

# Eight Hizbut Touhid militants arrested

Books, leaflets, CDs seized in Noakhali

A CORRESPONDENT,  
Noakhali

Sudharam police yesterday arrested eight suspected members of banned Islamist outfit Hizbut Touhid, three of them women, from the third floor of a house in Uttar Fakirpur area in the town.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by senior

ASP Md Moniruzzaman raided the house known as "Judge Bhaban" at noon and rounded them up.

Police also recovered a huge number of books on militancy, leaflets, letters, 30 CDs, Tk one lakh, two cheque books, eight mobile phone sets and four identity cards from possession of the arrestees.

The arrestees are district

amir of the outfit Md Mainuddin, 24, Abdus Sobhan, 55, Md Russell, 18, Hasna Akter, 18, Nargis Akter, 27, Hosne Ara Begum, 48, Abdul Wahid Mamun, 28, and Sajib, 18.

Police said six arrestees hailed from Purkora village under Sonaimuri upazila in the district. Of the other two--Abdul Wahid Mamun came from Bhouak village

under Sonagazi upazila while Sajib from Uttar Farkirpur village under Sadar upazila.

Contacted, Moniruzzaman said Laxmipur district detective branch (DB) of police last month recovered some banned books.

A mobile phone number was found in one of those books. Tracking the mobile number, police first arrested Mamun from in front of Woodland Hospital at Napiter Pool area in the morning, he said.

Following his confession, police arrested militant Mainuddin from in front of Sonali Bank treasury branch and on the basis of their information, police arrested the rest six from the third floor of the "Judge Bhaban" at Uttar Farkirpur in Noakhali Sadar.

Earlier on March 10, Sonaimuri police arrested Md Mainuddin from Purkora village after a three-hour-long gunfight.

Police also arrested 23 other militants and recovered several locally made weapons from the arrestees. But all of them were later freed on bail.

Noakhali police superintendent Harun-or-Rashid Hazari told journalists that the arrestees might have been carrying out militant activities under the banner of Hizbut Touhid founded by Imam Bayazid Khan Panni of Tangail.

The arrestees are now being interrogated, he said without giving further details.



PHOTO: STAR

The arrested suspected members of banned Islamist militant outfit Hizbut Touhid in Noakhali Sadar upazila and inset, the seized books and equipment.

## BSF arrests Bangladeshi, BDR rounds up Indian

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday evening abducted a Bangladeshi from Hudapara border point in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga district.

Soon after the incident, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members also caught an Indian national from the same border point.

According to a source in BDR 35 Rifles Battalion, a BSF team from Gongra camp in Nadia district of West Bengal picked up one Bangladeshi, identified as Babul Akter, 42, from main pillar no-95 of the border point at about 6:30 pm.

Later, a BDR team from Hudapara outpost caught Mukti Ghosh, 36, of Chittamara in Nadia district.

According to BDR, they nabbed the Indian when he was trying to enter Bangladesh territory through Hudapara border area without any legal document.

BDR sent a letter to BSF protesting abduction of the Bangladeshi. They also informed the BSF about arrest of an Indian and asked for a flag meeting.

BSF, in reply, agreed to hold a flag meeting in the evening, BDR sources said.

## One sued for killing in '71

UNB, Jhalakati

A case was filed against an alleged razakar (collaborator) on Friday for killing two freedom fighters at Razpakha village in Sadar upazila during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Freedom fighter Belayet Hossain of the village filed the case against alleged razakar Hossain Matubbar of nearby Goramgol village.

The complainant said that the accused at gunpoint handed over Tota Howlader, Aziz Akon and his father Azhar Ali to Pakistani occupation forces on September 19, 1971.

Later, Pakistani military sprayed bullets on them on the bank of a nearby river killing Tota and Aziz on the spot. Belayet's freedom fighter father, however, luckily escaped unhurt.

## 500 'jihadi' books seized from Shibir-controlled room at RU hall

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police aided by Rajshahi University (RU) authorities on Saturday night seized more than 500 'jihadi' (pro-Islamist uprising) books, kept for distribution by World Assembly of Muslim Youths (WAMY), from a Shibir controlled room at Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall.

Hall sources said, at around 8:30pm, the hall authorities opened the room which was apparently locked for nine months since takeover of the new university administration.

But the room was used as WAMY Bangladesh office and run by Shibir men of the hall unit. WAMY was set up during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat led government defying the university rules and regulations, sources said.

On Saturday, the university proctorial body along with police raided the hall, seized the jihadi books and sealed the room.

