

Feud shatters alliance hope in Netrakona-3

Three BNP leaders vie for nomination

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Feud over nomination has shattered BNP's prospect for retaining the Netrakona-3 Jatiya Sangsad seat in the coming parliamentary election.

The party is divided into three factions in the constituency comprising Atpara and Kendua upazila. The rival factions are led by lawmaker Begum Khadija Amin, former Atpara upazila chairman Jahirul Islam Khan Maju and central Juba Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Khan Hilali.

All the three will seek nomination and have launched polls campaign. The polls scenario is getting warmed up as the rival factions are holding meetings and bringing out processions to show their strength, while lobbying with party high-ups, sources said.

Rafiqul Islam Khan Hilali is the main rival of Begum Khadija Amin, party sources said.

At several public meetings recently, Hilali bitterly criticised Khadija Amin saying, "The four-party alliance will lose the seat if Khadija Amin is nominated because she has become unpopular for her inefficiency". Even BNP men will not support her because of her misbehaviour with party workers, he claimed.

"I got hint from our party chairman about getting nomination," he

claimed. "If Khadija gets nomination, I and my followers will not supporter."

Another nomination seeker, Jahirul Islam Khan Maju, at several public meeting in Kendua and Atpara in last few days alleged that the lawmaker could not do any development work during her tenure. A small faction of party workers

me again to continue the process of development, she added.

The feud intensified after Kendua upazila BNP committee was dissolved on June 27 by Netrakona district BNP president MA Karim Abbasi MP, in which she was allegedly involved, party sources said.

Hilali, Netrakona BNP secretary

eral thousand party activists from Kendua and Atpara brought out a procession in Netrakona town under the leadership of Hilali.

On September 26, the rival faction also brought out a procession in Kendua town, led by Hilali, demanding dissolve the newly formed Kendu upazila BNP committee.

When asked about Kendua



Khadija Amin

loyal to her were benefited, he claimed.

On the other hand, Khadija Amin at public rallies claimed that she implemented many development project during her tenure.

"I believe, I am popular in the constituency because I have done many development work", she told this correspondent. People will elect



Rafiqul Islam Hilali

Mahfuzul Haque and organising secretary Nazrul Islam Khan did not attend the party council in which the Kendua upazila committee was dissolved.

Soon after dissolution of the Kendua committee, Khadija's rivals brought out a procession in Kendua town protesting it.

On the next day (June28), sev-



Jahirul Islam Khan

upazila BNP committee, said, "I declared the committee as per opinion of councilors".

On the other hand, Mahafuzul Haque, general secretary of Netrakona district BNP said, "Abbasi declared the committee under the influence of Khadija Amin, violating opinion of councilors".



Labourers felling a century-old tree in Kishoreganj town yesterday while pedestrians look on a poster pasted on it by environmentalists in protest.



PHOTO: STAR

Century-old R&H tree axed in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A century-old Mehagoni tree along the footpath near the residences of Kishoreganj Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the Police Superintendent is being axed.

Labourers cutting the tree yesterday said they were engaged by the Roads and Highways (R&H).

On contact over telephone, R&H executive engineer Joyanal Abedin said he knew nothing about felling of the tree.

During this correspondent's visit, may locals raised questions and expressed their shock at the decision to cut the old trees. The tree is on the side of the footpath and creates no problem to traffic or pedestrians, they said.

Porom, a local environmentalists' forum, protested felling of the tree and pasted a poster on it, which drew people attention but failed to protect it.

An employee of R&H seeking anonymity told this correspondent that a section of officials of the department sold the tree to a madrasa at a throwaway price and asked them to remove it on any holiday. No official process was followed, he claimed.

He said another century-old tree along the road in Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital area in the town was felled earlier.

Rangpur AL council today after 9 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur district Awami League council will be held at the Town Hall today after nine years.

AL secretary Abdul Zailil, Presidium member Abdur Razzak, organizing secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna will attend the council, party sources said.

Earlier, the council was scheduled for September 13 but was not held, allegedly due to intra-party feud.

