

# 11 JMB cadres got Tk 1.5 lakh for B'baria blasts

## Bombs were sent in sweetmeat boxes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Eleven Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) cadres took part in the August 17 bomb blasts in Brahmanbaria town last year and they were paid Tk 1.5 lakh for this.

This was disclosed by the four arrested JMB cadres during interrogation on the third day of their five-day remand yesterday.

They also narrated how they planned and blasted the bombs and who gave the money, police sources said.

JMB cadres Alamgir, 28; Sohel, 25; Arafat, 26 and Shaikh Mohammad Sumon, 25 were arrested from different areas of the town on Thursday.

Two of them Alamgir and Sohel gave confessional statements before a First Class Magistrate yesterday.

The two were taken to the spots in the town where bombs were blasted on August 17.

They are being interrogated by a team led by Additional Police

Superintendent Abdul Kuddus Amin. The team includes ASP (Sadar Circle) Saifullah and one police official each from Detective Branch (DB) and Sadar police station.

All the bombs were sent to Brahmanbaria from Dhaka in a bus inside sweetmeat packets three days before the incident. JMB Sura member Monir of Chuanarughat in Habiganj district sent those. Alamgir received the bombs.

The 11 JMB cadres held two meetings at the Eidgah ground and behind the Brahmanbaria TV relay station with Monir, who gave them guidelines. Monir distributed Tk 1.5 lakh among them in two installments at the meetings.

Sumon exploded a bomb on the court premises, Arafat at Brahmanbaria Poirtoia bus stand, Sohel at a commercial place, Shafiq at a monument, Alamgir and Kabir at Medda bus stand, and Kader and Ripon blasted two bombs at Brahmanbaria railway station simultaneously.

They told interrogators that

Sumon was the 'regional commander' of JMB in Brahmanbaria.

Police said they got some other important information about the rest seven yet to be arrested but declined to elaborate.

The four were arrested following information given by JMB cadre Sabbir Ahmed Dulal, arrested in Dhaka on March 8.

Sabbir was brought to Brahmanbaria after his cheque book (no. 11674) of Janata Bank in Brahmanbaria was found during the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) operation in Surjadighal Bari in Sylhet city from where JMB chief Abdur Rahman was arrested.

Sabbir has been sent to Sylhet for interrogation in a case filed against Abdur Rahman there, police said.

Meanwhile, police released Shafiqul Islam, 25, arrested on Friday from the town, after interrogation.

Police said they have launched a manhunt for the rest seven JMB cadres. They raided 18 areas of the town in last few days, sources said.



Farmers queue in front a fertiliser dealer's shop at DB Road in Gaibandha town yesterday. Due to crisis, farmers from different areas in the district come to the town for fertiliser.

PHOTO: STAR

## 5 get double life for rape, murder of minor girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five persons have been sentenced to double life term for killing a minor girl after gangrape in Sherpur in 2003.

Two others were awarded seven years' imprisonment in the same case.

The five convicts are Abbas Uddin, 27; Helal Uddin, 32; Mohammad Solieman, 34; Mofizal Miah, 30, and Mohammad Shaheen, 38, of Suryanagar village in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur.

Ashish Ranjan Das, Judge of Women and Children Special Tribunal, in his verdict delivered on Thursday gave them life term under Section 7/30 for abduction and fined them Tk one lakh each, in default, to

suffer one year more RI.

In the same verdict, the judge gave them another life term under Section 9(3)30 for gangrape and murder and fined them Tk 2 lakh each, in default, to suffer two years' more RI. The punishments will be effective concurrently, the verdict said.

The judge gave seven years' RI to Haji Abdul Samad, 56, of Chaitankhila village in Sherpur Sadar upazila and Khairul Islam, 42, of Kolospar village in Nalitabari upazila for hiding evidences in the incident. They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment.

The five youths abducted 10 year-old Shahana, daughter of poor farmer Samed Ali of Khatiapara village in Jhinaigati upazila on

September 20, 2003 when she was returning home at Khatiapara village from her brother-in-law's house in Suryanagar village. She was a student of class four at Kolospar Government Primary School.

They took her to a fish farm in the area and killed her after a gangrape. Three days later, police recovered Shahana's body with marks of injury from a paddy field in the area.

