

Patuakhali JMB suicide squad member was Shibir leader

Khulna arrestee admits being a Jamaat activist

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two more JMB (Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, Bangladesh) cadres arrested in Patuakhali and Khulna have confessed to police that they were involved in Jamaat-Shibir politics.

They are Al-Amin, arrested from Kathal Toli in Mirjaganj upazila in Patuakhali district and Mujibul Rahman, held from Daulatpur in Khulna.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: JMB suicide squad member and its 'regional leader' in Barisal Al-Amin alias Abdullah in his statement in a Magistrate court here said he was involved with Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami.

It was gathered from other sources that he was president of Islami Chhatra Shibir in Goalmari union in Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district, where he was a madrasa student in 1995-1996.

Later on he went to Saudi Arabia and then to Afghanistan and joined the war. He returned home in 2004 and became involved with JMB.

Al-Amin, 28, gave the statement on Thursday under Section 164. In the statement he also confessed to his involvement in the August 17

bomb blasts in Patuakhali.

He organised several training centres in Patuakhali and Barguna, recruited youths and trained them in use of arms. He also told the court that he took part in the Afghan war, according to sources in police and court.

Al-Amin was arrested on December 4 from Kathal Toli health sub-centre. The court placed him on 11 days remand in two terms. He was also sent to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka for quizzing during the remand.

He told to the court that 11 out of 22 JMB leaders in Barisal region are from Barguna and that only two of them have so far been arrested. Another JMB arrestee is Mostafa Hasan of Islampur village in Barguna Aadar upazila. Al-Amin is also from the same village.

The rest nine yet-to-be-arrested JMB cadres in Barguna are Shahidul of Bayalpur village, Rezaul Karim (1) and Rezaul Karim (2) of Sonakhali, Tanvir alias Mehdi and Asadul Arif of Islampur, Abdul Haq Abbasi, Abdur Rahman, Masum Billah of Patharghala and Fazlul Haq of Char Maitha village, all in the Sadar upazila.

Abbas, Masum and Asadul are also members of JMB suicide

squad, the sources said quoting from Al-Amin's statement.

Of the rest 11 in Barisal region, four are in Patuakhali, two each in Barisal, Bhola and Pirojpur and one in Jhalokathi, Al-Amin said.

Barguna police arrested Al-Amin and 32 others from a mosque at Bayalpur village in June in 2004. Al-Amin latter got bail from court. After release, he organised a training centre at a Hafizee Madrasa at Bayalpur village. He also organised such training centres in different places in Patuakhali and Barguna districts.

Al-Amin was selected as 'chief of JMB in those two districts, he added.

Some people in Islampur village said Al-Amin, son of Abdul Khaleq, passed Alim and Fazil examinations from a madrasa in Goalmari village in Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Khulna: JMB cadre Mujibur Rahman confessed during interrogation on Thursday that he was an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, police said yesterday. He was arrested by Detective Branch (DB) police on the night of August 17 from Pabla area in Daulatpur.

Some booklets on Islamic militancy were also recovered from his

possession. He was shown arrested in two separate cases filed with Khulna and Daulatpur police stations in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts.

But the arrested JMB cadre was left out of the chargesheets submitted to court in October.

Police said the arrested JMB cadre admitted that he is deeply involved in Jamaat politics but could not be named in the chargesheets due to lack of evidence.

Mujibur Rahman, 31, now in Khulna District Jail, is the son of Sohrab Jan Molla of Harhikhali village in Terokhada upazila in Khulna.

Another Islamist militant—Abul Kalam Azad—arrested from Khalishpur in Khulna city in October has also been left out of the chargesheet submitted to court on November 28 in connection with the August 17 blasts though nine others were named. Police said Abul Kalam Azad told them during inter-

rogation that he was an activist of Islami Shasantantra Andolon.

Govt 'convinced' about Galib's release, acting Ahab chief claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Acting chief of Ahle Hadith Andolon, Bangladesh (Ahab) Dr Muhammad Muslehuddin has claimed that they have "convinced" government high-ups to release Ahab chief Galib and other leaders and not to arrest any more Ahab men for militancy.

"I had talks with government high-ups, some ministers and intelligence officials. They realised that they were wrong (in arresting Ahab leaders)...They will not arrest any more of our men", he said.

He was addressing Ahab's Rajshahi divisional 'grand rally' at Shaheb Bazar in the city on Thursday. About 500 Ahab activists and supporters attended the rally.

He also threatened the government of "teaching a lesson" in the next general election if Galib is not released and "false cases" against him not withdrawn.

Muslehuddin claimed that Ahab has three crore supporters. They will work against the ruling parties in the next election if Galib is not released and "false cases" against him not withdrawn immediately.

"You have already failed at Chittagong (mayor election), Dinajpur (by-election) and eight municipal elections. We are silent voters. If 15 percent Ahab votes merged with 10 percent minority voters, none of you (BNP-Jamaat) will be elected", said Dr Muhammad Muslehuddin.

The Ahab acting chief came down heavily on journalists, saying they (journalists) have been "bribed" by some expelled Ahab leaders. He called Galib as "master of journalists" and said, curse of Allah will befall those who are writing against Galib.

"They (journalists) need purification of brain. They have no quality to match Galib (who is chairman of editorial board of monthly At Tahreek run by him)."

Dr Muhammad Muslehuddin also claimed that Ahab is forming alliance with like-minded parties. "I talked with Jomiyat-e-Ahle Hadith Vice President Dr Ershadul Bari and a few other Islamic parties. They will support us."

