

MANHUNT SINCE AUG 17 BLASTS IN TANGAIL

21 out of 29 chargesheeted militants still evade arrest

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Tangail police are yet to nab 21 out of 29 chargesheeted JMB cadres including its 'district commander' Abdullah Taslim and nine other front ranking leaders.

All of them were chargesheeted in cases filed with different police stations in connection with the August 17 blasts in Tangail, Mymensingh and Netrakona districts.

The JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) activists in Tangail were recruited by Abdullah Taslim and their activities will be made public when he is arrested, intelligence sources said.

"We have launched a manhunt for Taslim but are yet to trace his hideout. We found his mobile telephone number, which is locked

since August 17", a senior intelligence official said while talking to the Daily Star yesterday.

The other JMB leaders yet to be arrested include, Shoeb, Younis, Khaled Siddiky, Russel, Arman-bin-Azad, Mizan, Ahad, Tareq and Sumon.

Younis of Habla Dakkhin Para village in Basail upazila in the district, one of the 'top ten' JMB leaders in Tangail and a chargesheeted accused in the August 17 blasts in Mymensingh and Netrokona. He is also the main accused in Joypurhat arms looting case in 2003, police sources said.

Police arrested Younis' father Idris Miah and brother Yaqub Miah recently. They confessed to their involvement with JMB.

Enayet Ullah alias Jewel of Barshapara village in Kotalipara

upazila in Gopalganj district, is another JMB kingpin who recruited youths in Kalihati and gave them arms training at the rented house of his brother-in-law Shoeb, another JMB leader. Kalihati upazila is inhabited by a large number of Ahle Hadith community members.

Police raided the house at Beldoba in Kalihati upazila Sadar on September 1 and recovered a huge quantity of bomb making materials including gunpowder and electric wire and a live bomb.

Habibullah, sub-inspector (SI) at Kalihati police station, submitted a charge sheet accusing six persons including Enayet Ullah and Shoeb on October 29.

The two were also chargesheeted along with 15 others in the August 17 blast case. Khoda Newaz, sub-inspector (SI) of Tangail

Sadar thana submitted the charge sheet to a Tangail court on October 19.

This correspondent visited Balla area on Monday and talked to some local people. They said Shoeb and his family is absconding since August 17.

Police have submitted charge sheets in all the four cases filed with different police stations in Tangail, accusing 29 militants including JMB and JMB chiefs in connection with August 17 serial bomb blasts incidents in the district.

Among the charge sheet 29 militants, only eight are now in Tangail District Jail.

Of the eight, police arrested five militants and the rest three surrendered before a Magistrate Court in Tangail.

7 JMB men chargesheeted in Dinajpur, one held in Barisal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Seven alleged JMB activists were chargesheeted in Dinajpur while a youth was nabbed in Barisal suspecting his involvement with the Islamist militant outfit yesterday.

A Correspondent reports from Dinajpur: Dinajpur police yesterday chargesheeted seven JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) militants for their alleged involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts in the district.

They are Nazrul of Khanpur and Azizul of Ramsagar village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila; Toffazzal of Mohabbatpur, Mokbul of Sikdarhat, Afzal Hossain of Khetripara and Abu Raihan of Chhatoil village, in Dinajpur and Razu of Mirpur in Dhaka.

When contacted, the Assistant Police Commissioner told this correspondent that during interro-



Hafez Enayetur Rahman

gation, all the seven confessed to their involvement in the incident.

Our Barisal Correspondent reports: Police arrested a youth -- Hafez Enayetur Rahman-- from the CID Camp area at Bogura Road in the city Monday night for his alleged involvement with the JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh).

He is the son of Shahjahan Howladar of Pangsha under Rahamatpur union in Babuganj upazila, police said.

Enayetur Rahman told police that he is a student of class ten of Dumki Madrasha in Patuakhali and his father is a night guard at Patuakhali Science and Technology University.

Barisal Police said he was arrested while roaming suspiciously near the CID Camp. Police claimed that he was arrested as per a confession made by a JMB activist arrested in Barguna earlier in connection with the August 17 bomb blasts in that district.

He will be taken on remand for interrogation, Officer-in-Charge of Barisal Kotwali police Sheikh Zillur Rahman said.

Pabna JMB 'commander' repents

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna 'area commander' of JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) Nurul Haque alias Kawsar, arrested from Khetlal in Jaipurhat district on Saturday, was taken on five days' remand here yesterday.

He was arrested from his Khetlal village home.

Pabna Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Faruque Ahamed said Kawsar told interrogators that he was repented for blasting bombs in front of Pabna Collectorate building on August 17 on instruction from JMB leaders.

He said he joined JMB to establish Islamic rule in the country.

"JMB is misleading youths in the name of so-called Zihad", the OC quoted him as saying. He confessed to his involvement in the August 17 blasts, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists at Rajshahi University brought out a procession on the campus by covering their faces with black cloth yesterday to protest the VC's remarks against them for reports on question leakage.

RU VC's remarks against newsmen spark protest

RU CORRESPONDENT

Journalists at Rajshahi University yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus by covering their faces with black cloths in protest against the Vice Chancellor's 'objectionable remarks' against them for reports on leakage of first year admission test questions.

They brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of the Central Library, demanding removal of the VC.

Speakers at the rally said the VC lost his right to retain his position as he "threatened" journalists for reporting on "irregularities by the university authorities".

They also announced that they would go for tougher agitation if the VC does not regret his remarks within 48 hours.

The journalists will form a human chain today and observe token hunger strike in front of Central Library tomorrow protesting the VC's remarks.

