

Hizb-ut Towhid gears up activity in S-W districts

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Towhid has geared up activities in several districts of Khulna division.

According to law enforcement agencies, at least 12,000 members of the organisation are active in Khulna, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Khulna and Chuadanga districts.

Although the organisation is not officially banned, the law enforcers from May 6-23 arrested 32 Hizb-ut men, including six female activists, raiding different areas of these districts.

Of them, seven were arrested in Daulatpur upazila while eight in Khoksa upazila of Kushtia on May 6. Three were arrested in Bagerhat on May 8 and three in Khulna on May 12. Six female activists were arrested in Jibonnagar and Damurhuda upazilas of Chuadanga on May 17 and May 23 and the rest five were arrested in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district on May 21.

Law enforcers also seized books on *jihad* (Islamic uprising), leaflets and posters from their possession.

Most of the arrestees are madrasa students, unemployed youths belonging to poor families and imams of mosques, police

said, adding that a good number of women are also working with this outfit.

Police said all the seized books were written by Bayezid Khan Panni, founder of the Islamist organisation.

Sources in the law enforcement agencies said the Hizb-ut men are trying to reorganise in the south-western districts after the death of their leader Bayezid Khan Panni of Tangail.

They carry out secret operations in the name of "dawat" (religious discussion) in different parts of the districts and distribute books on *jihad* and leaflets among the locals, sources added.

Contacted, Police Superintendent Mirza Abdullahil Baki of Meherpur district said a good number of families in Gangni upazila are involved with this organisation.

Kushtia Police Superintendent Mofiz Uddin Ahmed told this correspondent that law enforcers have been asked to keep watch on the activities of the Hizb-ut men.

According to police records, Hizb-ut Towhid men clashed with locals at Poradah Bazar in Mirpur upazila of Kushtia on September 9, 2003. Police arrested 43 operatives of the organisation in connection with the clash. Later, they were released from jail.



PHOTO: STAR

Traditional *shitol pati* (large mats woven from cane skin) attracts a good number of customers at the makeshift market of Hinganagar Kamannapara village in Delduar upazila of Tangail district as the item, known for giving a cool touch when put on the floor to sit or lie on, is in high demand during the ongoing heat waves of summer. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

Co-op continues credit programme defying ban

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

'Maxim Multipurpose Cooperative Society' is running illegal banking activities in their two unapproved branches in Kalapara upazila under the district.

The organisation opened its two branches in Kalapara upazila town and at Alipur near Kuakata under the same upazila about five and three years ago respectively without any approval from the authorities concerned, said sources at the upazila cooperative office.

On May 16, Kalapara Upazila Cooperative Officer Md Aatur Rahman issued notices to the two branches asking them to stop their banking activities but to no effect.

"Maxim opened the two branches here but they have no valid papers for it. According to 'Cooperative Society Regulation, 2004' prior permission should be taken from the registrar's office if any organisation opens a branch but Maxim authorities opened the two branches without such permission," the cooperative officer said.

Abdus Sakur, manager of Kalapara branch of the cooperative society, said, "Our branch is running different programmes like daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly and 45-day deposit programmes. Besides, an especial 'Tk 100' deposit programme is run here. All the programmes are running smoothly. Now we have 220 subscribers."

Ismail Hossain, manager of Alipur branch, said they collected over Tk 6 lakh from their 240 subscribers and all activities are running 'with goodwill'.

A subscriber of the Kalapara branch, Shafiqul Islam of Kumerpatti area in Kalapara town, said, "I am depositing Tk 500 per month here. I would never run my business with the organisation if I knew earlier that it is an illegal branch. I will withdraw my deposit very soon."

Md Wahiduzzaman, Barisal divisional director of Maxim Multipurpose Cooperative Society, told this correspondent over phone, "Branch approval is stopped now. But we have applied to the authorities

concerned to open branches at Kalapara and Alipur. We are hopeful that we will get permission."

Asked why they are running banking activities illegally, he did not make any reply.

When contacted, Kalapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Didar-e-Alam Md Maksud Chowdhury said, "I have given necessary instructions to the cooperative officer in this regard and he has already started procedures to stop illegal activities of the organisation."

The cabinet on May 14 approved the final draft of the Cooperative Society (amendment) Act 2012 that prohibits cooperative societies from running any credit programme among their members.

The draft law also bans receiving deposit or subscription from those who are not members of the cooperative.

Also, it has provisions for maximum seven years' imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10 lakh for doing banking without approval from the Bangladesh Bank.

Lightning kills six

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least six people were killed by lightning in Dinajpur and Sirajganj districts yesterday.

Four people including two siblings were killed by lightning in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Asiya Begum, 45, her brother Atiqul Islam, 28, daughter and son of Amjad Hossain of Chamundai village and Naimul Islam, 8, son of Abdul Gafur and Rabeya Khatun, 40, wife Monjer Ali, of Bhotarpara village in the upazila.

Asiya and her brother were struck by lightning at the veranda of their Chamundai residence in the morning while the rest two were killed in Bhotarpara around 7:00pm.

In Sirajganj, two farmers were killed by lightning in Chowhali upazila yesterday noon.

