



BNP leaders Kazi Salimul Haque (left) and Nitai Roy Chowdhury addressing discussion meetings organised by two rival factions of the party in Magura on its founding day yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## Mudslinging in Magura BNP on founding day

### Rival factions hold separate programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Intra-party feud in Magura district BNP took a new turn yesterday as two rival factions brought out separate processions and held discussions meetings in the town in observance of the party's founding anniversary.

Both the factions however announced the name of district BNP president and lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal as chief guests in their programmes.

Kamal, lawmaker from Magura-2,

attended the programme held by the faction led by district BNP organising secretary Akter Hossain. Former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury joined the other programme held by the rival faction led by district BNP general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas.

Tension mounted in the town and police contingents were brought from adjoining Jhenidah and Narail districts as the rival BNP factions took to streets and held rallies.

Ali Ahmed Biswas held his

programme on Government Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy College premises, which was presided over by district BNP vice-president Aminul Islam Chandu Mia. Besides Nitai Roy Chowdhury, the programme was attended by Sadar upazila unit BNP president Sakhat Hossain, general secretary Mihir Kanti Biswas and district unit Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal general secretary Shahidul Islam Rupak.

At the same time, Akter Hossain held his programmes at Shegunbagicha in the town, about only 250 yards away. With district BNP vice-president Mokaddes Hossain in the chair, it was attended by Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal MP, district BNP vice-president Nazimuddin Ahmed, women lawmakers Shahana Rahman and Newaz Halima Arly, Kazi Abdul Aala, former president of district Jubo Dal Khan Hasan Imam Suja and general secretary Alamgir Hossain.

Speakers at the meeting demanded removal of Ali Ahmed from the post of general secretary and his arrest.

Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal alleged that some newcomers in the party were hatching conspiracy to damage its image.

In the other meeting, Nitai Roy Chowdhury alleged that some people abused power and amassed crores of taka through tender manipulation in the name of 'negotiation-committee'. While speaking at the meeting, Ali Ahmed Biswas denied his involvement with any outlawed party but admitted that some criminal cases were filed

against him during Awami League rule to harass him. He also accused organising secretary Akter Hossain for misappropriating party funds amounting to of TK 80 lakh.

The intra-party conflict surfaced on May 28 when the two rival factions went on streets, publicly accusing each other.

At a rally on that day at Kadamtala in the town, Nazimuddin called party general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas an 'outlaw' and demanded his arrest for alleged involvement with outlawed Sarbahara Party and amassing crores of taka through tender manipulation.

They also alleged that Ali Ahmed Biswas was accused in at least 19 cases including four of murder, one for looting Madhukhali police station in Faridpur, three for robbery and the rest for kidnaping and other crimes.

The other faction led by Ali Ahmed called their rivals 'agents' of oppositions' 14-party alliance.

The dispute between the rival factions was buried temporarily. But after 3 months, rival faction again held separate programmes yesterday.

When asked about separate programmes, Ali said, "They (rivals) arranged the programmes unconstitutionally because, as general secretary, I can call a meeting".

On contact, organising secretary Akter Hossain said, "I called the meeting as per the decision of the party's 8-member steering committee" and following the directive of our leader Kazi Salimul Haque Kamal.

## Special prayers, rally held in Phulbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Special prayers were held at all mosques, temple and churches in Phulbari in Dinajpur yesterday for those killed in the August 26 fire by law enforcers during demonstrations opposing the coal mine project.

After prayers at mosques, a rally was held in front of Nimtala mosque, where speakers urged the government to implement the six-point agreement and fulfil its pledges made to Phulbari people.

Hindus and Christians held prayers at temples and churches in the evening.

Tomorrow, the people will wear black badges protesting the August 26 killings, according to Md. Mossaddeque Hossain Labu, convener of Dinajpur chapter of Oil-Gas and Mineral Resources Protection Committee. At least 7 people were killed in the firing.

## 4 JMB cadres get life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Four militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a special tribunal here for their involvement in August 17 serial blasts in Gaibandha town last year.

The convicts are Matin Mehdi alias Motiul Islam, Abdul Aziz, Ziaur Rahman Badal and Abul Qayyum. Of the four convicts, Matin Mehdi alias Motiul Islam and Abdul Aziz were absconding since the bombings in different places of the town.

Special Tribunal Judge Md Shahabuddin, also District and Sessions Judge, pronounced the judgement in a crowded courtroom on Thursday.

## Workshop on TB held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

TB (tuberculosis) germs become drug resistant if a patient gives a gap in taking medicine before competing the course. In that case, of survival is very bleak, barring exceptions, medical experts said a workshop on the disease here on Thursday.

