

'Molla Omar' supplied the bombs that killed judges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

JMB explosives expert Molla Omar alias Shakil had made and handed over two bombs to suicide bomber Mamun who killed two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14 last year.

Mamun was also trained by Molla Omar, killed in a Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) operation in Comilla on Monday.

Molla Omar visited Barisal in mid-October last year along with JMB kingpins Abdur Rahman, Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, Awal, Ataur rahman Sunny and Khalid. They plotted the Jhalakathi suicide bombing at a secret meeting. Two bombs were later handed over to Mamun to kill judges Sohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey in Jhalakathi.

Mamun had blasted one bomb, killing the judges. Seriously injured Mamun was caught with another bomb from the spot.

Shakil's name was mentioned as Molla Omar for the first time in the charge sheet of the explosives case lodged in connection with the judges' murder. A murder case was also filed in connection with the judges' killing.

In the explosives case, Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal in its verdict delivered on February 20, gave 40 years' rigorous imprisonment to Shakil and seven others. The seven are JMB kingpins Abdur Rahman, Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, Abdur Awal, Ataur Rahman Sunny, Khaled Saifullah alias Amzad and Mamun.



PHOTO: STAR

Trucks hired by dealers waiting for days on Zia Fertiliser Factory compound for urea.

Dealers queue up for 'rationed' fertiliser

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The Zia Fertilizer Factory (ZFF) in Ashuganj has introduced 'rationing' of fertiliser, keeping dealers with trucks and barges waiting for days to lift their quota.

The factory has no stock and the dealers are being supplied from the daily production of 1200 tonnes, sources in the ZFF and dealers told this correspondent yesterday.

This correspondent yesterday saw long queues of trucks of dealers from different districts on the road in front of the factory. Many of them said they were waiting for a week for their turn to come.

If the factory goes out of operation due to any technical fault, there will be

a serious crisis of urea in the eight districts under its jurisdiction, the factory sources said. The eight districts are Brahmanbaria, Comila, Chandpur, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Madaripur.

Tripping of the factory is not unlikely as it went out of operation 20 times during the current financial year, causing a total production loss of about one lakh tonnes. This is also one of the reasons for no buffer stock and rationing, they said.

The supply position tightened and rationing was introduced as Gopalganj, Faridpur and Madaripur districts were brought under its command area this month while it had no buffer stock due to earlier production disruptions, factory

sources said. The three districts were brought under the ZFF following production disruption in urea factories in Jamalpur and Ghorashal, it was gathered.

According to sources, 841 dealers now lift their quota from the factory every month.

The dealers are divided into two categories according to their areas, one getting 50 to 60 tonnes and the other 30 to 35 tonnes per month. But they are given these quantities in 2-3 installments in a month as urea is delivered from daily production, some dealers told this correspondent.

As there is rationing, anomaly takes place in supply, alleged Tarik Ahmad, a member of Kishoreganj Fertiliser Dealers Association. Dealers from Kishoreganj and Netrakona are not getting fertilisers as per their demand, he alleged.

Mizanur Rahman, secretary of Brahmanbaria Fertiliser Dealers Association, claimed the factory can not supply more than 1150 tonnes of urea daily now. He said 2500 to 3000 tonnes were supplied daily during the peak season last year.

Factory sources said they can deliver 70 to 75 truckloads of urea daily. About 400 tonnes are supplied in barges and 80 to 90 tonnes in railway wagons.

When contacted, a high official of the factory seeking anonymity admitted that the buffer stock has been exhausted as three more districts were brought under its area.

JMB's 'Mollah

FROM PAGE 16
Charshee under sadar upazila in Jamalpur.

Very soon Shakil became an Ehsar, a full-time member of the organisation.

After marriage, he started an electronics workshop at Delduar. Sources said learning about Shakil's efficiency in electronics, the JMB high-ups assigned him to its bomb unit under Salahuddin, a member of the JMB Majlish-e-Shura.

Salahuddin trained Shakil in bomb-making at Baropakhia Kawmi Madrasa in Delduar. Within a few days, he acquired such expertise in the field to be called by his associates as "Mollah Omar" after the second top most Taliban leader.

Shakil led setting up of several training camps in different parts of the upazila, including Baropakhia, Lawhati, Bhurbhuria and Elachipur. JMB chief Abdur Rahman and his younger brother Ataur Rahman Sunny used to visit these training camps and directed the training programmes.

In his first operation for the JMB, Shakil along with Sunny exploded a bomb at a Jatra Pala programme at Tukchandpur village in Delduar on January 8 last year.

Meantime, he was appointed the JMB's Narayanganj district commander.

Shakil had also supplied the explosives which were used for killing two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14 last year.

