



Nerve-racking tests set JMB hallmark

The banned militant outfit picks full-time member through unbelievable tests

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh operative must pass a nerve-racking test of readiness to blow himself up to qualify as a full-time member of the banned Islamist organisation.

The information came out in interrogations of several JMB men including its explosives expert "Borna" Mizan, investigation sources have told The Daily Star.

Before an entrant could go on the simulated mission to detonate himself, he has to undergo motivational sessions designed to condition him to lay down his life for the cause of jihad.

The JMB trainers would not introduce a fresher to the simulation until they are convinced he would not harm the outfit even if he should leave it after some time.

The mock test is part of a three-day exclusive training, where the trainees do not know if the mission is for real or not, said sources.

"To be inducted as a full-timer (Ehsar), the JMB operatives have to distance themselves from all worldly concerns. They are made to consider life and family as matters of secondary importance," observed an investigator.

During the simulation, the trainers have bombs strapped around a recruit's

body and ask him to walk a few hundred yards. They have the remote control in their hand.

"The trainees are told the bombs they are fitted with may go off any time in the next 30 minutes," notes an investigator.

During the three days, the trainees attend classes where JMB ideologues imbue them with strong motivations for jihad.

Once the theory sessions are over, they go through a stringent regimen of physical exercise. After that, they get training on arms, ammunition and explosives.

On completion of the training, the

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Four drown in Tangail boat capsiz

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people including two schoolboys drowned when a boat capsized on Sunday in river Louhajang of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail.

They were identified as Tushar Sarkar, 14, son of Makhon Sarkar, Partha Saha, 13, son of Adhir Saha, Partha De, 27, son of Niranjan De of Madhyapara of Joydevpur and Biswajit.

Divers recovered their bodies on Sunday night and yesterday morning.

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JMB finds chars, hills safe for training

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Not only in hill areas, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has training facilities in far-flung chars as well to stay beyond the reach of the law enforcers.

The banned outfit shifted their camps to distant places after Rapid Action Battalion had busted militant dens in the capital in recent months.

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's intelligence wing, told The Daily Star, "We are working to dismantle the JMB camps in chars (land mass on river) and deep forest areas.

"We have already broken their backbone. No matter how hard they try to regroup, it all flashes on our radar screen."

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2 more BDR men die

STAR REPORT

Two more BDR jawans died in the last two days raising the BDR death toll to 46 since the paramilitary mutiny in February 25-26, 2009.

Of these 46 deaths, autopsies of 11 BDR members were conducted through the New Market police. Quoting the earlier autopsy reports New Market police confirmed that two of these jawans were killed. The victims were nayek Mobarak Hossain of Battalion-29 and havildar Mahiuddin of Battalion-28 of Chittagong.

Mobarak Hossain died on March 23 while Mahiuddin on May 5 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Earlier this year, families of the two jawans brought allegations of murder.

BDR sources said they had submitted all the documents regarding the death incidents of the jawans to the four-member committee formed by the home ministry to investigate the death incidents.

They, however, said that they don't have any information about the post-mortem reports as those were submitted to the police.

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CTG ARMS HAUL CASE Former home secy Omar to be quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The investigators of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are preparing to interrogate former home secretary Omar Faruk and four other members of the probe committee the home ministry formed following the seizure of ten truckloads of fire arms in the early hours of April 02, 2004.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the arms haul case ASP Muniruzzaman Chowdhury confirmed that they are going to interrogate former home secretary Omar Faruk and other members of the high-level probe committee soon.

The other members of the committee include former deputy inspector general of special branch Shamsul Islam, former director of DGFI Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury, former NSI director Enamur Rahman Chowdhury and former CID DIG Farruk Ahmed Chowdhury.

Muniruzzaman told The Daily Star that around 50 persons, including the probe committee members and witnesses may be interrogated.

He said they have started issuing notice to 23 accused who are on bail to interrogate them at CID Chittagong regional headquarters at Dampara Police Line within next three to four days.

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A Hindu devotee on a boat on the Buriganga gets ready to immerse her Durga idol on the day of Doshomi, the last day of Durgotsab yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM

Return to JS, avoid 1/11 recurrence PM urges opposition

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia to return to parliament for the sake of democracy, reminding her of the 1/11 political episode.

"Come to Parliament. Democracy cannot be let down again. Mind you (Khaleda), you and I, too, had to go to jail," she said.

Hasina, here to attend the UN General Assembly session, made the remark of high political significance while addressing an all-party reception organised by the US chapter of Awami League at Hotel Grand Hyatt on Sunday evening.

This was Hasina's first public appearance in New

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Jalil remark irrelevant

Hasina says he should quit as MP before questioning polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In her first reaction to veteran Awami League (AL) leader Abdul Jalil's recent remark on the ninth parliamentary election, Prime Minister and party chief Sheikh Hasina has termed it "irrelevant", and said he should have resigned as a lawmaker before raising any question about the polls in which he also was elected.

"Why is he [Jalil] making the election an issue nine months after the party (AL) assumed power?" Hasina posed the question at a press conference in New York yesterday.

In an interview with London-based Bangla TV recently, former AL general secretary Jalil said the party's landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election came through an "understanding". His remark triggered criticism in and outside the AL, and drew kudos from the opposition BNP.

Sheikh Hasina said, "He (Jalil) was given party nomination (for contesting the election) and has been elected. Has he been elected that

way (through understanding)? He should resign before raising any such question (about the election)."

Following Hasina's reaction, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam also resented Jalil's remark.

According to UNB, American News Agency and private television ATN Bangla reports, the prime minister said, "It (Jalil's statement) is like a man cutting the branch (of a tree) on which he is sitting. Let him speak. I don't have any headache about it."

Asked if her party would take any action against Jalil, she said it would decide on that later.

The AL president mentioned that none (except jalil) has raised any question about propriety of the election that has been recognised as free and fair both nationally and internationally.

Asked whether her government would take any action against former chief adviser

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