

Alliance ticket likely to prove elusive for Amini

BNP men vow to resist IOJ, demand nomination for state minister Abdus Sattar from B'baria-2

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The rift between BNP and IOJ has widened in Brahmanbaria-2 constituency as both Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan and Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini MP are contenders for alliance ticket in the coming election. The rivalry turned into mudslinging after State Minister for Land Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan held a rally at Sarail on September 2, followed by a OIJ meeting in Brahmanbaria.

BNP leaders and workers are now working against IJO (Islami Oikya Jote) president Amini, who was elected from Bahmanbaria-2 constituency in 2001 election with alliance ticket.

BNP leaders are campaigning for their possible party candidate Abdus Sattar, saying they will not support Amini as alliance nominee this time.

The simmering discontent in local BNP surfaced on September 2 when Sarail upazila BNP held a public meeting at Sarail where party leaders said they will no more support Amini as alliance nominee from Brahmanbaria - 2 (Sarail, Ashuganj and part of Brahmanbaria Sadar).

The meeting was presided over by Sarail upazila BNP president Abdur Rahman while Brahmanbaria BNP president and State Minister for Land Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan was the chief guest.

Addressing the meeting, the state minister said Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini was elected from the JS seat in 2001 with BNP votes. The constituency was his area and he was elected from there thrice, Sattar said.

Sarail upazila BNP president Abdur Rahman told the meeting that Amini was a 'guest bird' in Sarail and won the seat with BNP votes.

But after the election, he did not maintain contact with BNP leaders and workers and ignored them in all development works, he alleged. Abdur Rahman also alleged that IOJ workers pocketed money from several development projects.

At the meeting, all BNP leaders, workers and supporters vowed to resist Amini if he is nominated by the alliance from Brahmanbaria-2 in the coming election.

Sarail upazila is known as a stronghold of BNP. Party sources said in 2001

election, Satter 'sacrificed' the seat for Amini at the request of BNP chief Khaleda Zia. As a reward, she made Abdus Satter a technocrat minister.

In the coming election, people of Sarail want to see Sattar as an MP candidate for Brahmanbaria - 2 constituency, speakers at the meeting said.

Party sources said Sattar's supporters have already launched a hectic campaign ahead of the polls.

They are bringing out five to seven processions a day and holding rallies.

BNP's September 2 meeting angered IOJ leaders and activists.

Next day, Amini held a meeting at Darul Akram Al Islamic Madrasa in Brahmanbaria to chalk out polls strategy.

At least 200 front ranking IOJ leaders were present at the meeting, which formed several committees to conduct polls campaign in all the 15 unions in Brahmanbaria-2.

At the meeting, the IOJ leaders criticised Sattar for his intention to contest from the area.

They said the move by local BNP

leaders to seek nomination for Sattar from the constituency is a 'conspiracy' against the four-party alliance.

Since the September 3 IOJ rally, mudslinging between BNP and IOJ leaders is a regular feature in different areas of Brahmanbaria, political circles said.

In 1996 election Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan of BNP got 53,932 votes and won the seat while Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini got 12,567 votes. Amini lost his security money.

In 2001, Amini got 99,804 votes and won the seat as an alliance nominee.

Three Awami League (AL) leaders are also working in the area. They are industrialists Md. Kamal Ahmed and Iqbal Azad and Sarail Upazila AL President MA Halim.

Though BNP has a stronghold in Brahmanbaria - 2 constituency, AL has a good chance in the coming election due to the mudslinging between BNP and IOJ, political circles said.



Abdus Sattar



Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini



Md. Kamal Ahmed



Iqbal Azad

BSF yet to return three abducted from border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is yet to return the three Bangladeshis including an indigenous man allegedly abducted by its personnel from Samaschura and Nakshi border areas in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district on Monday and Thursday.

The abducted people were identified as Zahurul Islam, 35, of Poragaon village, Shahid Mian, 45, of Dhopakura and Ganon Marak, 44, of Nakshi village.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and other sources said BSF personnel of Krishna Para camp in Meghalay state in India abducted Zahurul and Shahid from inside Bangladeshi territory when they were collecting firewood near

border pillar no. 1110 on Samaschura border under Monday afternoon.

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yet to response to a letter sent by BDR (45 Rifles Battalion) on Tuesday urging for a flag meeting and return of the two abducted Bangladeshis, BDR sources said.

