

Metropolitan

Dateline Khulna

Bitter power struggle in city JP unit

From Syed Issa

KHULNA, Feb 18: With the fall of former President H M Ershad local Jatiya Party, which was always considered as a hub of political shelter seekers rather than a political organisation has been on the verge of disunity.

Already divided in few groups even while in power, the JP activists are now trying to consolidate their individual group strength to counter inside squabbling.

With the ensuing parliamentary polls, where grouping in local JP has erupted with the selection of party candidates, Though Jatiya Party centrally nominated six candidates for all the six constituencies of the district, at least two JP candidates are also fighting from Khulna-2 and Khulna-4 constituencies as independent contenders JP leaders and activists of Khulna are sharply divided these days in at least two clear groups in supporting these party candidates.

Sk Abul Kashem, the President of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the General Secretary of Jatiya Party's Khulna city unit is contesting from Khulna old town seat as an independent candidate without resigning from his party post where his party unit President and a former Whip of Parliament Mia Musa Hossain is also contesting with a party ticket, Mia Musa's efforts were learnt to have been foiled to force Abul Kashem to retire from the election race even with a threat of expulsion by the Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

Kashem is believed to have been enjoying the blessings of

former Minister Col. Gaffar, who is known to be an arch rival of Mia Musa Hossain in the inner party struggle. Another JP leader and a former MP Mukhtar Hossain is also contesting from the same constituency.

In Khulna-4 constituency, the former Mayor and the Jatiya Party candidate Kazi Aminul Haque is being confronted among others by another JP leader Mukhtar Hossain, who is contesting from both the two seats as independent candidate. Mukhtar Hossain is learnt to have earned the blessings of another former Minister of JP Mominuddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile, the intra party struggle in the local JP has been fuelled further with the attempt of forming of a new district committee by the group led by Mominuddin Ahmed.

According to a report, a new committee of the district JP was formed recently in the residence of Mominuddin Ahmed where both the President and the General Secretary of the district unit were relieved of their posts and two senior JP officials were given the responsibility to go ahead with the party activities. It is learnt that this information has raised a serious controversy among the party rank and file and the news was later had to be contradicted by the newly-elected General Secretary. In a Press statement SM Rabiul Islam termed the news as baseless and said that the President and General Secretary of the committee were replaced by two of the JP leaders due to long absence of them in party activities.

According to political circles, with the lodging of a case of misappropriation recently against Col. Gaffar who is absconding since then has strengthened his party opponents who were trying to come to limelight against Faruq Gaffar group that was enjoying official blessings in the later part of Ershad regime. However the group led by Mominuddin Ahmed could dislodge Kazi Faruq Ahmed, the President of JP district unit and the younger brother of Kazi Zafar Ahmed who gripped the post with the help of Minister Col. Gaffar. The group

led by Mominuddin Ahmed mainly from Awami League via BNP could not swallow the humiliation and with the help of Mizan Chowdhury, his long time friend staged the party coup. Mominuddin was left aside from the local leadership of the party soon after he was dropped from the cabinet in 1987 and Col. Gaffar was made a Cabinet Minister with the blessings of Kazi Zafar Ahmed. The post of JP District President was again snatched from Mominuddin, who in a protest later, refused party ticket in 1988 election.

One burnt to death

BSS adds: A minor boy Morajul aged about five years was burnt to death while five persons received burn injuries when a fire broke out in a bus-tie around Munshipara Lane in the city.

At least 20 thatched houses were totally burnt to ashes before the fire fighting engines could be put into operation.

The fire was later brought under control by the fire fighting engines.

The cause of fire could not be ascertained immediately.

Mahfil

A two-day Azimushan Waz Mahfil will be held on February 18 and 19 at the premises of Shaikhpara Kashemul Ullm Madrasah.

Prominent Ulema-e-Ekram will participate in the two-day Mahfil.

Ex-Quarter Master General dead

Col(Retd) Azharul Haque Chowdhury, the first Quarter Master General (QMG) of the Bangladesh Army died in Dhaka Sunday in the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). He was 65, reports BSS.

Namaj-e-Janaaz of late Col (Retd) A. H. Chowdhury was held after Zohr prayer at the Banani Mosque and was later buried at Dhaka Cantonment Graveyard.

