

4 JMB men killed RU Prof Rezaul'

RMP commissioner claims before media

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Four operatives of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) took part in the killing of Rajshahi University teacher Prof AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, police claimed.

They planned to kill Prof Rezaul on April 16, but could not execute the plan due to lack of coordination among themselves, said Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Md Shamsuddin at a press briefing at the RMP headquarters yesterday.

As the professor used to go to the campus almost every day, the JMB men chose Saturday to kill him since streets usually have fewer people on that day, he said.

After getting the order for the killing, the four went to Rajshahi and took shelter in some houses in the city's Kharkhari area. They observed his movements and planned the execution, he added.

Of the four, Maskawat Hasan alias Sakib alias Abdullah was arrested in Gaibandha on Sunday night. The three other killers who were directly involved in the attack were yet to be arrested, police said.

Sakib, a student of Rangpur Polytechnic Institute, was placed before the court of Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate Khalid Hasan on Monday afternoon and he gave a confessional statement, they added.

Following his confessional statement, law enforcers arrested three more JMB operatives in the city's Kharkhari area on Monday night, said Shamsuddin. The RMP chief, however, did not disclose their identities "for the sake of investigation".

He said the three were placed on a five-day remand each yesterday.



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4 JMB men

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The trio provided shelter to the killers but did not directly take part in the killing, the RMP boss claimed.

Based on Sakib's information, Police seized a motorcycle, which was used by the attackers at the time of the murder, from a house in Kharkhari area.

A machete and a cleaver were also found there but Sakib claimed that those were not used in the killing, Shamsuddin said.

Sakib in his statement said they were being called Eshabi in Arabic by their outfit members. They only executed orders of their high-ups, he claimed.

"We asked him [Sakib] the reason for killing Prof Rezaul but he could not tell ... 'We only execute orders,' he said," the RMP boss quoted him as saying.

"Sakib provided a detailed account of the murder and he also told how they planned the murder, when they executed it and who were involved ... he told us everything," he claimed.

Of the four, three hacked him to death while the other was waiting with a motorcycle, Shamsuddin said.

Sakib also hit the professor with a machete. After the murder, he left the scene on the motorcycle, the RMP official claimed.

He, however, could not specifically say how the two others left.

Sakib told the police about the places they took cover in and who had helped them.

"We are trying to arrest those involved, including the three other killers, and the people who planned the murder and assisted," Shamsuddin said.

"It's our achievement that we managed to get all necessary information on the killing within 24 days."

He urged all to keep faith on police. "We will arrest all the culprits one by one, find out the real motive behind the killing and remain engaged with the case until its trial ends."

Replying to a query, Shamsuddin said Sakib did not confess to his involvement in any other killings, "yet we believe he might be involved since he was one of the executioners".

Unknown assailants hacked to death Prof Rezaul on the morning of April 23 when he was waiting for the university bus in Shalbagan area of Rajshahi city.

His son Riyasat Imtiaz Shourav filed a case with Boalia Police Station accusing unnamed people for the murder.

Law enforcers have so far arrested seven people in connection with the killing.

JMB ACTIVITIES ON

At yesterday's briefing, RMP Commissioner Shamsuddin held the JMB responsible for the murder of Prof Rezaul. He claimed that despite a ban, the JMB was continuing with its criminal activities and following a secret chain of command.

The outfit now maintains strict secrecy among its members who are