

Correction

In our story 'Heavyweights start campaign in Sylhet' published on page 6 on October 1, it was mistakenly written that AMA Muhith joined Awami League from HM Ershad's Jatiya Party.

The report said, "Former bureaucrat AMA Muhith, who joined Awami League from Ershad's Jatiya Party, contested the 2001 election and lost to Saifur with about 40,000 votes. He was also finance minister during Jatiya Party rule".

In fact Muhith was never a member of Jatiya Party. He had joined the interim government of Ershad in March 1982 as finance and planning minister as Ershad promised to restore democracy. Muhith left Ershad's cabinet in November 1983 when he decided to float a political party. Jatiya party was launched on January 1, 1986 and Muhith was not involved with it in any way.

We regret the inadvertent mistake and any damage caused to the reputation of AMA Muhith.

Sramik Dal leader held for 'aiding' Aug 21 attacker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Rab arrested a Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal leader as a suspected aide to Mukul, one of the accused in August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally in Dhaka in 2004.

Arrested Khabir Uddin is general secretary Satkhira District Truck and Tank Lorry Shramik Union and vice-president of district Shramik Dal.

He was arrested Monday night from Chupria village in Sadar upazila. The law enforcers said they suspect that Khabir helped Mukul managed to escape arrest and flee to India after the attack.

Khabir is also accused in several cases including extortion, filed with the Sadar police station.

Soon after arrest, Rab took him to its headquarters in Khulna, Sadar police station Officer-in Charge (OC) Aatur Rahman said yesterday.

Rebel camp clouds BNP hopes in Khagrachhari

MP Wadud sees no rival faction, says actions were taken for 'illegal activities'

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Intra-party feud in BNP has taken a serious turn in Khagrachhari, threatening the four-party alliance's prospect of retaining the Jatiya Sangsad seat in the coming election.

The constituency comprises eight upazilas.

upazila BNP president and Matiranga Pourashava chairman Nasir Uddin, former chairman of Khagrachhari Pourashava Abul Kashem, Sadar upazila BNP secretary Rafiqul Islam, Panchhari upazila BNP president Amin Sharif, Dighinala upazila BNP president Zafar Ahmed, Manikchhari upazila BNP president M A Karim and Mohalchhari upazila BNP president

(Wadud) himself", Harun said.

Most of the leaders have been driven out of the party on false allegations as they protested misdeeds by the lawmaker's men, he alleged.

The lawmaker's men are involved in corruption, grabbing minority community land, tender manipulation and other crimes, Harun alleged. He is surrounded by

Wadud loyalists however said he is an honest and popular leader. He always works for people. He has implemented many development projects in the district, they said.

The loyalists include district BNP press secretary Nazrul Islam, Jubo Dal president Abdus Salam, Khagrachhari pourashava chairman Joynal Abedin, Dighinala upazila BNP vice-president and Merung Union Parishad member Abdur Rahman, district BNP joint-secretary Mostafizur Rahman Millat, Sadar upazila BNP president M N Absar and Monjur Moshed.

They said Harun-or-Rashid and his supporters are not loyal to four-party alliance.

When contacted over phone, Wadud Bhuiyan said, there is no existence of any rival faction in Khagrachhari BNP. It is not possible to form any legal committee without approval of the central committee, he said.

Asked about suspension, he said the actions were taken for their illegal activities.

He said membership of men like Nakkhatra Lal Deva Barmon, Harun-or-Rashid and their followers were suspended as they were involved in illegal activities like taking money from people promising jobs and tender manipulation. Sadar BNP secretary Rafiqul Islam and some others were suspended for their anti-party and anti-social activities, the lawmaker said.

Asked about rivalry over nomination, he said, "Any eligible citizen of Bangladesh can contest election. If party gives them nomination they will contest", he said. Party high command will decide nomination, Wadud said.

Asked about allegations of landgrabbing by some of his followers, he said, "No BNP leader or activist grabbed lands, either of Bangalees or of other communities".



Wadud Bhuiyan MP



Nakkhatra Lal Devbarman



Samiron Dewan



Harun-or-Rashid

BNP won the seat for the first time in the 'controversial' election held in February 1996 when Wadud Bhuiyan defeated Jatiya Party candidate with a narrow margin. Awami League boycotted the polls.

Wadud lost to Awami League candidate Kalpa Ranjan Chakma with a wide margin in the election held in October 1996. Wadud regained the seat in 2001 election.

The feud in BNP started after its victory. The party is now virtually split as membership of at least 50 'dedicated' leaders at district and upazila levels were suspended at different times. Many of them are not even allowed to enter Khagrachhari by the lawmaker's cadres, party sources alleged.

