



THE MANZUR MURDER

The third part of Lawrence Lifschultz's investigative report

PAGE 7



HISTORY IN OBJECTIVITY

Pallab Bhattacharya filters through a work on Bangabandhu

PAGE 12

BACK AGAIN?

Ukraine's opposition hails ex-PM Yulia Tymoshenko, but is also suspicious about her

PAGE 8

Cop shot dead to free 3 JMB convicts

One recaptured hours into film style attack on prison van in Trishal

AMINUL ISLAM in Mymensingh and MIRZA SHAKIL and RAFIUL ISLAM in Tangail

In a well-orchestrated plan, an armed gang ambushed a prison van and snatched away three convicted JMB militants -- two of them on death row -- in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh yesterday.

Police, however, captured one of the trio from Shakhipur of Tangail while he was fleeing on a three-wheeler, about five hours after the incident.

A police constable was killed as the gang of 10-15, all masked, opened fire and hurled crude bombs at the prison van at Signboard point of Aminabari area around 10:00am.



While fleeing away, convicted militant Rakib shaved off beard to change his appearance.

alias Salehin and Zahidul Islam alias "Boma" Mizan. Rakib and Salaudhin were sentenced to death and "Boma" Mizan to 37 years in prison in different cases.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Of the escape plan

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Yesterday morning's ambush on a prison van in Trishal to free three JMB militants was planned at least 15 days ago, Mohammad Rakib Hasan Russel, one of the trio, told police following his arrest.

A gang of 10 to 15 hit men -- old and new members of the banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) -- took part in the attack with firearms and crude bombs, according to police sources.

Rakib alias Hafez Mahmud, a member of JMB Majlish-e-Shura, was arrested in Tangail

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Gross negligence; who to blame?

Law-enforcement agencies pass the buck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security specialists think law enforcers showed utter negligence in providing security while transporting three convicted Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh militants, including two on death row.

The prison van, carrying the militants to a Mymensingh court from Kashimpur jail, should have been escorted by a lead vehicle with additional security personnel, they observed. Instead, the van had just two constables and a sub-inspector, besides the driver.

In a filmy style hold-up, a group of miscreants intercepted the van, opened fire on police, killed a constable and snatched the three JMB men on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Trishal yesterday morning.

Of the JMB men, Salahuddin alias Salehin and Rakib alias Hafez Mahmud were death row convicts while Mizan alias Boma Mizan was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Inspector General- Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin said they had asked the law enforcement for security for the transportation of the criminals.

"We had informed the Rapid Action Battalion, the Special Branch of Police and Gazipur district police about this beforehand (so that they provide security on the highway)," he told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Intelligence info hard to believe

Trishal action reveals JMB still exists

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Shooting at police and snatching of three top Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders in Trishal suggest the banned outfit is still active with enough power to carry out such attacks on law enforcers.

Yesterday's incident that saw death of a policeman even proves among the claims made on several occasions by the law-enforcement agencies that the entire JMB network has been terminated.

However, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker at a programme in Sylhet yesterday claimed despite the attack the situation was still under control.

"Militant activities are under control with spontaneous public support and activities of the law-enforcement agencies," he added.

Asked if JMB had ability to carry out subversive activities, Rab Director General Mokhesur Rahman said the outlawed outfit's network and organisational strength had broken down. Yesterday's attack was an ambush carried out with all its strength, he claimed.

Rab sources say more than 200 JMB leaders and activists who were accused in different cases filed following the countrywide synchronised attacks on August 17, 2005 are still out of the dragnet.

They however have no data how many JMB leaders and workers are active now.

According to intelligence sources, although there is no central body of JMB, the outfit has regional units in different areas with leaders and activists working under their current

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



ZUBAIR MURDER

Quizzical vanishing from lower court

4 accused disappear as their bail denied

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four accused -- all former Chhatra League activists -- appeared before a Dhaka court yesterday to face trial for the murder of Jahangirnagar University student Zubair Ahmed more than two years ago.

