

Top JMB militant Shahadat was a Shibir leader 7 years ago

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Chief organiser of 'Islam and Muslim', a new offshoot of banned Islamist militant organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Shahadat Hossain alias Abdul Rahim joined JMB seven years ago when he was a leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir.



Shahadat Hossain alias Abdul Rahim

retired health assistant of the Department of Health, Shahadat started living at Hamirkutsa village of Bagmara after marrying a woman named Asma there.

Sources said Shahadat was known as Abdul Rahim in areas away from his Nimtola Kanthal village home in Gomostapur.

He was arrested as an alleged militant activist of JMB and was in jail for three months in 2004 when his family members and locals came to know of his militant activities, sources said.

He went underground after the countrywide serial bomb blasts on August 17, 2005.

He involved his brother-in-law Abdul Mumin of Kollar Diar village under Gomostapur upazila of the district in his new organisation Islam and Muslim and selected him a regional commander in Chapainawabganj district.

Earlier Chapainawabganj police arrested four members of the JMB offshoot, namely, Abdul Mumin, Abdul Munib, Abdul Rakib alias Sumon and Rabiul Islam and seized four shotguns, bullets, bullet making materials and books on jihad from them.

During a visit to Shahadat's

village Nimtola Kanthal in Gomostapur on Monday, this correspondent found that his family remains detached from other families of the village.

Shahadat's brother Niamot Ali said Shahadat was president of Gomostapur upazila unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir when he was a student of Proshadpur Dakhil Madrasa.

Niamot, however, said none of his family members is involved with JMB.

After the series of bomb blasts in August 2005, Shahadat came to Chapainawabganj district several times to regroup and activate the JMB members and recruit women members in the organisation, police said.

A good number of activists went into hiding after the arrest of several members of 'Islam and Muslim' and their leader Shahadat, sources said.

ENCROACHMENT THREATENS JAIL KHAL IN BARISAL CITY

Drive to drive out land grabbers 'an eyewash'

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Encroachment and garbage dumping threaten Jail Khal, the only natural canal for carrying water and liquid waste out of Barisal city.

Big structures have been constructed on the canal as local influential people as well as public and autonomous bodies like Barisal City Corporation (BCC) have occupied parts of the watercourse.

A large stretch of the canal on its north bank has been recently earth-filled to extend housing areas. During an eviction drive in Bandh Road and Port Road areas of the city about two weeks ago, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) authorities removed, fully or partly, 14 illegal establishments from the bank of the canal.

However, the drive came to a halt in a couple of days. "The eviction drive was simply an eyewash," remarked a city dweller.

"How can it continue when BCC itself is an encroacher?" he posed.

Clogged at many points, Jail Khal dries up during summer. Its thick black liquid spreads stink and creates health hazard.

Stagnant water makes the canal a huge breeding ground of mosquitoes.

There was a time when the two kilometre-long canal enabled large goods carrying boats to enter the city, as it was 20 metre-wide and five-metre deep on an average, many elderly people said. Now the width has come down to only around eight metres. The canal has also lost much of its depth and normal flow of water from Kwania and Nutan Bazar areas is disturbed, they lamented.

Engine boats still use the canal in the rainy season to bring fish, vegetables, fruits and construction materials from distant places.

But in the dry season, boats and trailers can hardly ply the canal.

