

Ex-Jamaat MP had asked police to spare JMB men

Satkhira police filed 6 GDs against Khaleque Mondal for interfering in their manhunt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Law enforcers could not nab 'listed' militants of Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Satkhira due to interference by a Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker during the immediate past 4-party alliance government, police sources alleged.

Police filed at least six general diaries (GDs) with Sadar thana against Abdul Khaleque for 'interfering not to arrest the militants', the sources told this correspondent yesterday.

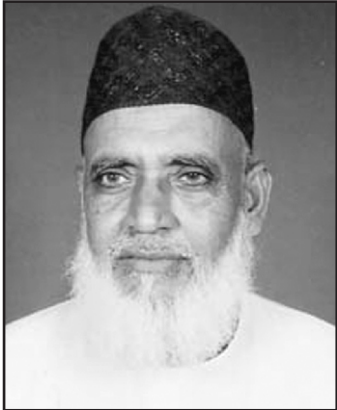
They said they are now looking for the former lawmaker in connection with the GDs.

The former lawmaker also sent a 'slip' to the then Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Golam Mohammad asking him not to arrest JMB militants. The 'slip' was sent after the August 17 blasts in Satkhira and other districts in 2005, a police official said seeking anonymity.

Even after getting sufficient evidences of his involvement with JMB militants, police failed to take any action against Abdul Khaleque Mondal as he was a lawmaker of Jamaat, a key partner in the BNP-led alliance, he said.

According to sources, Rawshan Ali, a pickpocket from Islampur in Sadar upazila, helped police to detect and arrest JMB activist Nasir Uddin Dafadar soon after the August 17 serial blasts in 2005.

During interrogation, Nasir disclosed to police that JMB cadres took part the blasts and also named the activists in Satkhira and their kingpins.



Abdul Khaleque Mondol

Thereafter, law enforcers detected arrested some of the militants who took part blasts in Satkhira.

They are Maniruzzaman Munna, Monwar Hossain, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Indian national Gias Uddin, Mahbubur Rahman. All of them gave statements to a Magistrate Court confessing their involvement in the blasts.

Law enforcers then detected that there was a 'strong JMB network' in Satkhira and that JMB militants from Satkhira also took part in blasts in Rajshahi and Chittagong regions.

Police and other law enforcers made a list of JMB militants in Satkhira district.

As law enforcers launched a drive to nab JMB militants including kingpins, the then Jamaat lawmaker Abdul Khaleque Mondal was very much, police sources said. He influenced law enforcers not to arrest the militants, saying they

were Jamaat leaders and activists, the sources claimed.

Khaleque Mondal also expressed his dissatisfaction with law enforcers as they, defying him (Khaleque), arrested 'listed' JMB militants Ashraf Master of Taluigachha and Riaz Uddin of Tengra villages in the Sadar upazila, the sources said.

Law enforcers launched several drives to arrest militant kingpins-Maulana Wasiquir Rahman of Taluigachha village and Ala uddin Moral of Kushkhali in Sadar upazila—but failed to nab them as Jamaat leader Khaleque sheltered them, the sources claimed.

On the other, he sent a 'slip' to the then Sadar thana officer-in-charge (OC) Golam Mohammad, asking him not to arrest JMB cadres.

Thereafter, the then OC filed a GD against him, sources in Sadar thana police said.

The JMB cadres then went into hiding. They ultimately returned homes as police showed reluctant to arrest them due to pressure by the then Jamaat lawmaker, locals alleged.

Police prepared a list of 129 JMB militants and collected all evidences of their involvement in militants activities and made preparations to file cases against them.

Police showed the 'ejahar' (FIR) of the case to local journalists on October 1, 2005. The electronic media had also broadcast the preparation by Satkhira police to file cases against 129 JMB cadres on the same day.

But due to political pressure, they filed a case with Sadar thana against

only 11 JMB cadres under the Special Powers Act, the sources said.

Of the accused, only three JMB cadres are in jail, they said.

Besides, there were allegation against Khaleque Mondal that he helped and arranged women JMB cadres to give training at Chhoygharia Malia Madrasa in Sadar upazila and it was also published in different national dailies, the sources said.

Local JMB leaders and activists also held a secret meeting, arranged by Maulana Wasiquir Rahman, at a house at Taluigachha village in Sadar upazila on July 7 last year.

At least 25 JMB leaders and activists including Maulana Wasiquir Rahman, Arshad Ali of Beledanga, Kawsar Ali and Solaiman Hossain of Taluigachha attended the meeting.

National and local dailies published the news but no action was taken as Maulana Wasiquir Rahman is a Jamaat leader and relative of Khaleque Mondal.

Local people have demanded action against JMB leaders and activists and the former Jamaat lawmaker for sheltering militants after fresh investigation.

On contact, Khaleque Mondol denied the allegation and said it is a 'conspiracy against me'.

Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Safiquir Rahman confirmed fling of the six GDs against the then lawmaker Khaleque Mondol for interfering in their activities.

"We will soon start investigation on this and action will be taken against them after investigation", he added.

