

# JMB Rajshahi 'commander' was involved with Ahab

## Interrogation reveals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Arrested JMB (Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh) Rajshahi 'divisional commander' Abul Kalam alias Shafullah alias Tarique was involved with Ahle Hadith Juba Sangha, youth front of Ahle Hadith Andolon, Bangladesh (Ahab), led by Dr. Asadullah Al Galib, a teacher of Rajshahi University.

He came in contact with JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman when the later visited Satkhira in 1999, sources in intelligence agencies said.

"Later on, under the directive of Shaikh Abdur Rahman, he lured poor youths from neighbouring villages like Itagachha, Kharibila, Kamal Nagar, Baladanga to join JMB to take part in Jihad for establishing Islamic rule. He recruited and trained JMB activists", one source said.

JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman often visited Satkhira and took part in secret meetings, held at mosques and

madrashas in Itagachha, Kharibia and Kamal Nagar areas, said a devotee at a mosque at Itagachha seeking anonymity.

Abul Kalam alias Shafullah formed 'Ketal Bahini' in Satkhira under the directive of Shaikh Abdur Rahman in 1999, police said.

Shafullah was arrested on December 17 from Rajshahi.

He was driven out from their Itagachha house in Satkhira town six years ago by his father Abdur Rahman, a retired teacher at Satkhira Primary Teachers Training Institute. Abdur Rahman is also chairman of Bakal Ahle Hadith Madrasha, established by Dr. Galib, said an elderly man seeking anonymity.

Before taking charge as JMB Rajshahi 'divisional commander' Shafullah was chief of 'Ketal Bahini' in Satkhira district, said intelligence sources.

Talking to this correspondent, some local people in Itagachha, a

stronghold of JMB in the town, said, Shafullah's family members belong to Ahle Hadith sect and are followers of Dr. Galib who hails from Alipur village in Satkhira Sadar upazila.

On contact, Shafullah's father said, his son's actual name is Abul Kalam. He (Shafullah) changed his name as Shafullah alias Tarique after joining JMB. "I drove him ( Shafullah) out from my house when became involved with JMB. He also demanded punishment to JMB bombers who are killing people.

Locals said JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman joined a meeting of its activists held at a mosque at Kharibila in the name Islami Jalsa in July this year.

A police official said, they have prepared a list of JMB activists in the district and are hunting for them including its suicide squad members.

## JMB suspect held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A JMB suspect was arrested by Rab early morning yesterday from his village home at Gautamkati Dohar in Tala upazila.

The arrestee, Abdur Rashid, 30, is the son of Abdul Baten Sardar of Gautam Kanti Dohar village in Tala upazila.

Rab sources said, acting on a tipped off, they arrested him suspecting his involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts. He was taken to Rab headquarters at Khulna for quizzing.

Meanwhile, arrested JMB Khulna district 'commander' Ruhul Quddus told interrogators that most of the explosives used in making bombs are brought from India through Satkhira border.

Quddus, 32, was placed on a three day remand on December 17 following a prayer by Satkhira Sadar police. He is the son of Nasir Uddin of Taluigachha village in Sadar upazila.

During interrogation he told police that JMB kingpin Shamim visited Satkhira before the August 17 blasts.



Phul Kuri Ashar, a children's organisation brought out a colourful procession in Barisal city yesterday as part of programmes on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR



## Tk 50 lakh statue recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered a 50 Kg touchstone statue worth about Tk 50 lakh by digging earth in a field in Dinajpur sadar upazial Tuesday night.

BDR source said that acting tip off, a BDR team led by Lt. Col Md. Abdul Hamid Sarker PSC of 14 Rifles Battalion and Magistrate Mohammad Azizul Haque raided a house and nearby areas at Vabanipur village and recovered the statue by digging four feet into the ground in a nearby field.

## JHALAKATHI JUDGES' MURDER

# JMB suicide bomber on 10 days' remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

JMB suicide bomber Mamun Ali who killed two judges in Jhalakathi on November 14 was taken on 10 days' remand when he was taken to Jhalakathi yesterday from Dhaka after treatment.

He was treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for injuries he sustained during the bomb attack.

Sohrab Hossain, Investigation Officer of the cases and Officer-in-Charge of Jhalakathi Sadar police station prayed for 14 days' remand, court sources in Jhalakathi said when contacted over telephone. Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila Magistrate Ismail Hossain granted 10 days' remand.

Senior Assistant Judges Shahid Sohail Ahmed, 35, and Jagannath Pandey, 38, were killed, one at the spot and the other on way to Barisal SBMCH in the suicide bomb attack. The judged were inside their

microbus, just before leaving their Chandkati residence in Jhalakathi town at about 9 am when two bombs went off, killing them and blowing up the vehicle.

JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) suicide squad Mamun Ali, 23, milk seller Badsha Mia, 45, judge court peon Abdul Mannan, 40, and Lokman, 13, a student of class six were injured in that blast.

Mamun Ali was caught by local people and handed over to Rab (Rapid Action Battalion). He is the son of Qamruzzaman, a 4th class employee at Rajshahi University.

