

# Hizb ut-Tahrir turning deadly, report warns

PTI, Washington

Radical Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir may become a more dangerous terrorist group than the ISIS and its presence in South Asia should be a cause for concern for India, according to a report.

"While ISIS runs amok in Syria and Iraq, demanding media attention through acts of barbarous cruelty, HuT (Hizb ut-Tahrir or the Party of Liberation) is quietly building a global infrastructure of radicalized youth and deep-pocketed Arab support in preparation for the global Khilafat," said the report published in the latest edition of CTX Journal.

The group has cleverly avoided any intense global scrutiny while spreading its ideology and support base in nearly 50 countries, said the report.

The group commands a base of over one million members worldwide. This is far higher than what ISIS claims to have.

Citing reports, the journal said HuT has an armed wing called Harakat ul-Mujojirfini Britaniya that is training its cadres in chemical, bacteriological, and biological warfare.

"HuT, therefore, has the potential to become an even more dangerous terrorist group than ISIS," said the journal from US-based Global Education Community Collaboration Online.

Founded in Jerusalem in 1952 and headquartered in London, the group has branches in Central Asia, Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, where it has managed to garner great influence.

In South Asia, HuT has a significant presence in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"Although HuT has reportedly found a foothold in India, its presence and influence have not made any significant impact," said the multimedia journal on strategic and security affairs.

"HuT's growing presence in neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan should be a cause of concern for India and the larger global community," it said.

## BNP welcomes

FROM PAGE 16  
globally recognised democratic state institutions," BNP joint secretary general Salahuddin Ahmed said in a statement.

He said Khaleda was ready to make the supreme sacrifice and face repression to this end.

On February 13, a group of eminent citizens under the banner of "concerned citizens" formed a 13-member committee, headed by former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, for initiating a national dialogue among political parties to resolve the country's ongoing political crisis.

The platform urged the political parties to create an environment for dialogue, putting an end to ongoing violence across the country.

Earlier on February 9, three letters, signed by ATM Shamsul Huda on behalf of Nagorik Samaj, were sent to the president, the prime minister and the BNP chief, requesting them to take initiatives from their respective positions for holding a dialogue to overcome the ongoing political standoff.

## Superhero vision?

FROM PAGE 16  
The research is being funded by the US military, which could use the technology to give soldiers and pilots super-vision.

Slightly bigger and thicker than normal contacts, the centre of the lenses let light through normally. Their super-powers come from a ring of tiny mirrors that circle this central area. The mirrors bounce light around creating a magnified view similar to looking through a pair of binoculars. The spectacles control the angle at which light reaches the lenses. When the filters in the glasses direct light towards the central part of the lens, vision is same as normal, but sight is magnified by 2.8 times when they direct the light towards the telescopic ring, the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual conference in San Jose heard.

A wink from the right eye directs the light towards the mirrors and vision is improved instantly. A wink from the left eye returns vision to normal. Sensors in the frame of the glasses detect the winks. Blinks are, however, ignored.

At 8mm in diameter and 1.55mm thick, the lenses are bigger and more rigid than the soft contacts that are in everyday use, while a honeycomb of tiny channels allows oxygen to flow through them and ensures they are breathable.

The lenses' inventor, Eric Tremblay, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in

"We do not instruct the law enforcers to intercept food supply to Khaleda Zia's office. Food and different food ingredients are regularly being supplied to the



office. They have a kitchen and a cook inside and are preparing their meals every day."

State Minister for Home  
Asaduzzaman Khan on Feb 14 to  
BBC Bangla Service



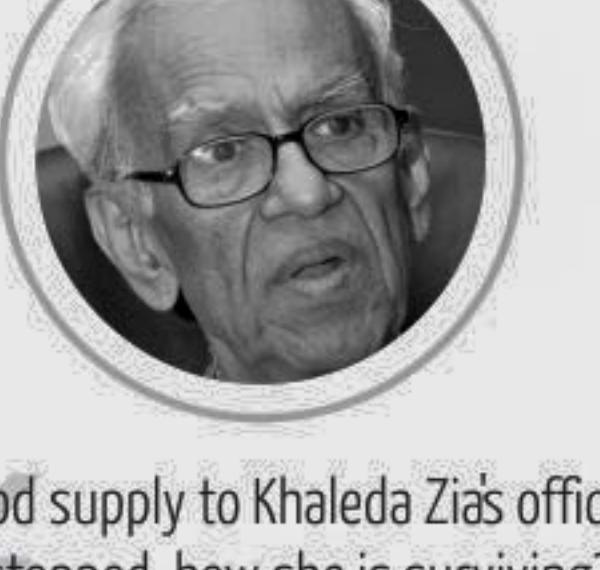
"BNP leaders and activists were seen carrying vegetables, meat and fish to Khaleda Zia's office. It seems Khaleda Zia has organised 'Urs' [religious programme] at her office."