Qul Khawant of late Col (Retd) Chowdhury will be held on February 19 after Asr prayer at House No.70, Road No. 21, Block-B, Banani, Dhaka.



Islami Andolon held a rally in city on Monday demanding immediate pullout of troops from Kuwait. The rally was led by Major (retd) Jainul Abedin Khan and Moulana Anisur Rahman.

Elaborate RU programme on Ekushey

RAJSHAHI, Feb 18: Rajshahi university has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe teachers day and historic Shaheed Day in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The university will observe Monday as Teachers Day. Floral wreaths will be placed at one minute past midnight on behalf of Rajshahi University RUCSU and Shaheed Smriti Granthasala at the mazar of shaheed Dr Shamsuzzoha, who was killed by Pakistani army 22 years ago. Chemistry Association, University Teachers Association, different hall unions, University Club and others will also place wreaths at the mazar.

Other programme of the day includes Quran khawant milad mahfil, discussions on Dr. Zohra and blood donation.

To mark the day the Shaheed Smriti Granthasala will remain open from 8 am to 2 pm for all.

Historic Shaheed Day will also be observed through placing wreaths at Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight by the teachers, students and members of the public.

Rajshahi University (RUCSU), Teachers Association and Shaheed Smriti Granthasala will also place wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

National flag will fly at half mast on the day and teachers and students would bring out probhat ferry to mark the occasion. Special prayers will be held after Zohr prayer at the University.

No AIDS virus in Bangladesh Blood samples of 42,000 tested

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day seminar on 'AIDS and media' jointly organised by the Bureau of Health Education and the National AIDS Committee began on Sunday at the auditorium of the Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) at Mohakhali in the city.

Addressing the seminar as the chief guest Education Adviser Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi stressed the need for role of media in creating mass

awareness against the killer disease AIDS.

The Adviser said the concerned authorities and media personnel could play vital role in this regard.

Presided over by Professor M. A. T. Siddiqi, Director-General of Health, the function was also addressed by Prof K.M. Fariduddin, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Prof A.K. Shamsuddin Siddiqi, Director of Hospitals and Clinics, Dr A.M.A. Abey Sunderi, WHO representative in Bangladesh and BSS Special Correspondent Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

Prof Siddiqi said the Government had taken steps to control AIDS in the country. Blood samples of 42,000 people have been tested and no AIDS virus was found, he added.

He said about 700,000 people of 158 countries of the world were infected with AIDS and 100,000,000 more people are expected to contract this deadly disease in the years to come. Prof Siddiqi said prevention and control of AIDS should be given first priority as majority of the people were suffering from various diseases and malnutrition.

Fifty media personnel from dailies, weeklies, PID Radio and TV are participating in the seminar.

Bi-ennial election of Ctg Press Club March 8

CHITTAGONG, Feb 18: The bi-ennial election of Chittagong Press Club will be held at the Press Club here on March 8, press release said, reports BSS.

Nomination papers will be supplied from February 22 to 24 between 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. everyday while nomination papers will be received on February 25 from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Nomination papers will be scrutinised on February 26 and list of contestants will be published the same day.

Nomination papers can be withdrawn on February 28 and the final list of contestants will be published on March 2.

Voting will take place from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. on March 8.

Dateline Chittagong

Insurgents kill 2 tribals: arms recovered, 65 held

CHITTAGONG, Feb 18: Tribal insurgents killed two persons at Tanchangya Para of Gagra Zone under Rangamati. Sadar Upazila on Saturday night, official sources said on Monday, reports BSS.

The victims belonging to Tanchangya tribe were shot dead at their village by the insurgents who later fled away. Security forces recovered the bodies of Nagendra Tanchangya (40) and Kinaram Tanchangya (26) and handed over the corpse to the relatives of the victims.

The victims, both community leaders, were killed as they opposed unlawful activities of the tribal insurgents in their area, the sources said.

Different police stations under Chittagong district arrested 65 persons on various charges and recovered a fire arms during the past 48 hours, district police said.

A pipe gun with one cartridge was recovered and five persons were arrested in this connection at Sundarpur of Fatikchhari Upazila. Sunday, Fatikchhari police also arrested 10 other known criminals from different areas of the Upazila.

Raozan and Hathazari police also arrested 50 others from different areas under the Upazila on various charges, police said.

