

Sunny trained Shibir men at IU to make bombs

Intelligence officials visit campus to know his past, sources say

A CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtha IU*

Arrested JMB 'operations commander' Ataur Rahman Sunny was involved in militant activities while he was a student at Kushtha Islamic University, different sources on the campus have revealed.

Sunny was admitted to Daw'ah and Islamic Studies department in 1998-99 session. But he could not continue studies as he was involved with JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wing of Jamaate-e-Islami.

Sources said the then ICS leaders at IU were aware that Sunny was the brother of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and that he had training in use of arms and bomb making.

ICS engaged Sunny to train some of its activists in bomb making, the sources said.

Taking the opportunity, Sunny expanded JMB activities in Islamic University and adjoining areas through ICS. He trained many ICS activists at the University on bomb making and Marshal Art. Some sources claimed that he trained at least 500 ICS activists.

Though a student of the university, he usually stayed at Jhenidah town. He often visited an IU dormitory. He used a structure on the western side of the campus to train ICS activists. Training sessions were held at night, sources said.

Sunny left the university in 2001 without completing studies and did not return.

According to different sources in and around IU, Sunny was a good

organiser. He often visited different areas in Kushtha and adjacent district including Meherpur and Chuadanga. He also traveled to different upazilas in Kushtha and Jhenidah to recruit youths for JMB.

Intelligence officials are now visiting the IU campus to collect Sunny's background.

Sunny also trained JMB activists in different areas in Kushtha and Jhenidah. Some sources also claimed that a teacher of IU is still the 'central training affairs secretary of JMB'.

Some high officials of intelligence department in Kushtha and Jhenidah seeking anonymity said they are watching activities of some teachers of IU who were once involved with JMB.

Ataur Rahman Sunny was arrested from a hideout in Dhaka on December 14.

Mentionably, Rab (rapid Action Battalion) so far arrested three JMB activists --Shamsul Haq, Akbar and Manik for their involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts in Kushtha. All the three hail from Daulatpur upazila in the district.

Shamsul was caught by people when he was fleeing after exploding bombs on Kushtha court premises on August 17. He named nine JMB activists who were involved in the blasts. The rest are yet to be arrested.

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STAR FILE PHOTO
JMB 'operations commander' Ataur Rahman Sunny now in custody in Dhaka. He was arrested from a hideout in the capital on December 14.

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Papiya murder case handed over to CID

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Advocate Dilruba Akter Papiya murder case has been transferred to the criminal investigation department (CID) of police for investigation.

Papiya, a human rights activist and also an NGO official, was killed allegedly by her husband's family on November 3 at their house in Barisal.

Police arrested Papiya's sister-in-law Swapna after her elder sister Mahbuba Huq Kumkum filed a case.

Papiya's husband Tuhin, the main accused in the case, is absconding.

The handover of the case to CID followed the recent visit of a four-member team from the National Women's Lawyers Association to Barisal to probe the murder, sources said.

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6x2

Alliance partner is JMB's recruiting agency, says Noor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Awami League lawmaker and Central Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor yesterday alleged that Islamist militants in Bangladesh have been created by the government and a key partner in the ruling alliance is the "recruiting agency" for JMB Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh.

"So the key to stopping militancy is in their hands", Noor said while addressing a public meeting at Choraikholia village in the Sadar upazila. The meeting was organised to protest the nationwide bomb blasts by BMB. Noor also distributed warm clothes among about 1000 poor people there.

Noor said that during the SAARC summit no bomb was exploded in

the country though 80 per cent of the total police forces was in Dhaka to maintain law and order.

The militants did not make any bomb attack at that time because they did not want to embarrass the BNP-Jamat government while foreign dignitaries were in the capital.

So it is clear that the JMB militants has link with the government, Noor claimed.

Noor said the head of government did not visit the affected people in crisis periods like Monga, diarrhoea and cold wave. This nothing but utter negligence to the northern region.

He said Awami League will always be with the poor people in time of their need.

JMB activities are anti-Islamic

Arrested activist in Satkhira 'repents'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Four JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh) suspects arrested in the district earlier were taken on remand yesterday.

One of them, Dr Mukul, arrested from his Kushkhali village home last month, will be sent to Dhaka for interrogation by the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC), Satkhira Sadar thana SI said last night. Mukul was placed on seven days' remand.

"Mukul is being sent to Dhaka as we think JIC interrogators will be able to extract important information about JMB activities and its future plan from him", said Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Shahjahan.

Three others--Ruhul Quddus of Taluigacha village and Asadul Islam and Saifulah of Kharibila village in Sadar upazila were placed on three days' remand, court sources and police said.

Asadul, Ruhul Quddus and Saifulah were arrested this month.

Police said Asadul told them that he is repented for blasting bombs in front of the Satkhira collectorate building on instruction from JMB leaders.

He said he was an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami. He joined JMB to establish Islamic rule in the country.

JMB is misleading youths in the name of so called Zihad, police quoted him as saying. Asadul, arrested on December 17, is a chargedheet accused in the August 17 bomb blast case. He confessed to his involvement in the August 17 blasts, police said.

The forces defeated in 1971 created the problem (Islamist militancy) in the country. These defeated forces are backing Islamist militants to capture power as Taliban did in Afghanistan.

The judicial system is now at stake while the ruling and the main opposition party are destroying democracy, he said.

The valiant freedom fighter warned that gains from the

11x4



Asadul Islam

about two years ago", he told interrogators and local journalists.

"I am repented for my misdeeds and what JMB is doing in the name Islam is surely anti-Islamic", he said.

Farmer beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A farmer was beaten to death by neighbors in a dispute over fencing a potato field.

The victim was identified as Abdul Malek Howlader, 40, of Nivamia village in Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur district.

Police and family sources said Malek was beaten allegedly by Mojibur and his associates as he tried to raise a fence to protect his potato field. There was a previous dispute over demarcation of lands belonging to Malek and Mojibur, they said.

Malek was rushed to Mathbaria Upazila Health Complex, where he died in the early hours of yesterday.

Police sent the body to Pirojpur Hospital morgue for autopsy. A murder case has been lodged in this connection with Mathbaria police station, police said.