



Iraqi people flee the Islamic State stronghold in the town of Bartella, east of Mosul, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

JMB's attack

FROM PAGE 16
The "Neo JMB," a faction of the outlawed JMB that follows the ideologies of terror organisation IS, was responsible for the worst-ever militant attack in Bangladesh at a Gulshan café on July 1.

A CT official asking not to be named claimed that the JMB's Rajshahi region leaders Zia, Hayder and Sahidullah were the key planners of the attack that was to be carried out during New Year's celebrations.

"We suspect the three names are organisational but hope to get more information from the five arrestees after interrogating them," added the official.

During the briefing at DMP's media centre, Monirul also said they had learned about the five arrestees from another gang arrested in the capital with money and gold ornaments they had robbed.

He said the leader of the robbers was one Reaz alias Zinia alias Rakib, who had recently visited India and met Salauddin alias Salehin, chief of the "Old JMB". Rakib started organising the group in Bangladesh with instruction from Salehin, he added.

The CT chief also said many "Old JMB" members were joining the "Neo JMB".

Referring to Shakira, who killed herself detonating her suicide vest in Ashkona, Monirul said her husband, "Old JMB" member Rashedur Rahman alias Sumon, was arrested on October 17 in the city with six other "Old JMB's" gang of robbers.

Mizanur Rahman, principal of the school, told The Daily Star yesterday that

He covered his tracks

FROM PAGE 1
Major (retd) Jahid, who was killed in an anti-militancy drive in Mirpur on September 2, and Musa used to live in the same apartment building in Uttara. They had both left their homes almost at the same time.

However, police found and recovered some information about Musa from the documents and computers police seized from the school in mid September.

The evidence allowed law enforcers to track Musa to the Ashkona den on Saturday. Musa managed to evade arrest that day during the counter terrorism unit-led operation codenamed "Ripple-24".

During the drive, a female militant suspect, Shakira, killed herself by detonating a suicide vest while 14-year-old Afif Kaderi, son of slain militant Tahir Kaderi, was killed in the shootout with police.

Before that, two female militants, Musa's wife Trisha Moni, and Maj (retd) Jahid's widow Jebunnahar Shila, surrendered to police. Musa was then texting them to commit suicide.

MUSA LIED TO ALL

Days before going into hiding, Musa told his mother that he would go to Bahrain to work with one Bahraini expatriate Faisal.

After the death of his father Abdul Kalam Azad in December last year, he went to his Buzrukolla village home to take Tk 3 lakh.

However, he told Nisha that the Life School was sending him to Saudi Arabia.

"The school has similar institution in Saudi Arabia and he would be provided with a job there. We are in a hurry as the school authority gave us the offer but we have to collect certain amount of money within a given time," Nisha quoted Musa as saying.

Mizanur Rahman, principal of the school, told The Daily Star yesterday that

they had no branches in or outside the country.

"We, eight people, have set up the school in 2014 investing our savings," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star another former colleague of Musa said Musa resigned from school in March saying he would run a coaching centre.

Musa told another former colleague that he would return to his village and do something there.

Preferring anonymity, the former colleague said once a good teacher, Musa became very absent minded and irregular in classes around two to three months prior to his resignation.

"He used to often take leaves for several days, sometimes without notice," the teacher said, adding that the school authorities warned him about this.

Another teacher said Musa sometimes discussed news on militant attacks across the world but never spoke in favour of the militants.

"We could not imagine him being involved in militancy," said another teacher.

Musa's mother Sufia wants her son to surrender.

He was preparing to sit for BCS exam but suddenly he started talking about going abroad, she said.

The family thought he had gone abroad.

"I feel ashamed. I hate him so much and sometimes I think it would be better if he dies," said Sufia.

"Yet, I want him to surrender," she told The Daily Star correspondent when he visited her home.

His sister Kamrun Nahar said, "I hate to introduce him as my brother. It is better he surrenders ... the law will decide his fate."

Kamrun Nahar had given Musa Tk 10,000 selling her ornaments so that Musa could "collect his passport".

Mushy blow for Tigers

FROM PAGE 16
today's second ODI against New Zealand at the Saxton Oval in Nelson.

His hamstring injury during the first ODI against New Zealand in Christchurch on Monday however could not come at a worse time when Bangladesh were desperately looking to secure their first-ever win against the Black Caps in their own den - especially because it is in the shorter format of the game where they have been doing very well for the last couple of years.

At the moment it looks like he will miss the next two ODIs as well as the three T20Is provided that he requires the mandatory two weeks to recover. But if his injury status is upgraded from Grade 1 to 2 after the scan, than there is a possibility of him missing part of the two-Test series.

That will lead the Bangladesh think-tank to a completely different scenario and for the team in general to live without one of their fantastic five -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mashfiqur, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal. These five players have formed the nucleus of the team and were responsible for Bangladesh's rise in international cricket over the years. Shakib has missed an entire series in 2013 and Tamim also missed few games. But those were on home turf.

Mashfiqur's absence in trying conditions down under is definitely a shattering blow for the Tigers.

"He has been one of our form batters and wicketkeeper across three formats. It's quite a blow but it is part and parcel of the game. We have another wicketkeeper, [Nurul Hasan] Sohan is coming into the next game," said Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha yesterday.

He also admitted that Mashfiqur's injury has upset the balance of the team. "If Mashfiqur was fit we could have

thought differently with the selection of the team. Yes, Sohan is coming, who is good with the bat. I'm not saying he is as good as Mashfiqur with the bat and he has not played that much of international cricket," said the coach, adding that he was hoping for the best in the next few days.

"It's early to say at this stage. We think that it's two weeks but he is recovering well. I saw him in the pool today and you know Mashfiqur is very thorough and he will do the same thing with his injury. And he will be ready sooner than we think," said an optimistic Hathurusingha.

He can be optimistic in the context that the Tigers have overcome one barrier after another against all odds over the last two years. But this is the first time Bangladesh will be without one of their senior statesmen in foreign conditions, which is certainly cause for concern.

"Although Mashfiqur is a big part of our team, the strange thing is that we have just had a meeting and they were more confident than the way they started," the coach quipped, referring to his side's newfound ability to revel in extreme adversity.

Three of the gang members, however, were caught and beaten up at Agdallha.

Being informed, a team of Mirzapur police went to the spot, recovered the injured robbers and took them to Kumudini Hospital.

Two of them died of their injuries at the hospital around 11:30am, said Mohammad Mainuddin, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station.

The condition of the other injured -- Nek Mahmud, 40, of Chawhali in Sirajganj -- was critical, he said.

The exams were held at 7,194 centres across the country and 11 centres abroad.

Eminent jurist Dr Shahid Malik, among others, also spoke at the programme yesterday.

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