

Hizbut militants active in 4 Kishoreganj upazilas

Jashim tells police during interrogation

MUKLESUR RAHMAN LITON
Kishoreganj

Detained 'district commander' (Zila Amir) of Hizbut Touhid, Md. Jashim Uddin, during interrogation disclosed that the militant organization is active in four upazilas in the district.

Jashim was arrested on May 24 in Haibatnagar in Kishoreganj town and placed on five days' remand on May 27. He was produced before court again on May 31. The court sent him to jail.

A day after the arrest, five cadres of Hizbut Touhid entered a magistrate's room at the officers' dormitory in Old Court Road area on May 25 and threatened him of 'dire consequences' if their leader Jashim was not released, it was learnt from official sources here yesterday.

During interrogation on remand, Jashim said, Hizbut cadres including female ones are active in four upazilas of Kishoreganj district, investigation officer (IO) Sub Inspector Abul Kalam Azad of Kishoreganj Sadar police station

told this correspondent. The four upazilas are Kishoreganj Sadar, Karimganj, Katiadi and Hossainpur.

Jashim told interrogators that their main target of recruitment is poor and illiterate rural people. Strong Hizbut units are active at Koirail, Tarapasha, Hoibatnagar, Jashodal, Binnati and Maria unions of Kishoreganj Sadar upazila, according to SI Abul Kalam Azad.

Jashim also disclosed names of three other upazila 'commanders' of the militant organization. They are Hanif, 28, in-charge of Hossainpur upazila; Golap Shah, in-charge of Katiadi upazila and Abid, 25, in-charge of Karimganj upazila.

The police official said Abid is an ex-employee of Abul Khair Tobacco Company.

Jasim told the interrogators that his party does not acknowledge the existing laws of the land. They want to establish 'rule of Allah' in Bangladesh.

SI Mainuddin of Kishoreganj Sadar police station who arrested Jashim along with several books on Islami Jihad (revolution) said two



MD JASHIM UDDIN

women activists of the party--Sheuly and Hashy--from Uttara in Dhaka spent the night at Jasim's residence before his arrest.

Women activists from Dhaka used to visit different areas in Kishoreganj and held secret meetings to recruit women members and train them, said SI Mainuddin, who is the complainant of the case filed against Jasim.

Jashim disclosed that their

spiritual leader is Bayzeed Khan Panni who is relative of former speaker of Jatiya Sangsad late Humayun Khan Panni. He said he received directive from Bayzeed over cell phone.

Jashim was a teacher at a government primary school at Katiadi upazila. He was suspended after his arrest on September 8 last year for links with Islamist militants, police sources said.

Jashim was granted bail after seven months, police sources said. Since then he resided at a rented house in Kishoreganj town and led a lavish life without any known source of income, the police officials said.

Jashim hailed from Madyha Charipara village in Katiadi upazila in Kishoreganj.

When contacted Kishoreganj Police Superintendent Lutfur Rahman Mondol said, police are trying to arrest all Hizbut activists and to destroy its network.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Yesterday's shower came as a relief to Chittagong city dwellers from days of scorching heat.

Wadud's elder brother arrested in Khagrachhari

Allegation of corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

Joint force yesterday arrested former Khagrachhari lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan's elder brother Mohammad Shahbuddin Ahmad Bhuiyan for his alleged involvement in corruption.

With the arrest of Shahabuddin, three out of four brothers including Wadud Bhuiyan are now behind the bar.

Acting on a tip-off, joint forces arrested Shahbuddin from his Ramgarh Bazar residence at about 8.30 and handed him over to police.

He was produced before court, which sent him to Khagrachhari jail, police said.

Wadud, arrested on February 4 from his house in Khagrachhari by joint forces, is in Comilla jail now. The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) listed him as one of the top 50 corrupt politicians in the country.

His brother Belayet Hossen Bhuiyan, Ramgarh upazila BNP

president, was arrested along with seven other party men on February 15 by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), is in Khagrachhari jail.

Ramgarh thana sources said, most of the members of Wadud Bhuiyan families were hiding to avoid arrest after promulgation of emergency.

More than 40 cases have been filed against Wadud and his family members with different police stations in the hill district.

