



Bangladesh - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 December 2018

Information on the Islami Chhatra Shibir in Bangladesh. Has this group links to Terrorist organisations.

The *Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)* report about Bangladesh published on 2 February 2018 under the heading “Jamaat-e-Islami” states:

“The Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) is the JI’s student wing. It is one of the largest Islamist student organisations in South Asia. International sources report that it is one of the strongest student fronts in the Universities of Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Jahangirnagar. Local academic sources describe the ICS as having a notorious reputation for violence.” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government (DFAT) (2 February 2018) *DFAT Country Information Report Bangladesh*, p.21)

A *Human Rights Watch* report published on 13 December 2018 notes:

“Supporters of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, including members of its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, have been arrested, and witnesses said that many have been held in secret detention and tortured. A member of Jamaat’s student wing told Human Rights Watch that while he was in the custody of the police Detective Branch earlier in 2018, his interrogators used a stapler on his ears, beat him severely with sticks including on the leg joints and hands, subjected him to simulated drowning, and told him he would be shot.” (Human Rights Watch (13 December 2018) *Bangladesh: Crackdown as Elections Loom*, p.4)

The *South Asia Terrorism Portal* states under the heading “Objective”:

“According to the outfit, its objectives are to struggle for changing the existing system of education on the basis of Islamic values, to inspire students to acquire Islamic knowledge and to prepare them to take part in the struggle for establishing Islamic way of life.

A significant aim of the outfit is to establish an Afghanistan-Taliban type Islamist regime in Bangladesh. Consequently, the outfit is opposed to forces of modernization, secularism and democracy.” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (Undated) *Islami Chhatra Shibir*)

It also states under the heading “External Linkages”:

“As one of the largest Islamist student organisations in South Asia, the ICS maintains a close relationship with various Islamist fundamentalist organisations of different countries. In 1979, the ICS secured membership of International Islamic Federation of Student Organisation (IIFSO). Its former President Dr. S A M Taher was also the Secretary General of IIFSO. The outfit is also a member of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY).

The outfit is also reported to be maintaining close links with the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's external intelligence agency. With the help of the latter, it is reportedly working to support Islamist subversive agenda in many regions in India, particularly in areas bordering Bangladesh. The ISI is also reportedly providing substantial amount of funds to the ICS. Other Islamic countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, have provided a major proportion of its financial resources." (Ibid)

The Daily Star notes on 27 November 2018:

"Police in separate drives on Sunday detained three leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its students' wing Islami Chhatra Shibir in Meherpur.

The arrestees are Vice Chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad Mahbubul Alam, Sadar upazila unit Jamaat Ameer Jamal Uddin and President of Islami Chhatra Shibir, Sadar upazila unit, Sohel Rana.

Officer-in-Charge of Meherpur Detective Branch (DB) of police Obaidur Rahman said they were arrested on suspicion of their alleged involvement in conducting subversive activities." (The Daily Star (27 November 2018) *Three Jamaat, Shibir men arrested*)

An article from *United News of Bangladesh* issued on 11 November 2018 states:

"Police arrested five Islami Chhatra Shibir men from Satberi Kanda village in Sadar upazila on Sunday afternoon.

The arrestees are identified as Shibir district unit president Abu Humayra Milky, general secretary Abu Ishak, finance secretary Md Nayeem, and members Md Kamrul Islam and Abdul Latif.

Being tipped-off, a police team conducted a drive in the area while Shibir men were holding a secret meeting to plan acts of sabotage and made the arrest, said Md Borhan Uddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Netrakona Model Police Station.

Police also recovered several firearms, crude bombs, petrol bombs, electronic devices and 'jihadi' books from the house, he claimed." (United News of Bangladesh (11 November 2018) *Five Shibir men held in Netrakona*)

BDnews24.com states on 4 November 2018:

"Police have filed a case over the bombs and explosives found at the Chattogram Islami Chhatra Shibir offices.

Over 50 Jamaat Shibir activists, including the president and general secretary of the branch, have been accused in the case filed at the city's Chowkbazar Police Station, said Metropolitan Police Additional Deputy Commissioner (South) Sham Mohammad Abdur Rauf.

The case was filed under the Special Powers Act and the Explosives Act.

Four or five explosions were heard from the Jamaat student front's Chattogram metropolitan offices in a building in the Chandanpura area on Saturday.

Police raided the building from 7pm to 9pm and recovered six crude bombs, 500g of gunpowder, glass shards, stones, two litres of petrol and wooden stuffs, said Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (South) Mehedy Hasan.

According to the Chowkbazar Police Station authorities, the case was filed by SI Anisur Rahman Shibli. Islami Chhatra Shibir Metropolitan North President Abdul Jabbar, General Secretary ASM Raihan, and Baitul Mal General Secretaries Hamed Hassan Elahi and Aman Ullah were among the 52 accused in the case. About 30 suspects were unnamed." (BDnews24.com (4 November 2018) *Chattogram Shibir office blast: 52 Jamaat activists accused*)

Bangladesh Government News state on 25 June 2018:

"The official news Agency of Bangladesh (BSS) has issued following news release: A Chattogram court sent a total of 210 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its students' front Islami Chhatra Shibir to jail this afternoon. The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mehnaz Rahman sent them to jail after police produced them before the court. Chattogram Metropolitan Police in a drive arrested over 210 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its students' front Islami Chhatra Shibir, including Jamaat nayeb-e-ameer and Shibir president, from a city hotel on Saturday night, said Mohammad Mohasin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali police station. Sub-Inspector of Kotwali thana Golam Faruk filed a case under the Special Powers Act against 220 leaders and activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami and its students' front Islami Chhatra Shibir for conducting a secret meeting in the name of Eid reunion at a city hotel on Saturday night." (Bangladesh Government News (25 June 2018) *Court sends 210 Jamaat-Shibir activists to jail*)

An article from *The Daily Star* published on 28 July 2016 noted:

"Sylhet Law enforcers in a joint drive arrested 31 people, including 22 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir, for their suspected involvement with militant activities from several places in Jakiganj upazila of Sylhet early today [28 July].

Additional Superintendent of Police Suggan Chakma said a joint team comprising of members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Armed Police Battalion and Detective Branch of police, conducted the drive in different areas of the upazila and arrested 31 people.

They also seized sharp weapons and books from their possession.

The law enforcers arrested them for their suspected involvement with militancy as part of the government's anti-terrorism campaign, the SP added.

Most of the arrestees were wanted in several cases, including for subversive activities, filed with separate police stations, SP Suggan Chakma said." (The Daily Star (28 July 2016) *Bangladesh police arrest 31, with 22 activists from Islamic group*)

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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