

Islamist militant leaders hold secret meeting in Khulna

Police, Rab on manhunt for cadres, their 'listed' financiers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) and intelligence agencies have launched a manhunt for 13 suspected leaders of Islamist militants and some 'listed' financiers of militant organisations.

The 13 Islamist militant leaders recently held a secret meeting in Khulna where they vowed to take revenge against arrest of militants after hanging of their six leaders, according to top officials of KMP and intelligence agencies.

They said the 13 Islamist militants headed by Abdul Mannan of Sirajganj decided at the meeting to

regroup other cadres to carry out 'any mission any time'.

Nine out of the 13 militants are Moulana Sakhawat Hossain, Mozammel Hossain, Lokmanuddin, Mufti Rafiqul Islam, Farid Ahmed, Moulana Muniruddin, Nurul, Mir Mohammad and Salam.

When asked, KMP Commissioner Nazmul Haque said operations to arrest the militants are going on in district including the city.

Security agencies have been put on high alert in all important places after the bomb blasts in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet railway stations, he said.

Intelligence sources said they are trying to track down some persons suspected to be financiers of an Islamist militant organisations including JMB (Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh) and its second grade leaders.

These second grade leaders moving at large in different guises have been assigned to regroup stranded cadres of JMB to carry out subversive activities, the sources said.

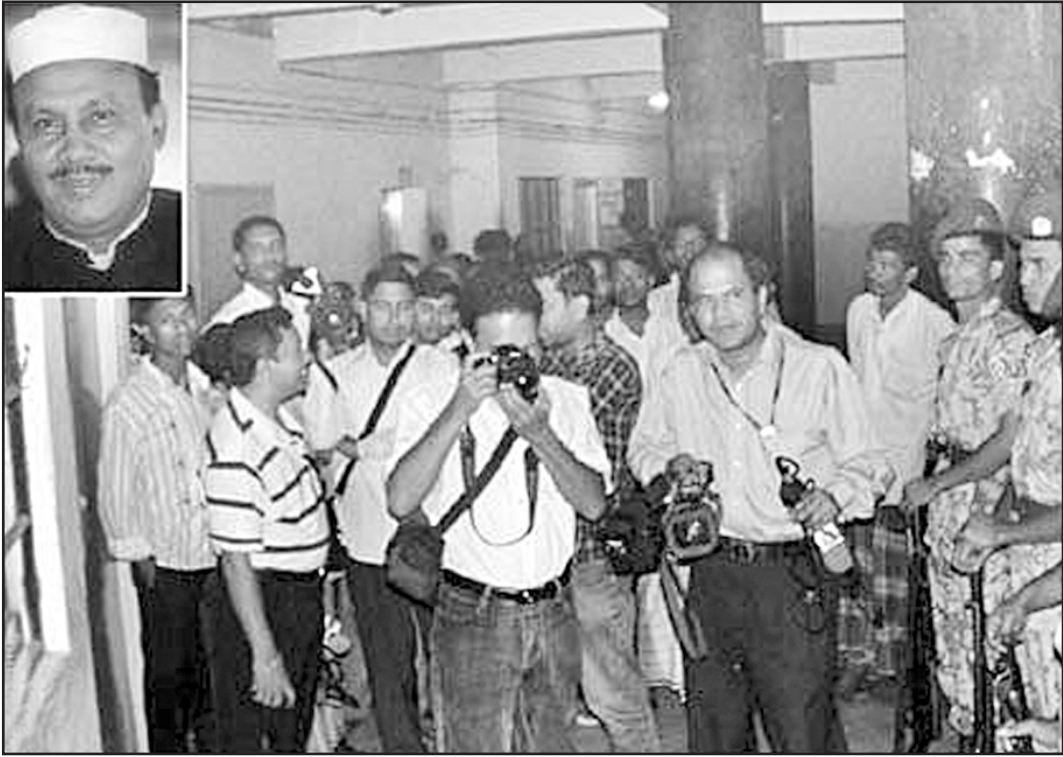
They said the second grade leaders and local financiers of JMB recently held secret meetings outside Khulna city to chalk out their mission and modus operandi.

