

Two factions in Sirajganj BNP frustrate activists

From Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, May 30: Serious disagreement between two factions of district BNP has been prevailing for the last one year, hampering organisational activities of the main opposition party here.

The conflict surfaced in April last year when the then district BNP organising secretary and former municipality chairman TRM Nur-e-Alam Helal was suspended from the party for one year. He was suspended for his 'anti-organisation activities'.

Although one year has passed, the suspension order was not withdrawn.

The two groups now take part in organisational activities separately, causing frustration among grass-root activists. Even on Tuesday the two factions chalked out separate programmes on the occasion of the 19th death anniversary of former

BNP president and founder of BNP Ziaur Rahman. Both the factions brought out separate processions in the district headquarters marking the day.

One group led by Helal has established its stronghold in Eliot Bridge, SS Road and New Dhaka Road areas in the town. The other group, regarded as the mainstream, is led by TMA Mannan MP, convener of the district unit of BNP. The group holds its organisational activities mainly in Kalibari area.

District unit leaders Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tukur, former Zila Parishad chairman, Advocate Makaddes Ali, Humayun Islam Khan, Azizur Rahman Dulal, Najmunn Haq Babla, district unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Nazmul Hasan Rana and JCD General Secretary Rashidul Hasan Ranjan are supporters of the mainstream group known as Mannan group. Central lead-

ers of BNP usually join the programmes organised by the Mannan group.

On the other hand, Alamgir Alamin Kajol, son of defeated candidate of 1996 parliamentary election Shamsul Alamin, Mokbul Hussain Chowdhury, president of Sadar thana BNP, Abul Hussain, Abdul Kader Chairman JCD leaders Sydur Rahman Bachchu and Shafiqul Alam Dolar, Juba Dal president Ershadur Rahman Niru and Juba Dal General Secretary Munshi Kamaluddin have sided with the dissident group. Alamgir Alamin Kajol is regarded as the staunch supporter of Helal. Some district unit BNP leaders seeking anonymity said central leaders should resolve conflict immediately for the better future of the party in the district. They said if this situation continues, the party will face setback in the next general elections.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with the local journalists recently at Cox's Bazar Press Club. The meeting was held after conclusion of her three-day visit to Cox's Bazar district.

— Star photo

Khas land for landless demanded in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 30: Different rallies on Saturday at all upazilas in Rajshahi district demanded of the government distribution of *Khas* land, shoal land and water bodies among the landless and fishermen.

One lakh landless people and fishermen took part in the rallies organised by Land Network for Development (LAND), a network of 47 local non-governmental organisations.

Qul khwani

Qul khwani of late Farid Uddin Ahmed, a prominent newspaper agent and owner of Blanibazar Newspaper House was held on Tuesday morning at the deceased's Kasba home "Taslima Lodge" in Sylhet, according to a press release.

He died on Saturday morning.

Yeahiya murder case: All accused acquitted

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 28: A court here convicted two persons and awarded life-term imprisonment for raping a teenage girl and selling her to the local brothel.

According to prosecution in brief, the accused kidnapped Babita 14, on November 24 in 1997 while she was going to her uncle's house and raped her. On the following day they sold Babita to Magura brothel. A case was lodged with Magura sadar thana in this connection. Police after investigation charge-sheeted Shahab Ali, Amena, Khaill and Sakhawat.

After examining all the records and witnesses Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Jahir found Amena and Khalil guilty and awarded them life-term imprisonment. Shahab Ali and Sakhawat were acquitted as they were found not guilty.

Workshop

A two-day workshop on 'Empowerment of Women' was held recently at the local Asaduzzaman Auditorium.

State Minister for Women Affairs, Zinnatunnesa Talukdar attended the workshop as the chief guest, while Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura AKM Rafiqul Islam was presided over. Advocate Biren Shikdar, MP, Professor MS Akbar, MP, Rehana Akhter Hira, MP, and Prof Tahmina Hossain addressed the workshop as special guests.

Free eye camp

A 15-day free eye camp was arranged recently at Radhanagar Primary School in Sreepur upazila.

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) organised the eye camp while Maleka Eye-Hospital here collaborated. A total of 150 patients got prescription free of cost.

House wife killed in road accident

A housewife was killed and two others injured in a road accident in Pajakhol area on Magura-Narail Road on May 20.

The dead was identified as Niva Rani Baidya, 40, wife of Mukul Baidya, a resident of village Battikadanga in Sadar upazila. Niva was going to village home along with her husband and son riding on a motorcycle.

Nazrul jayanti celebrated

A recitation organisation 'Kanthobithi' here arranged a discussion meeting and a recital programme of Nazrul's poems in observance of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 101st birth anniversary. Presided over by Abu Bashir Akhund the meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Abdullah-hel-Kafi, Hossain Siraj, Khan Rakibul Huq (DIPU) and Khan Mazharul Huq.

Shafiqul Islam, Nahidul Islam, Zannatul Ferdous Asha, Lipi Akhund, Protiva Halder, Shifa and Flora took part in the recital.

Aus farming programme

Agriculture Extension Department here has taken up a scheme to cultivate Aus paddy on 17,130 hectares of land in four upazilas.