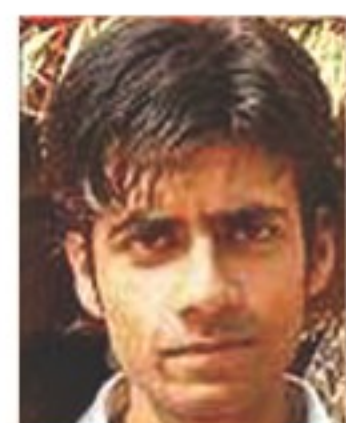
On bail, they were listening to the case proceedings. Things, however, didn't go their way; the court cancelled their bail petitions.

At that, they looked around, and seeing no policemen nearby, they just sneaked out of the courtroom.

The unusual incident took place at Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-4.

There were no law enforcers inside the courtroom, as the tribunal had not alerted the prosecution or the police beforehand about a possible cancellation of bail, said Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam.

The four accused are Khandaker Ashikul



Arup



Rais



Ashik



Akram

Islam alias Ashik, Khan Mohammad Rais, Ishtiaq Mehbub Arup and Mahabub Akram.

They are among the 13 former BCL activists, who were expelled from the JU unit of the pro-Awami League student body after being accused in the Zubair murder case.

Rafiqul said a court usually asks law enforcers to remain alert before it cancels bail or issues any such order.

But in this case, the judge didn't give any hint before cancelling the bail

and issuing the order to send them to jail, he said.

Anisur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Criminal Intelligence and Prosecution of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the court had not given them any instructions before cancelling bail.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Most dangerous of the three

After years in the hunt for "Boma Mizan", Rapid Action Battalion on the night of May 15, 2009, captured the explosives expert of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh at Taltola in the capital.

The tensed standoff that followed Mizan's arrest tells how dangerous a man he is.

After his arrest, a Rab team took him to his home in Uttar Prierbagh in the capital. As soon as they got to the doorstep around 10:30pm, Mizan signalled his wife Sharmin following which a bomb went off inside the house.

Sharmin tried to commit suicide by blowing herself up. She lost one of her hands in the blast and her two-year-old son Saifullah Sukaine Naim and two-month-old daughter Masroba Jannat Tora got injured.

After resisting arrest for around four hours, Mizan's wife finally gave in at 2:15am.



Boma Mizan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

An 'attacker' of Humayun Azad

Condemned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh Majlish-e-Shura member Salahuddin alias Salehin was in-charge of Sylhet-Mymensingh region and he is also an accused in the case filed in connection with the assault on Prof Humayun Azad on February 27, 2004.

He was arrested on April 26, 2006, during a Rab operation at Pahartoli in Chittagong.

Accused in 33 cases, Salahuddin from Narayanganj was awarded death for the murder of Joseph Gani

Gomez Mandal, a medicine trader of Melandah in Jamalpur.



Salahuddin

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

A veteran of Afghan war

Afghan war veteran, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh Majlish-e-Shura member, and death row inmate Mohammad Rakib Hasan Russell alias Hafez Mahmud was waiting for his execution for the murder of Joseph Gani Gomez Mandal, a medicine trader of Melandah in Jamalpur.

Gomez, a converted Christian of Duanipara village of Sadar upazila in Jamalpur, was killed at Hazipur Bazaar on the night of September 18, 2004.

Rakib, whose escape did not go as per his plan yesterday, had been



Rakib

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

STUDY IN UK

With IDP - the co-owner of IELTS Examination and partner to over 200 universities worldwide

Submit applications for UG/PG courses for September 2014 intake

Attend IDP's UK Admissions Day

Date : Thursday, 27th February, 2014
Time : 11am - 5pm
Venue : IDP Education Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd., Hamid Tower, 4th Floor, Level 5, Gulshan Circle 2, Dhaka - 1212

Highlights:

- Scholarships available*
- On-spot admissions offered*
- One on one interaction with university representatives

Meet representatives from the following institutions at the IDP Office

- Anglia Ruskin University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Study Group
- Teesside University
- University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN)
- University of Dundee (via Skype)

For FREE Counselling Session, visit IDP Office

8832861/2, 8833181

To see complete list of IDP partner institutions, visit www.bangladesh.idp.com or Email: infobd@idp.com

IDP Education Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd., Hamid Tower, 4th Floor, Level 5, Gulshan Circle 2, Dhaka - 1212

IELTS open your world