

PROTEST AGAINST 14-PARTY'S ALLEGED ANARCHY

BNP factions hold separate rallies in three districts

5 cocktails blast at rally of a faction in Chandpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Rival BNP factions held separate rallies and brought processions in

Gaibandha, Chandpur and Patuakhali yesterday.

These were part of a countrywide programmes of BNP-led four party

alliance, announced earlier, to protest the alleged anarchy created by the Awami League-led 14-party alliance.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
The BNP faction led by former minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury brought out a procession in Patuakhali town yesterday protesting alleged anarchy in the country by the 14-party alliance.

3X3

4X3

6X3

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that the two rival factions of district BNP held separate rallies in the town yesterday to stage show-down.

The faction led by district BNP president Hamidul Huq Chhana held its meeting on Shaheed Minar premise while the other faction led by four-party alliance convener Sheikh Samand Azad held its programme in front of BNP office.

Sheikh Samad at his rally declared party president Hamidul Huq Chhana 'unwanted' in the district for his alleged 'misdeed and corruption' in last five years.

Terming Hamidul Huq a 'godfather of terrorists and drug traders' and toll collector, Sheikh Samad and other speakers at the rally demanded his arrest of Hamidul Huq and his 'muscleman' Sumon.

"We will publish a white paper on Hamidul Huq's corrupt practices and irregularities", said Sheikh Samad.

The district party committee led by Hamidul Huq is illegal as its tenure expired a year ago, Abdul Mannan Sarker, president of Gaibandha Sadar upazila BNP told the rally.

At the Shaheed Minar rally, Hamidul Huq claimed that the faction led by Chhana has no link with BNP. They were expelled long ago for their anti-party activities. So they have no right to hold any meeting under BNP banner, he said.

"BNP in Gaibandha is strong enough to face any challenge of 14-party alliance and that will be shown in the next general election", said Hamidul Huq.

The 14-party alliance is creating anarchy in the country and they should be faced boldly, he said.

The Shaheed Minar rally was also addressed by, among others, Saiful Alam Suja, Alamgir Sadullah Duda, Kamrul Hasan Selim, Rafiqul Islam Liton, Rezaul Huq Chowdhury and Faozia Akhter.

Sheikh Samand Azad's rally in front of BNP office was also addressed by former lawmaker Rostom Ali Mollah, former district BNP secretary Anisuzzaman Khan Babu, Gausul Azam Dollar, Abdul Mannan Sarker, Habibur Rahman Bablu, Morshed Habib Sohel, district Jubo Dal convener Mahamudunnabi and JCD secretary Ahmed Seketur Rob.

Later both the groups brought out separate processions and paraded main roads of the town.

A correspondent reported from Chandpur that two BNP factions held separate rallies in the town.

Five cocktails blasted at the bus stand, the meeting venue of the faction led by former lawmaker from Chandpur Sadar-Haimchar constituency SA Sultan Tito.

Though both the rallies were held

under the banner of four-party alliance, no Jamaat-e-Islami leader was seen at any of the meetings, witnesses and party sources said. Police were deployed at both the meetings venues.

With Tito in the chair, the rally at bus stand was addressed by, among others, Abdul Hamid Master, JCD leaders Ibrahim Kazi and Aktar Hossain Maji, district Sramik Dal secretary Moteleb Khan and Khelafat Majlish leader Anwarul Karim.

The other faction led by 'rebel' leader district Jubo Dal convener Shafiq Bhuiyan held its meeting at Shapla Chatter.

District BNP vice-president Shafiuddin Ahmed presided. Alliance nomination seekers (from Chandpur Sadar-Haimchar constituency) Shafiq Bhuiyan and Sheikh Farid Ahmad Manik, SK Maitur Rahman and Abdur Rashid addressed the rally.

Speakers there demanded expulsion of SA Sultan Tito from the party for creating division in it in Chandpur. They also condemned 14-party's alleged anarchy and urged the people vote for BNP again for development of Chandpur.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reported that two factions of BNP held separate rallies and brought out processions in Patuakhali town yesterday.

Patuakhali BNP is divided into two factions, one led by its president and former minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and the other by its secretary Snahansu Sarker Kutti and municipality chairman Moshtaq Ahmed.

Speakers at the rallies blamed their rivals for the division and accused them of anti-party activities.

The Altaf-led faction held its rally at New Market and then paraded the town streets. It was addressed by Altaf Hossain and party leader MA Rob, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Fakhruddin Khan Razi and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) leader Abdur Razzak.

The other faction held its rally at the old court complex ground and paraded streets.

It was addressed by, among others, Moshtaq Ahmed, Shahjahan Khan, Delwar Hossain, Monirul Alam Swapan, Alamgir Hossain, Bashir Uddin Mridha and Gazi Ashfaqur Rahman Biplop, a leader of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Party sources said the rift in BNP in Patuakhali has widened as both Altaf Hossain and Moshtaq Ahmed are seeking alliance nomination from Patuakhali-1 (Sadar-Mirzagonj and Dumki) constituency in coming election.