Most of the cases are for alleged corruption, tender scam, terrorising others, land grabbing, misappropriation of government development funds, bribery and anti-social activities, according to police and intelligence sources.

In another drive, joint force yesterday picked up Awami League leader Mohammad Hashen Khan from his Ramgarh house and Mohammad Zahanghir Alam from Shalbagun area in the Sadar upazila, police said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Firefighters dousing the fire at Ofaz Uddin Spinning Mills in Savar Monday night and workers sifting through rubbles (left).

'Protect coastal areas from adverse impact of climatic changes'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A study team of the Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust yesterday called for immediate measures to protect the coastal areas of the country from the adverse impact of climatic changes including rise in sea level.

Team members Mahmud Selim and Atiquel Islam Chowdhury made the call on behalf of the Trust at a press conference at Cox's Bazar Press Club.

They pointed out that 32 per cent area of the coastal belt having about 2,400 kilometre coast-line will be worst affected by rise in sea level as well as other impact of climatic changes. Millions of people will become climate refugees following inundation of 10 to 17 percent of landmass and salinity in the mainland, they said.

They warned that the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest and a world heritage site, might be lost to the sea, if protective measures are not taken to halt the catastrophe. They stressed on afforestation along the coastal belt and building of coastal embankment and cross dams, plantation of cyclonic wind-resistant trees like coconut, palm and bamboos, combating erosion and conducting river training.

In their presentation, the team members cited the example of Bhola, Kutubdia and a number of off-shore islands where erosion became a common phenomenon since 1960. They said the places are threatened due to adverse impact of raise in sea-level. They underscored the need for initiating climate change related research and launching massive campaign for raising awareness among people including farmers, fishermen and the entire commu-

BARISAL BTTB SCAM 10 chargesheeted, trial begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The younger brother of Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar and nine others including a BNP leader and ward commissioner have been chargesheeted in the BTTB revenue misappropriation case.

Trail of the case will begin today. The charge sheet was submitted to the court of Magistrate Munim Hassan on Sunday.

Three of the accused Mayor Sarwar's younger brother Mizanur Rahman Wahid, Mamunur Rahman and Mahboob Molla are in jail. Mahboob Molla was sent to jail when he surrendered to court on Sunday.

The seven absconding accused are BNP leader and BCC ward commissioner Mosharrarf Ali Khan Badsha, Munir Hossain, Sanjeda Rahman, Liton Karmakar, Anwar Hossain Jewel and Apu Talukdar.

The accused persons took 12

illegal telephone connections in false names and addresses 2002 by using their political influence. BTTB officials in Barisal were forced to give those illegal telephone connections.

They ran VOIP network and deprived BTTB of a revenue of about Tk 90 lakh. The anomaly was detected during investigation by a high powered BTTB team from Dhaka early this year. Moreover they did not pay arrear telephone bills amounting to over Tk 84 lakh.

After proclamation of emergency, Mizanur Rahman and Mamunur Rahman were arrested on March 16.

Mizan, while on remand, disclosed the names of others involved in the illegal business.

Patradut editor murder trial resumes today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Daily Patradut editor SM Alauddin Murder Trial will resume at the District and Sessions Judge Court today.

Last month the order was passed after over 11 years of the gruesome murder.

The editor was shot dead by assailants while discharging his professional duties at his Pransayer office here on June 19, 1996.

The murder sparked protest from people of all walks of life. They brought out processions and held rallies demanding arrest and punishment to the killers.

Awami Jubo League activist, also a member of the killing squad Saiful Islam was arrested after five days of the incident. Following his confessional statement, police recovered a cut rifle was used in the murder from a pond at Sultanpur here on June 25.

Saiful also disclosed names of the killers. They are Abdus Sabur, Khaliullah Jhharu, Saifullah Kislul,



SM ALAUDDIN

Momin Ullah Mohon, Abdur Rouf, Abul Kalam, Eskendar Mirza, Atiar Rahman and Safiur Rahman.

The case was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for investigation. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Iqbal Hossain of CID Khulna zone submitted charge sheet with a magistrate's court here as investigation officer (IO) of the case. Charges were pressed

against 10 accused on May 5, 1997. The accused are Abdus Sabur, Khaliullah Jhharu, Saifullah Kislul, Momin Ullah Mohon, Abdur Rouf, Abul Kalam, Eskendar Mirza, Atiar Rahman, Saiful Islam and Safiur Rahman.