Yesterday's rally was addressed by, among others, Mansurul Alam (local daily Sonali Sangbad), Abdus Sattar (Nayadigantho), Anisuzzaman Ujjal (Amar Desh), Shahidul Islam (Janankantho), Rajshahi University Photojournalist Association General Secretary Zabid Apu, Jahangir Alam Akash (Sangbad) and Belal Hossain (Financial Express).

Meanwhile, the Progressive Teachers Association (PTA), Rajshahi unit of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ), Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Samajtrankir Chhatra Front (SCF), Chhatra Union, Chhatra Federation and some local cultural organisations also protested the VC's comments and expressed solidarity with

journalists.

RU VC Prof Altaf Hossain on Monday threatened a group of journalists of punitive action including cancellation of studentship for "reporting against the authorities".

The VC allegedly misbehaved with journalists when they wanted to meet him to inquire about leakage of questions.

He also threatened of formulating a new law to regulate "reporting against the authorities and tarnishing image of the university".

"It is you (journalists) who are responsible for question leakage. There is no question leakage. I will formulate fresh law in the Syndicate to cancel your studentship", the VC was quoted as telling the journalists.

The journalists inquired about allegations of involvement of some Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leaders in the recent leakage of admission test questions of History, Islamic History and Culture and Folklore departments.

Mentionably, RU Proctor Prof Shamsul Islam Sarker on Sunday caught RU JCD Joint Convenor Ezazul Haque Miraj and four admission-seekers -- Abu Kawsar, Md Sayem, Rasel Hossain and Sabuj Ahmed-- with leaked questions at Muder Bux Hall.

They were later released on an undertaking that they will not be engaged in such activities any more.

RANGPUR JP

Ershad's nephew blames Ranga for assault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Expelled organising secretary of Rangpur town unit of Jatiya Party Asif Shahariar yesterday alleged that party's central joint secretary Moshir Rahman Ranga MP led Monday's assault on him at party chief Ershad's Rangpur residence-- Palli Nibash.

This tarnished the party's image, he said at a press conference at his Sen Para residence in the town. Ranga is opposing him since he joined JP, Asif claimed.

He is trying to convince the party chief to keep me away from party activities to fulfil his political ambition, he alleged.

"Ranga is also trying to create disunity in our family", Asif said.

As he failed to convince the party chief, he attacked me, Asif said.

Asif, a nephew of JP chief HM Ershad came under attack by some party men at Ershad's residence. Later police came and rescued him, the sources said.

On Monday in the evening, Asif also had hot exchange of words with Rangpur Sadar Upazila JP President Golam Mostafa at Ershad's house, party sources said.

Regarding his expulsion, Asif said he heard this but is yet to get any letter.

He said Jatiya party leaders and activists are against violence and always respect party chief's decision. "If he (Ershad) has really expelled me, I must accept it", Asif said.

When contacted over cell phone yesterday, Moshir Rahman Ranga denied the allegation that he led the attack on Asif by party men. Some party leaders and activists were annoyed at Asif's behaviour. They might have assaulted him, he told this correspondent.

WATER-LOGGING ON CROPLANDS IN 3 JESSORE UPAZILAS

Thousands block road, stage sit-in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Several thousand residents of Abhaynagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur blocked the Jessore-Khulna highway at Nawapara and staged a sit-in in front of the office of Abhaynagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) yesterday demanding steps against water-logging in the areas.

Over 3 lakh people in Abhaynagar, Monirampur and Keshabpur upazilas and adjacent areas can not cultivate lands because of the problem.

The water is stagnant since the

week-long rain in October as there is no outlet, the demonstrators said talking to this correspondent.

The rains caused flood in the area, also inundating houses, schools and roads.

To get rid of the problem, about 25,000 people of the area took part in a silt removal drive in Sri river on November 9. But this helped little to address the water-logging problem.

At one stage, two groups of people clashed following a rumour that an embankment near Bhabadah sluice gate was cut to create an outlet. Over 100 people

were injured. Local people near the sluice gate are against making any outlet by cutting the embankment there, sources said.

On December 3, thousands of people from the affected areas gathered on the Jessore-Khulna highway and blocked the road at Nawapara demanding steps to remove the problem.

Lawmaker from the area MM Amin Uddin, Nawapara Municipality Chairman Enamul Haq Babul, Workers Party leader Iqbal Kabir Jahid, BNP leader Nurul Haq Mollah, journalists Jobair Hossain

and Faruq Hossain and leaders of other political parties were also present there.

On Tuesday the people gathered in front of the UNO office and demanded immediate solution to the Bhabadah water-logging problem. They blocked the highway in the morning for which all types of transports remained stranded on both the sides of Nawapara industrial town.

FERTILISER PRICE HIKE Farmers besiege Panchagarh sugar mill

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Several hundred sugarcane farmers under Panchagarh Sugar Mill zone laid a siege to the mill yesterday protesting price hike of chemical fertiliser and insecticides by the mill authorities.

The demonstrators said the authorities abruptly increased the prices, which will raise their cost of production while the price of sugarcane fixed by the mill will remain the same. Sources said the agitated farmers also confined the Managing Director of the mill at his office for about an hour.

When contacted, MD Foyej Ahmed denied having been confined by farmers. He said he had fruitful talks and assured that their grievances would be placed before higher authorities.

Teletalk to cover Barisal division in a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

All the 32 upazillas in Barisal division will be brought under Teletalk network within January next year.

Work to Expand Teletalk network is going on and will be completed within this period, its Regional Officer Abdul Quddus based in Barisal has said.

The company has installed towers in all the districts of Barisal division and also in Bakerganj, Goumadi, Ujirpur, Agailjhara and Banaripara upazillas. But the towers can not cover the entire area now.

More towers are being installed and a Teletalk office would be set up in the city, he told this correspondent.

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11x3