

SERIAL BOMBING

Arrested moulana points finger at Nizami

Fund sources of militants being probed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Islamic Foundation director Moulana Fariduddin Masud, detained for suspected links to the August 17 blasts, yesterday accused Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami of involvement in the countrywide explosions.

Meantime, the home ministry ordered the intelligence agencies to investigate the income sources and expenditures of the NGOs allegedly sponsored by some Middle Eastern countries.

A reliable government source said all bank accounts of Masud are

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Police take Moulana Fariduddin Masud, former director of Islamic Foundation, to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

AUG 17 BLASTS PM stresses fair, neutral probe

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government is giving the highest importance to a fair, neutral and thorough investigation into the August 17 bomb blasts to track down the perpetrators.

She sought cooperation from all sections of people in identifying and arresting the real offenders to bring them to justice.

"Criminals will not be spared, whatever their identity. They will be dealt with a strong hand," the prime minister told a group of Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) lawmakers and leaders who called on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the afternoon.

She said instructions have been given to all law enforcement agencies so that no innocent people are harassed (during the manhunt).

The BJP leaders, who met the prime minister, are Dr MA Matin MP, Kazi Anwar Hossain MP, Kazi Alauddin MP, MM Aminuddin MP, ABM Golam Mostafa and Noor Mohammad Khan.

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PHOTO: STAR

Some of the 22 Bangladeshi children used as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates at Zia International Airport on their return home yesterday.

22 more jockeys return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two more Bangladeshi children who were used as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) arrived at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in two flights of Bangladesh Biman yesterday.

day.

Twenty-eight others, including the children's 'guardians' and their other children, accompanied them in two flights of Bangladesh Biman from Abu Dhabi.

The first flight arrived at 5:00am with 17 and the other at 11:00am

with 33 of them.

Six more children were scheduled to arrive at 2:00am today.

Additional Secretary Abdur Rouf of Home Ministry, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) Executive

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List of 282 Afghan-trained returnees

STAR REPORT

Intelligence agencies have drawn up lists of militants who returned to Bangladesh after 1989, receiving training in Afghanistan, to impart armed training to local militants.

Some of them were arrested at various times, but later released on bail as cases were not properly filed against them. The Daily Star has so far compiled the list of 282 names from the intelligence reports.

Many of the listed men are foreigners who visited the country to

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BURNING COURT ORDER HC orders filing sedition case against lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the registrar of the Supreme Court to charge a Cox's Bazar lawyer with sedition for burning copies of the High Court order banning agitation on the Supreme Court premises.

The High Court issued a contempt rule on Advocate Faridul Alam after Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Noor Hossain Chowdhury brought contempt proceedings against him the same day.

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INSIDE THE MILITANT GROUPS-4

They go free too easily

ZAYADUL AHSAN

A day after the August 17 serial blasts, Lutfur Rahman was caught by police at Thakurgaon for suspected links to the bombings. Records showed he was arrested twice in 2000 and 2001 for taking military training at an Ahle Hadith mosque in the district. Despite having specific evidence against him of being a militant, police detained him for 'suspicious activities'. He was soon released because of lack of any specific charges against him. Lutfur continued his militant activities.

Lutfur is only one case in point.

Like him, at least 500 Islamist militants have been released on similar grounds in the past four years. Many of them were arrested several times in the act of terrorist activities, and yet no specific charges were brought against them and they were all left off the hook.

In late 1996, some 40 militants were arrested with dummy rifles while taking arms training at a Barguna Qwami madrasa. They were almost immediately released as police said they were engaged in 'preaching Islam'.

On June 30, 2004, 33 militants were arrested at a mosque in

Barguna, which made international headlines. Police found booklets on jihad in their possession. Charges were brought against six of them while the rest were released immediately. Even those six were later freed on bail.

Fazle Rabbi and Lutfur Rahman, two militants, were arrested at an Ahle Hadith mosque at Banishankail of Thakurgaon in 2000 for taking militant training. They also came out of custody, and were soon arrested two more times -- once in 2001 and then again after the serial bombings of August 17.

One thing has become clear from

the arrest and release stories: despite having specific evidence, police remain reluctant to bring any specific charges against the militants. In many cases, evidence was deliberately or mysteriously destroyed or witnesses barred from appearing before court to testify.

According to a Prothom Alo report on August 23, 2003, CID Inspector Khaliur Rahman made revealing comments about seven JMB militants arrested in Joyprhat on April 16, 2003. "I submitted three petitions at various times seeking permission to implicate three of the

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(Left) Militant leader Bangla Bhai, right, and his accomplices after being arrested with explosives, military uniform, masks and electrical equipment at Mollahat in Bagerhat on August 17, 2002; (Right) Islamist militants at their Ukhiya camp in Cox's Bazar.



FILE PHOTO

JMB chief was in Dhaka two months ago

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman met his followers in the capital some two months back, contrary to his rumoured flight abroad following the arrest of Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (Ahab) kingpin Asadullah al Galib last February, confessed a JMB operative.

The JMB emir also visited

Satkhira town and met with JMB cadres about three months ago, JMB district physical trainer Monwar Hossain Uzzal has admitted to the police.

"But he could not specify the Dhaka address, where he met Abdur Rahman," a Satkhira police official told The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity.

A team led by Assistant

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US reassures help in fighting terrorism

UNB, Dhaka

The United States has reiterated its cooperation with Bangladesh in fighting terrorism.

State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack made the comment at his daily press briefing, according to a foreign ministry press release.

Condemning the recent bomb

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2 outlaws killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Two leaders of outlawed parties were killed in 'crossfire' between the outlaws and the law enforcers in Kushtia and Khulna yesterday, police and Rab sources said.

Azad Joardar alias Azi, 30, second-in-command of outlawed Gono Bahini (GB) district leader Azibar Rahman, died in a shootout between his accomplices and police in Jhenidah sadar upazila, reports our correspondent from Kushtia.

A team of Islamic University (IU) police arrested him at Choruibil village in Shailkupa upazila in Jhenidah on Monday morning.

During interrogation in Kushtia, the outlawed leader confessed to having firearms hidden in different areas of Gopalpur village under sadar upazila.

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1 April, 2006	30 June, 2006	1 July, 2006		

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