

# 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, Katiodi 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, Haibatnagar, 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 Katiodi upazila and Abid, 25, in-charge of Karimganj upazila.

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

Jashim 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 Jashim'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 Jashim.

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 Katiodi 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 Madhya Charipara village in Katiodi 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 Shahabuddin Ahmad Bhuiyan for his alleged involvement in corruption.

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

Acting on a tip-off, joint forces arrested Shahabuddin 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.

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 Hashem Khan from his Ramgarh house and Mohammad Zahangir Alam from Shalbagun area in the Sadar upazila, police said.

## 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.

# Patradut editor murder trial resumes today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

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

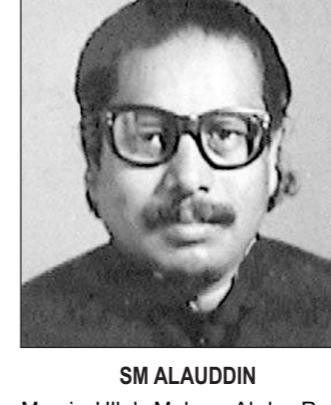
Last month the order was passed after over 11 years of the gruesome murder.

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 Juba 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, Khalilullah Jhharu, Saifullah Kislu, Momin Ullah Mohon, Abdur Rouf, Abul Kalam, Eskendar Mirza, Atiar Rahman, Saiful Islam and Abdus Sabur.



SM ALAUDIN

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

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

## 26 tribal refugee families to be rehabilitated

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khagrachhari

Twenty-six tribal refugee families who had been staying in three educational institutions in Dighinala upazila since their return from India nine years ago, will be settled on government land within 15 days.

This was decided at a meeting of the executive committee of India Returned Tribal Refugee and Internal Refugee Rehabilitation Taskforce at Khagrachhari Circuit House on Sunday.



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

9x3

5x3

2.5x2