On Thursday, BSF personnel abducted an indigenous man--Ganon Marak--from when he was collecting firewood near border pillar no. 1104 on Nakshi border.

BDR sources said that BSF abducted at least 10 Bangladeshis from different border points in Sherpur since July. Three of tem were returned, they said.

Do not nominate corrupt people

Satkhira TIB seminar urges political parties

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday stressed the need for building a social movement to curb corruption, which is hindering development of the country.

Rampant corruption is leading the country towards an economic disaster, they said during the discussion on "Role of Civil Society in Curbing Corruption", jointly organised by Satkhira chapter of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) and Satkhira Sachetan Nagarik Samaj (conscious citizens). It was held at Satkhira Lawyers Association office with its president AKM Shahidullah in the chair.

They alleged that at least 75 per cent of foreign assistance for

development is looted by a section of corrupt government and non - government officials.

They urged political parties not to nominate corrupt people, black money holders and musclemen in the coming parliamentary election.

Transparency and accountability in politics can not be ensured unless honest people come in politics, they said. They also called upon people and civil society members to mobilise voters in this regard.

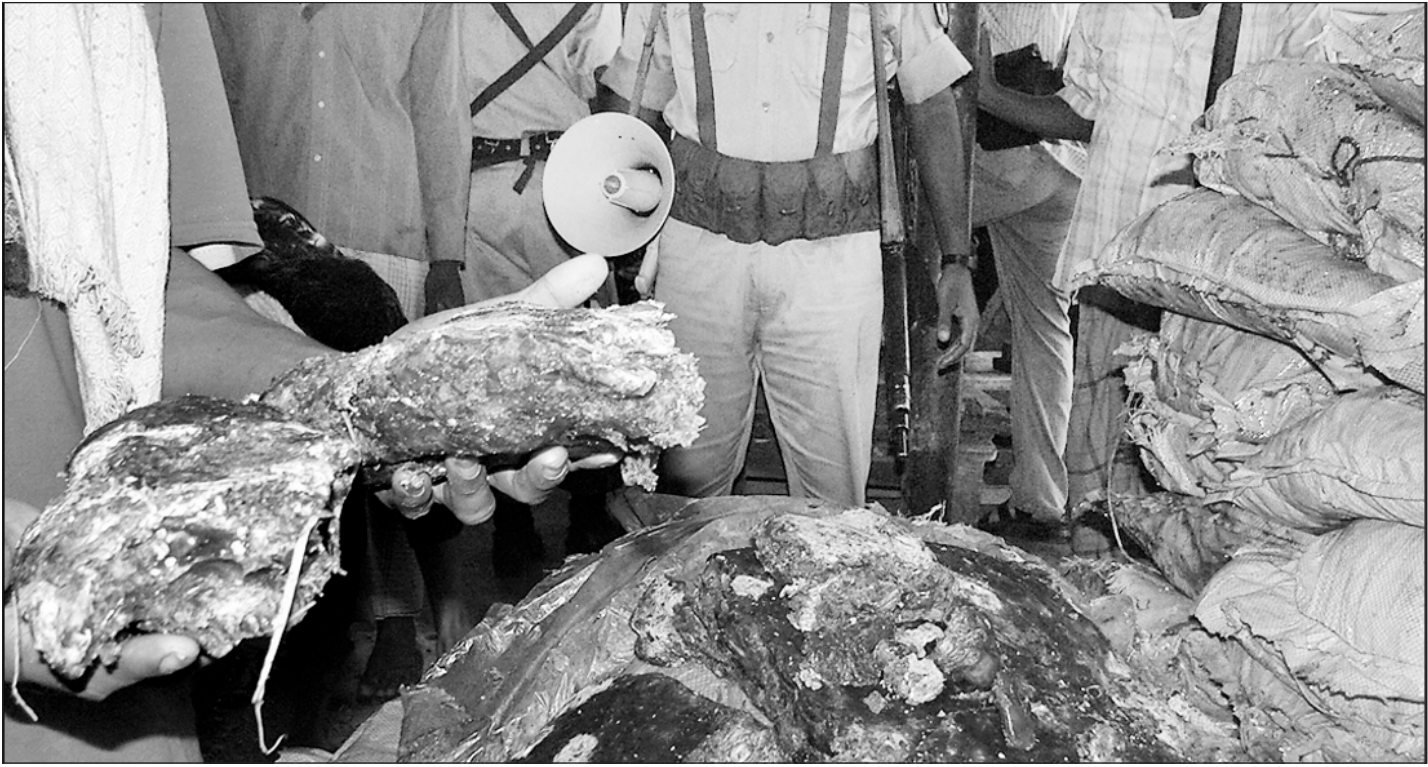


PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court in a drive on the first day of Ramadan yesterday seized a huge quantity of date-expired dates from Reazuddin Bazar in Chittagong .

