

Court Correspondent

Responding to a prosecution plea, a speedy trial tribunal on Sunday altered the charges made against detained Mufti Abdul Hannan, head of the banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad Al Islami (Huji) and 13 others in the Ramna Batmul blast case.

Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Judge Shahed Nur Uddin passed the order, fixing September 21 for hearing.

The blast took place during Pahela Baishakh celebrations of Chhayanaut on April 14, 2001 leaving 10 people dead and many more injured.

The prosecution had made the plea of alteration of the charges as it was not framed under the appropriate sections of the Explosive Substance (amendment) Act, 1987.

Now the charges have been reframed as per sections 3 and 6 of the Explosive Substance (amendment) Act 1987, replacing its section 3 and 26.

Earlier, the same tribunal had framed the charges against the accused on July 16, 2009.

After the deadly blast, Babupura Police outpost sergeant Amal Kumar Chanda filed two cases with the Ramna Police Station.

The charge-sheeted accused are Mufti Hannan, Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Maulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Maulana Abu Taher, Maulana Abdur Rauf, Maulana Mohammad Tajuddin, Maulana Abdul Hannan Sabbir, Maulana Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid, Hafez Jahangir Alam Badar, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Hawlader, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Maulana Yahiya and Mufti Abdul Hye. Of them, Mufti Hannan, Sumon, Shahadat, Abu Taher, Abdur Rauf, Sabbir, Shawkat and Yahiya are behind the bars while Tajuddin, Jahangir, Abu Bakar, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman and Mufti Abdul Hye are on the run.

On June 23 this year, the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge condemned eight people, including Mufti Hannan, to death and sentenced six others to life term imprisonment with a fine of TK 50,000 each in a murder case filed in connection with the sensational Ramna Batmul blast case.