Awami League Publicity Affairs Secretary Hasan Mahmud on Feb 14 during an anti-hartal human chain



"If Khaleda does not change her programmes even after the snapping of power supply to her office, food supply will be halted, torched vehicles will be placed in front of the office and relatives of the burn victims will take shelter in her office in future."

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan on Jan 31 in  
Madaripur



"If food supply to Khaleda Zia's office was stopped, how is she surviving? I can't understand why she is staying at her office?"

Noted Jurist Barrister Rafiqul Haque yesterday at SCBA chamber



"Food is being supplied to Khaleda Zia's office regularly. We have information that Khaleda is taking food and is physically well."

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Haq on Feb 14 at police headquarters

## No proper meals

FROM PAGE 16  
food and water from getting into the office at 2:30pm.

"Is it a jail? Food is served in jails and the condemned criminals also get food," she said.

She also claimed that Khaleda had been starving as she could not eat keeping her men and staff without food.

In presence of journalists taking footage and photographs, two plain-clothes policemen of Gulshan Police Station yesterday asked the rickshaw puller to immediately leave after the vehicle reached the office gate carrying 30 packs of food and 30 bottles of water.

BNP leaders from inside the office at that time started shouting and asked the police why they were preventing food from reaching the office.

At one stage, the rickshaw puller left the food and water on the pavement near the gate and hurriedly left.

When asked, a plainclothes police official told reporters that they stopped the supply on the instruction of their high-ups. He also refused to reveal his name and identity.

Employees of a restaurant in Gulshan-1 told The Daily Star that a person bought the food packs for Tk 4,500 and had it sent by the rickshaw.

Police on February 11 stopped food supply for Khaleda Zia's office staff. They, however, allowed food for the BNP chief to get in. Over 20 security personnel of Khaleda, however, were also allowed to go out and eat.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shamsuddin Dider and Sayrul Kabir Khan, staff of BNP chief's press wing, said they had been living on puffed rice, biscuits and other dry foods.

Source said there were around 20 tins of biscuits, some chanachur and bread, 10kg of puffed rice, and 8-10kg beaten rice kept in stock inside the office before January 31, sensing police might cut off food supply to the office.

A staff of Khaleda's office said the BNP chief shares her food with leaders

and staff as much as possible.

Meanwhile, a few hundred students of three educational institutions of the capital yesterday demonstrated in front of Khaleda Zia's office demanding an end to the blockade and hartals.

Local MP Abul Kamal Azad of Bangladesh Nationalist Front allegedly forced Badda Girls High School, Gulshan Model School and College, and Kalachandpur High School and College authorities to bring in students to form the human chain, sources said.

Azad is the chairman of the governing bodies of two of the schools.

Azad, however, told The Daily Star that he had not influenced or asked the students or their teachers to demonstrate and that they had taken part in the demonstration voluntarily.

Azad along with his party men also observed a sit-in in front of Khaleda's office for around an hour yesterday.

When asked, a plainclothes police official told reporters that they stopped the supply on the instruction of their high-ups. He also refused to reveal his name and identity.

Employees of a restaurant in Gulshan-1 told The Daily Star that a person bought the food packs for Tk 4,500 and had it sent by the rickshaw.

The court also sought to know why the fire service authorities should not be directed to place before it the information on training methods acquired to save lives of people who might fall into such wells or unprotected places.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Kazi Md Ejaryl Haque Akondo came up with the rule and order after hearing the petition filed by Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation.

The rights organisation submitted the plea on December 28 last year, seeking a number of directives, including asking the government to give adequate compensation to Jihad's family and take action against officials who failed to rescue the boy.

Barrister Abdul Halim appeared for the petitioner.

## Full SC verdict

FROM PAGE 16

The Appellate Division of the SC might take a few days for hearing and disposing of the review petition, if filed by the convict, he added.

The scope for reviewing judgments in criminal cases is very little, observed the attorney general.

If the SC does not review its judgment in the war crimes case, the convict can seek presidential mercy.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 had handed capital punishment to the key organiser of the infamous Al-Badr Bahini for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The apex court upheld the death penalty to the 62-year-old Jamaat leader for the mass killing at Sohagpur of Sherpur on July 25, 1971.

All the four SC judges found him guilty of the charge, but the death sentence was upheld by a majority decision.

The Al-Badr was responsible for abduction, torture and killing of freedom fighters, intellectuals and pro-liberation people throughout the country's nine-month Liberation War.

A lawyer for Kamaruzzaman, Shishir Manir said they will meet their client at Dhaka Central Jail for necessary instructions after receiving the full judgment of the SC.

The decision on seeking presidential mercy will be taken if the review petition is rejected by the SC, he added.

Justice SK Sinha, now the chief justice, headed the four-member SC bench.

The other members were Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik.

The Supreme Court commuted Kamaruzzaman's death sentence to life term imprisonment for killing Golam Mostafa at Gridda Narayanpur village of Sherpur.

It also found the Jamaat-e-Islami leader guilty of two more charges relating to killing and torture, but acquitted him of another charge of killing.