DEFAMATION CASE 2 journos held in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Moulvibazar district correspondent of daily Jugantor M A Muhiit and editor of a local weekly Md Idris Ali were arrested and sent to Moulvibazar district jail Friday evening.

They were held from Muhiit's residence at Kashinath Road in Moulvibazar town.

Muhiit's wife Shirin Akhtar told this correspondent that her husband reported on corruption by some local political leaders in daily Jugantor. A man of one of the leaders filed a defamation case in the court few days ago.

She said, during the arrest, joint forces also seized a computer, camera and cell phone of her husband.

Police of Moulvibazar thana said the two journalists were arrested in connection with cases.

Transport businessman strangled in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Unidentified killers strangled a transport businessman at Jamir Munshi lane in the district town Friday night.

The victim—Mazzem Hossain, 65—is a retired veterinary doctor. Police recovered the body this morning from his residence.

According to sources, Moazzem Hossain lives alone as his son and daughter study in Dhaka and his wife eloped with one man about two years ago.

Jahangir, driver of a truck owned by Moazzem, following a cell phone call from his (Moazzem) son, went to his house yesterday morning and found his body lying on the floor with legs and hands tied up and the mouth strapped with cloth.



PHOTO: STAR

The shopping complex built by former JP MP Moshir Rahman Ranga on Roads and Highways land in Rangpur town was demolished yesterday.

JP leader Ranga's market demolished in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

The Roads and Highway Department yesterday demolished Sanchita Shopping Complex at Rangpur town owned by former Jatiya Party lawmaker Moshir Rahman Ranga.

R&H sources said they had served notice on the shop owners at the shopping complex at College Road to remove their shops by Thursdsay noon.

The shop owners evacuated their goods and furniture. There are 19 shops in the market constructed at Adorshapara on the western side of Carmichael College Road.

Roads and Highway Department

alleged that Moshir Rahman Ranga, former JP lawmaker and also Presidium member of the party, illegally occupied 0.11 decimal land of the department and constructed the market in 2004 at a cost of about Tk one crore.

Centering the market, a number of questions were raised among different quarters in the town. They question how the municipality approved plan of the market on government land and why the Roads and Highway Department remained silent when Ranga constructed the market.

When asked, Abdur Rouf Manik, chairman of Rangpur municipality said, his predecessor approved the

plan but the record on it was burnt along with other papers in a fire few years ago.

Some sources in the municipality disclosed to this correspondent that the municipality did not approve the plan. Manik referred the name of the then municipal chairman only to save himself, they claimed.

The R&H Executive Engineer in Rangpur declined to make any comment on the issue.

This correspondent also talked to Moshir Rahman Ranga over cell phone. He said he purchased the land from a woman. If the Roads and Highway Department owns the land, they may demolish it.

Jhatka Preservation Week '07 begins

A CORRESPONDENT, *Chandpur*

Jhatka Preservation Week '07 began in Chandpur yesterday with a call to save fries of delicious national fish Hilsa to allow them to grow.

To create awareness about the week, a colourful procession with festoon and banners, led by Deputy Commissioner and president of district Task Force SM Monirul Islam, was brought out in the town in the morning. It started from Chandpur Hasan Ali Government Primary School ground and terminated in front of Chandpur Press Club.

Before the procession, the DC and the District Fisheries Officer spoke highlighting the importance of preserving Jhatka (Hilsha fries).

Similar rallies were held at Haimchar upazila Sadar, Matlab South and Matlab North upazila Sadar, where UNOs and upazila fisheries officers spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession was brought out in Chandpur town marking Jhatka Preservation Week '07 that began in the district yesterday.

'Take steps to develop southwestern region'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC) has urged the caretaker government to take steps for development of the south-west region of the country.

Liaquat Ali, editor of Dainik Purbanchal and president of Khulna Divisional Press Club Federation (KDPCF) addressing the press conference held at its office.

Liaquat Ali, who is a front ranking leader of GKDACC, urged the caretaker government to fulfil the demands made earlier.

These include revitalisation of Mongla port, supply of pipeline gas, construction of the proposed Padma bridge at Mawa, reopening of all closed mills, construction of an airport and setting up of WASA in Khulna.

Mayor to help ACC dig out corruption in KCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman yesterday admitted that Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) stared probe into allegations of financial irregularities in different departments in Khulna city Corporation (KCC).

ACC officials called for many important files to check and recheck the allegations of corruption. The files which ACC has asked for are related to different development projects, city Mayor said at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club.

The Mayor said he was not afraid of showing any document to the ACC.

He denied allegations of his involvement in corruption as city Mayor. "ACC will get active co-

operation from me in its move to dig into any matter relating to financial irregularities", he said.

Shaikh Tayebur Rahman accused the previous four-party alliance government of depriving Khulna city corporation of its 'equal right' to get allocation of fund like Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations.

He pointed his finger at former finance minister Saifur Rahman for neglecting the need of KCC to implement different development projects.

According to a highly placed source in KCC, Anti Corruption Commission has already detected financial irregularities amounting to about Tk 34 crore in water works department of the city corporation.

"I am not yet aware of it", the Mayor told a questioner.

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