Injured Mamun while being taken to Barisal tried to explode another bomb he was carrying but failed as RAB members and police foiled the attempt and recovered the bomb tied with his thigh.

## 25 hurt in Satkhira BNP factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

At least 25 people were injured, 15 of them seriously, in intermittent clashes between two rival groups of ruling BNP in Kazirhat village in Kalaroa upazila yesterday over possession of a disputed land.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police have been deployed there to avoid further clashes, Kalaroa thana Officer-in-Charge Arzu Mia said.

The seriously injured 15 people have been admitted to Kalaroa Upazila Health complex.

Quoting local people police said, there was a dispute between Kushodanga union BNP vice-president and Kazirhat Bazar Committee Secretary Abdul Hamid and Dhanghora village BNP president Golam Rahman over possession of five decimal of land near the Dhanghora bridge. A case over the land was pending with Kalaroa settlement office.

Yesterday's clash ensued after Abdul Hamid came under attack by a group of Jatiyabadi Juba Dal activists when they went to the settlement office for hearing of the case.

## Kushtia daily Editor jailed for ignoring court order

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The Editor of a local daily in Kushtia was sent to jail yesterday for disobeying an order to appear before court.

Sakhawat ibn Moyeen Choudhury, Chief Editor of local daily Shikol, faced an extortion case, filed by a freedom fighter. He was arrested as he did not abide by an order to appear before the court, sources said.

According to court sources, one Munshi Nurul Islam, a freedom fighter, filed an extortion case against Sakhawat ibn Moyeen Choudhury on April 23.

The sources claimed that Shakhwat on April 12 demanded Tk 20,000 from Nurul Islam, father of Munshi Tarikul Islam, Kushtia correspondent of ntv and daily Samakal published from Dhaka. The editor also threatened to publish a story in his paper against Nurul Islam that he was a fake freedom fighter.

As the freedom fighter declined

to pay, the Shikol published a report on April 14 that he was a fake freedom. The news item also tried to brand his son journalist Munshi Tarikul Islam as an 'outlaw'.

Next day, the freedom fighter went to the editor and requested him to publish a rejoinder with documents that he was a freedom fighter.

The editor demanded Tk 20,000 for publishing a rejoinder and threatened to publish more defamatory news items for non-payment.

On April 23, freedom fighter Munshi Nurul Islam filed a case against Shikol Editor Sakhawat Ibn Moyeen Choudhury, publisher Hasina Sakhwat and one Shamsul Alam with Magistrate court.

The court ordered Sadar thana police to investigate the matter and submit a report.

Police after investigation submitted a report on November 27, accusing the three persons.

The court on December 5 issued arrest warrant against the three persons and ordered attachment of their property. The Shikol editor evaded arrest.

On Tuesday, when the editor came to court to appear in another case which he filed against three other editors in Kushtia, police arrested him.

Yesterday, the court rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

When contacted in the court compound yesterday, the Shikol editor told local journalists that the "whole thing is a conspiracy to throttle his newspaper".

## Crisis deepens as fertiliser trade stops in Nawapara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jessore*

No fertiliser was traded in Nawapara, the biggest fertiliser wholesale market in the country, in last three days due to the indefinite strike called by Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA).

Retailers and dealers from different districts including those in the northern part of the country who came with trucks to buy fertiliser from Nawapara wholesale market had to go back empty handed.

Over 300 dealers and wholesales in the market did not sell a single bag of fertiliser in the last three days in response to the strike call given by BAF, sources in the market said.

The BFA enforced the strike to realise fertiliser importers' Tk 300 crore arrears from the government due as

subsidy.

Importers said the government declared 25 per cent subsidy on imported fertilisers in 2004, which amounts to Tk 600 crore. The agriculture ministry also declared rules and regulations to handle subsidised fertilisers. Till July this year, the government did not pay Tk 100 crore to importers, due as subsidy. The amount rose Tk 300 crore till December, sources in BAF here told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, the strike pushed prices of all types of fertiliser in retail markets in districts in the current peak period of Rabi crop cultivation, reports reaching here said.

Urea is selling at between Tk 280 and Tk 300 in rural areas against its government fixed price of Tk 260 per 50 kg bag, farmers said.

## Kishoreganj lawyers boycott court

A CORRESPONDENT, *Kishoreganj*

Kishoreganj Bar Association members brought out a procession in the court area and continued their one hour court boycott programme yesterday, protesting allocation of a land by the district administration for building a fourth class employees' club near the association office.

They also brought out a procession in the area on Tuesday, when the court boycott programme was announced at a meeting of the association.

The bar association leaders said they will continue the agitation till the

Deputy Commissioner apologises for allotting the land ignoring their objection.

The association leaders objected to construction of the proposed club building near their office because it would be a recreation centre and create problems for lawyers and litigants, they pleaded.

The row intensified on Tuesday when lawyers resisted an attempt by the fourth class employees to lay the foundation of the club building, reportedly with backing from some officials of the district administration.

4x2

10x3

6x2

8x3