

12 more Hizbut Tawhid suspects arrested in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Kochua police, acting on a tip-off, arrested 12 more suspected militants belonging to Hizbut Tawhid from the town and Sachar Friday night.

Of them, three were nabbed from houses in Kochua fire service area and nine from Sachar. Police Superintendent Obaidur Rahman Khan said.

He said at least 15 suspected militants escaped the police raids. Police have launched operations in different areas of the district to arrest them, he said.

He said 39 activists of Hizbut Tawhid led by Nahid came to Kochua from Uttara, Dhaka to spread religious militancy

among people.

Another team of the same organisation came to Matlab recently to distribute handbills, leaflets and CD. But they are yet to be traced, the police superintendent said.

On Friday, police raided some areas of Kochua Pourasabha and adjacent villages and arrested 12 suspected militants of the organisation.

All the arrested 24 suspected militants aged between 18 and 54 were produced before the judicial magistrate court here at about 4:30 pm yesterday.

Judge Rezaul Karim rejected their bail petition and ordered police to submit their enquiry

reports against all the accused within 15 days.

The 24 are Ismail Hossain Akash of Barisal Sadar, Jamal Uddin Rubel of Feni, Masudur Rahman of Dhaka, Hafibur Rahman of Brahmanbaria, Robul Hoq of Bagerhat, Babul Mia of Mirpur in Dhaka, Abdur Raquib of Rajbari, Shahin Mahmud of Tangail, Kamrul Islam of Babuganj in Barisal, Md Shahin of Munshiganj, Md Jashimuddin of Kishoreganj, Al Amin of Bhola Sadar, Rajir of South Badda in Dhaka, Monwar Hossain of Tangail and Mostafa Talukder of Tangail.

Earlier, the suspected militants from arrested Kochua were brought to Chandpur town at around 3.15 pm in a police van.



PHOTO: STAR

Rokeya Khatun, mother of four martyred freedom fighters, was accorded a reception by Nilmoni Gallery, a sports and cultural body in Pabna yesterday.

A proud mother honoured at last

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

It was a solemn occasion when Nilmoni Gallery, a local sports and cultural organization, accorded a reception to families of martyred freedom fighters in Pabna.

Those attended the reception included Rokeya Khatun, whose four sons and a son-in-law embraced martyrdom for an independent Bangladesh. Rokeya Khatun, now in her 80s, was given a reception for the first time this year.

The function, held on Bonomali Institute premise Friday evening, began with lighting 37 candles in honour of martyred freedom fighters in the district. Abdul Kaum Sarkar Bablu, son of martyred freedom fighter Baul MA Gafur lit the candles.

The function was attended by freedom fighters, intellectuals, cultural activists, officials and elite of the town.

Former player and Nilmoni Gallery advisor Md. Abdul Wahab chaired the function while Prof Md. Nurunnabi was the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Rokeya Khatun thanked the organizers for giving her the reception. She said her sons and son-in-law sacrificed their lives to establish a happy and prosperous society in independent Bangladesh. But it is yet to be established.

She said she could forget the pains of losing her sons if she could see none is deprived in independent Bangladesh. But this is still far away.

She lamented that like her, families of many martyred freedom fighters are passing hard days due to poverty as previous governments

did nothing for them except giving a paltry allowance.

She regretted that collaborators of the Pakistani occupation army who were responsible for deaths of many people are yet to be tried.

They should be tried and punished to establish rule of law and the spirit of the Liberation War.

The four sons of Rokeya Khatun who embraced martyrdom are Mosharaf Hossain Ranju, Mostak Hossain Anju, Mokaram Hossain Mukul and Mansur Hossain Manju. Her martyred son-in-law is Eusuf Ali.

Among others, the reception was also attended by Kutizan Nesa, mother of martyred freedom fighter Abul Hashem.

Other speakers said it is our national duty to pay homage to martyrs families. If we fail to do so, we will lose our identity, they added.

3-day training for journo ends today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A three-day training programme on economic and business reporting will conclude here today.

European Union (EU) and Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), an NGO, jointly organised the training for the working journalists here.

Held at the Media Centre here, the inaugural session was presided by elderly journalist Aminul Islam while it was attended by army camp commander here Lt Col Abu Naser Md Toha as chief guest. Nilphamari Pourasabha chairman Dewan Kamal Ahmed and Syedpur Pourasabha chairman Akhtar Hossein Badal were present as special guests.

Twenty-five journalists of both the print and the electronic media participated.

UP leader sued for VGF rice scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Five people including the acting chairman of Keragachahi Union Parishad (UP) in Kalaroa upazila, Abdul Gafoor have been sued for misappropriating and selling VGF rice, police said.

Kalaroa Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Mir Morshed Rana filed the case with Kalaroa police station on Friday, they said.

The other accused are Karagachchi UP member Farooque Hossain, shop owner Anwarul Islam of Boalia village, Babar Ali and Hasina Begum of Baksa village in Kalaroa upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, PIO Morshed Rana and police jointly raided a shop and a house at night, police said. They recovered six gunnybags of VGF rice from the shop of Anwarul Islam and four bags of VGF rice from the house of Hasina Begum, they said. Both Anwarul and Hasina said to police that they had bought rice from the UP chairman and member.

When contacted, the acting chairman of Keragachchi UP Abdul Gafoor refuted the allegations saying he is not aware about the incident.

On contact, Kalaroa police station officer-in-charge (OC) Noor Islam confirmed the incident.

Schoolboy abducted for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthira

Armed criminals allegedly belonging to an outlawed party abducted a school student for ransom at Garabaria village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur Friday night.

Storming the house of Azizul Islam at the village, the criminals confined all the family members at gunpoint and demanded Tk 1 lakh as toll from Azizul, police said.

Being refused, the gang picked up his son Rabiul Islam Razon, 14, a class eight student of Kutubpur High School, police said.

Later the abductors made a phone call, asking Azizul to give them Tk 50,000 to get back his son alive. Azizul informed local police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).



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