

# Manhunt for Khulna tycoon Tayebur

## Allegation of helping top Aug 21 grenade attack suspect cross border

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A special squad of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has been directed to track down prominent businessman Tayebur Rahman of Khulna city for allegedly harbouring Makbul Hossain alias Mukul, prime suspect in the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka last year.

Mukul and his aide Joy took shelter at the Khulna residence of Tayabur Rahman for four days before fleeing the country after the August 21 grenade attack, police claimed.

Tayebur Rahman, owner of Friends Arcade Market at Jalil Tower in Khulna city went into hiding after Wednesday's serial bomb attacks across the country, police said.

But sources at the Friends Arcade Markets said Tayebur Rahman could not be traced since August 16. His family members also said they do not know anything about his whereabouts.

Police sources claimed that Tayebur helped Mukul and Joy cross the border through Taluigacha border in Satkhira on the night of August 25 last year.

Makbul Hossain Mukul ahails from Kashempur village in Satkhira Sadar thana. But it is yet to be revealed how Khulna businessman Tayebur came in contact with 'terrorist' Mukul, said to be the prime suspect in the August 21 grenade attacks, said a senior official of KMP.

# Ruling parties behind serial bombing

## Tangail Mohila AL tells rally

**A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**

Tangail district Mahila Awami League (AL) on Sunday held a rally on the Shaheed Minar premises in the town to mark the first anniversary of August 21 grenade attacks on a party rally in Dhaka.

With district Mohila AL President Monoara Begum in the chair, speakers at the rally claimed that Wednesday's bomb blasts across the country were made under the patronisation of the ruling alliance.

They called upon the people to join the opposition agitation to oust "protectors of bombers and criminals" to safeguard democracy and sovereignty of the country.

They said some fanatic forces want to establish a Taleban-like government in the country, which will destroy democracy and stop progress and development. Their activities will stop social progress.

A section of them is also harming Islam by misinterpreting the greatest religion on earth and misleading people. Islam never supports violence and harbours terrorists, they said.

The speakers also came down heavily on the government for its failure to make any substantial progress in trail of the August 21 carnage.

The government is yet to identify the perpetrators one year after the dastardly incident, they said.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Tangail district AL President Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan, AL Secretary Fazlur Rahman Faruque, city AL President Sirajul Haque Alamgir, Mahila AL Secretary Minu and other leaders of awami League and its front organisations.

The AL leaders alleged that law and order started deteriorating in the country since takeover by the alliance government because its leaders are protecting criminals.



PHOTO: STAR

The Surma in Kanaighat upazila in Sylhet devours homesteads and vast croplands during every monsoon but the authorities are yet to take any step to tame the hill river.

## Khulna BNP factions hold separate rallies

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Amid tight security, two factions of Khulna BNP held separate rallies yesterday afternoon protesting Wednesday's serial bomb explosions across the country.

City BNP President M Nurul Islam MP presided over the rally of his faction, held at Maharaj Square.

On the other hand, president of Khulna district BNP Prof Majidul Islam presided over the rally of the other faction led by the city Mayor. It was at Shahid Hadis Park.

City BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju, district BNP secretary Advocate Shafiqul Alam Mona, former chairman of Khulna municipality Gazi Shahidullah, central vice-chairman of Red Crescent Society Dr Gazi Abdul Huq, 19 ward commissioners of KCC and eight Union Parishad chairmen addressed the rally held at the Maharaj square.

Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman chaired the rally of his faction. It was also addressed by, among others, lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi, city BNP vice-presidents Sekandar Zafrullah Khan Shacchu and Shaharuzzaman Martuza, seven ward commissioners and two UP chairmen.

Speakers at both the rallies accused Awami League of being the mastermind behind the serial bomb blasts "in connivance with a foreign country".



A BNP procession in Nilphamari town yesterday (left) and a human chain by Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in Gaibandha on Sunday, protesting Wednesday's bomb blasts across the country.



PHOTO: STAR

## BOMB ATTACK ON JOURNO DIP AZAD Ex-ASP Mofazzel released on bail

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Former Additional Police Superintendent of Khulna Mofazzel Hossain was released on bail yesterday from Gazipur district jail.

The High Court granted him interim bail in all the cases.

Mofazzel Hossain was arrested on February 16 from Mohammadpur area in Dhaka on charge of harbouring terrorists.

