

# Bangla Bhai trained Tarikul, Rahman ordered bombing

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

## STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jama'atul Mujahideen 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 days' 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 Bakar of Jamua village in Kamr Kanda upazila, was arrested by Detective Branch police from Shial Khol bus stand in Sirajganj town on March 19.

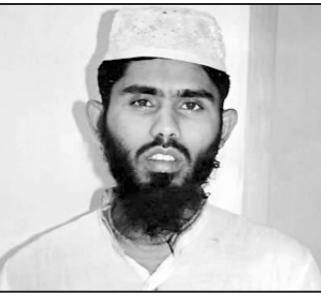


PHOTO: STAR

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

Tarikul said he was recruited by JMB chief Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and became an Ehsar member when he was a student of Rani Bazar Qawmi 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

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' Ataur 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 Parkasurda 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 Sultan 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 Shikkhak Parishad, a front organisation of Jamaat-e-Islami, yesterday brought out a procession and held a meeting at Shaheed Abdur Razzaq Park accusing BNP of attacking the major coalition partner.

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 Satkhira 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 Matiur 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

No polls without reforms, Suranjin 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 Suranjin Singputra 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 Pathrai 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 Ataur 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.

Suranjin 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.

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.

When contacted, Kishoreganj 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 construction due to objection by agriculture ministry.

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

When contacted, Dr. Mohammad

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.

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.

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People demolishing the wall demarcating boundaries of Jute Research Institute and Kishoreganj 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, Araimal, Shapla Chatter, Pan Khaiya Para and Khagraper 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 Juba Dal leader Abdus Salam filed a case accusing 13 AL leaders for the clashes.

10x3

5x2

10x3