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JMB chief Saidur held

Wife, 3 others also captured in Dhaka, Narayanganj; explosives, bomb materials seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested JMB chief Maulana Saidur Rahman, his wife and three other top leaders of the banned Islamist outfit. They made the arrests in the capital and Narayanganj on Monday and early yesterday.

Besides Saidur alias Zafar, the others detained are his third wife Naima Akhter, JMB's military coordinator Amir Hossain

alias Sharif and eshar (full-time) members Nur Hossain alias Sabuj and Abdullah Hel Kafi.

During the raids, the cops recovered a huge cache of bomb-making materials, firearms and ammunition and jihadi books.

The arrestees except Naima were paraded before the media at the police headquarters yesterday afternoon.

There, Inspector General of Police Nur

Mohammad said several militant organizations are still operative in the country and they might have an alliance.

Replying to a query, he said that since militancy is now a global phenomenon, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh might have connections with militant groups in neighbouring countries.

He also said they are trying to gather if JMB has a suicide squad.

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A notepad with drawings and instructions on how to make and use grenades, among JMB weapons and bomb-making materials, put on display at police headquarters in the capital yesterday. Inset, JMB chief Maulana Saidur Rahman following his arrest. PHOTO: STAR



From Jamaat dist ameer to JMB boss

KAILASH SARKAR and MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Former Habiganj Jamaat-Islami ameer Maulana Saidur Rahman alias Zafar took over as the JMB chief in mid 2006 after JMB kingpin Abdur Rahman was arrested in February 2006, sources said.

Saidur was the financial coordinator of JMB and he primarily dealt with foreign funding, according to a statement of arrested Huji founder Abdus Salam.

Saidur became the JMB chief after he had become intimate with Abdur Rahman when Abdur Rahman was in hiding in the north-eastern districts.

Hailing from Kujagaon under Bahubal upazila of Habiganj, Saidur got involved in Islami Chhatra Shibir from 1977 and was the president of Moulvibazar Shibir unit between 1978 and 1980, Special Branch of police sources said.

In 1981, Saidur was given the organising charge of both Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts. In 1983, he was made the ameer of Habiganj unit Jamaat. He was also made a member of the Jamaat majlish-e-sura, the highest policy making body.

Saidur was a madrasa teacher.

His elder son AKM Shamim was arrested on September 7, 2005. He was the IT chief of JMB and was also a close aide to executed Ataur Rahman Sunny, who was the brother of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



I fulfilled dream of Bangladeshis

Says Musa upon return to Everest base camp, comes home June 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He fulfilled a long-cherished dream of the Bangladeshis, said Musa Ibrahim in his first telephone interview from the Everest base camp after reaching the summit of the Mount Everest.

"I fulfilled a dream. If a youth wants to take a challenge, scaling up the Mount Everest should be the height of it. I did that," said Musa in the interview to the Deutsche Welle Bangla Service.

Musa, the first Bangladeshi to climb the highest mountain, will return to Dhaka on June 2. Musa, also a sub-editor at The Daily Star, scaled the Everest at 6:00am on May 23.

Tired of scaling up and down for 36 days, Musa came down to the base camp yesterday afternoon from the advanced base camp where he told the BBC Bangla Service in another interview the tubes of the gas mask leaked at 8,600 metres height.

"I felt like I was dying. But the Sherpas repaired it instantly. So I survived," Musa told the BBC.

He along with other mountaineers will stay at the base camp in Tibet for one day, start for China border tomorrow and reach Kathmandu on Friday afternoon, said Komol Ariol, manager of a guide company, who talked with Musa yesterday afternoon.

In his interview from the base camp, situated at 5,200 metres above the sea level, Musa said they shook hands and exchanged greetings with each other when they reached the highest peak.

"There is a Buddha statue on the top of the Everest. We took photos there," he said. He used the North Alpin route on the Tibetan side to conquer the top of the world.

Asked about confusions raised by some mountaineers about his success, Musa firmly told the Deutsche Welle that he has made it.

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RMG workers run amok

30 hurt as they burn police box, barricade roads; demands this time are for low house rent, better supply of water, gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 50 persons, including 10 policemen, were injured in a series of clashes between garment workers and law enforcers in Kanchpur area of Narayanganj yesterday afternoon.

Kanchpur highway police box was ransacked and set on fire. Police opened 20 rounds of shotgun fire to bring the situation under control. They also resorted to baton charge.

The workers, on the other hand, threw brickbats at the law enforcers.

Garment workers barricaded the Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Chittagong highways for one and a half hours at Kanchpur of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

ACC to probe zakat scam

Cops asked to report on allegation against Mosharref, Saydee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will investigate a misappropriation case filed against former BNP state minister Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan, former Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saydee and two others.

The Islamic Foundation filed the case on Monday with the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on charges of misappropriating Tk 1.28 crore from the government Zakat Fund.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday asked the police to submit probe report on the

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Incoordination hampers govt activities

Hasina told at AL Advisory Council meet

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Lack of coordination within the government, especially among the prime minister's advisers, ministers, state ministers and top officials, is hampering implementation of development activities, most of the ruling Awami League Advisory Council members last night told party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Besides, there is incoordination between the government and the ruling party, and also within the party, they said at the first meeting of the advisory council formed on July 30 last year, six days after AL's national council.

Addressing the meeting held at the Gono Bhaban with Hasina in the chair, the advisory council members said the ruling party

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