Khulna Bureau Chief of Dainik Jugantar Dip Azad survived bomb attack on him on the night of January 5 at Mollapota crossing under Khulna thana. Two separate cases were filed with Khulna thana on January 6 in this connection.

Hasan Chowdhury and Iqbal Hossain Swadhin, two alleged armed cadres of PBCP (Janajuddho faction) were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on the night of February 15 from Khulna office of ASP Mofazzel Hossain.

He had fired shots to prevent Rab from arresting the outlaws who were chargesheeted accused in journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case.

Mofazzel was withdrawn from Khulna on the same night, taken to Dhaka amid tight security and placed under suspension.

Later he was shown arrested in journalist Dip Azad bomb attack case, following statements by outlaws Hasan and Swadhin arrested earlier.

Besides, outlaws Hasan and Swadhin disclosed in their judicial confession that Mofazzel masterminded the attack on Dip Azad and financed the attackers.

The bombs thrown on Dip were made at Jalma police camp in Batiaghate upazila of Khulna district, the two outlaws told police.

Dip Azad survived the attempt as one of the bombs thrown on him did not explode.

Journalists here on Friday formed a new forum titled, 'Journalists' Union for Peace, Environment and Development (JUPED)' aiming at fighting professional challenges and raising awareness about environment.

The union was formed at a meeting held at a restaurant in the hill town. Anwar Hossain of The Independent presided over the meeting.

A 7-member executive committee was formed with The Daily Star correspondent Monirul Alam and The Bangladesh Observer correspondent Shanti Moy Chakma as its president and secretary.

The Daily Samakal Staff Reporter Satrong Chakma was elected treasurer while other members are Anwar Hossain of The Independent, Milton Barua of Amader Somoy, Zamal Uddin of Abash News Agency and Newton Chakma of Weekly Protichitra.



Monirul

# Solar energy changes life in Patuakhali villages

**SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali**

At remote Badura village in Patuakhali where government is yet to supply electricity, school student Arif is reading under fluorescent light while others in the family are enjoying TV programmes in another room.

They, like many others, have changed their lifestyle by using solar energy.

"This is a great encouragement to my children", Arif's mother Jasmine Begum told this correspondent during a recent visit.

Use of solar energy and electricity battery is becoming popular among rural people in Galachipa and Sadar upazilas of the district, thanks to the innovative efforts by two local NGOs.

Neither the PDB (Power Development Board) nor the REB (Rural Electrification Board) has supplied electricity in the remote villages.

The NGO efforts have also created jobs for many village women. They work in the small plants, assembling solar energy and electric battery sets. The sets are also supplied to neighbouring districts, opening up a good business prospect also.

The Coastal Electrification and Women's Development Co-Operative (CEWDC) and The Centre For Mass Education in Science (CMES) have installed solar energy systems in about 200 houses and supply battery system electricity to another 200 since they took the initiative in 1999.

More people in villages in Char Montaz, Rangabali and Char Biswas unions under Galachipa upazila now want these facilities.

The Energy Sector Management Assistance Programmes (ESMAP), World Bank and other donors extended their helping hand in the work.

The Dhaka-based Prokaushali Sangsad Limited is giving technical support.

All the activities are managed and supervised by 35 women who have little education.

At Char Montaz, where the CEWDC office is situated, a small factory has been set up where solar and battery sets are assembled and recharged. Spares and equipment are imported.

Mohiuddin, Field Mmanager of the project, said a solar unit which costs between Tk 17,801 and Tk 26,398, can run six lights and a TV set.

A 8-volt battery costs Tk 1850 and a 12-volt battery Tk 3280.

A battery has five years' guarantee with monthly recharge facilities and back up support by the providers.

"Our products are supplied to different areas of the country including Jhenidah, Satkhira and Bhola, Production Manager Rashed said.

Zakia, Bimola, Lina and Shahida-- all members of CEWDC-- said a worker earns between Tk 1500 and Tk 2000 per month from the project. They deposit a part of their income to the o9rganization's fund as savings.

Solar energy user Kobita Amin of Char Montaz village said she bought it at Tk 2,000. Her school-going son Rajib and two minor daughters are very happy now as they can read under fluorescent lights and enjoy TV programmes, she said.

Anisuzzaman, unit manager of CMES said they have supplied 20 solar sets in Sadar and Uzirpur upazilas in Barishal district.



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