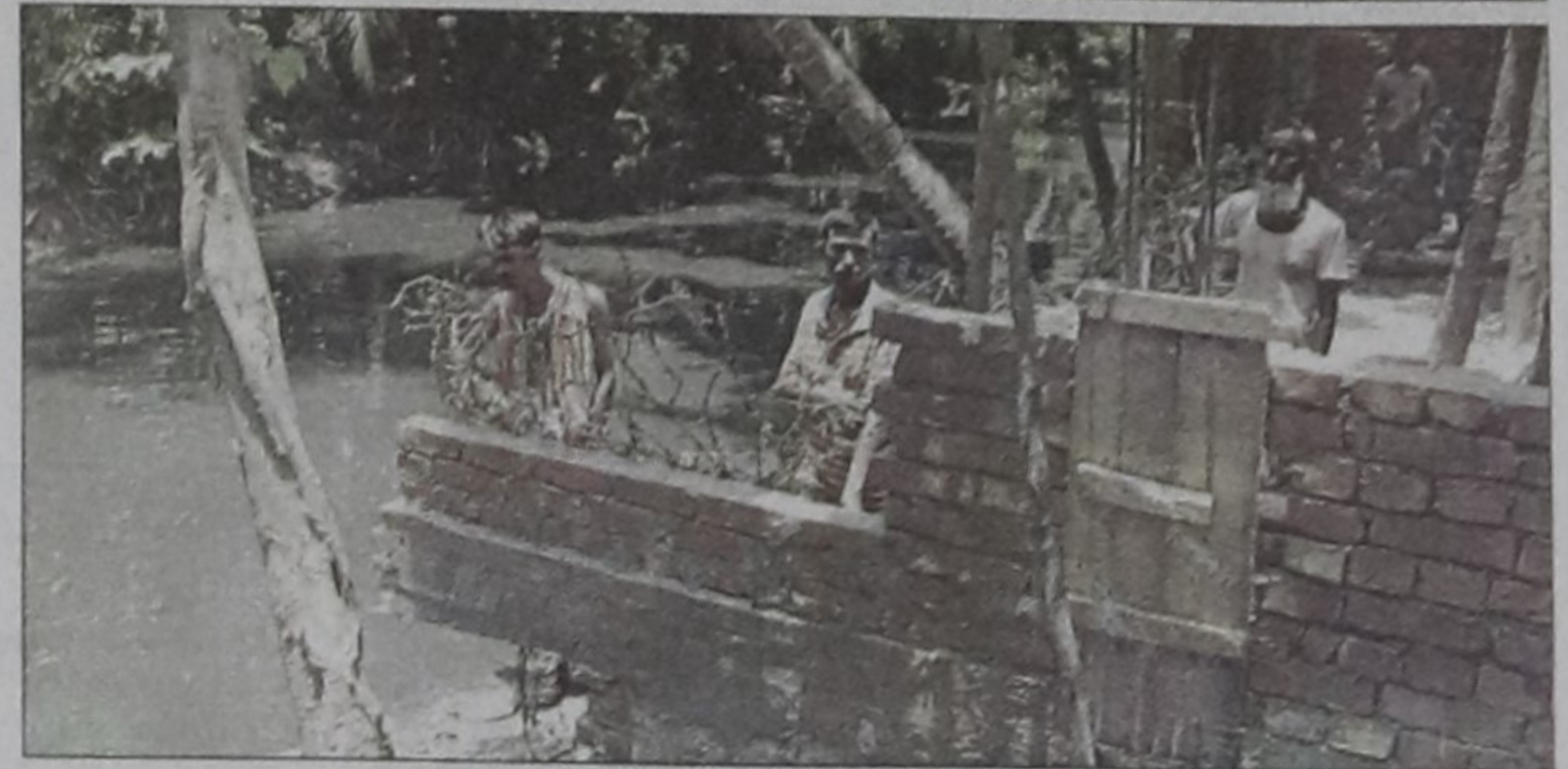


PHOTO: STAR

Barisal City Corporation's recent drive against illegal occupiers of Jail Khal, above, proved too futile as construction continues on the grabbed land at Natun Bazar point of the natural watercourse flowing through the city. The drive stopped within two days.

Residential areas along the canal, including Kawania, Bazar Road, Port Road and Nathulhabath, go under water in the rainy season when the narrowed down outlet overflows and subsequent water logging causes untold sufferings to the people.

City dwellers and environmentalists have urged the authorities concerned to free the canal from grabbers and dredge

to ensure its normal flow.

"Dying of the natural canal, through which filth and garbage is carried to the Kirtankhola River, will mean disaster for Barisal city," advocate Subhash Chandra Biprobodanti, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) of Barisal district unit, said.

