

# Two Huji men rounded up in Habiganj

## Charge-framing against six in Sylhet grenade attack case deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested Habiganj pourasava unit president of Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal Maulana Quasem Billah alias Noman and his brother Arif Billah, suspected Harkatul-Jihad (Huji) activists, at their house at Purbo Pukra village in Baniachang upazila early yesterday.

They were produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court, Habiganj, in the afternoon with a prayer for 10 days' remand. The hearing on the remand prayer will be held today.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Zillur Rahman told newsmen that Noman and Arif were arrested following a statement given by Huji activist Mizanur Rahman Mithu at TFI cell in the capital. Mithu was earlier



PHOTO: STAR  
Kashem Billah Noman and his brother Arif Billah, arrested on suspicion of their involvement with banned Islamist outfit Huji early yesterday, were produced before Habiganj Judicial Magistrate's Court in the afternoon.

arrested by Rab in connection with the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

After having madrasa education, Arif served as a teacher at Katkhal Madrasa in Baniachang upazila while Noman is a herbal medicine practitioner at New Bengal

Habiganj district. Meanwhile, Sylhet District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday deferred charge-framing against six accused in the case for grenade attack on the venue of a rally of the city AL in 2004.

Judge Md Momin Ullah deferred the charge-framing to June 16 as Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, the prime accused in the case, could not be produced in the court, court sources said.

The grenade attack took place on the premises of the city's Gulshan Centre, minutes after a meeting of the city AL on the night of August 7, 2004 that left City AL office secretary Mohammad Ibrahim dead and 50 others injured.

CID submitted the charge-sheet in the case against Huji chief Mufti Hannan and five others in 2007.

### ASSAULT ON RINA AKHTER 3 Sharankhola Jubo League men expelled

UNB, Bagherhat

Three leaders of Sharankhola unit Jubo League were temporarily expelled yesterday on charge of manhandling Rina Akhtar Sagar, upazila vice chairman and secretary of upazila Mahila Awami League (AL).

They are Azmal Hossain Mukta, general secretary of Sharankhola upazila Jubo League and Dulal Akon, office secretary and Jamal Uddin Akon, joint secretary of Khontakata union unit.

The expulsion order was jointly signed by acting central Jubo League president Omar Faruk Chowdhury and general secretary Mirza Azam MP.

Besides, a committee has been formed to probe the incident of manhandling of Rina Akhtar.

The expelled leaders were also served show cause notices asking to reply within May 18 as to why they should not be expelled permanently from the party.

Earlier, Azmal, with other activists of Jubo League tortured Rina when she was returning home from the upazila parishad office on Sunday noon.

### Rivals attack Sylhet JCD leader

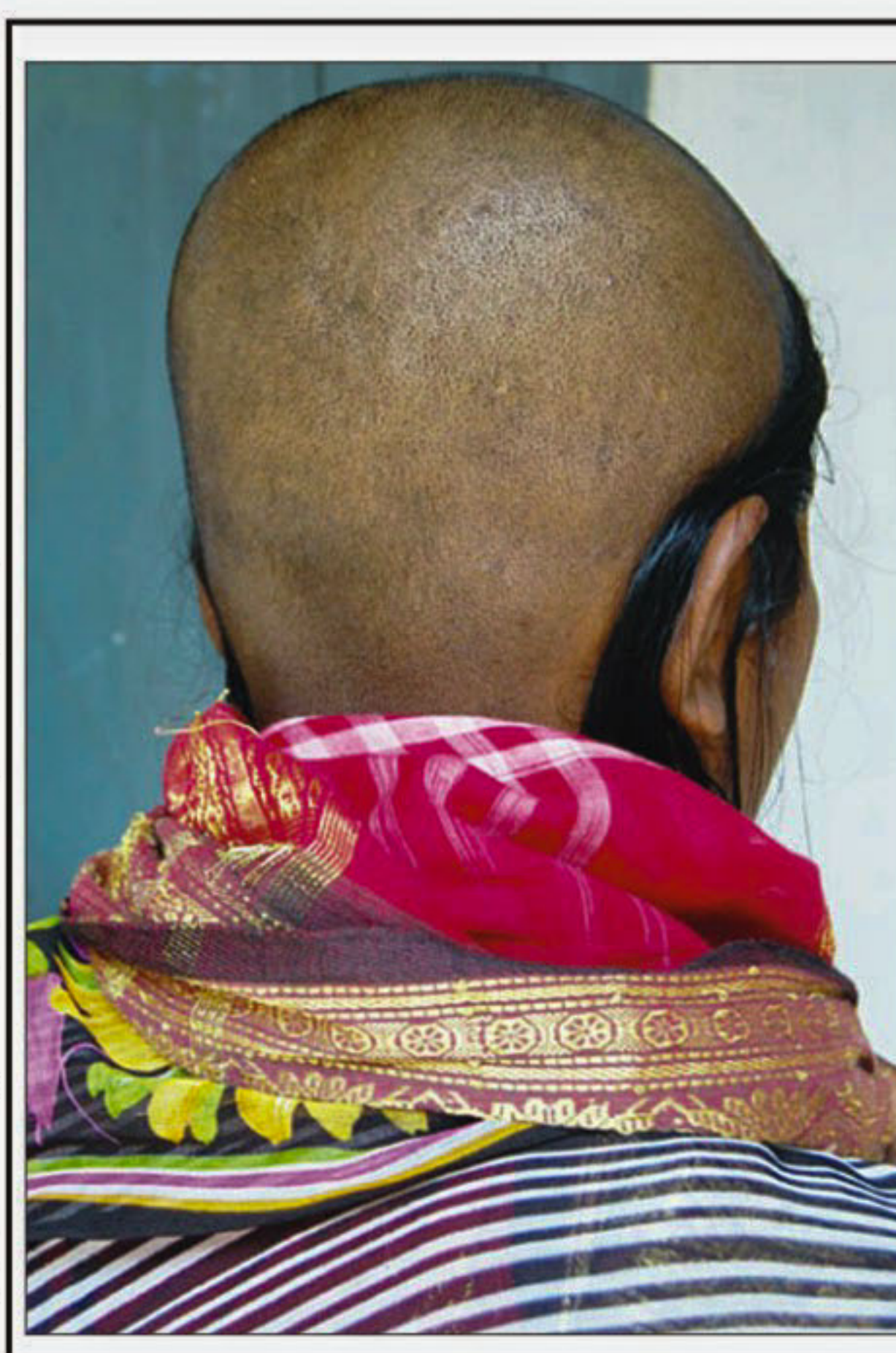
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Government College unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Abdul Rakib Chowdhury and his brother businessman Abdul Hasib Chowdhury were injured in an attack allegedly by a faction of JCD yesterday afternoon.

