

TICKET FROM KUSHTIA-1

# BNP aspirant calls rival an 'Awami League spy' in party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Immediate past BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-1 (Daulatpur) constituency Reza Ahmed Bachhu Mollah yesterday called his party colleague industrialist Nasir Uddin Biswas an 'Awami League spy in BNP', fielded to destroy the party in the area.

"He (Nasir) had no connection with BNP politics. He is using his black money before the election to misguide BNP leaders, activists and supporters so that the party candidate loses the coming election in the constituency", Bachchu Mollah told a press conference here yesterday.

Bachchu Molla, also president of Daulatpur upazila BNP, claimed that he and his family are deeply involved with people of Daulatpur and always stands by them in bad days. No one can create any rift in the bond, he told the press conference at his Taragonia residence.

Bachchu Mollah also claimed that his men would resist 'such



Nasir Uddin Biswas



Reza Ahmed Bachhu Mollah

unwanted person' who is trying to damage the party image in the district, known as a BNP stronghold.

Bachchu also alleged that Nasir amassed wealth 'illegally by not paying tax and cheating people'.

"He (Nasir) smuggles tobacco products (mostly Bidi) to India through different border points in

Daulatpur. He now needed an MP title to legitimise the ill-gotten wealth."

He urged his party men to resist Nasir and the party high command to remain alert about him.

The press conference was attended by, among others, upazila BNP secretary Sahid Sarker Mongol, vice-president Ruhul

Kuddus, organising secretary Harunur Rashid, upazila Jubo Dal convener Mahabubul Rahman and Chhatra Dal president Maniruzzaman Muntaz.

BNP is now divided into two factions in Daulatpur, one led by Bachchu Mollah and the other by Nasir Biswas. Both are aspirants for 4-party alliance ticket from Daulatpur in the coming election.

They submitted nomination forms to the party high command.

Both are also in the field, mobilising party men, holding various programmes including rallies and meeting people.

Earlier, on several occasions including press conferences, Nasir Biswas, owner of Nasir Group of Industries, termed Bachchu Mollah a 'godfather of criminals' and an 'incompetent successor of late Ahsanul Haq Mollah (father of Bachchu Mollah).

Ahsanul Haw was elected lawmaker from the constituency in four consecutive elections.

Bachchu Molla became a lawmaker in a by-election following the death of his father in 2004. No other political party took part in the by-election, leaving Bachchu Molla and some independent candidates to vie for the seat.

Nasir also sought BNP nomination in 2001 and in the 2004 by-election but was denied.

The two BNP leaders are engaged in mudslinging for long over party leadership. Their factions clashed on several occasions this year.

## Bhasani's birth anniversary observed in Santosh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 126th birth anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was observed here yesterday.

Legendary leader of the masses, Maolana Bhasani-- was born in Dhangara village in Sirajganj district in 1880 on this day.

To mark the day, different political, social and cultural organisations arranged various programmes at the Mazar of the great leader in Santosh.

The programmes included placing wreaths, offering Fateha and holding Milad Mahfil at his Mazar and a seminar at Santosh.

Hundreds of admirers of Maulana Bhasani from different areas of Tangail and other districts joined the programmes at his Mazar.

Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) held a seminar on 'Present world situation and ideas of Maolana Bhasani on the campus.'

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam addressed at the seminar as chief guest while former Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Dr Jasim Uddin Ahmed and Prof Dr Mahfuz Parvez of Chittagong University attended the seminar as special guests.

With MBUST VC Khalilur Rahman in the chair, the seminar was addressed by among others, Santosh Islamic University Trustee Board member Syed Irfanul Bari and Government Saadat Collge Principal Dr Mohammad Kamruzzaman.

They said a leader like Bhasani is needed most now, when the nation passes a crucial period.



PHOTO: STAR

A member of a stranded Pakistani family at Latifpur Colony in Bogra town is being enrolled in the voter list. (Story on page 1).

## AL demands removal of 3 HDC chairmen, members

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Awami League (AL) and its front organisations yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally in Rangamati hill town demanding removal of chairmen and members of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari hill district councils (HDCs).

They also submitted a memorandum to the President and Chief Advisor to the caretaker government through the Deputy Commissioner to press the demand.

Rangamati AL president Dipankar Talukder addressed the rally held in front of the DC's office with party

secretary Selim Chowdhury in the chair.

They said the HDC chairmen and members appointed by the immediate past four-party government are still holding their posts though the government's tenure expired and a caretaker government took over.

HDC leaders are misappropriating money and food grains allotted for development projects and using those for their party, they alleged. This will influence the coming election, they said and urged the administration to stop all allotments till an elected government takes over.

14x3

## BIBIYANA GAS FIELD Flare test in 2-3 days as locals suspend agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Local people in Bibiyana gas field area yesterday suspended their agitation on authorities' assurance that their 14-point demand would be met in phases.

The assurance was given at a meeting between leaders of Bibiyana Dabi Aday Bastobayan Parishad (committee to realise demands in Bibiyana) and local administration officials, held at the Upazila Parishad building in presence of officials of US company Chevron which drilled wells in the gas field for gas extraction.

The agitation delayed the flare test by the company to ascertain gas flow in the wells.

Following the talks, the US company will now start flare tests in wells drilled at the North Pad of Bibiyana gas field, located at a remote village in Nabiganj upazila under Habiganj district.

After the meeting, a Chevron official told The Daily Star that they would start flare test within 2-3 days.

The company could not start the flare test in last three days due to agitation.

Several hundred people put up barricade on approaches to the gas field to stop officials from entering the North Pad, where drilling was completed.

Their demands include, supply of gas to houses in Nabiganj upazila before supply to other areas, construction and renovation of roads and bridges in the area, setting up of gas-based power plants and jobs for locals in the gas field.

At yesterday's meeting, Chevron officials assured of taking steps for construction and reconstruction of some bridges, culverts and roads. They would meet some other demands locally. But the company can not assure gas supply to houses as this is a decision to be taken by Bangladesh government, its officials told the meeting.

They however said they would place the matter to the authorities concerned.

After flare tests, the gas field will be ready for production, a Chevron official told this correspondent.

The Bibiyana Dabi Aday Bastabayan Parishad put forward its 14-point demand in 1997 and started agitation to press those after work in the gas field began.

## Road blockade for nomination to Enam Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP activists put up barricades on the Sylhet-Zakiganj road at Golapganj, halting traffic for over three hours yesterday demanding alliance nomination for former Privatisation Commission chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhury from Sylhet-6 constituency.

Over 600 vehicles were stranded on both sides of three roads in the intersection from 3 pm.

BNP activities earlier held a rally there with former vice president of Golapganj upazila BNP Gias Uddin Master in the chair. Enam Ahmed is also an advisor to BNP chairperson.

Speakers there said Enam Ahmed has great contributions for development of the area and he should get nomination to contest in the coming election.

BNP leaders and UP chairmen MA Musabbir, Raju Ahmed Talukder, Emdad Hossain Tipu, Nosirul Haque Shahin and former general secretary of Golapganj thana BNP Mohius Sunnah Narzis addressed.

There has been a long standing rivalry between followers of former BNP lawmaker Syed Mokbul Hossain Lechu Miah and Enam Ahmed Chowdhury in the area.

8x3

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