

BNP- BJP battle to secure PM's grace in Kaligonj

Khaleda scheduled to visit today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Internal feud between local leaders and activists of BNP and its coalition partner BJP (Nazir) surfaced yesterday ahead of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit to Kaligonj.

She may address a public meeting at Samad Smriti ground in Kaligonj.

Leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations yesterday demanded that the meeting be chaired by any BNP leader instead

of BJP lawmaker Kazi Alauddin as he allegedly ignored them.

The BNP men held a meeting yesterday at Kaligonj upazila BNP office with upazila BNP convenor Prof Khoda Baksa in the chair. Speakers at the meeting alleged that the incumbent BJP (Nazir-Firoz) lawmaker also harassed BNP leaders and activists by implicating them in several false cases in last five years.

They demanded that Satkhira district BNP convenor Habibul Islam MP or Kaligonj BNP convenor Prof.

Khoda Baksa chair the meeting.

They also demanded that BNP leader and vice-president of DAB Dr. Shahidul Alam be nominated by the alliance to contest from Satkhira-4 constituency (Kaligonj-Debhabata) in the coming election.

The BNP leaders and activists also brought out a procession in Kaligonj to press their demands, party sources said.

On Tuesday, clashes took place between activists of BNP and BJP over pasting posters in the area, sources said.

On contact, lawmaker Kazi Ala Uddin refuted the allegations brought against him, saying those are false and baseless.

"BNP chairperson and the PM Begum Khaleda Zia may announce my name as alliance candidate from the constituency in the coming election. Some vested quarters are hatching conspiracy against me to tarnish my image to people and party high-ups", he said.

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BSF yet to return 2 NGO employees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two Bangladeshi citizens who were detained by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday are yet to be returned.

Sources in the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) said the BSF members detained Mohammad Abdul Awal, 25, of Thakurgaon district and Mohammad Sultan Ali, 30, of Rangpur district when they went to No Man's Land for stroll. Awal is working as a computer operator at USDO, an NGO in Bakshiganj, Jamalpur while Sultan is a driver of the same organisation.

As soon as the BDR men learnt it, they took an initiative to hold a flag meeting for return of the two.

Col Lutfar Rahman, Commanding Officer, BDR, 6 Battalions of Jamalpur confirmed it.

Urea supply from Jamuna factory still stopped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Fertiliser transport to 19 districts remained suspended from Jamuna Fertiliser Factory for the last four days due to porters' indefinite strike since Sunday.

The porters are on strike demanding immediate rise in loading charge.

Because of the strike, porters stopped loading of fertiliser. Hundreds of trucks were stranded at the main gate of the factory at Tarakandi in Sarishabari, Jamalpur.

Kuli-Sramik Union leaders said they enforced the strike demanding rise in loading charge from Tk 210 to 300. 'No worker will join their duties until realisation of the demand,' they said.

Bride dies in B'baria fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A bride met the tragic end of her life in a devastating fire at a house at Sreerampur village in Nabinagar upazila Tuesday night.

Bride Salma Begum, 20, was fast asleep when the fire originated from short circuit. Soon, the fire engulfed the entire house of Afzal Hossain Hossain Sapan burning goods worth Tk 6 lakh completely, family sources said.

All nine acquitted in AL leader Aboni Baroi murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

All the nine accused in Awami League leader Aboni Baroi murder case were acquitted yesterday. First Additional District and Sessions Judge in Barisal Nasiruddin Mahmud while pronouncing the verdict in presence of the all accused blamed the prosecution for its 'failure to prove charges against the accused'.

The acquitted persons are Humayun Kabir Khan, former chairman of Harta Union Parishad and a leader of outlawed Sarbabora party; Satla UP chairman Abu Jafar Molla; Rashid, Kalam, Salam, Mosharraf, Monir Khan, Gopal and Kalipado Baroi. Urmila Baroi, widow of Aboni Baroi and chairman of Jalla Union

Parishad, expressed her surprise at the verdict.

"I and Aboni's brother, complainant of the case, could not appear before the court for cross-examination due to threat by the accused", she told this correspondent when contacted over phone. "I even did not know the date of verdict", she said.

"We will appeal to higher court against the judgment", she said.

Aboni Bhusan Baroi, 48, a Sarbabora leader belonging to the Zia group, was shot dead allegedly by members of a rival group led by Kamrul on May 24, 2004 when he was returning home at Kurulia village. He was elected chairman of Jalla Union Parishad in Uzirpur upazila in Barisal district three times.

His brother Dhirendranath Baroi lodged a case with Uzirpur police station on the same day.

Detective Branch police Inspector Nilutpol Dey submitted charge sheet of the case on July 31, 2004, accusing nine people. Twenty-three witnesses were examined during the trial, court sources said.

Sources said Aboni emerged as a Sarbabora leader in the area after his alleged rival Kamrul Islam was killed in 1991.

He then became a target of Kamrul's followers and survived two attempts on his life in 1994 and 1995.

