

Bangla Bhai trained Tarikul, Rahman ordered bombing

7 JMB men carried out Aug 17 Sirajganj blasts, court told

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jama'atul Mujahedeen Bangladesh (JMB) ehsar (full-time) member Tarikul Islam in his confessional statement before a First Class Magistrate in Sirajganj yesterday said he along with six other cadres took part in the August 17 bomb blasts in the town.

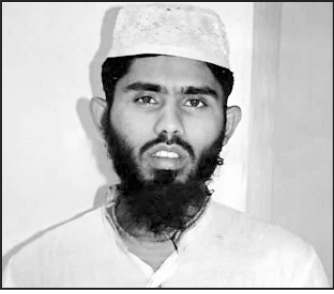
The six are Shahi, Rashid, Bashir, Manik, Ahsan and Jewel.

He gave the statement before Magistrate Monira Begum under Section 164, police said.

Tarikul was placed on three days fresh remand when he was produced before the court on expiry of his seven day's remand.

In Gaibandha, JMB commander Lutfur Rahman, arrested on Tuesday, was placed on seven days' remand. Lutfur was arrested by Shaghata police from Barokora village.

According to our Sirajganj Correspondent, Tarikul, son of Abu Bakkar of Jamua village in Kamar Kanda upazila, was arrested by Detective Branch police from Shial Khol bus stand in Sirajganj town on March 19.



Arrested JMB cadres Tarikul Islam (left) and Lutfur Rahman.

Tarikul said he was recruited by JMB chief Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and become an Ehsar member when he was a student of Rani Bazar Qwami Madrasa in Rajshahi. Earlier, he studied at Koyra Fazil Senior Madrasa.

Three years ago, he took part in three days' arms training conducted by Bangla Bhai in Comilla, he told the magistrate.

The August 17 bombing in Sirajganj was ordered by JMB chief Abdur Rahman, he said.

Prior to the bombing, JMB cadres



PHOTO: STAR

held a secret meeting at his house in Jamua village, where JMB chief Abdur Rahman's son-in-law Abdul Awal and JMB 'operations' commander Alaur Rahman Sunny were also present, Tarikul said.

The bombs used on August 17 in Sirajganj town were made at Abdul Awal's house in Bogra and brought to Sirajganj by JMB cadre Jewel in a bus.

Police said they will soon submit charge sheet in the August 17 incident, in which Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai will be included.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent

reports: Police said Lutfur Rahman's younger brother Mamunur Rashid Mamun, an alleged JMB commander, is also wanted by police for his involvement in the August 17 serial bomb blast in Gaibandha. He is also accused in several cases filed against him in Bogra and Sherpur.

Lutfur was hiding since the August 17 bomb blasts.

Meanwhile, according to reports received from Naogaon, a team of army explosives expert led by Capt. Tanveer Tuesday defused seven grenades recovered from the house of JMB cadre Sekander Ali at Parkasunda village in Atrai upazila is the district last month.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered the grenades during a raid but Sekander managed to flee.

Rab filed a case against Sekander and another JMB cadre in Gaibandha, but the two are yet to be arrested.

The grenades were powerful, police here said quoting the army experts.

JS caucus on gender holds dialogue in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna divisional team of Parliamentary Caucus on Gender held a dialogue here yesterday on strengthening cooperation between women members of parliament and women members of local bodies.

Fifty women members of parliament and a large number of women Union Parishad members and ward commissioners in Khulna division attended the dialogue.

Begum Sarwar Rahman MP who is a leader of the Parliamentary Caucus on Gender was present as chief guest while Begum Syeda Razia Faiz MP presided over the dialogue.

Prof ATM Obaidullah of Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy (SPD) Project and Humaira Aziz, member-secretary of Parliamentary Caucus on Gender also spoke at the meeting.

Newaz Halim Arly MP and Khulna City Corporation Ward Commissioner Nahid Sultana presented two keynote papers.

The Parliamentary Caucus on Gender, formed for the first time in the country at the initiative of SPD, comprise 25 MPs from different parties.

Fresh clash widens Jamaat-BNP rift in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The BNP-Jamaat rift has widened in the district following renewed clash between the leaders and activists of the two parties.

The clash erupted as the district unit of Madrasa Shikhhak Parishad, a front organisation of Jamaat-e-Islami, yesterday brought out a procession and held a meeting at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park accusing BNP of attacking the major coalition partner.

District unit general secretary of Madrasa Shikhhak Parishad Maulana Abdul Bari presided the meeting.

In the meeting, the speakers demanded arrest and punishment to BNP leader Abdur Rouf, also chairman of Alipur Union Parishad (UP) for criticising Jamaat Ameer Maulana Matjur Rahman Nizami and beating madrasa teacher Maulana Abu Sayeed.

Terming Rouf as 'Kafir' and godfather of criminals, they demanded his arrest and punishment.

They threatened to launch a tougher agitation if the authorities failed to take action against him.

Among others, Maulana Shafiqul Islam, Maulana Abdus Samad, Maulana Jalal Uddin, Kari

Akramuzzaman, Maulana Abdul Latif and Maulana Abdul Jalil addressed the meeting

Later, they submitted a memorandum to Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC).

Earlier, 15 activists of BNP and Jamaat were injured in a clash over the same issue at an Islami 'mehfil' (function) at Pachani village in Sadar upazila on Monday. Abu Sayeed was injured in the clash.

BNP and Jamaat filed two cases with Sadar Police Station accusing activists of the two parties.

Leaders of both the parties issued press statements blaming each other for the incident.