When contacted, Mehedi Hassan, chief executive officer

of BCC, said

"We have a plan to evict encroachers from both sides of the canal and re-excavate it. Recently notice has been served to the people concerned to remove their illegal structures as the BCC has taken an initiative to make the canal utilitarian from economic and environmental points of view."

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Munshiganj town form a human chain on Old Kachari-Press Club Road yesterday demanding solution to different problems including gas crisis.

BSF kills Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday morning shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Tarali border under North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal opposite to Kakkanga border in Kalaroa upazila. Sources said, Mafizul Islam, 30, of village Langaljhara died after BSF men at Tarali camp in Swarupnagar police station opened fire on him when he was returning home. Bangladesh Rifles authorities yesterday sent a letter to BSF authorities protesting the killing and asked them to return the body through holding a flag meeting.

Trader electrocuted

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A trader was electrocuted in Narail yesterday. Victim Jahangir Hossain, 45, hails from Bhoakhal village under Sadar upazila. Three others injured in the mishap are Rafik, 35, Bhaben, 40, and Lal Miah, 40. Locals said, Jahangir along with three others was felling a tree at Bhduldanga village. He met the tragic end as he came in contact with a live wire on the tree. Three others who tried to save him were also injured. Locals took them to Narail Sadar Hospital where on-duty doctor declared Jahangir dead.

Jailed for schoolgirl rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Habiganj on Saturday awarded life term to a man for raping a schoolgirl and also awarded 14 years RI on charge of kidnapping her. Convict Mizanur Rahman, 28, hails from Bangshipa village under Ajmiriganj upazila. According to the prosecution story, Mizan kidnapped Jony Akhtar Chowdhury, student of class VII and daughter of Dr Abdun Nur Chowdhury of the same village on May 17, 2004 when she was on her way to the school. He took her to Habiganj town and then to Chittagong and violated her. Police rescued Jony after a month.

13 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court on Sunday awarded life term imprisonment to 13 people for murder. The court also fined each convict Tk25,000, in default, to suffer more two years RI and acquitted six people of charges. The convicts are Idris, Faruk, Alauddin, Rashid, Jalil, Glasuddin Howladar, Hossain Matubbar, Zakir, Md Ali Matubbar, Harun, Siddik Azahar and Mozahar Howladar. According to the prosecution story one Motaleb Bhuiyan was beaten to death on October 1, 2004 in Kutubpur village under Muladi upazila over land dispute. Brother of the victim lodged a murder case and the investigation officer submitted charge sheet against 19 accused on December 30, 2004.



PHOTO: CHEVRON

Chevron officials planting trees in the vicinity of Moulvibazar gas plant as the organisation recently launched its tree plantation programme for 2009. Since 2005, the energy company planted around 85,000 saplings in different areas of the district.

BLAST BEFORE HASINA'S 2001 RALLY

Sylhet court records deposition of PW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday recorded deposition of a prosecution witness (PW) in the sensational case for bomb blast that took place in the city's Fajilchist area, hours before Sheikh Hasina's election rally at Government Alia Madrasa maidan on the night of September 26, 2001.

The bomb went off at the house of physician-cum-businessman-Dr Arif Ahmed Momtaz Rifa, killing three youths on the spot. Investigators said the youths were making bombs for attack on Hasina at her election rally.

After the incident, a case was filed with Kotwali Police Station. Investigation Officer (IO) pressed charges against Dr Arif Ahmed Momtaz Rifa, Masum Ahmed Shakil, Sheikh

Shahjahan and Abu Obaida. In 2008, CID submitted a supplementary charge sheet naming Mufti Abdul Hannan and his accomplice Maulana Abu Sayeed as accused.

The prosecution witness (PW), Bipul Sinha, an employee of Colour Lab attached to Dr Arif's house, gave his statement before Additional District and Sessions Judge. With this, the court has so far recorded statements of five out of a total of 44 prosecution witnesses.

