

32 Jamaat, Shibir men held in four districts

Khulna arrestees to be chargesheeted tomorrow

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 32 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested from Brahmanbaria, Joypurhat, Naogaon and Satkhira districts Friday night and Saturday.

In Khulna, charges will be pressed against 20 named and 200 other unidentified Jamaat men tomorrow in a case filed on June 30.

In Brahmanbaria, police arrested 18 Shibir and two Jamaat men from a house at Kazipara in the district town at about 12:30pm, reports our correspondent.

Officer-in-charge Mohammad Hamidul Islam of Sadar police station said a secret meeting, led by Shibir district unit secretary Rashidul Kabir Rana, was

going on in the house where two Jamaat leaders were present.

Police said that the Jamaat leaders -- Noman and Shibli came to the town from Dhaka to attend the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting could not be known immediately, they added.

According to our Dinajpur correspondent, seven Shibir leaders and activists, including president and general secretary of its Akkelpur unit were arrested at Royer village in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat district Friday night.

The law enforcers also seized books on Jihad, organisational schedule and other important documents.

Officer-in-charge Moklesur Rahman of Akkelpur police station claimed that the seven were arrested from Shah

Sikandar Jam-e-Mosque while holding a secret meeting.

A case was filed with the local police station in this connection.

Our correspondent from Chapainawabganj adds: Three Shibir activists were arrested while pasting posters on the walls at Doyal Crossing in Naogaon town early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Abdur Rahim, 18, of Paroil village in Raninagar upazila, Mohammad Habib, 20, of Jaboi village in Sapahar upazila and Mohammad Harunur Rashid, 22, of south Labonpur village in Patnitala upazila.

Police said they arrested the three Shibir men with the posters at about 6:00 am demanding unconditional release of Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali

Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, Delwar Hossain Saydee.

In Satkhira, police nabbed two Jamaat activists from Dhulihar Bazaar in Sadar upazila while they were putting posters in public places demanding release of their three central leaders early Friday.

The arrestees were identified as Faruk Hossain, son of Ismail Hossain of Sreekantapur village in Paikgchha upazila of Khulna and Atiar Rahman of Dhulihar village of the same upazila.

According to our staff correspondent in Khulna: Police will press charges on Monday against 26 named and 200 other unidentified Jamaat men in a case filed on June 30 on charge of assaulting Khulna Sadar police station OC Munirul Gias and three constables.

The chargesheeted accused include city Ameer of Jamaat and former lawmaker Mian Golam Parwar.

Sub Inspector Rezaul Karim lodged two separate FIRs on the night of June 30 as complainant. Later the two FIRs were recorded as regular cases, one under Speedy Trial Act while the other under Section 307 of BPC.

Police arrested 26 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir from Khulna City on June 30.

Twenty-one accused out of 26 were remanded twice since their arrest for interrogation, said acting OC Mamun Khan.

On June 30, Jamaat and Shibir men made an attempt to bring out a militant procession at Dakbunglow square in protest against arrest of their three top leaders, he said.

Police dispersed the protesters charging batons against them. While going away, Jamaat and Shibir activists attacked police with sticks and threw brickbats and stones at them injuring OC Munirul Gias and three constables, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Sardarer Char Primary School in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha is on the brink of extinction as turbulent Jamuna approaches only a few feet from the building. The photo was taken yesterday.

Erosion in Gaibandha makes over 650 families homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Erosion by Jamuna River has taken a serious turn in Saghata and Fulchhari upazilas, rendering over 650 families homeless during the last three days.

With the recession of water level in the Jamuna, the river has devoured large areas of cultivable lands, trees and structures on one and a half kilometre area on its west bank in Fulchhari upazila.

Locals said 350 families have been displaced and the erosion now threatens Fulchhari Degree College, a madrasa, a mosque, a temple, a few schools and a spot commemorating liberation war martyrs. Densely populated Majhipara area is now on the verge of erosion.