Without naming Jamaat-e-Islami, he said, "This party (Jamaat) depends on us (Ahab) in elections. It became devil after election. They are not working for establishing Islam, but for resisting Awami League".

He said Ahab has no link with al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden. "We supported Bin Laden when they fought for Liberation of Afghanistan. But, Bin Laden himself is not a believer in Ahle Hadith."

Chaired by Rajshahi Ahab

President Abul Kalam Azad, the rally was also addressed by, among others, SM Abdul Latif, Baharul Islam, Amirul Islam, Shakhawat Hossain, Kabirul Islam, Abu Taher, Maolana, Rustom Ali, Shihab Uddin and Faruk Ahmed.

Abdur Razzak Bin Yusuf, a teacher at Islamia As-Salafia Madsasa in Rajshahi city set up by Galib, told the gathering that judges who do not follow Islam are Kafir (infidel) and Jalim (oppressor).

Muslehuddin criticised role of United States of America during Liberation War and blamed government for giving them importance. "Who powered Harry K Tomas (former US Ambassador to Bangladesh) to comment on Galib. It is our internal affair."

2 UPDF men held with arms in Khagrachhari

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army arrested two members of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and recovered two foreign SBBL guns, one US-made revolver and some bullets from their possession in remote Kenggalchhari area in Mohalchhari recently.

Acting on a tip-off, an army patrol team raided a house and arrested the two youths.

They are Arun Kanti Chakma, 45, of Bethchhari village and Kangan Kanti Chakma, 35, of Gadghar village.

They were handed over to Mahalchhari police, who said yesterday that the two youths during interrogation confessed that they were UPDF members and were involved in illegal toll collection in the area.

However, the UPDF unit in Khagrachhari, when contacted said the two youths were not UPDF members.



PHOTO: STAR

People in Balachhara in Chittagong city yesterday protesting alleged illegal toll collection by police.

5 smugglers among 40 hurt in clash with BDR in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 40 people including five smugglers in three villages near Chuadanga border were injured in a clash with members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) early Thursday.

The clash erupted when people of Sadabari, Osmanpur and Thakurpur in Damurhuda upazila attacked a BDR team at about 2.30 am.

According to police and BDR sources, the BDR men chased a group of smugglers when they were smuggling diesel to India at about

2 am at Thakurpur border point. At that time, the smugglers opened fire on the BDR men and fled away in the villages.

When the BDR men entered Sadabari village, the villagers cried for help. Equipped with lethal weapons, the people of Sadabari, Osmanpur and Thakurpur villages locked in a clash with the BDR men resulting in injuries to 40 villagers.

BDR claimed the smugglers hailed from Sadabari village and arrested four of them and recovered 375 litres of diesel from their possession.

The arrested are Adam, 30,

Faridul, 50, Wahaduzzaman, 22, and Abdur Rashid, 26.

The BDR men filed two separate cases with Damurhuda Police Station. A case was filed against 85 villagers and another case was filed against four arrested smugglers.

People of the villages demanded withdrawal of the cases as they said they attacked the BDR men 'unintentionally' being confused at the situation.

JMB suspect held at Bhomra port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A JMB suspect was arrested yesterday by immigration police at Bhomra land port in Satkhira Sadar upazila while he was allegedly fleeing to India using a fake passport.

The arrested JMB suspect—Faisal Sadiq, 18, son of Abul Hasnat of Shreenagar village in Chatkhil upazila in Noakhali—concealed his actual name and address in the passport.

In the fake passport, he identified himself as Shahidul Islam, son of Anwar Hossain of Shikhhand village in Madaripur district.

On suspicion, immigration police challenged him and later arrested him. During interrogation he confessed to going to India by using a fake passport, police said.

He also told police that he was hiding for the last two months and staying at different places in the country, identifying himself as Anwar Shahadat, son of Rahim Mia of Dhapa Chakuria in Bogra district.

"Now I was going to India to avoid arrest", he said. Police said, he was a student of Fazil at Madani Nagar Madrasa in Demra in Dhaka city.

He also visited India several times earlier using fake name and passport, police claimed.

Police suspected that he might be a JMB member and he was fleeing to India to avoid arrest.

He was handed over to Sadar thana police. On contact, Sadar thana OC Shahjahan confirmed the incident.

Three 'outlaws' held in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Three alleged outlaws were arrested in Sirajganj yesterday.

They are Golam Mostafa, Kobad and Alam.

Shahzadpur police said that acting on a tip-off, they arrested Golam Mostafa, an alleged member of Purba Banglar Communist Party from Beradanga village in Kayempur union in the upazila in a raid in the area in the early hours of yesterday. Police recovered a Suttergun and two bullets from his possession.

The arrestee hails from Dhulauri village in Shathia upazila in Pabna district, Shahzadpur thana OC Khalilur Rahman said.

Police sources claimed that Golam Mostafa could have been involved in Wednesday's attack on Bamihal police outpost. He took

shelter in Beradanga village to evade arrest, they claimed.

After arrest, Golam Mostafa told police that some more police outposts are in the hit list of outlaws. Arms and ammunition looting is the their main target, the arrestee told police.

In a separate incident, alleged outlaws Kobad and Alam were arrested from Balshabari in Ullapara upazila yesterday evening.

Police sources said arrest of three outlaws in the district in a day has created alarm among law enforcers and all police stations and outposts have been alerted.

Meanwhile, police have launched a manhunt in Sirajganj for those involved in Wednesday's incident in which three Ansars were killed.

15x3

5x3



PHOTO: STAR

Brotee, a voluntary organisation in Tangail, organised a blood donation programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the town on Thursday marking the Victory Day.