Judge Jalaluddin Ahmed fixed August 5 for recording the statements of other PWs.

Mufti Hannan, Maulana Abu Sayeed, Masum Ahmed Shakil and Sheikh Shahjahan were produced in the court yesterday. Another accused, Abu Obaida, has been absconding since the filing of the case.

Nine sued in Khulna for '71 killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Nine alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued for killing a freedom fighter at Jabusha village under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district in 1971.

The petition case filed on June 24 with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court by Shafia Khatun was recorded with Rupsha Police Station on Sunday night.

The accused are Abul Hossain Sheikh, Mosharef Hossain, Makbul Ahmed, Nazimul Islam Molla, Abdul Hamid Sheikh, Arman Sheikh, Fakhru Molla, Atiar Hossain Sheikh and Sarwar Sheikh.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused killed her father Abu Taleb Sheikh at Jabusha Bazar under Rupsha upazila on July 10, 1971 and then threw the body into river.

She alleged that the 'rajakars' looted their house and set fire to it. In the statement, she mentioned the names of six people as witnesses to the brutal murder of her father.

Abducted man rescued: 4 outlaws held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rab arrested a group of four outlaws of Janojuddha faction of PBCP-ML for abduction and rescued one Abul Hossain in Jhenidah town yesterday.

Arrestees Amirul Islam alias Pancha, his wife Rehena Begum, Tahaj Uddin and Shahidul Islam allegedly abducted Abul on Friday night and demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom from his family.

Rab sources said, Abul Hossain was abducted from his motor workshop. Abul's family agreed to pay the ransom and came to Earshadpur secondary school ground under Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga on Monday.

When Rehena of the abductors' group came to the school ground to collect the ransom, Rab arrested her. Later, Rab also arrested her husband Amirul Islam and as per his statement arrested Tahaj Uddin and Shahidul from a house at Vaina village under Harinakundo upazila and rescued Abul Hossain.

JOURNALIST BALU MURDER CASE

CID asked to submit charge sheet Aug 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court has ordered the CID of police to submit supplementary chargesheet of journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case on August 16.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Barekuzzaman passed the order last week after hearing the investigation officer's prayer for extending time for supplementary chargesheet.

Earlier on April 16, prosecution lawyer Enamul Huq filed a petition with the court for further investigation into the case.