Sardarer Char Primary School, Angaridah Government Primary School, Char Krishnamoni Primary School, Baghbari Primary School and

Dhalipathdoya Primary School are threatened as the river has already come up to the premises, said Abdul Gafur Mandol, chairman of Fulchhari union.

As erosion has come up to only eight feet from Sardarer Char Primary School, the house is being sold at an auction on emergency basis, said Fulchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Jahidul Islam.

During visit to the affected areas yesterday, this correspondent saw many people shifting their household articles to safer places. They have taken shelter on nearby abandoned embankment, erecting makeshift sheds.

At least 300 families have already shifted to safe places as their homestead went into the river and many other villagers are threatened, said Amir Ali of village Chalkpara in Saghata upazila.

The people of erosion-affected Chalkpara, Hatbari, Hasikandi, Chinir

Potol, Kamarpara, Kumarpara, Haldia, Digholkandi villages are passing days amid anxiety.

"I have lost my homestead during last three days. This time the erosion is alarming. Every hour chunks of three to five square feet areas are being devoured," said Nurunnabi Sarker of village Baushi.

One-third areas of Gajaria union went into the river, but the authorities concerned did not take any initiative to check the erosion despite repeated movement by local people, said union parishad Chairman Begum Shaheda Islam.

Saghata upazila parishad Chairman Golam Shaheed Ranju, Saghata UNO Md Khorshed Alam and Upazila Awami League secretary Abdul Hamid Sarker Babu visited the affected areas. Upazila administration allocated ten tonnes of rice for distribution among the erosion-affected people.



PHOTO: STAR

Police arrest seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir including the organisation's upazila unit president and secretary when they were holding a secret meeting at a mosque at Roair village in Akkelpur under Joypurhat district on Friday.

1 killed, 8 hurt as AL, BNP men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least one person was killed and 8 others were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League (AL) and BNP yesterday at Hosendi Goalganj village of Gozaria upazila in Munshiganj.

The deceased was identified as Monir Hossain, 60, son of Kuddus Ali Bhuiyan of the district. The injured people were admitted to the local hospitals.

Police said there had been a long-standing dispute between the supporters of AL's Akhtar group and BNP's Ismail group. Yesterday's clash ensued between the two groups following altercation at an arbitration meeting, added the police.

Quoting locals, police said, the supporters of Ismail group at one stage of the meeting hit Monir Hossain of Akhtar group with sticks and injured him seriously.

Locals rushed Monir to the Munshiganj General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Fisherman allegedly held by Rab still untraced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Wife of a fisherman of Nijlathimara village under Pathorghata upazila in Barguna district yesterday alleged that her husband has remained traceless after plain-clothes men nabbed him from Chardoany Bazar in Pathorghata upazila 20/21 days ago.

Meanwhile, body of another fisherman, allegedly arrested the same time, was handed over to Pathorghata police station on Friday morning, saying that he was killed in a gunfight between joint forces and pirates.

"My husband Habibur Rahman along with another fisherman Afzal went to Chardoany Bazar by a hired motorcycle to search for his stolen net 20/21 days ago, when six or seven plain-clothes men, introducing themselves as Rab members, took them. Khokon, driver of

the motorcycle, told me the incident," Habibur's wife Beauty Begum told journalists at Pathorghata Press Club yesterday noon.

"Afzal's body was handed over to Pathorghata police station on Friday morning, claiming that he died in a gunfight with forces of coast-guard, Rab and police. But Habib has remained traceless still now.

"My husband is a very simple man. We don't know why Rab arrested him. We don't know whether he is alive. He is the only earning member of our family and we live hand to mouth.

"If my husband is found guilty Rab should have sent him to the court and arrange trial," Beauty said.

Beauty, who was holding her one and a half year-old son Sumon on the lap, accompanying her mother Roksana, became senseless more than once as she told the matter and requested

local journalists to help bring back her husband.

Meanwhile, Afzal's wife Bhulu Begum, who received her husband's body at Barguna morgue on Friday evening, alleged to local journalists that Rab men, who arrested Afzal along with Habib, killed him.