The KMP Commissioner said extra security measures have been taken in all NGO offices and Ahmadiyya mosque in the city in view of the threat recently given by Jadid al Qaeda.

Rab-6 in Khulna recently arrested five youths from a house at Tootpara in the city suspecting them to be JMB cadres.

"We are fully alert against terror attacks by JMB cadres. Operations to nab militants have been intensified", he said.

Rab members are also on hot pursuit to nab JMB cadres hiding in different guises in the city and in the district, he said.



Security was tightened at Chittagong Medical College Hospital as people and newsmen thronged it after Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury (inset) was brought there yesterday from Bandarban jail for treatment.

THREAT TO BARISAL JUDGE BY 'AL QAEDA' Courts under security blanket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Courts in Barisal functioned under tight security yesterday after a letter in the name of 'al Qaeda' threatening a judge was found at some rooms in the court compound on Sunday.

Joint forces including army, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police and other law enforcing agencies searched the whole court compound and all rooms and clamped a two-stage security blanket in the area.

Every body entering the compound was thoroughly searched with metal detectors at the gate, courtroom entrances and at other points.

Judges, lawyers, clerks, clients, witnesses, visitors, court officials and other staff were allowed entry after physical search.

People without any appointment or work in court were not allowed to enter and so the usual rush and gathering of crowds were not seen. All courts functioned normally.

District Judge Md. Safiuddin

and Judge Mainuddin declined to make any comment about this. Law enforcement agencies were informed of the letter and they will decide the action, the two judges said.

member of Al-Qaeda.

The letters in Bangla addressed to Second Additional District and Sessions Judge Md. Mainuddin Islam said he was cautioned many times earlier to abstain from duties and is now being asked for the last time to stay away from court.

"Otherwise, no one but Allah knows what will happen", it said.

EXTORTION CASE

16 B'baria BNP men sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A magistrate court here yesterday sent 16 BNP leaders including its Nasirnagar upazila secretary Kamruzzaman Mamun to jail following their appearance before the court in an extortion case.

Earlier, Mortaz Ali, a contractor of Atikura village in Fandauk union of Nasirnagar upazila filed the extortion case against them. In his complaint, Mortaz said the BNP leaders forced him to stop construction of a road at the village for his failure to pay them Tk 20,000 toll.

Fake baby food factory unearthed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Joint force yesterday unearthed a fake baby food factory in the town and arrested its owner from the spot, police said.

Shahidur Rahman of Puratan Satkhira village in the town was arrested on charge of producing and selling fake baby food and juice of different companies including Pran.

Acting on a tip-off, joint forces raided his factory and recovered fake and adulterated items.

Police said, the arrestee used to produce fake baby food, juice and candy in his factory set up in his house for a long time.

On contact, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Safiqur Rahman confirmed the incident.

BSF abducts one in Kushtia

Body of trader not yet returned in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Security Force (BSF) abducted a Bangladeshi from Daulatpur border in Kushtia Sunday evening while the body of another Bangladeshi killed by BSF on Meherpur border Saturday night is yet to be returned.

In Kushtia, a BSF team from Nashirpara camp in Hogolbaria in Nadia district allegedly entered into Bangladesh territory and picked up Ripon Mondol, 32, of Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila when was working at his filed.

Deputy Commander of 32 Rifles Battalion Maj Asharaf Hossain Choudhury confirmed the incident.

BDR sent a protest letter to BSF asked for a flag meeting but to no response till 2 pm yesterday, Maj. Ashraf said.

BDR said a BSF team from Tainpur camp in Murshidabad district in West Bengal sprayed bullets on some Bangladeshi traders when they were to crossing the border Saturday night, killing Afajuddin Kalu on the spot.

BDR sent a protest letter to BSF asking it to return the body. But the body was not yet returned, Maj. Ashraf said.