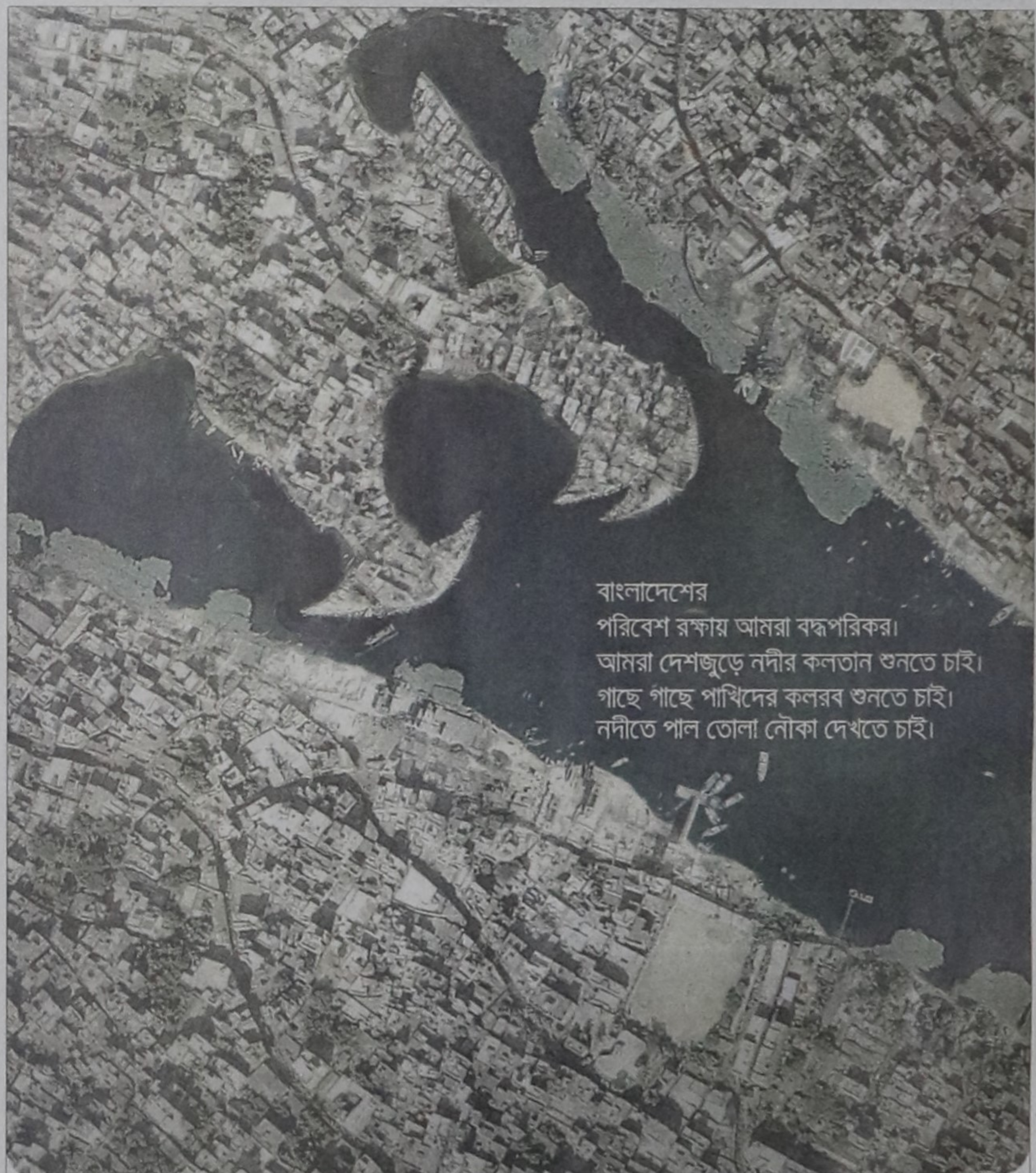
The petition said that all the chargesheeted accused

were acquitted by court. The acquitted were also chargesheeted separately under relevant section of Explosive Substances Act. So, the case needs further investigation for the sake of justice, the prosecution lawyer said.

Hearing the petition, Judge Mohammad Sekander Ali of Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal ordered on April 30 for further investigation into the case filed under Explosive Substances Act.

Dockets of the case were later transferred to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

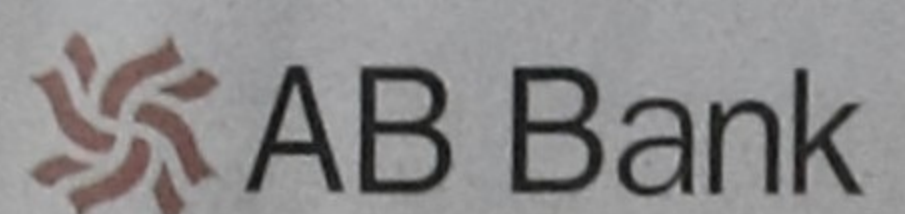
Inspector Shubhash Chandra Biswas of CID police is Investigation Officer (IO) of the case.



বাংলাদেশের পরিবেশ রক্ষায় আমরা বন্ধপরিষ্কর। আমরা দেশজুড়ে নদীর কলতান গুনতে চাই। গাছে গাছে পাখিদের কলরব গুনতে চাই। নদীতে পাল তোলা নৌকা দেখতে চাই।

জলবায়ুর পরিবর্তন মোকাবেলায় "তোমার পৃথিবী, তোমাকেই চায়"

বাংলাদেশের নদীগুলো তাদের ঐতিহ্য ফিরে পাক এটাই আমাদের কামনা।



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