SI Azharul Islam filed a case with Nalitabari Police Station. He submitted the charge sheet on December 18, 2003, accusing seven persons.

The court examined 15 witnesses in the case.

## Five JMB regional commanders in 2 dists still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Five Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) regional commanders of Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts are still evading arrest.

These fugitive commanders are trying to regroup their scattered militants in remote areas in the two districts. The shoal areas across the Brahmaputra basin have become their safe havens, police said.

In Joypurhat, JMB regional commander Montazar Rahman hailing from Uttar Moheshpur village in Khetlal upazila and his son Momin, another JMB commander were carrying out militant activities for the last two years.

Joypurhat police raided a secret den of JMB at Moheshpur at night on August 14, 2003. At that time a meeting chaired by Montazar was being held there. Police cordoned the meeting venue.

Sensing police presence, Montazar and his men attacked them. Seven policemen including Joypurhat Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Iqbal Shafi were seriously injured. The militants snatched away three short guns, 40 bullets, magazines and wireless set from them.

Later, 18 militants were rounded up but Montazar and his son went into hiding. Police said Montazar is now regrouping the militants in remote shoal areas.

Earlier, police arrested a JMB commander Amjad Hossain in connection with recovery of 24 pieces of powerful bombs and 124 pieces of detonators from a compartment of Barga bound local train at Bonapara Railway Station on November 12, 2004.

Police first arrested Anisur Rahman with the bombs. Following his confession, they arrested a lame man, Amjad Hossain from Jogodishpur village in Shaghata upazila. But soon Amjad managed to get himself released from police custody and went into hiding.

Police later declared Amjad as a most wanted militant.

Matin Mehdi alias Motinul Islam alias Taroka Matin, second-in-command of Allaher Dal (a faction of JMB) and a resident of Bridge Road, Gaibandha is also evading police arrest. He is a charge sheeted accused in August 17 serial bomb blasts in Gaibandha. He was awarded death penalty by a court in Jhenidah recently.

Abdul Aziz of Shaghata upazila, another most wanted militant and a charge sheeted accused in August 17 serial bomb blast case in Gaibandha also remained at large. People in Shaghata upazila said the militants are regrouping in their areas.

Meanwhile, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), in a drive launched recently, arrested three JMB 'ehsar' members, Badal alias Reaz, Quaiyum alias Kamal and Harun. They confessed under Section 164 of BPC to their involvement in the August 17 serial bomb blasts. Charges have been pressed against them.

When contacted, police claimed they are carrying out massive manhunt for the fugitive commanders.

## 10 injured in attack for toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 10 people including women of the Hindu community were injured in an attack Friday night by a group of hoodlums for toll.

The incident took place at village Daserkati in Assassuni upazila. The injured were admitted to Satkhira Hospital and Assassuni Upazila Health complex.

Police said, a group of miscreants had been demanding a toll of Tk 30,000 from six Hindu families, but they refused.

About 15 miscreants allegedly led by Mafizul Islam, an absconding accused attacked houses of the Hindu families, beat the inmates at looted valuables.

2.5x3

2.5x3

8x3



PHOTO: STAR

Students at BK Girls High School vowing not to bow down to early marriage and to resist dowry at a meeting at the school yesterday.

## No to dowry, early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over 200 schoolgirls at a high school yesterday vowed to resist dowry and not to bow to early marriage.

The unique event took place at BK Girls High School in the Sadar upazila during a discussion meeting on 'Role of girls in resisting dowry'.

The programme was organised by Amar Sonar Paribar (my happy family), a newly formed local socio-cultural organisation at the initiative of Italian NGO Rishilpi, working for women's rights.

Headmaster of the school Nazmul Kabir chaired it while Rishilpi director Enzo Falcone was

the chief guest. Leaders of Amar Sonar Paribar addressed the function.

The speakers stressed the need for creating awareness against dowry and early marriage of girls, the two main causes of the incidents of violence against women. Education is the only way to remove the vices, they said.

It is a hard task to resist the deep-rooted vices from a society where literacy rate is poor and age-old superstitions still prevail, said Enzo Falcone.

He said local Union Parishad leaders can help a lot in this regard.

5x2

7x3