Aboni was popular among people in Jalla, Satla, Bagha, Harta areas. He became involved with Awami League after 1995.

Fierce rivalry for ticket in Kishoreganj-1

One BNP faction meets press under police guard due to alleged threat by the other

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Rivalry in BNP over nomination from Kishoreganj-1 constituency intensified yesterday when four front ranking local leaders of the party at a press conference said they will 'resist' political activities by Abdus Salam, saying he is an 'outsider' in the area.

The press conference was held at Kishoreganj Press Club amid police guard as at least 30 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) loyal to Abdus Salam earlier threatened them not to hold it.

It was addressed by Khandaker Md. Shahjahan, Maj. (rd) ABM Siddique, Mahmudzaman Ripon and Azharul Islam.

The two main contenders for alliance nomination from Kishoreganj-1 constituency (Pakundia-Hussainpur upazilas) are Idris Ali, backed by Housing Minister Mirza Abbas and Abdus Salam, backed by Education Minister Osman Farruk, also president of Kishoreganj district BNP. Mirza Abbas is minister-in-charge for the district.

Idris Ali contested the 2001 election as an alliance candidate but lost to Awami League's Dr Alauddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, with a margin of only 114 votes. Dr Alauddin got 86,623 votes while Idris Ali got 86,509 votes.

Abdus Salam is secretary of Dhaka city BNP. He was introduced as an alliance nominee from the constituency by Osman Farruk at a public meeting held at Bahadia High Schools ground in Pakundia upazila last month. The meeting was boycotted by Pakundia upazila BNP leaders, party sources said.

They also claimed that party men in Pakundia and Hussainpur upazilas do not support Abdus Salam as he dissolved the committees to place his men with an ill motive.

The BNP leaders also alleged that Abdus Salam's men were threatening party leaders at union levels that their committees would be dissolved if they side with Idris Ali.

They said they will accept any nominee except Abdus Salam.

Earlier, a half-day hartal was enforced by local BNP in Pakundia upazila after dissolution of the upazila committee.

The two factions organised separate programmes on BNP's founding day.



A week after rains ... Water-logging in Satkhira town is a persisting problem as most of the outlets and drains have been clogged by encroachers. The photo of Rasulpur Road was taken yesterday.

Moulvibazar hospital doctors, nurses on 48-hour strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Doctors and nurses at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital began a 48-hour strike yesterday protest alleged insult of a doctor by some BNP activists.

Hospital sources said one Alyea Begum, 30, wife of Shamsur Miah of village Niteswar in Sadar upazila, was admitted to the gynae ward at about 9:30pm Tuesday for delivery.

After her admission, her relative pressed on-duty doctor Omar Faruk for her caesarian operation. The

doctors said there was no facility for operation at night and she was being referred to Sylhet MAG Medical College Hospital. At about 11pm, Ayas Ahmed, ward commissioner of Moulvibazar Pourasava and general secretary of sadar upazila BNP, came to the hospital and asked Dr Omar Faruk for operation of the patient.

The doctor told him that she was being sent to Sylhet. At this, some people accompanying Ayas allegedly insulted the doctor, the sources claimed.

Yesterday morning, the doctor filed a case with Moulvibazar police

station accusing four persons while his colleagues decided to go for 48 hours' strike protesting the incident and demanding arrest of the four. The four accused -- Nahid, Hashim, Johir and Sadikare BNP activists, sources at the hospital claimed.

The hospital staff also formed a committee headed by Dr Ahmed Faysal to press the authorities to stop recurrence of such incidents.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Moulvibazar district unit has extended its support to the agitation, said Dr. Shahjahan Kabir, general secretary of Moulvibazar unit of BMA.

Yesterday morning, the doctor filed a case with Moulvibazar police

DEFAMATION CHARGE

BNP leader sues 5 including Rajshahi Mayor' wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A BNP leader yesterday filed a defamation case against five persons including the wife of Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu Salma Sahadat, also publisher of Natun Prothobhat, a local daily.

Rajpara thana BNP general secretary ASM Habibul Alam filed the case against them with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court for publishing 'false and fabricated' reports on land grabbing.

Other accused are Natun Prothobhat editor Sardar Abdur Rahman, its editorial board chief and Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Lutfar Rahman and Rajshahi bureau chief of Dainik Sangram, Natun Prothobhat news editor Sona Chowdhury and its reporter Afzal Hossain.

In his complaint, Alam said the respondents in collaboration with each other published three reports on September 23, 25 and 29 to tarnish his image in public before the next general elections. He also mentioned that he had suffered a loss of Tk 50 lakh for the same.

Later, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Fazlul Karim asked Rajpara Police Station officer-in-charge to investigate the matter and submit a report by November 30.

Fifty senior lawyers jointly led by Advocate Nazrul Islam Khan and Shamim Haider moved the case for the plaintiff.

While talking to journalists, the plaintiff said the mayor, his wife and some reporters belonging to Jamaat extort money and control corrupt government officials through the newspaper.



School students formed a human chain in Cox's Bazar town yesterday marking Child Rights Week.

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