most hated. They should be hanged," Rawshan said.

Like the JMB cadres' relatives, many others also hailed their arrest and demanded exemplary punishment to them.

Satkhira Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Sheikh Azhar Hossain congratulated the government and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) for arresting the militant kingpins and demanded their execution.

A ruling partner behind arrest of our leaders, acting Ahab Ameer says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Acting Ameer of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab), Dr Mohammad Musleh Uddin has said a partner in the ruling alliance misguided the government into arresting its chief Dr Asadullah Al Galib.

Leaders of a partner in the ruling coalition provoked the government to arrest four Ahab leaders to hide their party's links with Islamist militants who are doing violence in the name of Islam.

This partner in the ruling coalition is gaining strength at the cost of BNP but its (BNP) leaders are yet to realise this, he said addressing a meeting of Ahab unit at Jhhowdanga in the Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

It was addressed by Ahab central organising secretary Prof. Mohammad Sirajul Islam and publicity secretary ASM Abdul Latif and some local leaders.

"Election victory of the two parties (BNP and its coalition partner) in many constituencies depends on our support. We will teach them a good lesson if our leaders are not freed", Sirajul Islam said.

The Ahab leader hailed the arrest of JMB chief Abdur Rahman. He said, Ahab had close links with an Islamist party before the arrest Dr. Galib. That party supported Galib's arrest as a strategy to gain organisationally and also because it was scared of our strong base among the people, he claimed.

Ahab will change its strategy in the next election if Galib is not released, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Satkhira unit of Bangabandhu Sainik League laid a siege to Power Development Board (PDB) office yesterday protesting load shedding and demanding smooth power supply.

Rallies, road barricade for smooth power supply

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Different political organisations, joined by farmers, yesterday brought out processions and held rallies in Satkhira and barricaded the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway in Dinajpur, demanding smooth power supply.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Satkhira district units of Bangabandhu Sainik League, a front organisation of opposition Awami League and Krishak Sangram Samity brought out separate processions and held rallies in front of offices of the Deputy Commissioner and the Power Development Board (PDB), protesting severe load shedding and demanding smooth power supply.

About 500 leaders and activists of Bangabandhu Sainik League, a front organisation of opposition Awami League, brought out a procession from Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park in

the town, paraded streets chanting anti-government slogans and then held a rally in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office. It also besieged the PDB office protesting load shedding.

The speakers said, the PDB failed to ensure smooth power supply while the SCC (Secondary School Certificate) examination begins from tomorrow (Thursday) and farmers are crying for power to irrigate their Irri-Boro lands.

They said, a tougher agitation programmes will be launched if load shedding is not stopped within three days. They also demanded resignation of the 'failed and corrupt government'.

Krishak Sangram Samity also held rallies in front of offices of the DC and the PDB.

The two organisations submitted memorandums to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner to ensure smooth

power supply.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: Krishak League and Jubo Mohila League, two front organisations of Awami League, brought a procession carrying hurricanes and laid a siege to Dinajpur Pally Buduit Samity-1 office for smooth power supply for irrigation.

Several thousand farmers joined the agitation in the Dinajpur sadar upazila.

The processionists squatted on the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway in front of the of Dinajpur Pally Buduit Samity-1 at Basherhat for about two hours from 11 am, creating long snarl-ups on both sides.

They held a rally there, demanding smooth supply of power and fertiliser.

Being information, the Officer-in-Charge of Dinajpur Sadar police station along with a team rushed there. On persuasion by the OC, they withdrew the barricade.

Ruta polls today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Election to the 15-member Executive Committee of Rajshahi University Teachers Association (Ruta) will be held today.

Candidates of White Panel backed by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami and of Yellow Panel backed by Awami League (AL) and left-leaning parties are contesting in the election.

Yellow Panel candidates for posts of president and general secretary are Prof Dr Khairul Alam Khan of Applied Physics and Electronics and Prof Dr Abul Kashem of History respectively.

Prof Dr Zillur Rahman of Applied Mathematics and Prof Dr Mahub Hassan of Zoology are vying for the same posts from the White panel.

Policy needed to develop haor areas, seminar told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kishoreganj*

Speakers at a seminar here urged the government to adopt a separate policy for development of haor areas because they are topographically different from other areas of the country.

Government officials, public representatives, NGO executives and newsmen attended the seminar, held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall on Tuesday.

Additional Deputy Commi-

ssioner Tapan Chandra Banik presided over the seminar, initiated by Deputy Commissioner C M Yusuf Hossain and organised by Oxfam and POPI, a local NGO.

The speaker said a distinctive feature in Netrakona haors is that most of the roads there go under water during monsoon. In dry season which lasts about seven months, people generally move on foot because there are few roads suitable for vehicles. Reaching one upazila to another needs a day-long walk.

There are some areas where law enforcers can hardly reach. So the main profession of people of those areas is thieving, which is mentioned against their names in the voter list, said Anisuzzaman, UNO of Kishoreganj Sadar who was there earlier.

District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Sultan Miah said, there are many primary schools with only one teacher who teaches 250 to 300 students.

ADC (general) Tapan Chandra Banik said, if a government official is transferred to a haor area, he considers it a punishment.

The main cause behind this is that living cost in haor area is too high because all essentials except rice and fish have to be brought there from other areas.

The District Livestock Officer said Tk 300 to Tk 500 is needed to hire a boat to travel a small distance during wet season whereas a government employee gets only Tk 200 per month as travel allowance.

They said the haor areas should be declared 'special areas' like Chittagong hill districts.

Development of the areas will not be possible without adoption of a different policy after studying the areas, they said.

This does not mean the haor areas do not have scope for development. The areas are very resourceful with their fertile lands during winter and vast sheets of water in the wet season. A comprehensive plan can turn the whole area into a rice bowl in dry season and full of fishes in the wet season, they said.

10x3

5x4

6x5