

JMB man chargesheeted in Kishoreganj, two may be acquitted

Militants still evade arrest in Tangail

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police of Niklee thana in Kishoreganj have submitted charge sheet against alleged JMB cadre Obaidullah Shumon in connection with the August 17 bomb blasts in the district. Sub-inspector Wajiullah of Niklee thana, who is also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet before a court in Kishoregabnj on October 29, a correspondent reported yesterday.

The charge sheet however recommended acquittal of two other accused-- Harun-or-Rashid and Aiatullah. They were acquitted as their identity could not be ascertained and they were not recognised by the main accused, Obaidullah, police said.

Obaidullah and Harun-or-Rashid were produced before the court of Magistrate Ashraful Amin Mukul on October 30. The court sent Obaidullah to jail and granted bail to Harun-or-Rashid. Aiatullah is yet to be arrested.

Two cases were filed against Obaidullah with Niklee and

Kishoreganj Sadar thanas. Obaidullah was arrested at Guroi under Niklee thana on September 14 along with explosives.

He also faces another case in connection with the bomb blast at bus stand in Kishoreganj town on August 17. Police said during interrogation Obaidullah confessed to his involvement in the blast. Charge sheet in the case will be filed soon, police said.

Our Tangail Correspondent reports: Top leaders of JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) in Tangail involved in the August 17 serial bomb blasts in the district are still evading arrest.

Police said they are hunting for the 'top 10 JMB cadres' in Tangail, including Shoeb of Balla village in Kalihati, who was 'in-charge of Kalihati region'. Police are also hunting for Russel of the same village.

This correspondent visited Shoeb's house at Balla in Kalihati upazila on Sunday but found none of his family members. A madrasa teacher there said Shoeb and his family members

left their house on August 16, a day before the serial bomb blasts across the country.

It was gathered from local people that JMB started its activities at Balla and Rampur areas centering an Islamic Library few years ago. They used to recruit youths from poor families and train them in use of arms and explosives. Shoeb and Russel conducted the training at night.

At least 10 families in the region were involved with JMB and they left their houses after the August 17 serial bomb blasts, the villagers said.

Meanwhile, Kalihati police on Saturday submitted charge sheet in the case filed in connection with the August 17 blasts.

The six persons chargesheeted in the case are JMB chief Shaiekh Abdur Rahman, Shoeb, Enayet Ullah, Delwar Hossen, Arman-bin-Azad, and Russel.

Among them, Delwar Hossen is now in custody and the rest are evading arrest.

Mentionably, eight bombs went off in different areas of the district town

on August 17.

Police in a raid on Baropakhia Qawmi Madrasa in Delduar on August 28 arrested Delwar Hossen, 25, of Arihazar of Narayanganj in connection with the blasts.

During interrogation Delwar confessed to his involvement in the serial bomb blasts in Tangail. Acting on his confession, police raided the house of one Sirajul Islam at Betdoba in Kalihati on September 1 and recovered one bomb and huge bomb making materials.

Tangail Sadar thana Sub-Inspector Khoda Newaz filed a case with Kalihati police station in this regard on the same day.

SI Habibullah of Kalihati thana, who is the investigation officer in the case, said JMB recruited teenagers and trained them on use of firearms and explosives.

SI Habibullah said Shoeb was the in-charge of JMB in Kalihati.

SI Habibullah also named 20 people as prosecution witnesses in his chargesheet.

Barapukuria power plant starts trial operation this month

Coal-firing on November 15

KANKAN KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Barapukuria coal-fired power plant will start trial operation this month and commercial power generation from next month.

Coal-firing at the plant will be done on November 15 and it will take about a week for synchronisation. Trial operation of one 125 MW unit will start at the end of the month, officials there told this correspondent.

This will be the first power plant to produce electricity with coal produced in the country instead of imported fuel.

The second 125 MW unit will be operational in February, according to its project Director Fazlul Haque.

The plant has a stock of 40,000

tonnes of coal for power generation, they said.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud visited the plant on Saturday and inquired about preparations for the trial operation.

Officials said 90 per cent work of the plant has been complete and the units would be commissioned in time. Most of the basic infrastructures of the two units have been installed.

Use of coal in the plant will save about 1,999 million US dollars on count of import of fuel. The power plant will remain operational for 30 years.