The suspended party men include district BNP president of Rajib Roy, former district council chairman and senior vice-president of BNP Nakkhatra Lal Devbarman, its secretary Muhammad Moniruzzaman, joint secretary Abu Bakr, organising secretary Nuruzzaman, district Jubo Dal president and district council member Harun-or-Rashid, Matiranga

Anup Mohajon.

They were suspended for their 'illegal activities', claimed Nazrul Islam, press secretary of Khagrachhari BNP.

The 'suspended' leaders at a meeting held at a hotel in Chittagong on September 8 formed a rival committee led by Harun-or-Rashid as its convener. The committee will start political activities after the caretaker government takes over, its joint convener Amin Sharif said.

At least 93 leaders from different units of the party in the district attended the meeting.

The rival committee is preparing to field a candidate to challenge Wadud in the coming election, Amin said.

Talking to this correspondent, Harun said party council was not held in last 14 years. The party is conducted by Wadud Bhuiyan and his men at their will, he alleged.

There is a 101-member district committee, which is in name only. "There is none in the committee except press secretary Nazrul Islam, student affairs secretary Belayet Hossen and the MP

a handful of loyalists who have grabbed lands in Comilla Tilla, Ambagan, Buyachhari, Hospital Gate, Khagrapur, Naimail, Panchhari, Matiranga, Manikchhari, Tabalchhari, Laxmichhari, Harun alleged.

When contacted, district BNP press secretary Nazrul Islam, terming it an exaggerated claim said, "Some district committee leaders might have been involved in such activities but not all".

There are a number of competent leaders in the new committee who will challenge Wadud Bhuiyan and seek alliance nomination in the coming election, Amin said.

The dissident group is preparing to hold a 'grand rally' after the caretaker government takes over, he said.

There is other aspirant also BNP leader Khagrachhari District Taskforce Chairman Samiron Dewan. But he does not belong to any of the factions, party sources said.

"He (Wadud Bhuiyan) is an outsider", said senior vice-president of district BNP Nakkhatra Lal Dev Barmon.



Bogra Journalists Union formed a human chain at Sat Matha in the town yesterday demanding punishment of killers of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) vice-president Dipanker Chakravarty, murdered here two years ago.

None held yet for attack on puja mandop in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police till yesterday could not arrest any of the accused who attacked Khalsebunia Puja mandop in Shyamnagar upazila Sunday night.

Six people were injured in the attack allegedly made by some local Jamaat activists, sources in the Puja committee said.

Satkhira district Puja Uddjan Committee in a statement yesterday protested the attack and criticised police inaction in arresting the culprits. None was held as the accused are activists of ruling party, they alleged.

They demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

In the, Monoranjan Mukherjee and Bihari Sarkar, president and general secretary of the district Puja Uddjan committee, said a gang led

by Nazim, Mamun, Nazu Par, Shahjahan, Manirul and Murshid raided the Khalsebunia Kalibari puja mandap and resisted the priest from carrying out rituals.

Several devotees and community police men deployed there came under attack by the miscreants as they protested the attack, the statement said.

The attackers also snapped the power supply line, the statement alleged.

The injured include Khalsebunia Puja committee president Radhakanto Mondal, Sharat and community police men Mosharrar, Fazal, Abul Hossain and Shamsur Rahman.

The devotees caught an alleged attacker, Nazim, and handed him over to Shyamnagar thana but police sent him to jail showing him arrested under Section 54 of Cr PC,

the statement claimed.

Soon after the attack, Tushar Kanti Barman, general secretary of the puja committee, made an FIR with Shyamnagar thana accusing 17 including the aforesaid people but police declined to record it as a case, the committee sources alleged.

Panic has gripped the Hindu community in the area as they are fearing retaliation because the culprits are moving freely, they said.

Shyamnagar thana officer-in-charge Zahid however said, a case was filed for 'beating community police men'.

When contacted yesterday, Zohurul Islam, office secretary of Satkhira district Jamaat said the attackers are not members of the party.

Father sells son, mother buys back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Believe it or not, a woman bought back her 8-year-old son who was sold at Tk 100 only by her gambler husband on Monday.

Osman Ali, a rickshaw-puller, losing all his money in the stake took his minor son Mahub to the railway station and sold him to a woman hailing from Rajbari.

At that time, mother Momena Khatun was away from home. On return a neighbour told her that she saw Osman with his son at the railway station.

Momena rushed to the spot where she saw a woman and Mahub waiting for a train. Giving her identity as the child's mother, she bought back Mah-bub for Tk 1,000.

Momena borrowed the money from a neighbour on condition of high interest.

Osman remained at large as Momena informed the matter to police.

Seven murdered in B'baria in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Seven people were killed and 150 others were injured in separate incidents in the district in the last one week.

Furkan Mia, 30, son of Edon Mia of Konikara village of Nabinagar upazila was strangled by a gang of criminals who threw his body in the Buri river on September 23.

