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Sunny being quizzed to know JMB's 'next targets'

STAR REPORT

Investigators are now trying to learn about the 'next targets' of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from its remanded military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny, and concentrating on tracking down his elder brother and chief of the militant outfit Abdur Rahman and unearthing their arms and explosives.

The four other arrested top JMB leaders in Chittagong, including

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Huge bomb-making materials seized in Rajshahi: 4 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) here in separate operations yesterday arrested four operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) including its Rajshahi district commander and seized a large quantity of bomb-making materials.

The arrestees are JMB district commander Mohammed Abu Musa alias Enamul, 27, Mohammed Ajmat Ali, 28, his brother Mohammed Hasmat Ali, 35, and Mohammed Abdul Wahab, 40, according to a Rab press release

issued at 9:30 last night.

The explosive materials recovered are 2,000 electric bomb detonators and 144 pieces of power gel, the release said.

Tipped off, a team of the crack crime-busting force netted Enamul, son of Mohammed Abdul Karim Akand of Char Laxmipur under Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj district, at around 1:00am at Katakhal in the northwestern divisional city.

Enamul admitted to his involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts on the premises of the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

Rajshahi.

Acting on his confession, the Rab team arrested Ajmat Ali, son of Mohammed Nazir, at their Naodapara house in the city at around 4:00am. On information extracted from Ajmat, the law enforcers found Hasmat Ali hiding in the attic with 64 pieces of power gel.

The base of Asadullah al Galib, chief of another Islamist outfit Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab), is also located at Naodapara under Motihar Police Station.

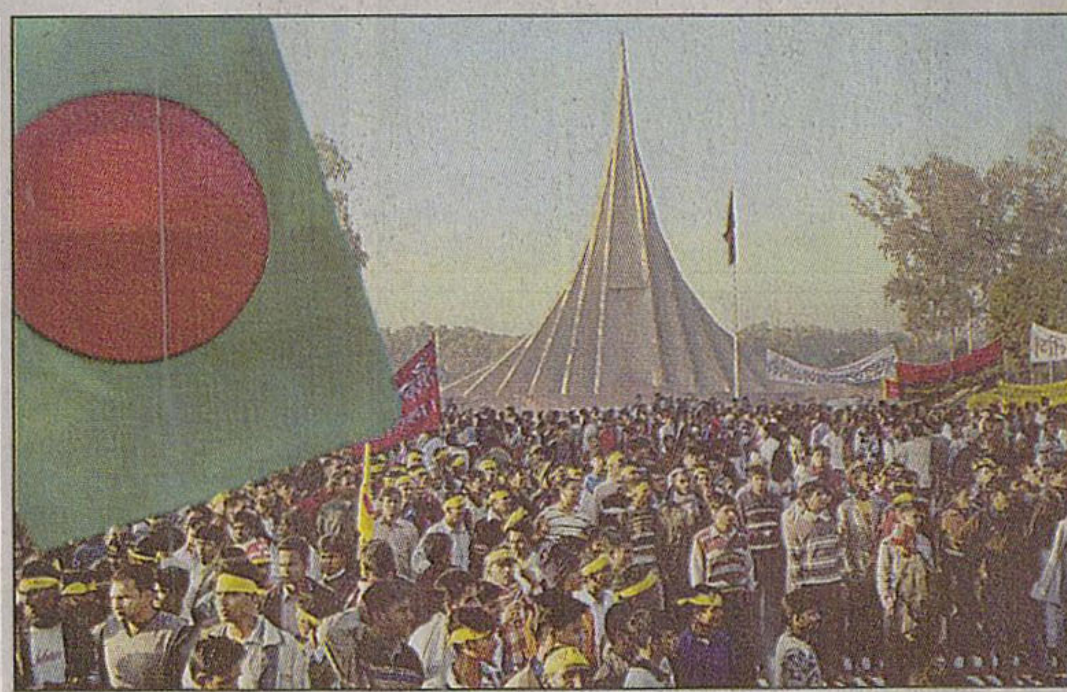
The same Rab team then

arrested Abdul Wahab, son of Mohammed Jasimuddin Sheikh, from their house at West Banshabari under Putia upazila of the district at around 5:30am.

Searching the house, Rab members recovered 500 electric detonators and 80 power gels from inside a computer casing hidden in a hay-stack. The team found 1,500 more electric detonators in a sound box hanging from the ceiling of the house.

The authorities concerned remained tight-lipped about the arrests and recoveries until issuing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



People from all walks of life through the National Mausoleum at Savar to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs on the 35th Victory Day yesterday.

Bangladesh-India SAFF final today

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

The curtain falls on what is called 'South Asia's World Cup' today when defending champions Bangladesh take on India in the final of the Fourth SAFF Championship.

The final of the eight-team event, which began in this Pakistani port city on December 7, will kick off at 7pm (Bangladesh time) at the People's Sports Complex Stadium. Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz is expected

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

COMPENSATION FROM NIKO 9bcf gas, Tk 250cr bank guarantee demanded

SHARIER KHAN

The government last week claimed 8.9 billion cubic feet (bcf) gas and a Tk 250 crore bank guarantee from Canadian company Niko as part of a three-stage compensation for the Tengratla gas field blowouts, a highly placed source said.

Based on the findings of several probes into the blowouts, the energy ministry in a letter to Niko said 3bcf gas was lost from the surface level and another 5.9bcf from the sub-surface level in the field, also known as Chhatak marginal gas field.

The probe committees entirely faulted Niko's poor planning and operations for the two rounds of blowouts, one in January and the other in June.

Besides the energy ministry, the environment ministry too has made a Tk 84 crore compensation claim from Niko for environmental damages wrought by the blowouts.

The gas field may have lost further quantity of gas. The energy ministry's letter to Niko said the exact quantum of gas loss in the blowouts could be confirmed only by producing gas there and after

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Treatment of Netrakona blast victim uncertain

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Munna Debnath, seriously injured in the Netrakona suicide bomb blast, is now undergoing a traumatic phase at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). His treatment also faces uncertainty as his family has already exhausted all the money they could arrange.

On December 8 after the first bomb went off, like many others Munna also went to the spot to see what happened. Immediately after he reached the place, a barrage of splinters from a second bomb hit all over his body and he fell flat on his back in the street.

Munna received a number of splinters in the hands, chest, abdomen and legs. The scared mob

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VICTORY DAY CELEBRATED Tribute to war heroes, vow to rid country of militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday celebrated the 35th Victory Day, taking a fresh vow to rid the country of religious militancy and paying glowing tributes to the Liberation War heroes who had sacrificed their lives to win freedom for the countrymen.

Thousands of people from all walks of life came out on the streets across the country yesterday, refusing to be cowed by the threats

of bomb attacks. Under the banners of different political, social, cultural and professional bodies, people invaded the city streets in colourful processions throughout the day.

They carried banners and festoons and staged mock shows on bullock carts and trucks depicting different aspects of the war against the Pakistan Army. The drums beat out jovial tunes as the marchers chanted slogans reminiscent of the

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Sugar tastes bitter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Price of sugar and soyabean oil rose sharply in the last one month with sugar now selling at Tk 60 to 52 per kg and oil at up to Tk 60.50 a litre in the city markets.

Sugar sold at Tk 39-40 per kg after the Eid-ul-Fitre early last month and Tk 47-48 only a week ago.

Canned soyabean oil now sells at Tk 60.50 per litre against at Tk 57.50 last week and bottled oil at Tk 56 a litre against Tk 49-50 a month ago.

Price of non-bottled soyabean oil is Tk 55 a litre now, rising from Tk 52 just one week back and Tk 45 a month ago.

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