During the raid, the joint team seized more than 500 books which include 'Fatwa Gurutta Proyojan' (the importance and necessity of religious edict) by Islamic Law Research Centre and Legal Aid Bangladesh, 'Islami Renaissance Andolan' and 'Islami Samaj Biplober Dhara' by Sayed Abul Ala Moududi,

'Simantey Eagle' by Naseeb Hizaji, 'Rajael O Israel' by Moududi, 'Adhunik Juge Islamer Biplober Proyojan' (the necessity of Islamic revolution in modern times) by Muhammad Kamruzzaman and 'Towards Understanding Islam' by Moududi.

Resident students of the hall said they were never aware of the matter that Shibir ran and continued their jihadi propaganda from the room.

Prof Mortoza Khaled, provost of Shamsuzzoha Hall, said being aware of the activities, he informed the matter to the university proctor and law enforcers as it is illegal to set up any such office at RU hall.

RU proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria said they seized the books and sealed the room as Shibir established the office defying university rules.

'I have formed a committee to investigate the matter. I will take legal steps on receipt of the report,' he said.

Hall unit Shibir president Muzahid could not be contacted for his comments as he was not available at RU.

Officer-in-charge of Motihar police station Tofazzal Hossain told this correspondent that police will go into action on getting direction from the university authorities.

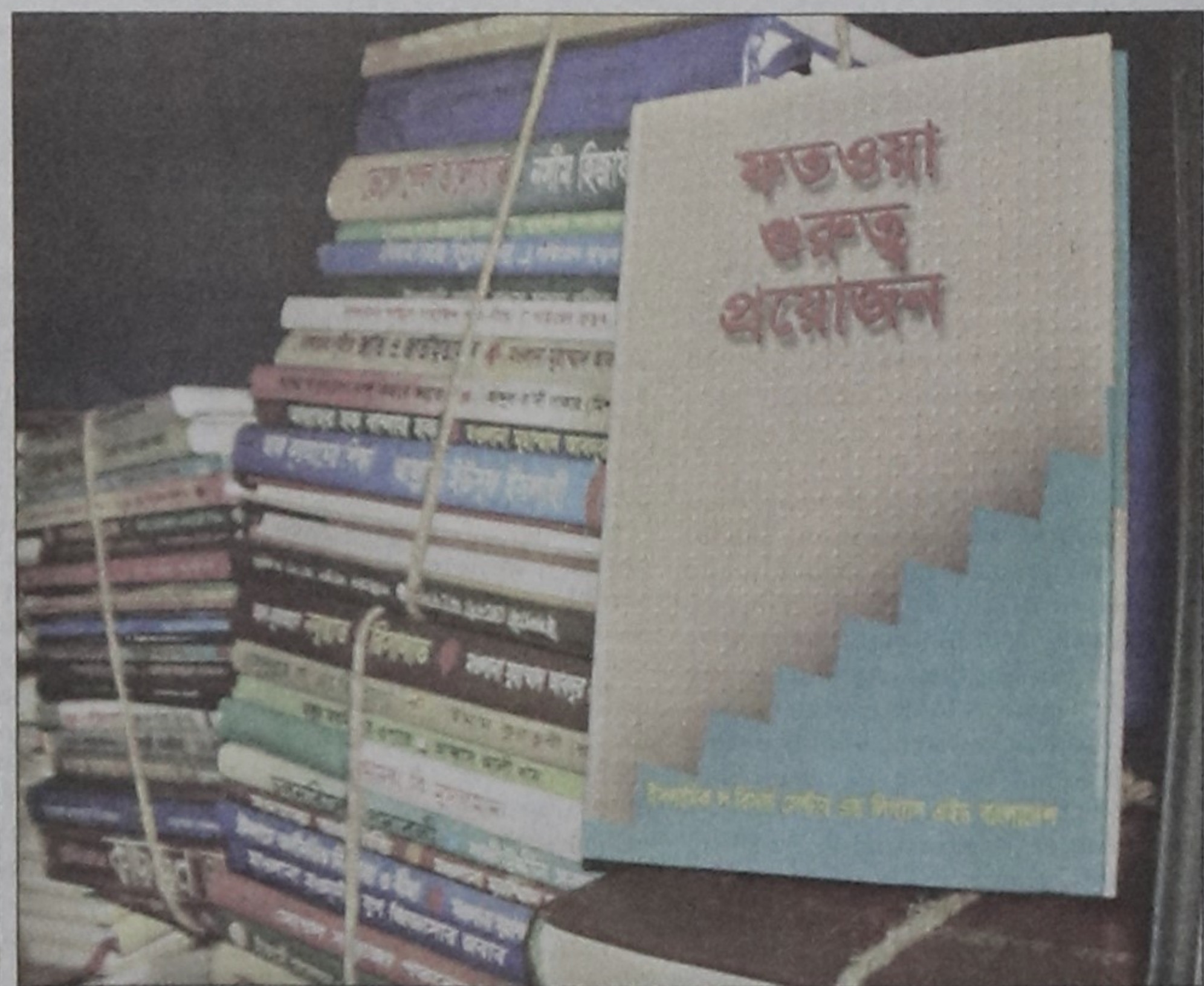


PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi University authorities aided by police seize over 500 'jihadi' books from a Shibir-controlled room at Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Hall of the university yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

This elephant, hired by The Papon Circus for an exhibition at Naohata in Paba upazila of Rajshahi district, died yesterday. Locals said the elephant died of cold as it was left under the open sky amid biting chill.