ACC notices on Kader Siddiqui, ex-minister Azad and nine others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) in Tangail yesterday issued notices on Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) Abdul Kader Siddiqui, his tow younger brothers, former state minister Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad and seven other political leaders to submit statements of their assets by seven days.

The notices have already been sent to them, ACC sources said. The ACC also asked wealth statements of dependents (family members) of the 11 leaders, the sources said.

The rest people served with notices are Kader Siddiqui's younger brothers Murad Siddiqui and Shamim-al-Mansoor Siddiqui Azad; Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad's cousin and cashier of Ghatail upazila BNP Helalur Rahman Khan; Tangail Municipal Chairman Jamilur Rahman Miron; Madhupur Municipal Chairman Sarkar Shaheed; Tangail district Awami League (AL) president Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan; former AL lawmaker from Tangail-1 (Madhupur-Dhanbari) Dr Abdur

Razzak Bhola, Vice-chancellor (VC) of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) Prof Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman and former secretary of Tangail minibus owners association Khandakar Iqbal Hossain.

ACC sources said there are allegations of abuse of power, corruption, sheltering terrorists, land grabbing and tender manipulation against the political leaders.

Of the 11 leaders, Murad Siddiqui, Shamim-al-Mansoor Siddiqui Azad, Jamilur Rahman Miron, and Helalur Rahman Khan are now in jail.

ACC notices on them were sent through the jail authorities, ACC sources said.

When contacted over phone yesterday, Mofidul Islam, deputy director (DD) of Tangail ACC, confirmed sending notices to the 11 political leaders.

"ACC will take legal steps if they fail to submit their wealth statements within seven days," the DD added.

A laudable step

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Some 50 women from poor families in monga prone areas in the district have the town with new hopes. They will be joining jobs at a garments factory in Dhaka, arranged by joint forces.

Gaibandha district administration has also made arrangements for their food and shelter at their workplace at M/s Experimental Closing Ltd at Savar EPZ. They will be provided with 20 kg rice each for one month and free traveling from Gaibandha to Dhaka. A reserved coach with the 50 women and their five guardians led by a magistrate left Gaibandha on Sunday for Dhaka. Twenty-seven of the women are from Fulchari, two from Shaghata, five each from Gobindagnaj and Sunderganj, one from Polashbari, four from Sadullapur and six from Gaibandha Sader upazila.

Sources in joint forces said efforts to rehabilitate poor women of monga prone areas in Gaibandha district will continue. More 50 women will get similar jobs soon, they said.

Steps will be taken to arrange jobs for other monga prone areas of northern districts, the district administration said.

TK 20cr extortion case against six in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An extortion case had been filed with Sylhet Kotwali police station against six persons allegedly for demanding Tk 20 crore by the accused.

One Chowdhury Matiur Rahman, brother of advocate Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Azad, (now in jail) filed the case. Matiur hails from Rajnagar in Moulvibazar district.

The accused are Khondaker Md Quamruzzaman, Gias Uddin, Helal, Nazrul Haque Chowdhury, Aminul Haque Sarder and Mahmud Ali.

In his complaint, Matiur alleged that the six persons came to the house of his elder brother Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Azad at Shahjalal Upazahar in Sylhet city on May 3 and demanded Tk 20 crore. They also threatened that

Azad will languish in jail and both the brothers will have to face cases, the complainant said.

They also asked Azad's wife Farhana Chowdhury on 11 May to pay the demanded amount in 3 days. Matiur complained. Kotwali police yesterday said the case is being probed.

It may be mention that, among the accused, Helal on May 8 filed a case against Maj. Wasiul Hasan Chowdhury, now Deputy Director of Rab at its Dhaka head office (previously in Sylhet), some of his family members and advocate

Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Azad with Sylhet Cognizance Court-I. The court sent the the case to Kotwali police station for investigation.

When contacted, Major Wasi told The Daily star yesterday that the looting case (filed by Helal) was totally baseless.

10X3

6X2

4X3

8.5x3