The internationally recommended DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) method of treatment is working well to combat the disease.

The workshop on 'Tuberculosis Control Programme: Co-operation of Media' was held at the local RDRS auditorium. It was jointly organised by the National Tuberculosis Programme, Health Directorate, Uttaranchal Federal Sangbadik Parishad (UPESAP) and BRAC. Nilphamari Civil Surgeon Dr Abdur Rahim was the chief guest.

## GAIBANDHA AL

# 'Deprived' leaders demand dissolution of new committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A section of Awami League leaders and workers continued their protest against the newly formed 71-member district committee for the second day on Thursday, widening the intra-party feud over leadership.

On Thursday, the 'deprived' leaders along with their supporters brought out a procession and held a rally demanding dissolution of the new committee. They vandalised the business office of new general secretary Abu Bakr Siddique at Railway crossing point.

Later they held a meeting at district Awami League office, which was addressed by, among others, Piarul Islam, Ahsanul Huq Lachu, Saiful Alam Saka, Ataur Rahman, Moinalu Huq Sarker, Altaf Hossain,

Abdur Razzak, Jakaria Islam Jewel, Anisur Rahman, Abu Abdullah Kanok, Abdul Karim, Shamsul Huda and Mizanur Rahman.

The new district committee with Mohamad Khaled as president and Abu Bakr Siddique as general secretary was formed in Dhaka on Sunday.

At Thursday's meeting, speakers alleged that dedicated party leaders were dropped and many new faces included in the new committee. This has been done under the influence of some vested quarters. They blamed one Mahub Ara, an aide to AL chief Sheikh Hasina, for this.

At a party council on June 19 last year, councilors elected Mohammed Khaled and Abu Bakr Siddique president and general secretary respectively of the district unit. But as they belonged to two

panels, a full-fledged committee could not be formed.

As intra-party feud continued for long over formation of the district committee, AL general secretary Abdul Jalil called a meeting on May 14 to resolve the dispute, but failed as the two factions placed two panels.

Central leaders on Sunday declared a 71-member committee, taking members from both the groups.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some leaders said the new committee frustrated 'dedicated' leaders and their workers at grassroots level. Even general secretaries of some upazila units have not been included in the new committee, they said.

The party will face a risk if the committee is not reconstituted, they said seeking anonymity.



'Deprived' party leaders brought out a procession in Gaibandha town on Thursday demanding dissolution of the new district committee.

PHOTO: STAR

## Whip Ashraf to announce next step at tomorrow's rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP Whip Ashraf Hossain has said he is firm on his observation about 'undemocratic activities' in the party hierarchy, disrespecting seniors.

"I mean what I said so long", he said while addressing a rally of his supporters at Shiromoni in Khulna on Thursday.

His supporters staged a show-down with several hundred motorcycles and held a rally, presided over by Mir Kaisad Ali, president of Khanjahan Ali thana unit of BNP.

Whip Ashraf Hossain said he no more wants to be a lawmaker or a minister. "I will stand by the toiling masses who have elevated me to the present position. My fight is against authoritarian practice in central BNP, not against any particular man or woman", he said amid cheers of his supporters.

Ashraf, a joint secretary general of BNP central Committee, said he will announce a 'final decision about my political future' at the public meeting at Khalishpur on September 3.

"I am committed to play my due role for safeguarding national independence and sovereignty without any fear", he said.

Earlier, at about noon on Tuesday, two persons were injured and four shops damaged when a procession of about 300 motorcycles came under attack allegedly by supporters of BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi in Kadamtala area under Khalishpur thana.

Khalishpur thana BNP member-secretary Sajjad Ali and party man Abul Khashem, both belonging to Loby faction, were injured.

According to eye witnesses, the clash ensued when supporters of

Loby showed black flags to the motorcyclists.

Ashraf, who was recently declared 'unwanted' in Khulna by Lobi-Mayor faction, was accorded a rousing reception by his loyalists on Thursday in Rupsha Bridge area on his way to Khulna city by road from Dhaka.

Ashraf Hossain came to political limelight as a prominent labour leader of Khalishpur industrial belt in the sixties. He was a founder member of Khulna BNP.

He is being criticised by his opponents in the party for challenging senior joint secretary general Tarek Rahman's authority.

Meanwhile, party sources claimed that the Lobi-Mayor faction has planned to prevent Ashraf from holding the September 3 public meeting at Khalishpur.

12X2



Posing as dead to press demand... Their shirts stained with red colour, activists of Chhatra Union put up the bizarre demonstration on a makeshift stage in Cox's Bazar yesterday to press cancellation of the coal mining deal in Phulbari.

PHOTO: STAR

10X3