

# Sunny trained Shibir men in Kushtia, Jhenidah

## Arrested JMB 'commander' Bulbul tells interrogators

AMANUR AMAN, Back From Jhenidah

During study at Islamic University (IU), JMB 'operations commander' Ataur Rahman Sunny trained activists of JMB and of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in Kushtia and Jhenidah

districts.

Several dense were also built in areas near the Islamic University and in the two districts where Sunny trained Shibir and JMB men in use of arms.

These were revealed by JMB

activist Bulbul Ahmed alias Abujar during interrogation. Bulbul was in charge of August 17 bomb blasts in Jhenidah.

Local people demolished one of the JMB dense at Nagpara village in Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah in December 2003. Bulbul told interrogators, police said.

Bulbul was arrested on November 23 from Kestopur village in Shaikupa upazila.

While a student at Islamic University in 1999-2000 session, Sunny organised JMB in several areas including Nagpara, Bakri, Brahimpur, Dahkhola, Bestopur, Lakhanda, Darda, Kashimpur, Bhatoi, Garaganj, Kabirpur and Sheikhpara in Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah and Bishnudia, Santidanga, Madandanga, jhoidia, Harinarayanpur, Kalishankarpur and Mollateghoria in Kushtia Sadar upazila, according to police and local people.

Sunny recruited Bulbul from Shaikupa and later made him a 'commander', they said.

Local people said Bulbul, 42, son of Ibrahim Ali of Bakshipur village in Shaikupa, was a tailor at Garaganj Bazar. But he had no interest in tailoring. He spent most of his time to organise JMB in the areas.

Some people in the area told this correspondent that they suspected Bulbul from the very beginning. A

madrassa student, Bulbul also took part in the Afghan War, some of them claimed.

Sources said Bulbul and his accomplices built a den at Nagpara village in 2001. Sunny regularly went there and trained at least 200 JMB activists, the local people claimed.

One day, the JMB men had a dispute with local people over a hundred-year-old shrine of a Muslim saint there. As the JMB declared to demolish the shrine, the people demolished their den at Nagpara village and drove them out, local people said. Bulbul then took shelter in Kabirpur and stayed there till his arrest.

According to local people, Harkatul Jihad (HuJ) chief Mufti Hannan often come to Nagpara before his arrest. They said they confirmed it when Hannan's photo was published in newspapers and shown on TV screens after his arrest.

Police have so far arrested eight JMB activists from Jhenidah and collected names of at least 30 others. Besides JMB and HuJ, there are some activists of Allahr Dal, a banned organisation of zealots, police officials said.

## Ershad Shikder's godfather held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Most wanted notorious smuggler, drug and illegal arms trader in south-western region Shamsul Islam alias Black Shamsul was arrested by Rab on Tuesday night from Mirpur in Dhaka city.

He is the son of late Aminuddin of 27, Bhairav stand road under Khulna thana.

Wanted in over a dozen criminal cases filed with different police stations in Khulna, Black Shamsu was once one of the godfathers of notorious criminal Ershad Shikdar. He went into hiding after Ershad Shikdar was hanged on the midnight of May 10, 2003.

According to sources in Special Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), Shamsu tops the list of smugglers prepared by the home ministry. He was also wanted by NSI on charge of illegal arms trade. He was a financier of all ruling parties since 1990.

The sources said he used to sell illegal arms to extremists in south-western districts. Besides, he was custodian of most of the sophisticated arms left by Ershad Shikdar.

A tailor by profession till 1980, he made fabulous wealth by smuggling arms, food grains, spices and clothes from India and Myanmar. But he eluded arrest every time due to his beneficiaries in police department.

Khulna Rab-6 is yet to confirm whether Shamsu has been brought here or being interrogated in Dhaka.

## 8 honoured in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Eight prominent persons of greater Mymensingh were awarded 'Mymensingh Press Club Award' for their outstanding contribution in the fields of journalism and literature during 2001-04 at a function held at the club on Monday.

They are Zillur Rahman Khan, staff reporter of The Daily Sangbad based in Mymensingh, journalist Md Momtaz Uddin, journalist Abu Bakar Siddique Hiru (posthumous), journalist Alokmoay Saha (posthumous), Abdul Wahab and Ahmed Toufiq Chowdhury (posthumous). Crests and certificates were given to the recipients.

The Daily Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman addressed the function as chief guest.

# Fake freedom fighters on memorial plaque

## Rangpur freedom fighters hold protest march, submits memo to DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Names of some martyrs in the Liberation War are missing from the memorial plaque built at Surovi Uddyan in the town. Instead some fake freedom fighters found place in the plaque, inaugurated recently.

This created resentment among freedom fighters in the district. They brought out a procession in the town and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

on Tuesday protesting what they called "deliberate attempt to distort the history of Liberation War" and demanding correction of the names.

The memorial was built by the district administration.

The procession was led by Awami League Joint Convener Mosaddque Hossen Bablu and Gonotantri Party Presidium member Mohammed Afzal.

Talking to this correspondent, Bablu said that immediately after inauguration of the plaque, freedom fighter protested the anomaly and urged the district administration to correct the names. But they did not pay any heed to their request.

He said it is a disgrace to the



PHOTO: STAR

The Martyrs' Memorial inaugurated at Surovi Uddyan in Rangpur town recently.

nation that names of genuine freedom fighters are being replaced with fake freedom fighters under the present government.

