

## GAIBANDHA-4 CONSTITUENCY

# BNP factions flex muscles on streets for ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

The intra-party feud in Gaibandha BNP took a new turn yesterday when several hundred party activists belonging to a faction marched streets carrying sticks and chanting slogans against the party president, accusing him for arrest of their leader.

They brought out the procession in support of their today's hartal in the town, called earlier to press release of their leader Shiekh Samad Azad, former president of Gaibandha BNP and four-party alliance convener.

They alleged that Azad was arrested at the behest of their rival faction's leader, district BNP president Hamidul Huq Chhana.

Azad was arrested on Thursday, hours before a scheduled meeting of 'deprived' BNP leaders and workers at his house in the town.

The two rival factions have been holding separate processions and



PHOTO: STAR  
A rival faction of BNP led by Anisuzzaman Khan and Abdul Mannan Sarker brought out a stick procession in Gaibandha town yesterday.

rallies in the town since Thursday, accusing each other.

The feud intensified over nomination from Gaibandha-2 constituency (Sadar), party sources said.

After yesterday's procession, Azad's supporters held a rally in front of Gaibandha Press Club, where speakers accused Hamidul Huq Chhana of tarnishing the party's image by 'corrupt practices' and of autocratic behaviour. They also declared him 'unwanted' in the district.

It was addressed by, among others, former secretary of district BNP Anisuzzaman Khan Babu and its Sadar unit president Abdul Mannan Sarker.

They alleged that incumbent district BNP president Hamidul Huq Chhana got their leader and four-party alliance convener Shiekh Samad Azad arrested to implement his "ill motives".

They demanded his immediate release and threatened of tougher agitation including road blockade and indefinite hartal in the town for non-compliance.

They called upon party activists

to enforce a day-long hartal in the town for release of Azad.

Soon after Azad's arrest on Thursday, his supporters brought out processions and held a rally on Shaheed Minar premises.

Presided over by former lawmaker Rustom Ali Mollah, it was addressed, by among others, former district BNP secretary Anisuzzaman Khan Babu, former organising secretary Gausul Azam Dollar, Sadar BNP president Abdul Mannan Sarker, Abdus Satter, Abdul Hadi, Enamul Islam Tuku, Shah Azam Sarker, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Abdul Kafi and Aklima Begum.

They alleged that he was arrested to foil Thursday's meeting of 'deprived' senior BNP leaders at his house.

On Thursday in the evening, another faction brought out a procession in the town demanding punishment of Shiekh Samad Azad for his alleged "terrorist activities".

BNP in Gaibandha is divided into two factions, one led by Hamidul Huq Chhana and the other by former district BNP secretary Anisuzzaman Khan Babu and its Sadar unit president Abdul Mannan Sarker.

Talking to this correspondent, Abdul Mannan Sarker claimed that no senior leader of the party is with Hamidul Huq Chhana now because of his autocratic behaviour and they will not support him if he is nominated from the constituency in coming election.

At least six BNP leaders will vie for nomination from the constituency, party leaders said.

Anisuzzaman Khan Babu was the four-party alliance nominee from the constituency in 2001 election but he lost to Awami League's Lutfar Rahman.

Talking to newsmen at the press club yesterday, Hamidul Huq Chhana however claimed that there is no rivalry in Gaibandha BNP.

"Some party men who created chaos were expelled from its district and Sadar upazila committees on different grounds", he said.

"BNP in Gaibandha is now strong enough to face any election challenge", he claimed.

In the last election, Lutfar Rahman got 68,598 votes while Abdur Rashid Sarker ran second with a narrow margin of 1079 votes.

## Bus strike on 3 Moulvibazar routes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Bus owners associations went on an indefinite strike on three routes in the district from Friday demanding closure of plying of Dhaka bound buses along the routes.

The routes are Moulvibazar-Kulaura-Chandgram route, Moulvibazar-Balaganj-Fenchugonj route and Moulvibazar-Kulaura-Juri routes.

Earlier, the associations submitted a memorandum to Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner (DC) containing their demand. They threatened an indefinite bus strike in the routes for non-fulfillment of their demand.

Moulvibazar-Kulaura-Chandgram-Fenchugonj-Balaganj Bus Minibus Owners' Association general secretary Ansar Miah told this correspondent they decided to go on strike to protect their business because the administration did not pay heed to their demand.

On contact, Moulvibazar DC Md Eunusur Rahman said he would take an initiative for withdrawal of the strike through negotiations.

However, general passengers urged the administration not to bow down to bus owners' demand because they termed it 'illogical and unjustified'.

## RU students asked to vacate halls for Eid

Shibir pressure on authorities alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have asked the resident students of all the 15 residential halls of the university to vacate their halls during Eid vacation.

The decision was taken following alleged pressure created by the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) who feared that their captured halls would be lost during the caretaker government's tenure.

This is the first ever instance in the history of the university that the university authorities are instructing

the students to vacate halls during Eid vacation.

Witnesses said, a large number of young armed cadres of Shibir, mostly outsiders, are now staying in different halls of the university. In last five years, Shibir took control of all the 15 halls in the university.

On contact, vice chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain said the decision was taken as per suggestion of the intelligence agencies who cautioned presence of many militants in the halls who might launch attacks during Eid vacation.

## BRAC launches interest-free loan for *monga* victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

BRAC, a leading NGO, has launched a special credit scheme for the ultra poor in Lalmonirhat district to help them tide over *monga* (a pre-harvest lead period). The programme, launched Wednesday, will cover about one lakh people in five upazilas, mostly day labourers, who do not have any work for survival now.

They will get interest-free loan, repayable in small installments after the *monga* (October-November).

The scheme was launched from BRAC's nine offices in the district, BRAC's Regional Manager Shahinur Rahman told this correspondent yesterday. He said the effect of *monga* may not be severe this year in the area due to the loan scheme.

## BNP leader murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

A local BNP leader was murdered by miscreants at Dattopara village in Raiganj upazila on Friday night.

Criminals abducted Dhanghora union BNP vice-president Sujon, 35, when he was on way home from Dhanghora Bazaar at about 9.30pm, police and local people said. Abductors took him to Dattopara where they slaughtered him by a sharp weapon.

On information, Raiganj police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspected, Sujon might have been killed due to previous enmity.

4X2

3X3

3X3

10X4

7X3