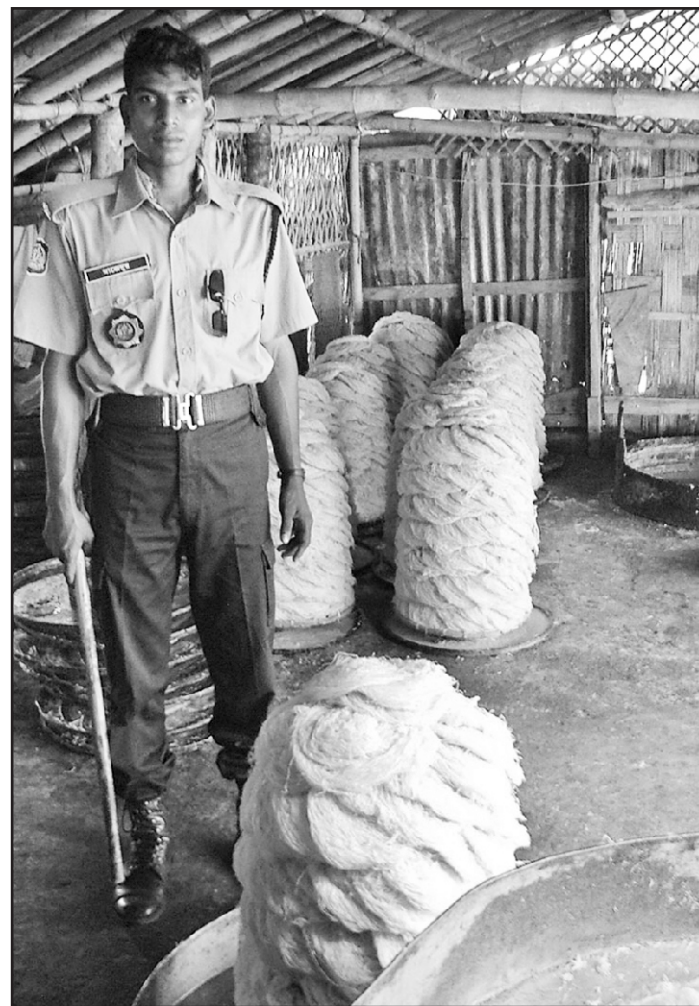
The same night, Tajul Islam, 40, son of Akkas Mia of Krishnanagar village was chopped to death by another gang of miscreants.

Gulap Khan, 50, son of Suti Lal Khan of Pathanpara in Sarail

upazila was killed by his rivals in a clash here on September 26. The same night, Yakub Ali, 35, son of Abdur Rahman of Maliyata village of Sadar upazila was chopped to death by a gang of criminals.

Jahangir Alam, 35, was killed by unidentified killers who hanged the body with the rooftop of his shop after the killing the same night. Abdul Hasim, 70, son of Manjur Ali of Eunanur village was killed by his grandson Siddique Mia, 18, on September 28.

Alamgir Hossain, 24, of Senda village was killed by a gang of miscreants on September 29.



A mobile court seized a huge quantity of substandard vermicelli from a factory in Bakolia in Chittagong city yesterday.

PCJSS meets to decide stance in coming polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A two-day meeting of central committee meeting of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), a regional platform of indigenous people in CHT, concluded here yesterday.

The meeting discussed stance of PCJSS in the coming election, implementation of the CHT peace accord, voter list, law and order in the hills and other polls-related issues. Satyabir Dewan, its secretary told this correspondent yesterday over phone. All central, district, upazila and union level leaders attended the meeting held at Rangamati town residence of PCJSS chief Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu

Larma.

Shantu Larma was the chief guest while Satyabir Dewan chaired the meeting.

PCJSS central leader and CHT Regional Council member Ushatan Talukder, CHTRC member Rupayan Dewan, PCJSS vice president Laxmi Prasad Chakma, its law affairs secretary advocate Shaktiman Chakma, publicity secretary Mongal Kumar Chakma were among the main speakers.

Satyabir Dewan said the meeting discussed in detail whether PCJSS would support any of the alliances or field its own candidate in the coming election. No decision was taken. There will be more such meetings before the election, he said.

Listed criminal held in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A BNP cadre and main accused in an arms looting case here was arrested from Kauria area in Barisal city Monday night.

Listed criminal Taru, 20, was arrested from a bidi factory where he had been staying for the last three days. Criminals led by Taru looted a rifle, 40 rounds of bullets and gold worth about over Tk 10 lakh from the residence of former police superintendent (SP) Imamul Hossain Feroz in Charpara area here on September 28.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station accusing eight persons. Taru's name was mentioned as the main accused in the case.

Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Shahjahan Khan said, 'We are interrogating Taru for recovering looted rifle and bullets'.

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