The attackers also vandalised Hasib's private car. Hasib with wounds of sharp weapons was admitted to a private hospital while Rakib took first aid.

Rakib claimed a group of attackers coming by a microbus and three motorbikes swooped on them when they stepped out of their house in Naiorpu area at about 1:00 pm.

"Nantu, Farhad, Muhit, Saju and others of a JCD faction made the attack", alleged Rakib dubbing them as muggers.



### Barbarity of a dowry-hungry husband

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A cruel husband has cut the hair of his wife as she failed to meet his demand for dowry.

Police yesterday arrested the accused, Babul Hossain of Jamtola village in Jessore Sadar upazila on charge of barbaric torture on his wife.

"My husband Babul Hossain of Jamtola village used to torture me for dowry since our marriage three years ago," said the victim, Halima Khatun, 25, daughter of Abdus Salam of Bolorampur village under Sadar upazila.

On Sunday noon, Babul cut all the hair on her head and kept her locked in the house.

Later she managed to escape from there and filed a complaint with Kotwali Police Station on Wednesday.

# Drive soon to flush out Sundarbans criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The home ministry has decided to launch crackdown in the Sundarbans anytime this month to arrest criminals, Islamist militants and pirates and seize illegal arms and ammunition.

A high level meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 21 took the decision, said a highly placed source.

Earlier the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment and Forests submitted a report to the home ministry recommending immediate crackdown in the Sundarbans to contain rampant piracy, robbery and abduction of fishermen for ransom.

Officials of Sundarbans Forest Division also reported to law enforcers several incidents of killing of fishermen for failing to pay ransom.

Police, Rapid Action Battalion, coastguard and forest department have received messages from the home ministry to get ready for launching crackdown on criminals hiding in the Sundarbans and seize their arms.

Recently alarming increase in abduction of fishermen for ransom and attack on forest officials and guards by pirates in the Sundarbans has led to negative impact on fishing and local economy as well.

There is information to intelligence agencies that

criminals of the south-western region are using the Sundarbans as a safe haven where they hide after implementing 'killing missions' and committing other serious crimes.

Illegal arms trade is also going on in the forest since long. Most of these arms come from India through pirates of that country, said sources of Sundarbans Forest Division. There are over a hundred hideouts of pirates in some 6,000 square kilometres area of the Sundarbans.

The crackdown is likely to begin before the rains, said Mihir Kumar, divisional forest officer of the East Wing of Sundarbans Forest Division.



PHOTO: STAR  
One of the two spotted deer, captured by villagers adjacent to Sharankhola Range of the Sunderbans East Zone yesterday morning, was released to the Sundarbans but the other died when the two were being taken to Sharankhola station after villagers handed them over to the Forest Department officials.



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