Of them, five accused named Saifullah Kislul, Abdur Rouf, Momin Ullah Mohon and Saiful Islam have been detained in jail while five other accused Eskendar Mirza, Atiar Rahman, Safiur Rahman, Abdus Sabur, Khaliullah Jhharu and Abul Kalam are absconding.

The trial was delayed because five of the accused submitted a petition to the High Court (HC) seeking quashment. The HC accepted the petitioners' prayer and quashed the case in 1998. Since then trial of the case remained suspended, on appeal from govt, the Supreme Court rejected the quashment order of the High Court and the trial resumed after 11 years.

KHULNA JUTE MILLS Stalemate on as workers skip duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

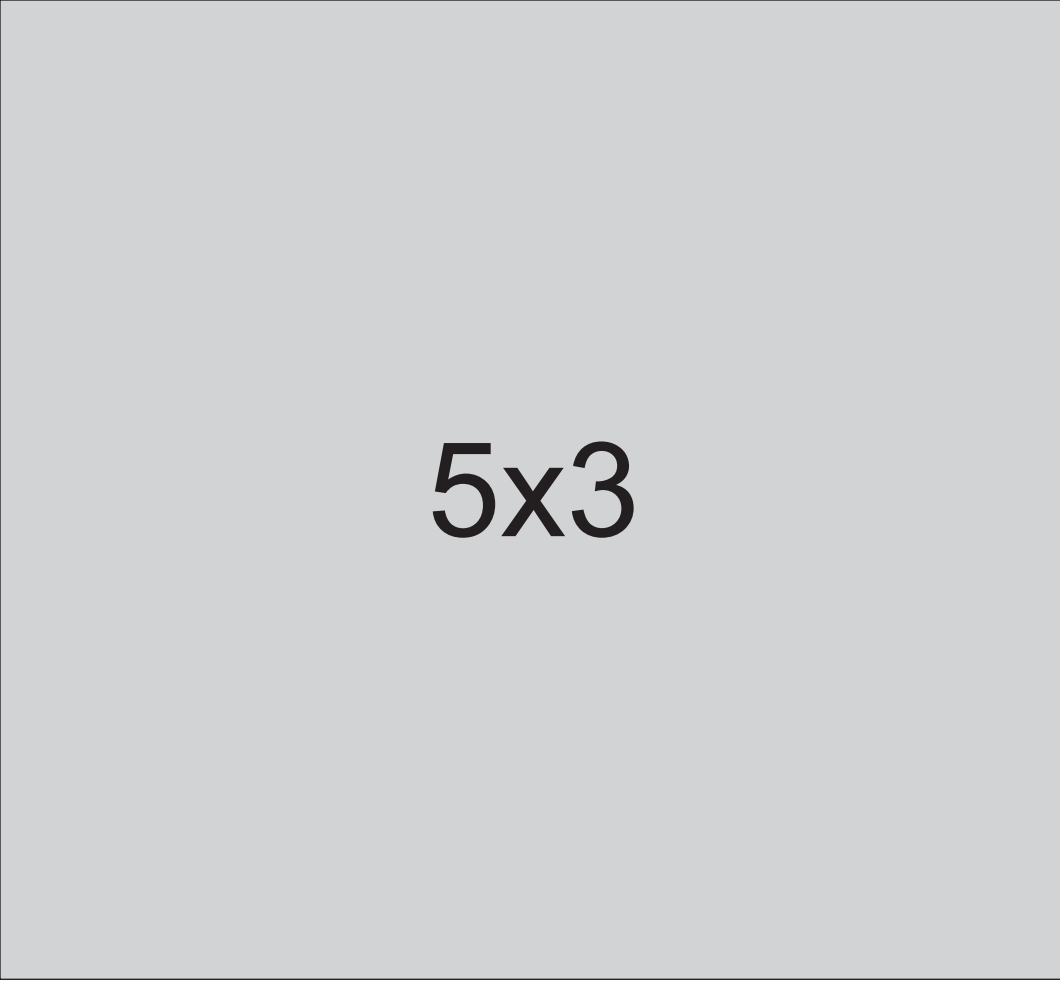
No worker joined work at the sacking section of state-owned Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill which reopened yesterday after 45 days' lay-off.

