

40 UP leaders demand action against BNP lawmaker

Grand rally at Puthia July 31 to protest 'atrocities': Nadim Mustafa terms all allegations 'baseless'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi divisional unit of Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote (BUPOJ) yesterday termed BNP lawmaker from Rajshahi-4 constituency Nadim Mustafa a 'godfather of terrorists' and called for resisting his 'terrorism, corruption and tyranny'.

Some 40 BUPOJ members including some local BNP leaders attended a press conference in the city where their leaders urged high-ups in ruling BNP and the government to take action against him and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

They called a 'grand rally' of Union Parishad (UP) chairmen and members at Trimohini in Puthia on July 31 to protest his "atrocities".

Nadim Mustafa is a lawmaker from Puthia-Durgapur parliamentary seat.

Rajshahi divisional BUPOJ president and Haripur UP Chairman Bazle Rizvi Al Hasan Munzil read out a written statement at the press conference held at a city auditorium.

Among others, BUPOJ Secretary General and Sardaha UP Chairman Matiur Rahman, Rajshahi district convenor of BUPOJ and Bhallugachhi UP Chairman Wayezul Islam, Shilmaria UP Chairman Sazzad Hossain, Charghat BNP president and Salua UP Chairman Abu Sayeed Chand and Godagari upazila Jubo Dal secretary and Gogram UP Chairman Hazrat Ali replied to questions at the press conference.

They narrated alleged atrocities done by Nadim Mustafa and his men during the last four and a half years.

They claimed that Nadim Mustafa's cadres attempted on the life of former Baneshwar UP chair-

man Abdus Samad and Joynagar UP Chairman Abdul Mazid in 2003 as they did not carry out his orders. Shilmaria UP chairman Sazzad Hossain was on the run during 2004 for the same reason, they alleged.

Cadres of the lawmaker led by Puthia Jubo Dal secretary Jinnah attacked Bhallugachhi UP chairman Wayezul Islam on June 30 and severely beat him but police did not record any case, they said.

His cadres damaged the houses of Bel Pukuria UP chairman and UP member Abul Hosain. The two local body leaders were arrested in a false case, they further alleged.

They told the press conference that six UP chairmen on June 15 sought security from the district administration following threats by Mustafa's cadres.

The lawmaker got five UNOs and six police officers-in-charge transferred from Puthia and another five UNOs and three OCs from

Durgapur in last four and a half years as they declined to oblige him, they said.

They also alleged that the lawmaker and his men misappropriated huge amounts of money from development projects in the two upazilas.

These include 250 tonnes of rice worth Tk 35 lakh, allocated for Shaheed Zia Smriti Shangha, which exists in name only, they claimed.

Nadim Mostafa is holding the posts of governing body chairman of some 40 schools, colleges and madrassas in the areas, they said.

When contacted, Nadim Mustafa MP refuted the allegations and termed those as "baseless".

Some influential BNP men in Rajshahi city, who are envious of his popularity, are prompting those unpopular Union Parishad leaders to talk against me as the election is nearing", he said.

Mill workers lay siege to power station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Jute Mills Workers and Employees Action Committee here yesterday besieged Daulatpur sub-station of the Western Zone Power Distribution Company Limited demanding uninterrupted power supply to their mills.

A tense situation prevailed as police tried to prevent workers from their programme. Policemen retreated when the action committee leaders threatened of a severe consequence for obstructing them. At one stage, the workers became furious when the executive engineer of the sub-station refused to talk to their leaders. Later, he came out of his office being escorted by police and assured them uninterrupted power supply to jute mills.

Later, a meeting was held in front of the sub-station which was presided over by prominent labour leader Sarder Motaharuddin.

Over 500 join AL in Jamalpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A total of 314 freedom fighters in Jamalpur led by former lawmaker and district Muktiyoddha Sangram Parishad president Shafiqul Islam Khoka and general secretary Abdur Rashid joined Awami League (AL) on Sunday.

Besides, about 200 leaders and activists of Jatiya Party (Earshad), Jatiya Party (Naziur-Firoz), and BNP in Melandhah also joined AL at the same function.

Jamalpur district AL organised the function at the Municipal Public Hall in the town.

Jamalpur district AL president Mohammad Shahidullah presided over the function while lawmaker from Melandhah-Madarganj and also central Jubo League secretary Mirza Azam MP attended the function as chief guest.

The function was addressed by, among others, Rezaul Karim Heera MP, former MP Abul Kalam Azad, freedom fighter and journalist Harun Habib, Capt (Rtd) Sakhaat Hossain, advocate Mohammad Baki Billah, Jamalpur district AL secretary Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury, Jamalpur city unit AL president Masum Reza Rahim and district Jubo League president Abdullah-al-Amin Chand.



Police intercepting a procession of Chhatra Sangram Parishad near the BDR gate in Sylhet city yesterday, brought out demanding resignation of SUST VC Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed.