He named two of the martyrs -- Mokter Elahi and Roni Rahman-- who were not only freedom fight-

ers but also organisers in Rangpur during the war. But their names are not on the plaque, he said.

"This is a deep rooted conspiracy to distort the history of Liberation War", he regretted.

## INDIA'S RIVER-LINKING PLAN

# 'Long march' ends in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The 60-kilometre 'long march' from Sunderganj to Gaibandha to protest India's proposed river inter-linking plan concluded at the Shaheed Minar in the town with a rally yesterday afternoon.

The three-day programme that began on Monday was organised by Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD).

The rally at the Shaheed Minar was presided over by Gaibandha BSD leader Ahsanul Habib Sayed and addressed by, among others, party central leader Suvragungu

Chakkravarti, left leaders Zahidul Hoq Milu, Mnojur Alam Mithu, Joynal Abedin Mukul and Abdul Quddus.

About 1000 activists and supporters of BSD took part in the 60 km march to create public opinion against the plan, which, if implemented, will create an ecological disaster for Bangladesh.

Speakers at the rally said India wants to withdraw flows of international rivers Brahmaputra and Ganges by inter-linking rivers in the upstream but the Bangladesh government is yet to take appropriate move to create world opinion against the unilateral

move by the neighbouring country. Bangladesh will be deprived of water in winter and flooded in rainy season as India will control water of the two rivers, they said.

They urged the government to create world opinion against the plan. The Teesta dries up during winter hampering irrigation under Teesta Barrage project area in greater Rangpur due to withdrawal of its water by Gajoldoba barrage in the upstream, they said.

# Threats to blow up thana, college and kill UNO

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Militants have threatened to kill the UNO and blow up Koachandpur thana in Magura and Daulatpur Day and Night College in Khulna.

Our Magura Correspondent reported that JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) operatives in a letter on Tuesday threatened to kill the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Koachandpur upazila and to blow up the local police station.

The UNO got the hand-written letter at around 11-40 am, posted to him from an unidentified place. He filed a general diary in this connection with Koachandpur thana.

"Lal Salam (red salute) of establishing rule of Islam. Ten members of our suicide squad from Rajshahi and Chapai Nawabganj are in your upazila now and you will be killed any day in bomb attack at your office", the letter reads.

"Koachandpur police station also will be blown up any time",

the letter said sent in the name of "JMB regional commander and ten members of suicide squad".

Talking to this correspondent over cell phone, Koachandpur UNO Mohammad Ishak Mian admitted getting the letter and said security has been stepped up in the upazila headquarters in view of the threat.

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent reported that an anonymous caller on Tuesday night threatened to blow up Daulatpur Day and Night College.

The telephone call was received by its Principal S M Abu Saeed, who immediately filed a general diary with Daulatput thana seeking security.

Police have been deployed on the college campus.

Intelligence personnel are investigating who are issuing threats over phone and in letters in the district. Police sources said they have asked the postal department to help intelligence officials in probing the threats.

## KRISHI DIPLOMA EXAM

# Answer scripts changed at Patuakhali centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

One hundred answer scripts of Krishi Diploma examination under Bangladesh Technical Education Board were allegedly changed illegally by the secretary of Galachipa centre, according to reliable sources.

According to sources, examination of two subjects, 'The Basic Rule, Process and Evaluation of Teaching of 6th Semester and 'Cultivation of Field Crop-1' were held on December 24.

Secretary of the centre, Majurul Ahsan Khan, also Principal of Patabunia Adarsha Krishi and Technical College, kept all the 100 answer scripts with him after the examination. He along with an office clerk corrected all the answer scripts and sent to Galachipa Post Office two days later.

Galachipa Post Office postmaster Kamrul Hasan told this correspondent he received the answer scripts on Monday.

This correspondent tried to contact Principal Monjurul Ahsan Khan, but in vain as he was not available at his college office.

However, clerk Abul Hossain was available but he did not make any comment in this regard.

## BAUFAL DISEASE Experts from Dhaka visit affected area

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A 4-member medical team lead by Dr Imtiaz Ashraf of Dhaka on Monday visited Maudarban village in Bauful upazila where four children including three of a family died in a mysterious disease on Friday.

The team collected blood from all members of the victims' families. They also collected food items and drinking water consumed by them.

When contacted, Dr Imtiaz told this correspondent 'We shall be able to detect the disease after chemical test of the samples.'

Patuakhali Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Nurun Nahar Begum said the situation is under control.

Symptoms of the disease are high temperature, vomiting and lose motion.



Abdul Jalil

## JMB 'commander' Jalil sent to Dhaka for JIC quizzing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

'Regional commander' of JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) Abdul Jalil was sent to Dhaka Tuesday evening for interrogation by the Joint Interrogation Cell.

Police produced him before the court of Magistrate Masudul Huq, seeking ten days' remand. The court granted seven days' remand. He was then sent to Dhaka under tight security under Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) escort, police and court sources said.

A Rab team from Bogra arrested Abdul Jalil from his Akenderpara village home in Shaghata upazila in gaibandha district on December 22 and produced him before court for remand. The court sent him to jail and deferred the hearing on remand till December 27 (Tuesday).

Abdul Jalil, a teacher at Munshirhat High School in Shaghata is reportedly the match-maker of Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, chief of banned Jangrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB). Bangla Bhai's father-in-law hails from Shaghata.

Earlier, Gaibandha police arrested Abdul Jalil together with some other suspected militants just after the August 17 serial bomb blasts in the district town but was released on bail.