

Allahr Dal militants still active in Kushtia

Detained activists tell court, police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Activists of Islamist militant outfit Allahr Dal are regrouping and expanding their activities in Kshitia. It has 56 members including women in the district.

Members of the militant outfit are working among people to establish 'rule of Allah' as they do not have any respect for existing law in the country, according to confessions made by the nine activists before the court of First Class Magistrate Jalal Saifur Rahman.

According to their confession, they were carrying activities in the district since 2003.

The arrested militants are Nazmul Hasan, Tipu Sultan, Zahir Uddin, Tasnim-ul-Alam, Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol, Shafiqul Islam Sumon, Lokman Hossain, all hailing from different areas of Kushtia, Bappi Sharier of Manikganj and Murad Sharif of Faridpur district.

Tasnim-ul-Alam is the son of Abdul Wahed, Jamaat-e-Islami Amir of Kushtia. Tasnim was treasurer of the district unit of the outfit.

Earlier, during interrogation by Rapid Action battalion (Rab) the arrested militants also disclosed names of other party men in the district. Law enforcers said they are trying to arrest the rest.

Trial of the case began in Kushtia Speedy Trial Tribunal on August 26.

On August 20, Sub-Inspector (SI) of Kushtia Sadar police station Ismail Hossain submitted charge sheet of the case to a first class magistrate court, which framed charges on the same day.

Deposition of witnesses will be recorded in the court today, court sources said. The case was filed under the Emergency Powers Act, Section 6 (2).

Matin Mehedi, now detained, is the founder leader of Allar Dal. In his absence, one Salim, a man from Pabna, now runs the party, according to



STAR FILE PHOTO

The nine activists of Islamist militant outfit Allar Dal after their arrest in Kushtia.

ing confession of Kushtia district Nayak (district chief) of Allahr Dal Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol, made in the court on Sunday. He is a 3rd year student of Computer Technology at Kushtia Polytechnic Institute. Rakib also detailed the hierarchy of the party.

The nine activists were arrested along with books on Jihad by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a nightlong drive in different areas of the district on June 5. The drive was launched following an intelligence report that Allahr Dal activists were regrouping in the district. Rab sources said they arrested 24 men and released 15 of them after interrogation.

Following interrogation after their arrest, Rab at a press conference said that the arrested persons admitted that they were members of Allar dal.

Rab handed over the nine militants to Kushtia Sadar police on

June 6. Police on June 7 produced them before court, which sent them to jail.

Police filed a case against the militants under Emergency Powers Act on the basis of a written statement by Deputy Assistant Director of Rab-12 in Kushtia Ali Hossain. Later, three of the militants were sent to Dhaka on June 10 for interrogation, police and Rab sources said.

They are Kushtia district Nayak Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol, Shafiqul Islam Sumon and Nazmul Hasan Jweel.

During interrogation in Dhaka, the three also admitted their that they were members of Allar Dal and were active in Kushtia.

They said two members --Shakil and Ashikboth first year students of Kushtia Government College, led party activities under supervision of Matin Mehedi and his 'deputy' Salim when it was launched in 2003. Matin Mehdi and Salim often visited

Kushtia at that time. They took shelter at different students' messes in the town.

Ranak Mohammad Rakib Mondol was made district Nayak of the outfit in February 2007. According to the hierarchy, a Nayak is the chief of the party in a district, followed by 'Thana Nayak' and 'Gram Nayak'.

District Nayak communicates with the party chief and is responsible for collecting money from members and sending it to Dhaka. Kushtia district Jamaat Amir's son Tasnim joined the militant group in 2004 when he was second year student of Kushtia Government College. Ranak and Tasnim are friends. Tasnim was treasurer of the district unit since 2005.

Editor of Kushtia dailies, BNP leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Sihab Uddin, editor of two Kushtia local dailies, was arrested here Monday night.

Sihab is editor of Bazrapat and The Daily Mateer Dak.

He is also president of Kushtia Bus Minibus Owner Association and elder brother of former BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-3 Shorab Uddin.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) police raided Sihab's business office at Dadapur Road in Mazampur area in Kushtia town at about 9:30pm and arrested him.

Sihab is also tobacco supplier to British American Tobacco Company and owns SB Paribahan (transport company).

He is also involved with many socio-cultural organizations and member of district law and order committee.

