

The Daily Star

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

August-11-8-2005

FARIDPUR BY-POLLS

Rebellion sees change in alliance nomination

PM picks Zafar, drops AL-deserter Siraj without parliamentary board meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday in a dramatic move picked Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar as the ruling alliance candidate to contest Faridpur-1 parliamentary by-election, cancelling the nomination of Kazi Sirajul Islam.

The decision came after the BNP high command's repeated bid to remove the severe rift in the district BNP failed as Zafar was determined



Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar

to contest the by-polls as an independent contender resigning from the party, sources said.

Zafar, the rebel candidate who was denied nomination by the BNP Parliamentary Board, was to announce his resignation from the party at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday afternoon. But the BNP high-ups prevented him from holding the conference.

Party insiders said Zafar was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Baufal newsmen flee in fright

BNP cadres, OC join hands to gag protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Most of the Baufal journalists have fled the upazila facing alleged threats from both the local BNP activists and the police to put a gag on protests against Tuesday's tortures on a trainee correspondent of the daily Jugantor.

After beating Jugantor correspondent Monjur Morshed black and blue, local BNP lawmaker Shahidul Alam Talukdar left Baufal for Dhaka Tuesday evening. Party cadres loyal to him then launched a

show of force, taking out anti-newsmen processions and threatening their family members until late in the night, sources said.

The BNP men also looked high and low for Monjur, also a lecturer of Management at Engineer Faruk Talukdar Women's College, reportedly to force him to sign a statement denying his abduction and tortures.

They told Monjur's family that if he refuses to obey MP Shahidul, chairman of the college's governing body, he will lose the lectureship.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

14yr-old graft case against Moudud quashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday quashed a corruption case filed against Law Minister Moudud Ahmed 14 years ago.

The HC bench of Justice Hashmat Ali and Justice Hatem Ali quashed the case following a petition filed by Moudud.

Asked about the government position on the petition, Deputy Attorney General Helaluddin Mollah told The Daily Star last night that it was a weak case despite having some legal points. He however said, "I opposed the quashment."

The HC bench officers did not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

POWER PLANT SABOTAGE

Cops raid office to nab Lahmeyer chief

SHARIER KHAN

The police yesterday raided the offices of Lahmeyer International Pali Power Services Ltd (LIPPS) to arrest its chief and his accomplices for sabotaging the Mymensingh 140-megawatt (MW) Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL) and committing subversive acts.

The government issued arrest warrants against LIPPS chief AZ Rezaul Haq, also known as Captain Reza, and more than seven of his accomplices, including Zahirul Islam, the chief of Sky Engineers, which is also a venture of Captain Reza.

On Thursday last, LIPPS officials engaged in a serious confrontation with the RPCL high officials, its parent organisation the Rural Electrification Board (REB), police, and magistrates. LIPPS was refusing entry to these officials at the plant site. LIPPS finally shut down the 140 MW two-unit power plant, damaged some equipment and fled the area.

LIPPS annually drew \$ 6 million for an operation and maintenance contract, signed through an unsolicited negotiation, although it should not have cost more than \$ 1 million.

RPCL filed a case against them with the Mymensingh Kotawali

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Urea in biscuits!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not only textile dye and burnt Mobil oil that bakery product producers use to adulterate their products. Urea fertiliser is also used in biscuits and bread to make them whitish and crispier for a longer time, it was revealed when the mobile court yesterday recovered urea fertiliser from two bakeries in old Dhaka.

A mobile court yesterday raided two bread and biscuit producing factories in the Lalbagh area and found a huge amount of urea fertiliser used in the bread and biscuits. The court first raided Titas Bread and Biscuit factory in Rajnarayan road in Lalbagh and found a pile of urea fertiliser, which they claimed contains ammonia.

The workers of the bakery told the court that they use the fertiliser to make the biscuits and bread crispy and whitish.

The court later raided the factory of Master Food on the same road and found similar chemicals used in their products.

"I was just shocked to see the urea used in the bakery products. I had no idea that the situation is really so bad," said Md. Rokanuddoullah, the magistrate of the court.

The court issued warrants against the owners of both factories, Hazi Abdur Rahman and Humayun Kabir. The court also asked the office in charge of the Lalbagh Police Station to file cases against them under the Special Power Act-1974.

The court destroyed all the urea-mixed biscuits, breads and cakes, and also asked the police to shut down the factories.

The court also fined Tk 1,000 to Selim Sardar, the owner of Beauty

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

TURAG ENCROACHMENT

75 houses, shops along Turag knocked down

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolished 75 illegal houses and shops on the bank of the Turag river in Mirpur in the capital.

The BIWTA continued with its anti-encroachment drive for the third consecutive day along the Turag.

A team led by Magistrate Mafidur Rahman demolished illegal structures in Sinnirtek, Harirampur, Chhoto Diabari and Jahurabad along the Turag, said BIWTA Assistant Port Officer Md Shahidulla.

"We've temporarily postponed the drive, but will resume it soon"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority knock down an unauthorised building on the encroached bank of the Turag river at Mirpur in Dhaka yesterday.

PRO-BNP LAWYERS' CONFLICT

Huda's showdown with party cadres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Internal conflicts among the pro-BNP lawyers intensified further as the two feuding factions led by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque issued threats and accused each other of conspiracies during separate rallies held yesterday and the day before.

Although yesterday's rally was convened to discuss organisational issues, Nazmul Huda held a showdown there by bringing more than 100 leaders and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), BNP's student wing, from his con-

stituency Dohar.

A day after the Aminul Haque-led faction held a rally at the Supreme Court (SC) Bar building, the Huda-led faction held a similar rally at the same venue yesterday afternoon. Both the rallies were held under the same banner of the SC unit of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF).

At the same time, the Aminul Haque-led faction of JAF was holding a workers' meeting at the Bhashani auditorium at Naya Paltan. Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan presided over the meeting, which decided to hold meetings in Dhaka and other divisional towns

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