The plant, having a provision for installation of another 125 MW generation unit is being set up at a cost of 209 million US dollars with a

loan of 144.1 million US dollars.

Official sources said the government has a plan to install a third generation unit in the plant to produce a total of 375 MW power, which may fully utilise the coal to be extracted from the coal mine.

A Chinese consortium CMC-- is setting up the plant on turn-key basis. The power plant will consume 2,500 tonnes of coal a day, to be supplied from Barapukuria coal mine now being developed. The coal mine will produce one million tonnes of coal annually.

Officials said 65 per cent of the coal will be consumed by the power plant and the remaining 35 per cent will be sold out for use by brick fields and other purposes.

According to experts, the bitu-

minous coal of Barapukuria is of "high quality".

The production cost of per ton of coal is Tk 3086.15 and it will be sold to the power plant at the rate of Tk 4820 per tonne. The coal mine is being developed at a cost of 251.08 million US dollars.

Officials said with commissioning of the power plant, pressure on the East-West Inter-connector will ease and load-shedding in northern districts will reduce substantially.

Smooth power supply in the region will help setting up of new industries and gear up economic and commercial activities. The ash which will be produced as a by-product in the plant will also be utilised commercially.



PHOTO: STAR

A Hindu family lighting candles at a crematorium in Barisal city yesterday as part of Dipali festival.

Hindus observe Dipali festival in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Shamshan Dipali, a festival of the Hindu community, was observed in Barisal Monday Night.

In the sub-continent, 'Shamshan Dipali' festival is observed only at Adi-Shamshan Ghat and Natun Shamshan Ghat, two crematoriums in Barisal city for over 150 years.

As in every year, several thousand people from the different parts of the country and also from across the border attended the festival this year.

Relatives cleaned the places where bodies of their dearest ones were cremated, decorated those with candles and flowers and offered prayers for peace of the departed souls.

The district administration took steps to ensure law and order during the festival.

ATTACK ON POLICE

19 Maherpur BNP men chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Gangni police on Monday submitted charge sheet accusing 19 leaders and activists of ruling BNP for attack on the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gangni police station and torching his motorcycle on June 5.

The accused include Meherpur BNP Secretary Amzad Ali, Krishak Dal Secretary Ismail Hossain and Gangni BNP Secretary Saiduzzaman.

According to the case, two BNP factions, one led by Amzad Ali and the other by Abdul Gani MP, were engaged in a clash on the day at

Gangni upazila headquarters for supremacy in the area.

At one stage the BNP men attacked the then OC of Gangni thana Iqbal Hossain when he was coming to the spot.

The BNP men beat up the police officer severely and torched his motorcycle.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Haider Ali filed a case accusing 50 BNP men on the following day.

Severely injured OC took treatment at Meherpur General Hospital for about a month.

Houses torched as AL man wins by-polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An Awami League supported candidate won the by-election to the post of Ratnapur Union Parishad chairman in Agoiljhara, native upazila of Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdul Aziz. The election was held on Sunday.

The by-election was held as Awami League leader and UP chairman Jahangir Serniabat alias Makhan Serniabat died in July.

Jahangir Serniabat's Hosne Ara Begum won the election by scoring 4,588 votes against her nearest rival local BNP leader Anwar Shah who cored 3,106 votes.

After declaration of the result, BNP activists assaulted Hosene Ara's election agent Runu Saha and supporter Miraj Monday night.

BNP men also set on fire houses of some Hindu community members in West Ichhar Par and East Ichhar Par villages for supporting Hosne Ara, AL sources alleged.

Yesterday morning, BNP activists led by BNP leader and UP member Bellal Hossain forced all shopkeepers in Mollar Bazaar to down their shutters. Police rushed to the area and controlled

the situation.

This has panicked minority community people in the area, AL sources said.

Agoiljhara UNO M A Aziz and OC Sultan Ahmed said the situation is under control and general dairies were filed in connection with setting fire to houses.

Meeting on DHARA held in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A district level orientation meeting on 'Developing Health, Consumer Awareness on Rights Through Advocacy' (DHARA) was held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room in Manikganj on Monday.

Marie Stopes Clinic Society, an NGO working on reproductive health, organised meeting.

DC SM Shamsher Zakaria addressed the meeting as chief guest.



PHOTO: STAR

Barapukuria power plant is ready for trial operation later this month.

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11x3