

# Five militants jailed for 7yrs

A Khagrachari court yesterday sentenced five people to seven years' imprisonment for their involvement with militancy.

The convicts -- Abdur Rahim, of Comilla, and Delowar Hossion, Md Enous, Samshu Mian and Shamim Ahamed, all of Khagrachhari, -- were fined Tk 2,000 each, in default, they have to serve two more years in jail. Of them, Shamim is still absconding.

The other four were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion-7 at a training centre in Santipur Guccha Gramm in Matiranga upazila of Khagrachari on September 27, 2009.

# JMB men involved in Navy base attack: FIR

Members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were involved in the December 18, 2015 grenade attacks at two mosques during Juma prayers inside the Bangladesh Navy Issa Khan base in Chittagong.

JMB men Md Abdul Mannan and Md Ramjan Ali carried out the attacks while Raisul Islam Khan Noman alias Fardin alias Nasif, chief coordinator of JMB Chittagong region who was reportedly killed in Bogra on April 3 while making bombs, coordinated it.

Fardin was assisted by Navy man M Sakhawat Hossain, who was serving in Rapid Action Battalion during the incident and has since remained absconding.

All this was stated in the First Information Report (FIR) of a case Naval Provost Marshal, Chittagong Commander M Abu Sayeed filed with EPZ Police Station on September 3 under the anti-terrorism act 2009.

On the delay, it was reasoned that a thorough departmental investigation was first conducted due to the incident's type and magnitude and involvement of defence personnel and civilian staff. Mannan, Ramjan, Sakhawat and one Md Bablu Rahman and unnamed others were accused.

Mannan and Ramjan, captured right after the attacks by navy men, were handed over to police by the navy during lodging of the case while Bablu and Sakhawat are absconding.

Police interrogated the arrestees in two phases and appealed for a fresh remand, said Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad.

Of the 24 defence and civilian personnel injured, 10 were hospitalised.

The FIR says Fardin, with Sakhawat's assistance, helped Mannan, Ramjan and Bablu get jobs at the navy's Shaheed Mozammel Khan base in Kaptai in 2012 or 2013 as canteen boys and ball pickers.

Bablu later fled but Mannan and Ramjan managed to get transferred to the Issa Khan base as ball picker and batman respectively.

Both used to meet Fardin at places including Bandartilla, EPZ and Nasirabad for instructions.

# Bangladesh chair of Delta coalition

Bangladesh has become the Chair of the Delta Coalition as the Netherlands handed over the chairmanship to it on Wednesday, said a press release yesterday.

It was handed over to Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali by Special Envoy for International Water Affairs of the Netherlands, Henk Ovink at the UN headquarters in New York.

The Delta Coalition is the world's first coalition of governments aiming to deal with development and sustainable development in deltas. Other countries are: Colombia, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Netherlands, the Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam.

# Deploy volunteers at temples

Hindu community leaders yesterday urged all organisers of upcoming Durga Puja across the country to deploy sufficient volunteers in every temple to avoid untoward situation before and during the festival.

"It will be folly, if we keep sleeping rendering all responsibilities on the police. We will have to deploy volunteers as guards," said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad.

At a discussion about security during Durga Puja organised by Bangladesh Jatiyo Hindu Mohajote at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the leaders also demanded a three-day public holiday for celebrating Durga Puja while currently it is one day.

High-volume music in temples may affect security system, said Rana, adding that instruments should be played carefully in temples so that if any untoward incident occurs everyone would be able to hear in public rush.

He urged all political parties to keep their leaders and activists at grassroots level under control so that they will not make indiscipline in temples.

The Mohajote President Provas Chandra Roy said they want additional security measures this year.

**গাড়ী বিক্রয়**

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**Prime Bank**

# Bank lining kills

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To protect the canals, walkways or footpaths will have to be constructed beside the banks. "Not only are we wasting money by constructing concrete drains but also damaging the canals," she added.

Iqbal Habib, another joint secretary of Bapa, said total area of a canal should be determined calculating the entire runoff of a region. "Now Wasa is trying to restore the canals according to its current state," he said, adding that the actual area (paridhi) and canal space are being squeezed for that.

The canals are being narrowed down more in the name of constructing channel and lining work, and eventually it becomes a garbage drain as it turns to a dead canal. "It is a wrong process," he said. Iqbal suggested protecting the canals by restoring it and its banks using different methods calculating the region-based runoff water. He also suggested creating a connectivity between the canals, bills (water bodies), and jheels since all of those complement each other.

If it is possible to restoring the canals properly and ensuring its connectivity, only then the canals' effectiveness will remain active, otherwise the canals turn to a dumping zone, he stressed. He suggested constructing walkways recovering the canals properly and stopping dumping of garbage into the canals. "If necessary the government should forcibly recover the canals based on the original map (CS map)," he said.

Though many claimed that the canal lands belonged to them and showed papers as proof but those were forged. If needed, the government should offer compensation to recover the canals, he suggested. To save the capital from waterlogging, the government will have to bring back the natural drainage system. "We are observing that the intensity of rain is increasing due to climate change. It will be a normal phenomenon in the near future when 300 to 400 millimetres of rain will fall within a day," he said.

"The capital will face a huge waterlogging crisis at that time if we do not act now and protect the canals," Iqbal added.

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# Dhaka must

FROM PAGE 3

while Unab Secretary General Syed Mohammad Shahed conducted it.

Quoting the UN chief's message, Moniruzzaman said sustainable development is essential for lasting peace, and both depend on respect for human rights.

"And only by working together we can make our common home safe for future generations," he quoted the UN chief as saying.

Every year the International Day of Peace is observed on September 21 with a crucial reminder that conflict must end.

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