The SC has so far completed the trials of two war crimes accused, while the trials of seven others are pending with it.

## Housewife

FROM PAGE 16

The OC, however, said the victim could not identify the persons.

Seriously burnt, Mukti was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital. Later she was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she died around 11:00am.

Razia Khatun, the victim's mother, alleged her daughter had been killed by the in-laws' family.

Mukti's in-laws had been torturing her over dowry for the last couple of years, Razia said, adding that her daughter had been married to Jasim seven years ago.

"They demanded Tk 5 lakh, paying which was beyond our ability. I told my daughter to stay with her in-laws despite the torture she was facing there. Once they even threatened to kill her," she said.

Biplob, a neighbour of the deceased, said he rushed to the spot hearing Mukti scream. Although other locals too came, he did not see her in-laws there.

OC Ahsanul said Mukti's in-laws went into hiding after the incident, adding that police were trying to trace them.

## Arson attack on train

FROM PAGE 1

Quader, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star last night.

Five fire-fighting units brought the blaze under control in a short time, said fire service officials.

The BNP-led combine enforces the latest spell of shutdown on top of the non-stop nationwide blockade that enters its 42nd day today.

In Sylhet city, an SSC examinee suffered minor injuries as police fired a rubber bullet at hartal pickets in Jatpur area in the afternoon.

AKM Sazzadul Alam, officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station, said police chased around 20 hartal supporters after they vandalised several vehicles in Mirabazar area.

Police fired a rubber bullet to disperse them. Accidentally, Shormi Deb, daughter of Binod Bihari Deb in the area, was hit by a pellet of the rubber bullet, he said.

"Her injuries were very minor. She returned home after receiving first aid," said the OC.

In Chittagong, Border Guard Bangladesh personnel found 12 petrol bombs abandoned beside railway lines in Dewanhaat area, a kilometre away from the Chittagong Railway Station, last night.

Dhaka mail train and Turnashish were asked not to leave the station after the BGB was tipped off about a possible arson attack, Maj Tanveer Mahmud, second-in-command of 28th BGB Battalion, told The Daily Star.

A BGB team conducted a drive in the area around 9:30pm and recovered the petrol bombs beside the tracks under the Dewanhaat bridge about an hour later.

The mail train left the Chittagong station at 11:30pm, an hour after the scheduled time.

Meantime, a truck helper suffered burns as alleged blockaders hurled a petrol bomb at his husk-laden vehicle on old Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Baroyarhat of Mirsarai upazila early yesterday.

With 12 percent burns, Nazrul Islam of Fatikchhari upazila was admitted to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Nayek Jahangir Alam of CMCH Police Camp.

In Feni, a passenger suffered 60 percent burns, while two covered-van drivers were hit by splinters as alleged blockaders threw petrol and crude bombs at their vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Madhabpur area around 9:00pm, said police.

Passenger Mohammad Hossain Mia, and drivers Halim and Hridoy Biswas were whisked off to Feni Sadar Hospital. They were later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Mahbub Morshed, officer-in-charge of Feni Model Police Station.

In the capital, detectives arrested four Jamaat-e-Islami activists, including Airport Thana Unit Jamaat Ameer Enamul Haque, with eight petrol bombs in Dakhin Khan area.

Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of DB (north) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, confirmed it.

Police picked up Rajjab Ali, former central leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, in Kotwali area in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, alleged blockaders torched a bus of Suprohat Paribahan at Tanti Bazar intersection around 4:00pm. There was no report of any casualty.

Pro-hartal pickets exploded two crude bombs behind the Gonjagor Mancha stage near the National Museum at Shahbagh around 6:30pm, said police.

Law enforcers arrested Jubo Dal activist Mohiuddin while he was allegedly making bombs at a house on Garden Road at Paschim Karwan Bazar around 12:30pm.

Two petrol and four crude bombs, and bomb-making materials were found in his possession, said Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station.

During primary interrogation, Mohiuddin said he made bombs on instructions from a Sher-e-Bangla Nagar unit BNP leader, who assured him of a job once the BNP came to power, said the OC.

A youth, Kabir Hossain, was hit by splinters, as a crude bomb he was allegedly carrying in a carton exploded in Khilgaon Railgate area.

Kabir, now receiving treatment at the DMCH, claimed he was unaware that a crude bomb was inside the box.

In Sylhet city, a policeman and a human-hauler driver were injured in an attack allegedly by Chhatra Shibir activists.

A group of stick-wielding Shibir men attacked two human haulers as the vehicles carrying law enforcers reached Sheikghat around 7:00am, said witnesses.

A constable of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station and one of the drivers were injured as the windshields of the vehicles were smashed in the attack.

The Shibir men managed to escape. Police were yet to arrest anyone.

In Bogra, a Shibir man was hurt in a clash between Jamaat-Shibir men and police in Kathalota area of Sherpur upazila around 9:00am.

Police arrested three Shibir men, including injured R