Khulna leaders assure peace in politics

STAR REPORT

Leaders of Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party (Ershad) assured KMP Commissioner Khan Saeed Hasan that they would help police maintain law and order in city and try to avoid political violence during observance of political programmes.

The assurance from political leaders came at a view-exchange meeting held Tuesday night in at KMP headquarters with the police commissioner in the chair.

The meeting was attended by city Awami League president Talukder Abdul Khaleque, convener of city BNP Ali Asgar Lobby, Jamaat Amaer Mian Golam Parwar, Khulna city Jatiya Party (E) president Shaikha Abul Hossain and general secretaries of all these political parties.

The political leaders urged the police commissioner to swing into action against terrorists, drug traffickers, bombers and illegal arms traders.

The police commissioner sought cooperation of all political parties to arrest listed criminals and their godfathers.

Buddist festival begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A tow-day Kathin Chibar Dan Utsab, a major religious festival of Buddhist community, will begin here tomorrow.

The main programme will be held at Rangamati Rajban Vihar in the hill town.

All preparations has been completed by the celebration committee at Rajban Vihar to hold the function with great religious fervour, Muratissen Chakma, secretary of Rajban Vihar Upasak Upasika Parishad said.

2X2

2X2

Poor Rabeya saves lives, sets example

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Honesty of a poor housemaid saved life of some leaders and activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) in Moulvibazar on Tuesday. But she had to pay for it by sustaining physical torture.

Rabeya Begum, 50, is now being treated at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

Rabeya's honesty same JSD leaders and activists from being poisoned to death, party leaders claimed at a press conference at JSD office yesterday.

Rabeya has been working as a cleaner at the local JSD office for about three years.

On Tuesday in the evening, Rabeya was coming to JSD office near TC Market from her residence at Yusuf Miah's slum. A gang of five obstructed her on way. They asked her to take a bottle of poison and mix it with tea to be served to JSD men.

They offered to give her Tk 20,000 for this. As she refused, they insisted and then beat her.

Her screams drew nearby people who chased the criminals but they fled away. She was taken to JSD office and then to the hospital.

Moulvibazar JSD president Md Abdul Haq and other party leaders answered to newsmen's questions at JSD office yesterday.

They said they lodged a general diary (GD) with Moulvibazar police station. Asked why they did not file a case, they said it is the duty of police to probe the matter and file a case.

Officer-in-Charge of Moulvi-bazar Sadar police station Amol Kumar Dhar visited Rabeya at the hospital yesterday evening. He told this correspondent that Rabeya during primary interrogation narrated the same story but could not identify any of the five men. He said they are probing the case.

At least 20 people were injured as BNP and Awami League (AL) activists clashed at Boga market in Baufal upazila of the district Tuesday night.

Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) arrested 10 activists including 8 of BNP.

Locals and police sources said, the clash ensued at about 10 at night when some AL activists allegedly tried to attack the local BNP office. They used sticks and sharp weapons.

At least 10 shops were damaged

Former BNP MP's car attacked by party men in Sylhet

Safi Ahmed claims it an attempt to kill him, sues 15 BNP, JCD men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of BNP activists vandalised a vehicle of former party lawmaker Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury in the city's South Surma area yesterday. Shafi Ahmed sent a letter to South Surma thana BNP secretary Habib Hossain at about noon through a messenger in his car, asking him to join a party rally at Chowdhury Bazaar in the afternoon. Shafi waited at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

As Shafi's car was returning to DC's office to pick him up, it came under attack near Babnar crossing of some young men.

They attacked the car, beat up

driver Rafiqul Islam and snatched money and cell phone from him. The messenger--Nurul Islam--managed to flee. The driver was injured.

Later, Shafi Ahmed filed a case with Sylhet Kotwali police station accusing fifteen party men including Surma BNP chief Habib Hossain and JCD (jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) secretary Kohinur Ahmed. He alleged in case that it was an attempt to kill him.

However, Habib Hossain denied the allegation.

Shafi along with two other former lawmakers belong to the anti-Saifur camp in Sylhet BNP, party sources said.

20 hurt in AL-BNP clash in Baufal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 20 people were injured as BNP and Awami League (AL) activists clashed at Boga market in Baufal upazila of the district Tuesday night.

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At least 10 shops were damaged

during the clash.

Most of the injured took treatment at local private clinics and avoided going to the upazila health complex to avoid arrest or harassment by police, sources claimed.

Yesterday morning, Rab and Baufal thana police conducted a raid in nearby areas and arrested 10 people.

Section 144, clamped in Baufal municipal area on Sunday following clashes between AL and BNP, was in force till yesterday as Tuesday's fresh clash mounted tension in the area.

5X3

7X3