SUST reopens Aug 9, to probe student's death in police firing

Agitation for VC's removal continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Agitation in Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) continued yesterday despite a Senate decision to reopen the university and probe the May 12-14 incidents on the campus.

The Senate at a meeting yesterday decided to reopen the university on August 9 and formed a 8-member committee to probe the May 12-14 incidents. All dormitories will reopen on August 7.

Prof Habibul Ahsan, Dean of Life Science faculty, will head the probe body, which will submit its report in three weeks, meeting sources said.

The SUST was closed sine die on May 14 amid a tense situation following the killing of a student in police firing.

Vice-chancellor Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed also resigned on the

same day amid agitation by students who torched some official documents, furniture and vehicles at the VC's official residence.

The VC left the campus for the capital after handing over a resignation letter to the students.

However, he managed to return to the campus on July 5 under alleged protection of police and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP.

Since then, opposition-backed teachers and students organisations have been demanding his withdrawal.

About 40 teachers of aligned with opposition Awami League took out a silent procession on the campus yesterday morning and held a rally demanding withdrawal of the VC.

Convener of the group, Dr Akhtarul Islam, who is also a former

president of SUST Teachers Association, chaired the rally, where the teachers demanded to stop fresh appointments as the university is already facing financial crisis. They also demanded immediate resumption of classes and examinations.

On Sunday, amid protests by a section of teachers, the SUST authorities suspended a scheduled meeting of the selection committee for appointment and promotion of teachers in two departments.

Meanwhile, Sammilita Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a students' forum led by Awami League's students body Chhatra League took out a procession in Sylhet city demanding withdrawal of VC Prof Musleh Uddin Ahmed.

Police intercepted the procession in front of the BDR gate, where the students held a rally.

FAKE CERTIFICATE 5 stripped of Tangail Bar membership

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

TangaBar Association yesterday cancelled membership of five lawyers including three government prosecutors (GPs) following detection of their fake LLB certificates.

The lawyers are Bazlur Rasheed, Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Kaikobad, Goura Chandra Das and Bodiuzzaman Noyon. Of them, Bazlur Rasheed, Abdur Razzak and Mohammad Kaikobad are government prosecutors. Among them, Bodiuzzaman Noyon was a life member of the Bar Association.

The decision was taken at an urgent meeting held at the Bar Association office in the afternoon.

Earlier, the Dhaka University (DU) authorities, in a letter sent to the Association confirmed the matter on Sunday. Graduation certificates of two of the lawyers were also found to be fake. The meeting also decided to sue them.

A senior lawyer and former president of the Association, seeking anonymity told this correspondent 20 more lawyers are suspected to be holding fake certificates.

When contacted, the general secretary of the Association Advocate Shahidul Islam Hashem said they asked the Bangladesh Bar Council to cancel their testimonials.



Hectic monsoon days...Indigenous women busy in sowing Amon seedlings and nursing fields in Tanore in Rajshahi.

Shrimp farmers in Satkhira vow to protect environment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event in Satkhira yesterday as shrimp farmers rallied for 'environment friendly and socially responsible shrimp cultivation', urging the government to extend support for this to boost yield and export of the vital export item.

Shrimps produced in Satkhira earn around Tk 1200 crore in foreign currency in a year but its unplanned and unscientific cultivation is destroying the ecology.

About 600 shrimp farmers and stakeholders yesterday carried banners and festoons and raised slogans during a procession in the small town to create awareness about the need for protecting the ecology while cultivating shrimp. The processionists, starting from Shaheed Abdur Razzak, paraded the main streets and converged at the Pourasava auditorium where a discussion meeting was held.

It was addressed by, among others, World Fish Centre's Industry Consultant Maj (Rtd) Monzur Ahmed, Shrimp Consultant Glenn Bebar, former lawmaker AK Fazlul Haque, Sadar upazila Fisheries Officer Abdul Wadud, Abul Hossain Rana, NZ Foundation Director Monzur Hossain. It was chaired by Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood while Additional District Magistrate (ADSM) Sirajuddin was the chief guest.

The programme was organised jointly by some NGOs-- N Z Foundation, Biswas Foundation, Iswaripur Foundation and Manab Sampad Unnayan Kendra, Coastal Development Partnership, Shrimp

Quality Support Project and World Fish Centre with assistance from USAID.

Speakers at the discussion meeting urged the authorities to formulate a strategy to introduce sustainable and environment friendly and socially responsible shrimp cultivation in the country to boost yield and export.

They said unplanned shrimp cultivation is destroying the biodiversity and ecological balance in South-Western districts.

Co-ordinator of the Coastal Development Partnership, Ashraf Alam Tutu, in his key note paper said the yield can be increased at least four times if shrimp is cultivated in a scientific and planned way. He stressed on intensive cultivation, which will increase per hectare production.

He said, saline water for shrimp cultivation is not only destroying fertility of agricultural lands but also damaging the bio-diversity.

Glenn said, women workers in shrimp processing plants are subjected to serious health hazards and inhuman working conditions. The process should be modernised.

8X2

5X2

10X4