Workers informed the mill authorities through CBA leaders that 'pressure or threat' would not bring any positive response from workers unless their demands are fully met.

The demands include withdrawal of lay-off order by government and full payment of arrear wages and benefits for the lay-off period.

The Platinum jute mill was among three other state-owned mills laid-off on April 19 in the face of violent agitation by workers in Khalishpur industrial belt that left one dead and over 100 others injured.

Crescent Jute Mills and Star Jute Mills are also facing the same situation where workers refused to join duty.



5x3

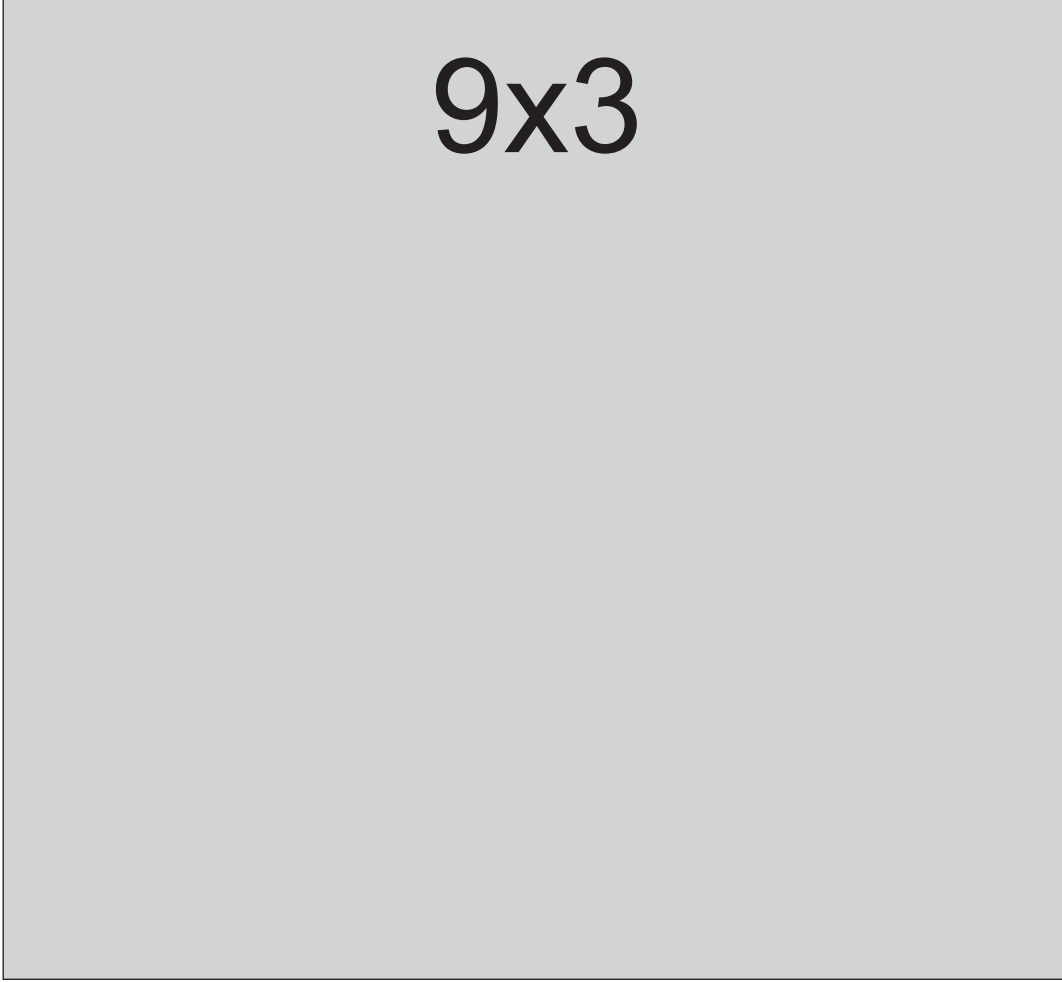


PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Alleged Islamist militants Abdul Momin and Nasir, arrested by Rab from Palika Doa village in Joypurhat district Sunday night.



2.5x2



9x3