Police said they arrested Sihab under Emergency Powers Act though there is no case against him.

Yesterday, police produced him before a magistrate court, which sent him to Kushtia jail.

On the same night, Mirpur police arrested local BNP leader Khondokar Tipu Sultan from his house.

Police said Tipu, president of Phulbaria union BNP, was accused in upazila BNP president Mamun-Or-Rasul Babu Khan murder case. Babu Khan was killed in 2003. Police yesterday produced Tipu before a court, which sent him to jail.

Open House Day held at Kalaroa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police have to gain trust of the people to make the society free from crime, speakers said at open house discussion at Kalaroa police station in Satkhira yesterday.

Speakers also urged the police to be more cooperative with the complaints.

Satkhira police superintendent (SP) Mirza Abdullahel Baki was present as chief guest while Kalaroa upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Shamimul Haque Siddique was the special guest.

Civil society members, union parishad chairman and members, journalists, businessmen and local people attended the discussion.

Housewife 'commits suicide' in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Meherchandi area of Rajshahi city yesterday noon.

She was identified as Rahema Begum, 35, wife of Golam Murtuza of Meherchandi Purbopara village.

Victim's family sources said Rahema took poison following a bickering with her mother-in-law.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Mother police station in the connection, sources said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hindu community people brought out a colourful procession in Chittagong city yesterday marking the Janmastomi.

More 64 sacked at Peoples Jute Mills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sixty four security guards of closed Peoples Jute mills (PJM) have been sacked. They got a notice in this regard Monday evening.

The notice was signed by Project Director Habibur Rahman.

In the notice, the project director said 64 security guards of the closed jute mill are sacked with effect from August 31 this year as their services are no longer required.

He did not make any comment why the notice was sent five days later.

Retrenchment of the security guards has created tension in Khalishpur industrial belt as they are also yet get payment of their arrears dues, said labour leader Abdur Rahman.

Time is running out fore the management to avoid any further movement as workers and employees are determined not to take any partial payment, he said.

Fertiliser bags recovered from PHED store

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered 300 sacks of fertiliser from an abandoned storehouse of Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) in Mirpur upazila Tuesday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Mirpur thana police raided the storehouse and seized the fertilizer bags.

Sirajganj farmers face seedlings, fertiliser crises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

With recession of flood water, there are signs of devastation all around but farmers are in fields with new hopes to grow Amon paddy and early winter vegetables. Sirajganj was the worst affected district with most areas of its nine upazilas reeling under waters from Mighty Jamauna this year.

According to district agriculture officials' estimate, at least Tk 72 crore crops including paddy, jute, sugarcane and vegetables on 47,407 hectares were damaged by flood.

Sources in Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said there are 56,124 hectares of cultivable land in 81 unions in nine upazilas of the district. The flood damaged crops on 22,762 hectares fully and 24,645 hectares partially, affecting about 230,000 families.

With recession of flood water, AED with assistance of district administration and Army has taken a post flood rehabilitation programme. Under the programme, the government has sanctioned Tk 4 crore and Tk 2 crore of it has been made available to assist farmers in cultivation of rice and vegetables, AED sources said.

This correspondent visited different areas of the district, where farmers said they face crisis Amon seedlings and fertilizer, which hamper cultivation. They are collecting seedlings from far away places at high prices as the seedbeds had gone under flood water.



PHOTO: STAR

The big Hatikumrul market in Sirajganj is alive with farmers also from neighbouring districts who sell Amon seedlings. But prices are higher this year.

Adul Kader of Tarash said that he sowed Amon seeds on one and half bigha of land. All reeled under water. He has purchased seedlings at Tk 300 per 80 bundles which were sold at between Tk 70 and Tk 80 last year.

AED officials said they have set a target to bring 50,220 hectares under Amon cultivation.

Many farmers said they are transplanting Amon seedlings for the second time in about a month as the first transplantation was damaged by flood.

Some farmers said they have borrowed from local moneylenders to cultivate crops after flood.

All of them said they now need smooth supply of fertilizer.

A high official of the district administration seeking anonymity



PHOTO: STAR

Road link between Panchhari and Dudukchhari in Khagrachhari district is snapped since Monday as soil near the Pujangmuk bridge was washed away by heavy rains.

4x3

15x3