

Bangladesh's Most Wanted Militant Maulana Mohamad Yahia Arrested
Bernama
August 18, 2011

DHAKA, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion has arrested Chief of a banned militant group Maulana Mohammad Yahia, and his two accomplices early Thursday for their involvement in a dead bomb blast here in 2001, China's Xinhua news agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

On April 14, 2001, the banned militant group Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI) planned, carried and exploded bombs in capital Dhaka's Ramna Park whereby thousands of people gathered to celebrate Bengali New Year.

The elite force spokesman told Xinhua that the three were arrested from a passenger bus on a highway in northeastern Bangladesh following a tip-off that the trio were shifting their hideouts.

Maulana is one of the most wanted militants, also accused in several major militant attacks including the Aug 21, 2004 grenade attack.

About a dozen of grenades were exploded while President of the then opposition party Awami League and now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was about to complete her speech at an anti-terrorism rally in front of the party's headquarters.

Hasina narrowly survived in the attacks but her eyes and ear were injured. A total of 24 people including wife of current Bangladeshi President were killed and hundreds of others wounded in the attack.

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