The BNP-Jamaat rift surfaced here last year when the district BNP leader Abdur Rouf decided to contest the next general election from Sakkhira Sadar constituency as a coalition candidate. He started mass contact and held meetings to woo people. In the meetings he severely criticised the incumbent Jamaat MP, Maulana Abdul Khaleque for not doing any development activity in the constituency.

No polls without reforms, Suranjit tells public rally in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People will not accept any election without reforms of the Election Commission and caretaker government system.

The coalition government must prove that they are not buying time and has good intention to resolve the issue, Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta has said.

The chief adviser to the caretaker government and the Chief Election Commissioner must be appointed on consensus, he told a public meeting here on Monday.

Organised by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Tangail district unit, the meeting was held at Pathrail High School ground under Delduar upazila in Tangail district.

It was addressed by Tangail district AL president advocate Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, its secretary Fazlur Rahman Faruque, local AL leaders Mirza Tofazzal Hossen Mukul, Ataur Rahman Khan, Subhash Chandra Shaha, Shahjahan Ansary, Sirajul Islam Mallik, Bazlur Rashid Patlu, BCL leaders MA Rouf, Ahsanul Haque Sumon, and Atoar Rahman Iqbal. BCL Tangail district unit president Faruque Hossen Manik was in the chair.

The government will be forced to accept the reform proposals through a mass movement as it has failed to take steps in this regard even after opposition leader Sheikh Hasina placed the demands in parliament, he said. He also called upon the people to intensify the ongoing agitation.

The former minister further said, the reform proposals, if implemented, will free the electoral system from the clutch of black money and muscle power and allow honest people to join politics.

The reforms will ensure victory of Awami League-led 14-party Alliance in the next parliament election with two-third majority, he told the meeting.

Suranjit said Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh is the creation of the government. The arrest of JMB chief and its cadres is an eyewash, aimed at diverting people's attention from the power-fertiliser crisis.

Hearing on Udichi blast case held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Argument in the Udichi bomb blast case was held in the court of the Additional Sessions and Special Tribunal Judge Abul Hossain Bepari yesterday. The argument began on March 19.

Lawyers of the accused argued in the court yesterday that there was no eyewitness to the Udichi bomb blast incident and that the accused should be freed from charges.

On the other hand, lawyers representing the state said that all the accused made confessional statements before the Magistrate Court under Section 164 and so they should be punished.

The court fixed April 13 for the next hearing.

Rally demands setting up of promised nursing institute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Several thousand people led by Kishoreganj Municipal Chairman Abu Taher Mia yesterday held a rally on the Sadar Hospital compound demanding immediate implementation of a government decision to expand and upgrade the hospital and set up a nursing institute there.

During the rally, the agitated people demolished a wall demarcating boundaries of the Sadar Hospital and adjoining Jute Research Institute (JRI), claiming that an inter-ministerial meeting last year decided to allot 1.5 acres of 'fallow' land of JRI for construction of the nursing institute. The decision could not be implemented due to objection by the agriculture ministry, sources said. The land was supposed to be used for research on jute it is fallow for years, the sources

added.

After the rally, people parade streets of the town and laid a siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office. The siege was withdrawn when the Deputy Commissioner assured them of steps for setting up of the proposed nursing institute.

Activists of several socio-cultural organisation in the town also attended yesterday's programme.

On Tuesday also, a rally was held at the same place, demanding setting up of the nursing institute.

The sources claimed that funds for the nursing institute were allocated and work order was given after tender but the contractor could not begin construction due to objection JRI officials and employees.

Following demolition of wall, the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent visited the spot.

When contacted, Dr. Mohammad

Ayub Khan, Senior Principal Scientific Officer at JRI, said he heard about the decision of the inter-ministerial meeting but did not get any official order for handover of the land to the hospital authorities.

At rallies on the hospital compound and in front of the DC office, speakers said the fallow lands of JRI are of no use. Development and expansion of the hospital and construction of a nursing institute would be of great use to the people of Kishoreganj.

When contacted, Kishoregonj Civil Surgeon Sayeed Uddin said Tk 25 lakh has been allocated in the first phase for construction of the nursing institute and work order has been given. But the contractor can not start work due to objection by agriculture ministry.



PHOTO: STAR

People demolishing the wall demarcating boundaries of Jute Research Institute and Kishoreeganj Sadar Hospital yesterday.

50 hurt as BNP, AL clash over road barricade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Fifty people including women and children were injured in clashes between activists of Awami League and BNP during yesterday's day-long road barricade called by Khagrachhari district Awami League.

Picketing, damaging transport, BNP cadres' attack on AL men, and clashes marked the road barricade programme organised to protest BNP men's attack on Muslimpara in the town on Tuesday.

Demanding 'proper action' within 72 hours, district Awami League announced protest procession on April 8 and dawn to dusk hartal on April 9 and 10.

Awami League and BNP activists clashed at Golabari, Araimail, Shapla Chattar, Pan Khaiya Para and Khagrapur in the district.

In the morning AL picketers damaged five transports including two buses, two three-wheelers, and a government jeep.

At about 1:00pm, a procession of some 50 BNP men armed with hockey sticks and knives ransacked the house of district AL Secretary Mohammad Zahedul Alam, looted valuables and injured Zahedul Alam's wife Panchhari College teacher Monoara Begum, sister-in-law, daughter Meem, and domestic help Chamela Begum.

The BNP cadres also hurt passers-by, including indigenous people and strangers.

Zahedul Alam's sister-in-law was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, Khagrachhari Adhunik Hospital sources said.

Amid mounting tension, shops were closed and vehicles stopped plying while BNP activists moved around at the main points of the town.

District Jubo Dal leader Abdus Salam filed a case accusing 13 AL leaders for the clashes.

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