Transport leader killed

A leader of a transport workers union was killed by some unidentified assailants at Solashahar here on Sunday evening, police said.

Panchalash police recovered the body of Oli Ahmed (27), President of Truck Workers' Union, Oxygen Unit, from a road side drain at Solashahar gate no 2 Sunday. The body was sent for post-mortem.

A case has been registered with Panchalash police in this connection.

The victim, son of one Nurul Hoq, belongs to Solashahar area of Chittagong.

Tk. 207,205 as fines realised

Bangladesh railway realised Taka 207,205 during January 1 to February 9 as fines and fares from ticketless travellers through mobile courts and block checking, a railway press release said on Monday.

Of the total amount, Taka 112,510 was realised from Chittagong Division and Taka 94,612 from Dhaka Division of the Bangladesh Railway (East Zone). The remaining amount was realised from different stations.

Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) has intensified drive against ticketless travellers during the past few months.

CODEC annual workshop

A three-day annual workshop of community development centre (CODEC) began at the Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC) at Chandgaon here on Sunday, a CODEC press release said.

Managing director of CODEC, Khurshid Alam presided over the opening session which was also addressed by BMDC Deputy Director, MA Matin. CODEC officials, Kamal Sengupta, Khondakar Zahurul Kabir and MA Bari, Area Manager, CODEC, Emadul Huq read out address of welcome.

Over one hundred CODEC field-level officials and workers from three project areas of Chittagong, Lakshmipur and Patuakhali are participating in the workshop.

CODEC, a Dantia aided NGO is engaged in improving the socio-economic condition of fishermen community in Bangladesh. CODEC's operational progress will be reviewed at the workshop.

Theatre festival ends

The 16-day long group theatre festival 1991 organised by the Chattagram Group Theatre Somony Parishad ended on Saturday.

The festival inaugurated on February 1 by eminent literature Hasnatul Haque was held at the premises of Chattagram Shilpokala Academy.

Drama, discussion meeting, recitation of poems and songs, book fair were included in the festival.

People from all walks of life including educationists, intellectuals and connoisseurs enjoyed the festival.

Preservation of language movement documents needed

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury a former Judge of the Supreme Court on Monday stressed the need for proper preservation of items and documents related to the language movement, reports BSS.

Addressing a discussion on the Ekushey February in Dhaka, Justice Chowdhury said due emphasis should be given on the language movement of 1948 with the historic language pact of March 15 of 1948 for educating properly the posterity on the language movement.

The discussion held at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium in the city was a part of the two-day function of Sangskritik Kendra on the Amar Ekushey.

Justice Chowdhury said the incidents on February 21 of 1952 would not have occurred had not the language pact been signed on March 15 of 1948. He said the memorandum

submitted by the students on November 27 of 1948 to the then Pakistan authorities, was the first document of the independence of the country.

He said the language movement was not merely a movement for the recognition of Bangla as state language but a protest against the socio-economic, political and cultural exploitation of the Pakistani rulers.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said, although we had fought against alien culture during the Pakistan period, we were not free even now from the clutches of alien culture.



Aerobics at Sonargaon Hotel

Obituary

Alhaj Mujibur Rahman Advocate, ex-President Comilla Bar Association and renowned social worker of Comilla died heart attack at Comilla Sadar Hospital on Monday at 7-10 am, says a Press release.

He was 72.

He left behind his wife, 5 sons, 2 daughters and grandsons along with a host of relatives, friends and well wishers.

The Qul khawant of the deceased will be held on Thursday at his residence at Court Road, Comilla after Asr prayer.

All relatives, friends and well wishers has been requested to attend the Qul khawant and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Keep-fit drive at Sonargaon

Both agile and fresh all executives of Sonargaon Hotel everyday perform a 30-minutes aerobics programme. The hotel's General Manager Andrew McBurnie conducts the workout at the hotel's tennis court, says a press release.

The hotel's guests find it an extra bonus as they can also join the session. Mr McBurnie believes that the morning exercise will improve the executives productivity and physical fitness to a degree which is required for a successful day's work.

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Chittagong-Wife of Indonesian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mrs Hestia Soemakno inaugurating informally the Honorary Consulate at Hotel Agrabad here. On her left was Hakim Ali, the Consul.