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BGD43346.E

01 March 2005

Bangladesh: Update to BGD42046.E of 9 October 2003 on the Inu faction of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), its status, alliances with other parties and whether its members experience any problems with the government or police authorities (October 2003 - February 2005)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

The Inu faction of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), also known as the National Socialist Party, has been described as a leftist (BBC 10 Mar. 2004), "pro-liberation progressive party" (*Dhaka Dainik Inqilab* 9 Dec. 2003). News reports indicate that the party's president is Hasanul Huq Inu (*New Age* 8 Jan. 2005; OutlookIndia.com 8 Aug. 2004), the general secretary is Syed Jafar Sajjad (*New Age* 8 Jan. 2005) and the central committee joint secretary is Iqubol Hossain Khan (BBC 21 Sept. 2004). According to the Dhaka-based *Independent*, the JSD is one of two "leading wings" of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) (5 Jan. 2005), and its youth wing is the Jatiya Sramik Jote (*Independent* 26 Dec. 2004). Although information on JSD's alliances with other parties could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate, many news articles reported that the JSD organized and/or participated in various political activities during the period covered by this Response in cooperation with various political parties, including the Awami League (AL), the National Awami Party (NAP) and what has been referred to as the "left-leaning" 11-party-alliance (*The Bangladesh Observer* 12 Dec. 2004; *The Daily Star* 16 Mar. 2003; BBC 13 Apr. 2003; *ibid.* 10 Mar. 2004; *ibid.* 29 Apr. 2004; *ibid.* 21 Sept. 2004; *ibid.* 11 Oct. 2004; *New Age* 5 Feb. 2005; *Bangladeshi News* 29 Nov. 2004; *ibid.* 22 Sept. 2004). Many of these political activities were planned and carried out to demand the resignation of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) - Jamaat coalition government (*The Bangladesh Observer* 12 Dec. 2004; *The Daily Star* 16 Mar. 2003; BBC 10 Mar. 2004; *ibid.* 9 Apr. 2004; *ibid.* 29 Apr. 2004; *ibid.* 21 Sept. 2004; *ibid.* 11 Oct. 2004; *Bangladeshi News* 29 Nov. 2004; *ibid.* 22 Sept. 2004).

Information on the treatment of JSD members by the government and police authorities was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. There were news reports of JSD members having been arrested on two occasions in 2004 for their participation in anti-government demonstrations (BBC 11 Oct. 2004; *ibid.* 9 Apr. 2004). In March 2004, the JSD, along with four other leftist political parties "bitterly criticised the government for perpetrating persecution on its political opponents by utilising police and its 'goons' during the nation-wide hartal [strike] (see BBC 11 Oct. 2004) of 6 March [2004]" (*ibid.* 10 Mar. 2004). Additional information on problems experienced by JSD members with the government and police authorities could not be found among sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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