PDB asks mosques, Puja bodies to buy generators

Over 12 hours' loadshedding in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Power supply authorities in Nilphamari have advised committees at mosques and Durga Puja mandaps to arrange generators during Tarabi and Puja. When asked, Power Development Board (PDB) engineer Tajul Islam said improvement in power supply is not possible if supply from the National grid improves.

Load shedding for long sparked off protests in different areas of the district in last one week.

On September 25, two PDB meter readers -- Moktar Hossain Molla and Nuruzzaman-- were beaten by people when they went to Notun Bazar and Babupara areas for meter reading, sources said.

Nilphamari reels under over 12 hours' load shedding a day, which is affecting small industries in Saidpur BSCIC Industrial Estate, besides domestic power subscribers.

The load shedding persists as the 20 MW gas turbine power plant

in Saidpur is producing only 8 MW power a day and two units of coal-fired Baropukuria thermal power plant went out of order weeks back.

Sources said the total requirement of electricity in Saidpur upazila alone is 24 MW, part of which was met by the plants in Saidpur and Baropukuria.

Of the 24 MW, 12 MW is needed by Saidpur Palli Bidyut Samity for supply to rural areas, one MW by railway, one MW by Saidpur cantonment. Saidpur town including the BSCIC industrial estate needs 10 MW.

Sources said only 2.8 MW is now supplied to Saidpur town including the BSCIC estate.

Saidpur Power Development Board (PDB) officials said they have to go for load shedding up to 12 hours a day because of the power crisis. Same is the situation in other upazilas of Nilphamari district, they said.

The sources said the power crisis turned acute as two units of the 250

MW Baropukuria plant are not functioning. Power supply to Dinajpur is also been curtailed because of less generation, they said.

Sources in Saidpur Palli Bidyut Samity said areas under its command suffer load shedding up to 16 hours a day.

Industry owners in the BSCIC estate said at least 50 units have been closed making about 20,000 people unemployed and many more are facing closure.

Raju Poddar, owner of Raju Aluminum Factory said he has axed workers to half due to power crisis.

Md Hafizullah Khan, owner of Hafiz Charcoal Company, said has kept his factory open despite losses, hoping that the situation will improve. He said he will have to close the factory if the situation continues for a fortnight.

An official at Baropukuria plant seeking anonymity said they are trying to restore generation but it may take weeks to repair the mechanical trouble.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League and Chhatra League activists brought out a procession in Bogra town yesterday carrying the body of Chhatra League leader Rabiul Islam, killed allegedly by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists.

AL Factional Feud Section 144 clamped in Nabinagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The district administration clamped Section 144 in and around Nabinagar Pilot High School ground yesterday as two rival factions of Awami League (AL) called councils there at the same time.

One faction headed by Abdur Rouf, convener of Nabinagar upazila AL, called a council at the school ground at 10:30 am.

Challenging this, another faction led by Abdul Halim called another council at the same venue at the same time.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area as neither faction could hold its programme. Sources said the councils were called to show strength.

5 handed over to BDR at flag meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a flag meeting at Munshipur border point yesterday handed over five abducted Bangladeshis to BDR. The five were abducted from Bangladesh territory near the border Thursday morning.

At the flag meeting, BDR also handed over to BSF four Indians arrested from the same border when they were trying to cross the border illegally Thursday night.

According to 18 Rifles battalion, a BSF from Mohakhola camp in Nadia district had picked up the five Bangladeshi farmers when they were working on their fields near border pillar no. 91 at Munshipur in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga.

The five Bangladeshis are farmers Nawser Ali, 40, Abdur Kader, 30, Ashrafu, 32, Shorab Uddin, 32 and Hafizul 23, all of Pirpur village in Damurhuda upazila.

The four Indians were arrested when they intruded into Bangladesh territory near border pillar no. 91.

The flag meeting was held near border pillar no. 91 at Munshipur border, BDR sources said.

6X3

3.5X2

8X2

3X4

4X2