Hearing the news of Shakil's death, his mother Sufia Begum burst into tears. His father Ashraf Ali told The Daily Star at the Delduar Police Station that JMB chief Abdur Rahman misguided his son, engaged him in militancy and finally destroyed him in the name of "Jihad".

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Delduar Police Station, told The Daily Star that the police had been hunting for Shakil and had conducted several drives to net him since August 17 last year.

"Delduar police are still hunting for at least 30 listed JMB cadres in the upazila," he said.

DEVELOPMENT OF BHOMRA LAND PORT

Plan to acquire homesteads triggers protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

People of Laxmidari village facing eviction for development of Bhomra land port at a press conference yesterday said they are becoming victims of a conspiracy by some vested quarters.

They said authorities had earlier selected nearby croplands for acquisition for expansion and development of the land port. The decision was changed and their homesteads have been targeted at the behest of some influential. A section of land department officials are also involved in conspiracy, they told the press conference.

Over 150 families, most of them of Hindu community, are residing in the villages for generations, local Union Parishad Chairman Shamsul Haque said at the press conference held at Satkhira Reporters Club.

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Cristian Oikya Parishad General Secretary Prof. Dr. Nim Chandra Bhoumik of Dhaka University and local Hindu community leader Monoranjan Mukherjee also spoke.

They said they earlier sought the prime minister's intervention to save them from eviction from their ancestral homesteads.

Responding to their appeal, the PM's office in a letter (memo no. 2005 (part-2) 299 dated 22.08.05) asked the Satkhira Deputy Commissioner's office to submit an elaborate report. But since then no action has yet been taken while land department has given them eviction notices, they said.



PHOTO: STAR

One of the many homesteads facing eviction at Laxmidari village because of Bhomra land port development plan.

The 150 families of the villagers have been agitating since notices were given on October 21 last year that their homestead would be acquired for the land port.

During a visit to the village on January 20, District Land Acquisition Officer Saidur Rahman told villagers that the government will have to pay a huge amount as compensation if homesteads are acquired instead of the earlier selected lands, they said.

The government is acquiring lands to build parking area and warehouses for Bhomra land port.

Charges pressed

FROM PAGE 16

Alamgir alias Bijoy.

Of the accused Ataur Rahman Sunny, the younger brother of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Swapan and Jewel are now in custody while the remaining two are still at large.

Rab dropped the names of Monir and Abul Khair, landlords of Sunny, from the charge sheet as their involvement with JMB were inconclusive.

The investigation officers (IO) said the charges brought against the five were primarily proved and they should be tried. The IOs also prayed for arrest warrants against the absconders and attachment of their moveable properties.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan on March 9 directed the IOs to submit the probe reports of the two cases immediately.

This was the first time a court had directed the authorities concerned to submit reports of the cases filed against the JMB members.

Majlish-e-Shura, top tier of the JMB, member Sunny masterminded the

August 17 blasts across the country. He was arrested at the Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon on December 13 last year.

Following his information, Rab seized 56 items of arms, ammunition, explosives, bomb-making materials, and books on Jihad from the house of Abul Khair at South Manda in the city's Sabujbagh area.

Meanwhile, JMB chief Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai were shown arrested in two cases filed in connection with August 17 blasts last year, our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reports.

The cases were filed with Rajpara and Motihar police stations in Rajshahi. Metropolitan Magistrate Yusuf Ali granted the investigating officials' prayer to interrogate Rahman and Bangla Bhai in the Task Force Interrogation Cell.

The court, however, denied bail to Akhtarul Islam, teacher of UCEP School and a suspected donor of JMB.

Punish Menoka's rapists

Rally, human chain in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People of different professions joined the physically challenged in agitation programmes in the town yesterday, demanding capital punishment to the rapists of a 15-year-old girl who torched herself to death.

They held a protest rally at Gaibandha Shaeed Minar, brought out a procession in the town and formed a human chain in front of the Press Club. The programmes were organised by Adhikar Chai and Action for Disabled and Development (ADD), two NGOs working for disabled persons.

The rally was presided over by Hasina Begum, mother of rape victim Menoka, a mentally retarded girl.

"I want capital punishment to the culprit who gangraped my retarded daughter so that no one dares commit such crime", she told the rally.

The speakers demanded immediate arrest of the two accused rapists who are allegedly moving freely.

Menoka of Pacher Kura village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila was gangraped on February 27 when she went out of home for grazing goats. Back home, dejected Menoka poured kerosene and torched herself. After 11 days' fight for life, she died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital burn unit on March 11.

A case has been filed accusing three persons--Abdur Rahim Pandit, Ratan Mia and Anisur Rahman. Police arrested Anisur Rahman.

5X3

7x3

5X5