Sagir Alam, a member of Pathorghata union Parishad, said, "Afzal and Habib are poor fishermen and they are known to all as good people. We did not know anything about their involvement or link with pirates' gang."

When contacted, Major Kazi Shamsher Uddin, deputy director for Rab-8 and commanding officer of Patuakhali Rab camp said, "The allegations are not true. We did not arrest anybody early. Afzal was an active member of pirates' gang 'Zulfiqar Bahini' and he was involved with looting trawlers and kidnapping fishermen."

6 members of two Islamist outfits held

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Law enforcers on Friday arrested six members of two banned Islamist outfits in Khulna and Gaibandha districts.

Police and Rab-6 on Friday night arrested five members of 'Muslim Ummah Millati MaZhabul Quraan' from a house at Khalishpur of Khulna city, reports our staff correspondent.

The arrestees were identified as Abdur Rouf, 54, Mahbubur Rahman, 45, Mashhur Rahman, 52, Amanullah, 85, and Tayebur Rahman, 72.

Rab also recovered a few brochures and lethal weapons from their possession.

According to police, Tayebur Rahman, a retired deputy director of Power Development Board (PDB), was running the banned outfit in the district.

He wrote several articles in the brochure misinterpreting Islam, they said.

Tayebur Rahman was giving secret training to his disciples for a long time at his rented house 'Siddique Manzil' at Khalishpur.

During interrogation, Tayebur told police that he is in favour of three times prayers instead of five times as prescribed in the holy Quraan.

The arrestees were sent to court at 2.30pm yesterday after being shown arrested under Section 54 of BPC, said OC of Khalishpur police station.

In Gaibandha, Rab-5 in a drive on Friday night arrested an active member of banned Islamist outfit Allahr Dal from village Kismat Bagchi under Sadullapur upazila, reports our correspondent.

Police said, Rab arrested militant Rubel Miah, 19, son of Abdul Ghani from Gaibandha Zilla Judge Court premises and later handed him over to Sadullapur police.

Earlier Sadullapur police arrested four other militants from different areas of Sadullapur upazila.

The militants of Allahr Dal threatened to blow up houses over cell phone last month. Protesting the incident, people held meeting, rally and submitted a memorandum to UNO demanding immediate arrest of the militants.



PHOTO: STAR

The Padma continues to devour areas at Bhagyakul in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj district as erosion by the river has taken a serious turn in the area.

Padma erodes away shops, godowns in Munshiganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Erosion by the river Padma at Bhagyakul in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj district has taken a serious turn.

The river is about to devour Bhagyakul Bazar, one of the big markets in Munshiganj and Bhagyakul village anytime.

At least 15 shops and godowns in the market have already been eroded away by the river in last three days.

They include timber shop of Sultan Gazi, a hardware shop owned by Anil Das and Babul Das, godowns of Rahim Sikder and Jagannath Saha and workshops of Nabin Khan and Ruhul Amin.

People are not getting time to remove goods from their shops as strong tide of the river is devouring the establishments too fast, said villagers.

village have already gone into the river while another 50 houses are facing erosion.

A portion of the brick built house of Jobed Ali Munshi was devoured by the river yesterday morning.

The erosion has also damaged the house of Nandu Hawlader.

On a visit to the village it was learnt that CI sheets given by the government for distribution among the erosion-hit people earlier are still lying in the godown as some locals obstructed the initiative alleging partiality in distribution process. People here also demanded distribution of government khas land among the erosion victims.

More than 100 institutions including about century-old Bhagyakul Harendralal High School and Bhagyakul Water Development Board (WDB) Training Centre are threatened by the Padma, said locals demanding urgent and effective government steps to stop river erosion.



PHOTO: STAR

Trucks wait in a long queue to cross Kewrakandi-Maoa route across the Padma River as ferries plying the route have to travel additional five kilometres due to poor navigability of Hajra channel. Only 10 ferryboats now active on the channel are too inadequate for a large number of vehicles plying the route.