

AUGUST 17 SERIAL BLASTS IN 2005

JMB Ctg chief, aide get 10 years RI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Chittagong

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal here yesterday sentenced Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Chittagong divisional chief Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad and one of his associates to ten years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a case for August 17 serial bomb blasts in 2005.

Javed also faces a few more cases in the Chittagong Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal that awarded Javed a total of 195 years of imprisonment in several cases, said Public Prosecutor (PP) Ayub

Khan.

With this, JMB leader Javed has received a total of 224 years' imprisonment in different bomb blast and arms cases, said the PP.

Pronouncing the verdict yesterday, Tribunal Judge Shafiqul Karim awarded JMB Chittagong divisional chief Javed and Alaudin alias Rubel, another JMB cadre, ten years' imprisonment for a blast that injured a person in front of Apollo Shopping Complex under Kotwali Police Station on August 17, 2005.

Sub Inspector Balayet Hossain of Kotwali PS filed the

case on the day of bomb blast.

Main accused in the case, top JMB leaders Shafiqul Karim, Siddique Rahaman alias Bangla Bhai and Ataur Rahaman Sunny were executed in Jhalakathi Judges' murder case on March 29 in 2007.

The tribunal acquitted JMB cadre Arshadul Alam alias T. Alam, another accused in the case, from the charges.

Earlier the court heard 16 witnesses in the case.

Charge sheet of the case was submitted on January 14 in 2007 accusing six people and the charge was framed on April 16 the

same year.

Arshadul, who got acquitted in this case, was earlier convicted in another case for bomb blast in the city, PP Ayub Khan said.

JMB militants used Arshadul's bank account at Agrabad branch of Islami Bank for transaction of money to use for their activities, sources said.

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested militant commander Javed and his associate Jafar from a house in the city's Kattali area on December 14 in 2005 and seized huge quantity of explosives and bomb making materials.

Trial of 4 Khulna serial blast cases still incomplete

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Deposition of prosecution witnesses of these cases is yet to be completed although charges against the accused were framed around middle of the last year, court sources said.

Several senior lawyers said weak investigation by police and shortage of judges are main reasons for buying time to complete trial of these cases.

Of the seven accused facing trial in the four cases, Mohammad Shahidullah alias Lokman, Mahabubur Rahman Liton and Ruhul Quddus alias Khalid Hasan are in Khulna district Jail while four others -- Hafez Mahmud, Asadul Islam, Tanvir Hossain and Saiful Islam -- are still at large.

The cases filed with the three police stations of city are still under trial in the Court of Joint District and Sessions Judge (fourth court) while the case filed with Batiaghata Police Station is under trial in the court of Sub Judge (2nd court) of Khulna.

SNIPPETS

Two die in Habiganj jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two prisoners died in Habiganj District Jail on Friday and Saturday. They are Mujen Miah, 38, son of Abdul Miah of village Shibpasha under Ajmiriganj upazila and Motabbir Hossain Sadhu, 63, son of late Zahur Ali of village Kaorakandi in Chunarughat upazila. According to jail officials, the deaths were normal. Mujen Miah is an accused in Apel Chowdhury killing case. Apel was nephew of the former IGP Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury. Jail officials said Mujen went sick on August 14 morning but doctors at Habiganj hospital said they had no scope to treat Mujen as he was brought dead to the hospital. Police said Apel Chowdhury was killed in a clash between rival groups of villagers at Shibpasha on February 16, 2008. Chief judicial magistrate of Habiganj on August 10 refused his bail prayer and sent him to the jail hajat. Motabbir Hossain Sadhu fell sick as he went to take a bath on Saturday afternoon. According to jail sources, he died on way to the hospital. He was serving life term in two murder cases.

Tornado injures 20

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

At least 20 people were injured and two fishermen went missing in the nearby river when a tornado lashed Kamarijagi village under Ghor police station yesterday. The 30-minute storm that started around 12:00 noon also damaged 25 kutcha houses, a mosque and uprooted a number of trees, Singuri Union Parishad chairman said. All the 20 were injured due to tree falling or house collapse, the officer-in-charge of Ghor police station said.

Father kills daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A mentally ill father killed his girl child at Khesba village in Nachole upazila yesterday. Police, however, arrested Monirul Islam, 24, son of Erfan Ali, for killing his one and a half years old daughter Suraya. Locals said, Monirul beat up her girl child with a bamboo stick in the morning. They rescued seriously injured Suraya and sent her to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital but doctors could not save her life. Golam Kibria, sub-inspector of Nachole police station said, as the victim's grandfather Erfan Ali lodged a murder case, police arrested Monirul.

Lightning kills two

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two farmers were killed by lightning at two separate villages yesterday noon. Sahir Ali Munshi, 48, of Hajiganj village under Aditmari upazila was struck by lightning at noon when he was planting aman in his field. Haseem Ali, 30, son of late Mirazul Bapari of Sree Rampur village under Patgram upazila was killed by lightning when he was preparing soil for cultivation of aman paddy in his land, the victim's family sources said.

2 get life for killing boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court yesterday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment for killing a boy in Zakiganj upazila. The convicts are Rubel Ahmed and Abul Hossain. According to the prosecution story, Zakiganj police on February 16, 2002 recovered the body of Shihabuddin, 15, from a ditch at his village Borhanpur. Shihab's brother Khasrul Haque filed a case with the police next day. Police, on investigation, submitted chargesheet against Rubel Ahmed, Abul Hossain and Shahjahan Kabir of the same village on September 29. The judge awarded life term to Rubel and Abul and fined them Tk 25,000 each, in default, to suffer three more months in jail. Shahjahan was acquitted of murder charge.



Leaders of Sector Commanders Forum and Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs by placing wreaths at Gallamari memorial yesterday.

SCF to press govt to try war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Leaders of the Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) yesterday said they will mobilise public opinion to put the war criminals on trial if the government fails to keep its poll pledge.

They said this while addressing a rally of freedom fighters at Zila Hall in city. Over 1500 freedom fighters from ten districts of Khulna division attended the rally with

Lieutenant (retd) Gazi Rahmatullah Dadu, Bir Pratik, organising Secretary of Khulna divisional unit of SCF, in the chair.

It was addressed, among others, by Major General (retd) KM Shafullah, Major General (retd) CR Dutta, Lt General (retd) M Harun-ar-Rashid, Major General (retd) M Masudur Rahman and Publicity Secretary of SCF central committee Harun Habib. KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque attended the rally as the chief guest.

The KCC mayor in his speech said the present government will fulfill its election pledge to put the war criminals in the dock. There is no problem for this government to try the war criminals as people have given mandate to Awami League in the last national elections with this end in view, the mayor said.

The SCF is determined to bring the war criminals to book as they opposed the Liberation War in 1971 and were involved in killing freedom fighters with the help of Pakistani occupation forces, he said.

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