Sust stalemate set to drag on

Month-long vacation begins Sept 29: Rival teachers continue agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The deadlock at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) seems set to continue for a month or more barring any dramatic development in a day or two as Ramadan and Durga Puja vacations begin from September 29.

Campus sources said they are worried whether normalcy would return on the campus even after the vacations as rival groups of teachers continued their agitation on the campus.

However, University Grants Commission Chairman (UGC) Prof Asaduzzaman assured a group of students that he would take immediate steps to end the stalemate. The students called on him at his office in Dhaka on Sunday.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some sources hinted that Sust Vice-chancellor Prof. Mosleh Uddin Ahmed might be replaced soon. But details could be known in this regard.

Yesterday, the Sust Teachers Association took out a procession on the campus opposing the left leaning and Awami League-backed teachers' agitation.

At a brief rally after the procession, speakers said the strike and sit-in by the opposition-aligned teachers was 'unjust' and called upon them to stop agitation and resume academic activities.

On the other hand, the striking opposition-backed teachers staged a day-long sit-in and held a rally in front of the registrar's building to press immediate withdrawal of the 'corrupt' vice-chancellor to ensure

'congenial atmosphere' on the campus. Dr. Akhtarul Islam, former president of Sust Teachers Association, chaired the rally. Speakers at the rally said they will continue the agitation till the VC is withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Sarbadalio Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a combine of opposition-backed student organisations, took out a procession from the city's Madina Market towards the campus demanding resignation of the VC.

The processionists were stopped near the BDR gate-III by police before they reached the main gate of the Sust.

Academic life of about 65,00 students became uncertain as the authorities failed to end the stalemate created after a student died in

police firing on the campus on May 14. The university was closed sine die and the VC left the campus after the incident.

After three months, the university was reopened on August 9 amid indefinite strike by opposition-backed student organisations.

The opposition backed teachers refrained from taking classes as they extended support to the students' strike.

However, the VC managed to return to the campus on July 5 under protection of police and cadres of Jaliyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Shibir, student fronts of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Since then, the opposition backed teachers and student organizations are demanding his withdrawal.

Indian arrested with bombs in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested an Indian national with four bombs from a house in Meherpur Sadar upazila Sunday night.

According to Meherpur police, acting on a tip-off, a team from Sadar police station raided the house of one Bisharat Mondol at Hitimpara village at about 11pm and arrested the Indian national-- Sanyas Kumar 36. He is the son of Timir Kumar of Chalachara village in Krishanagar Thana in Nadia district.

Police recovered four hand bombs and four bullets from him.

Police arrested Bisharat. Police suspect that the Indian citizen was involved in smuggling of arms and explosives into Bangladesh. They are being quizzed, police sad yesterday.

BNP men vow to resist party MP in Bajitpur

Committee styled 'Save Bajitpur BNP' formed after clashes between rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A tense situation is prevailing at Bajitpur upazila headquarters following a series of clashes between rival BNP factions in last six days, damaging each other's party offices and vandalising meeting venues.

BNP is divided into two factions in Bajitpur, one led by lawmaker Majibur Rahman Monju and the other by party nomination seeker Prof Tofazzol Hossain Badal,

Salehuzzaman Khan Runu and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Iqbal.

The simmering discord and rivalry came in the open when a pandal erected by Monju's supporters at Hilichia Government Primary School on September 20 was vandalised by their rivals, sources in the party and locals said.

They said Monju's three rivals have mustered support of party men and formed a committee styled "Save Bajitpur BNP from Manju."

On September 18, some party men led by Monju allegedly vandalised Prof

Tafazzol's party office, torched his motorcycle and damaged a TV set and chairs inside, said Tofazzol.

Protesting this, Prof Tofazzol along with Salehuzzaman and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman panned a public meeting at the upazila headquarters on September 23.

Manju also called another public meeting at the same venue a the saetime.

The administration imposed Section 144 there to avert any clash.

The two rival factions held their separate meetings in other areas.

6X3

2.5X2

4.5X2

7X3