Thana-wise break-up of land is as follows: 5,500 hectares in Magura Sadar, 5,755 hectares in Sreepur, 775 hectares in Shalikha and 5,100 hectares in Mohammadpur upazila.

Two unnatural deaths

Two unnatural death cases were recorded with Magura sadar thana on May 26. Both the two persons died at Magura Sadar Hospital while they were undergoing treatment. According to police, Bidhan Biswas, 40, resident of village Thaipara in Shalikha upazila was found hanging with the cross-beam of his room's ceiling. In a critical condition he was admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital where he died afterwards.

The organisation aims to conduct research, survey and publication on social, economic and political issues of the country.

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National

News snaps

Youths receive loans

SHERPUR, May 30: Some 3,690 unemployed but trained youths received over Tk 1 crore as loan from Youth Development Department for their self-employment, reports UNB.

Officials said a total of 7,347 youths have been imparted training on poultry farming, swing, pisciculture and computer. Of the youths, 31 received training on poultry farming, they said.

Taman farming programme

SHARIATPUR, May 30: A total of 5,000 hectares of land have been brought under transplanted Aman paddy cultivation seven upazilas of the district, in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources, of the total land, 3,000 hectares have been brought under high yielding variety (HYV) and the rest 2,000 hectares under local variety.

Bridge collapses

BARISAL, May 30: Road communication between Agorjhara and the rest parts of Barisal division remained suspended after a Bailey bridge at Fulsri in Sadar upazila collapsed on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said the bridge broke down when a truck plunged into a ditch breaking its railings, leaving boy, Tanjin, critically injured. Tanjin was hospitalised.

UP chairman, others sent to jail

MYMENSINGH, May 30: A court here on Sunday sent a UP chairman and 25 others to jail hajat rejecting the bail petition in a case of looting government wheat, reports UNB.

The accused persons including Dhurail UP Chairman Sharaf Uddin and 2 UP members Matiur Rahman and Abdul Mannan appeared in the court and prayed for bail. Magistrate Shamsul Alam after hearing arguments of both sides rejected the bail petition and sent the accused to jail hajat. According to the case, local administration stored 4,470 kg wheat allotted for VGD programme in the godown of Rafiqul Islam Badsha in Durail Bazar. Chairman Sharaf Uddin along with his accomplices attacked the godown on March 6 and took away 2,432 kg wheat in broad daylight. Badsha filed a case on March 10 accusing 30 people. The police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.



Children's homage to Nazrul

A children's painting competition was arranged at Jamalpur Palli Biddu Samity (Rural Electricity Association) on the occasion of Nazrul Joyanti, birth anniversary programme of the National Poet. — Star photo

Pilot project

GAZIPUR, May 30: State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Rahmat Ali has said that present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has initiated a pilot project to turn every rural house into a farm for achieving self-sufficiency by the year 2020, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Kaliakoir upazila here on April 9 organised by the local Awami League. AKM Moazzam Hossain, Gazi Samanuddin, Ajmatullah Khan also spoke. Rahmat Ali said with the completion of the pilot project, Bangladesh could take its place in the table of developed nations. He said the government has been putting its relentless efforts in improving the lot of the teeming millions.



Cordial Bangladesh-Turkey ties

A 10-member delegation comprising of nine students and a teacher of Ataturk Model High School of Dagonbuiyan in Feni district left Dhaka for Turkey recently as special guests of the Turkish Government. They took part in the National Youth and Sports Festival of Turkey. Erding Ulumlu, Ambassador of Turkey and Habibullah, Director of National Bank Ltd who is also the chairman of the school managing committee saw off the delegation.

Five muggers arrested

RANGAMATI, May 30: Five muggers along with some looted goods were arrested by army members from Shoilakashari area here on Wednesday and Thursday, reports UNB.

The arrested Dhan Chandra Chakma, 19, Ghamay Chakma, 18, Bitan Khisa, 22, Sushanta Chakma, 25 and Kumar Chakma, 20, were handed over to police. On Monday, the muggers on gunpoint looted 10 tons of foodstuffs and other goods from a motor launch of army supply contractors at Bhuddhatia. Following the incident, members of army conducted massive operations in the area and were able to arrest five of the looters with some goods.

Schoolgirl electrocuted

JHALAKATHI, May 30: A schoolgirl of Uttampur village in Rajapur upazila was electrocuted while ironing her dress on Saturday, reports UNB.

Family sources said soon after electrocution in the afternoon Hafija, 14, student of class IX of Adakhola Secondary School, was rushed to Rajapur Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared her dead.

Objective journalism suggested

RANGAMATI, May 30: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said here recently that we believe in the freedom of the press and free expression of opinion for development of the mass media in the country, reports BSS.

He urged the newsmen to maintain objectivity while making news to flourish fair journalism in the country. "Only and only the authenticated news can help remove misunderstandings from minds of the people," Abu Sayeed said. The State Minister for Information observed with concern that the readers are being distracted with news served on the basis of one's personal outlook ignoring sanctity, objectivity and authenticity. The state minister was exchanging views with local pressmen at Rangamati Press Club recently.



Save rivers

Unscrupulous traders doing brisk business of sand and bricks encroaching part of riverbed at Shyampur in Narayanganj district.

— Star photo