The victims are Ahmad Ali, 48, son of late Laskar Mollah of Banyadakhinpara village in the upazila and Abdul Jalil, 55, of Bantiar village under Shahzadpur upazila, reports our correspondent. During the incident the farmers were drying straw in a crop field at Banyadakhinpara village at noon.

ATTACK ON OPPOSITION PROGRAMME 35 injured as AL, BNP clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 35 people, including a police sub-inspector, were injured during a clash between the activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP at Rangabali upazila headquarters yesterday morning.

The trouble began when the upazila unit of BNP was

holding a discussion meeting and *doa mehfil*, marking the 31st death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP, at ASC Square at around 11:00am.

Locals said around 200 AL men allegedly led by upazila AL President Ahsan Kabir Chan and General Secretary Anamul Haque

Litu attacked the meeting venue, prompting the BNP activists to retaliate.

The clash continued for half an hour, leaving at least 24 people from both sides injured. Sub-Inspector Abdul Motaleb of Rangabali Police Station received injuries during chase and counter chase between the

clashing groups.

Police used truncheons, dispersed the activists of two rival groups and brought the situation under control.

President of Rangabali upazila BNP President Kabir Hossain, General Secretary Abdur Rahman, Jubo Dal upazila unit President Anwar Hossain, General Secretary Jahangir Hossain, JCD upazila unit President Tito Talukder, Organising Secretary Nishat Talukder, BCL upazila unit President Mahathir Rahman Rashed, and BCL activist Solaiman Gazi are among the injured.

The injured took treatment at local hospital and private clinics. Upazila BNP President Kabir Hossain alleged that armed AL men foiled their peaceful programme.

Refuting the allegation, upazila AL chief Ahsan Kabir Chan said no AL man was involved in the incident. The clash had resulted from internal feud in BNP upazila unit, he added.

Additional police have been deployed in the upazila town to avert.



PHOTO: STAR

The venue for a BNP meeting, arranged on the 31st death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman, at ASC Square in Rangabali upazila headquarters under Patuakhali district lies vandalised after attack by activists of ruling Awami League yesterday.

RIVALS FOIL BNP PROGRAMME Podium vandalised, bombs exploded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A faction of BNP Ishwardi upazila unit yesterday foiled the programme arranged by their rival group to observe the 31st death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP.

Police and local BNP sources said Ishwardi municipality Mayor Mokhesur Rahman Bablu-led faction was holding a discussion and *doa mehfil* on a field near the upazila BNP office in the morning.

Suddenly, a group of BNP men belonging to another faction led by upazila BNP President Shamsuddin Malikha attacked the venue, vandalised the podium and exploded several bombs.

Bablu alleged that their rivals led by Zakaria Pintu, a member of the upazila unit, vandalised the meeting venue. They also exploded bombs during the attack, he added.

Shamsuddin Malikha

led faction denied the allegation. They also held a discussion and *doa mehfil* on Zia's death anniversary at the party office.

Contacted, Akbar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said additional police have been deployed in the upazila town to avert any untoward situation.

Meanwhile, Pabna BNP district unit yesterday held its programme on the death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman at the residence BNP central leader Shimul Biswas at Zilapara in the town as rival faction had earlier captured the party office.

On Tuesday, leaders of the district and nine upazila units joined a meeting in Sirajganj town. Former state minister and BNP central leader Iqbal Hasan Mahamud Tuku convened the meeting to get informed about the preparations of the grassroots units to make June 11 central programme a success.



PHOTO: STAR

The branch office of Maxim Multipurpose Cooperative Society in Kalapara upazila town in Patuakhali district, operating for the last five years without approval from the authorities concerned, also conducts illegal credit programmes.

সরকারি ক্রয়বাজার

শীঘ্রই শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে সরকারি ক্রয় বিষয়ক এই আকর্ষণীয় প্রতিযোগিতামূলক অনুষ্ঠান

এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ নেবেন সরকারের ৪টি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সংস্থা, যেমন: সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড এবং স্থানীয় সরকার ও প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তরের চৌকস কর্মকর্তা ও ঠিকাদারবৃন্দ।

উন্নত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা এবং আকর্ষণীয় বিদ্যাবস্তুর ভরপুর এই অনুষ্ঠানটি প্রচারিত হবে জনপ্রিয় টিভি চ্যানেল এটিএন বাংলায়। দেখতে ভুলবেন না।

২ জুন থেকে প্রতি শনিবার

সকাল ১০:৩০ টায়

চোখ রাখুন, এটিএন বাংলার পর্দায়

ATN BANGLA

সেইটাল গ্রুপিউমেট টেকনিক্যাল ইউনিট (পিপিটিইউ) আইএমইটি, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়

BCCO বাংলাদেশ সেন্টার ফর কমিউনিকেশন প্রোগ্রামস্

GD-2345

সরকারি ক্রয়বাজার

সরকারি ক্রয় বিষয়ক এই আকর্ষণীয় প্রতিযোগিতামূলক অনুষ্ঠান

সরকারি ক্রয়বাজার

সরকারি ক্রয়বাজার