## 18 big roadside trees looted in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

Criminals backed by local political leaders are looting trees beside Jamalpur-Gopalpur road in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha in broad daylight.

During last three days, a gang of timber lifters felled 18 big roadside trees and took away the trunks and logs on pushcarts and rickshaw vans, said local people.

Following protest from locals, police seized some of the logs from looters.

During this correspondent's visit to the area yesterday, former executive director of defunct NGO Gudsek Zillur Rahman said, "In 1995 we had planted about 12,000 saplings of eucalyptus, mahogany, rain tree, and epil epil beside different roads of the union under the tree plantation programme of forest department. Over 8,000 of the saplings have survived so far."

"After the NGO was closed following internal disagreement in 1999, a section of people started grabbing roadside trees in the name of defunct organisation."

During the last Awami League rule, a leader of Jamalpur union Awami League took permission from the Social Welfare Department by forming a committee of NGO Gudsek, which exists in name only. He and his associates have been grabbing properties including roadside trees, Zillur said.

This correspondent could not contact the said AL leader

despite repeated attempts over cell phone.

"There was a contract with NGO Gudsek that poor beneficiaries, who are employed to look after the plants, will get 60 percent price of the trees, the NGO will get 20 percent while the remaining 20 percent will go to local union parishad. Neither the union parishad nor the beneficiaries had received the percent-

age of money in the past. I do not know what is happening now," said Nuruzzaman, chairman of Jamalpur union parishad.

"NGO Gudsek is now virtually non-existent, except in papers. But some people are trying to revive the defunct organisation," said Upazila Social Welfare Officer Shariful Islam.

Hasan Imam, officer-in-

charge of Sadullapur Police Station, said they have seized some logs of the felled down trees in the area as per order of the upazila nirbahi officer and legal step will be taken as soon as the case is filed.

Several local people have alleged that the tree looters are creating pressure to release the seized logs from police custody.



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals remove logs of the felled trees by rickshaw vans in broad daylight in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha.

## Cheating case against KHDC chief, 2 others dismissed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday dismissed a cheating case filed with the court on October 28 against Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) chairman and two others.

The court dismissed the case as the charges brought against the three by the plaintiff could not be proved.

Court sources said Matiranga Samik League Vice-President Mohammad Abul Kalam filed the case KHDC Chairman Rubity Karbary, councillor Abu Bakar Siddiq and his brother Mohammad Rubel.

In the case statement, Kalam said chairman Rubity Karbary and councillor Abu Bakar Siddiq took Tk 50,000 from him through Rubel in the name of allocating 10 MT of food grains for him to cultivate fish in Alutla Battali area under Matiranga upazila on September 8 this year. But the chairman did not allocate food grains against him.

## THOUSANDS JOIN RAJ PUNYAH FEST

## Complete peace needed for dev, says Raja Devashish

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Rangamati

Raj Punyah, the traditional royal festival of the Chakma dynasty, began on the premises of Chakma Rajbari (palace) amid great enthusiasm and fanfare in Rangamati hill town yesterday.

On the first day of the three-day festival, thousands

of indigenous people including Chakma, Marma, Tangchagya, Tripura, Pankhua, Lusai, Khyang, Bawm and Chak communities from Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill districts thronged the Rajbari premises.

Chakma King barrister Devasish Roy and prince Tribhuban Arya Dev Roy,

accompanied by royal advisers, came to the Darbar Hall and sat on makeshift thrones in presence of a huge crowd at the opening ceremony.

As per tradition, the headmen (mouza chiefs) of the Chakma Circle paid respect to their king through handing over of the royal sword.

"The decades-long disturbance in Chittagong Hill Tracts is over due to signing of the historic peace accord. Now we want to see that hill people are benefited by the peace treaty," Raja Devasish said in his speech for the audience on the palace compound.

He urged full implementation of the accord and steps for development of the hill tracts people.

He also emphasised involving women in every development activities.

Later, Devasish Roy received annual 'jhum' taxes from the 175 headmen of 175 mouzas under his circle.

His subjects also gave him different gifts including chickens, pies and wine.



PHOTO: STAR

Chief of Chakma Circle Raja Devasish Roy receiving a royal sword handed to him as token of respect by a headman at Raj Darbar on the first day of Raj Punyah festival in Rangamati town yesterday.