

TANGAIL'S 150-YEAR-OLD BROTHEL

DC halts eviction bid, to take steps for rehabilitation

Nagorik Mancha leader attacked, hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Tangail Deputy Commissioner Bashir Uddin Ahmed, after a meeting with local leaders of political parties, woman rights activists, officials, journalists, clerics and representatives of the elite, yesterday ordered the 'brothel eviction committee' to stop their move to evict inmates of the 150 year-old Kandupara brothel in the town.

The meeting held at DC's conference room was attended by, among others, Tangail district Awami League president Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan, BNP secretary Moniruzzaman Bulbul, Krishak Sramik Janata League

(KSJL) convener Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim, Jamaat leader Dr Abdul Hamid, brothel eviction committee convener and Tangail municipal chairman Jamilur Rahman Miron, Tangail Press Club president Mirza Abdul Momen, Tangail Chamber of Commerce secretary Alamgir Khan Menu, Nagorik Mancha leader Mir Mehidi, women's leader Rabeya Anwar, sex workers' leader Momotaz Begum, and Police Superintendent Morshed Alam.

All of them spoke against eviction of sex workers without their rehabilitation.

The DC then ordered the eviction committee convener to stop their

move.

He also told the meeting that he would take steps for rehabilitation of the sex workers and hold another meeting soon to settle the rehabilitation issue.

Meanwhile, some unidentified goons beat Nagorik Mancha member secretary Mir Mehidi in Club Road area in the town yesterday when he was returning home after attending the meeting at DC's office.

He was undergoing treatment at Tangail General Hospital under police guard.

Meantime, the Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) held a rally at Shaheed Minar premises in the town yesterday where its leaders

said their party is not involved with the brothel eviction move.

With district KSJL convener Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, its leaders Habibur Rahman Khoka Bir Protik, Principal Shamsul Huda, Jamilur Rahman Miron, Shamim-al-Mansoor Siddiqui Azad and Hassan Reza.

On Saturday, at least 14 people were injured in clashes when members and supporters of the eviction committee attacked a rally of Nagorik Mancha which is opposing the eviction without rehabilitation of the sex workers.

MP's men attack rivals' Iftar party in Gournadi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

At least 20 people were injured when an Iftar party hosted by Mahmud Tuhin Foundation in Gournadi was attacked and foiled allegedly by BNP activists loyal to lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan yesterday.

The foundation is named after Mahmud Tuhin, founder president of Jatiyatabadi Tarun Dal and a nomination aspirant from Barisal-1 (Gournadi-Agoiljara) constituency. Tarun Dal is a front organisation of ruling BNP.

Witnesses said armed BNP cadres led by JCD leader VP Zakir, Jubo Dal leader Sentu Khan and Zafar attacked the Iftar party at Tarun Dal's Mahilara office.

The attackers also beat the participants, ransacked the office and looted Iftar items.

The injured included Naim, Sagor, Iqbal, Dalim, Mamun, Manir, Rinku and Hossain.

Police did not go to quell the violence, activists of Tarun Dal said when contacted over phone last night.

Tuhin, contacted over cellphone, condemned the attack and demanding punishment of the culprits. He also criticised alleged police inaction.

CLUSTER VILLAGES 26,000 families without relief for 4 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

At least 26,000 families at 78 cluster villages in the district are not getting government relief for the last four months.

About 26,220 ration card holders in eight upazilas who depend on government relief are starving as the ministry is yet to issue the distribution order (DO), sources said.

Villagers at Bhuiyachhari, Panchhari, Dighinala, Merung, Rashiknagar, Latiban, Zianagar, Matiranga and Maischhari told this correspondent they received foodgrains as relief in June. Their misery multiplied in Ramadan, they said.

The government used to provide them 55 kilogram of rice and 29 kilogram of wheat every month which was 'too meagre to meet their family requirement'.

A meeting was held in Ramgarh to resume the operation on October 3 but there is no sign of giving relief yet.

Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner assured the villagers of his action in this regard.

Earlier, the government assembled 26, 220 families at 78 cluster villages in 8 upazilas in name of security in 1988.

BNP-BJP RIFT WIDENS IN SATKHIRA-4

Coalition partners clash in the open for ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

The feud between coalition partners BNP and BJP (Nazir) over nomination from Satkhira-4 (Kaliganj-Debhata Upazilas) in the coming election has intensified.

Supporters of incumbent BJP lawmaker Kazi Alauddin and BNP ticket seeker and its district president Dr Shahidul Alam were locked in a clash on Sunday in Kaliganj town over nomination, leaving at least eight people injured.

The injured Upazila Sramik Dal president Shukur Ali and Tarun Dal president Faruque Hossain and BJP (Na-Fi) activists Rabiul Islam and Faruk admitted to Kaliganj health complex.

BNP leaders and activists in Kaliganj and Debhata upazilas are united in demanding nomination for Dr. Shahidul Alam, also a central vice-president of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB).

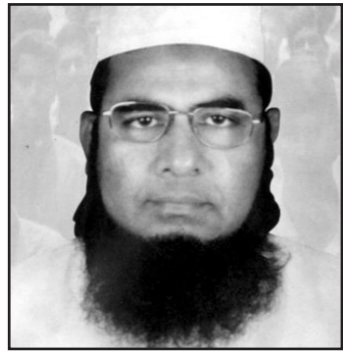
BNP is in a disadvantageous position as Jamaat-e-Islami, a key coalition partner, supports candidature of incumbent BJP lawmaker Kazi Alauddin, party sources said.

The four-party alliance is divided into two camps over ticket.

Being aware of the widening rift, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during her October 5 visit to the Kaliganj she did not announce any alliance candidate from the constituency.



Dr Shahidul Alam



Kazi Alauddin

Hundreds of supporters of both the aspirants attended Khaleda's public meeting with colourful posters of their leaders. But they were disappointed as she eschewed the issue.

The aspirants were also frustrated as they did not get any assurance from her, sources said.

Now supporters of two aspirants are blaming each other for the rift in the alliance.

The bickering is becoming intense as BNP is adamant not to 'surrender' Satkhira-4 parliamentary seat to BJP, arguing that it has no organisational strength in the area to win the next election.

On the other hand, Kazi Alauddin popped up rivalry with a number senior and dedicated BNP leaders as he allegedly ignored them in last five years, party sources claimed.

Insiders claimed that there may be further clashes between BNP

and BJP supporters over nomination.

Front ranking BNP leader Prof. Khoda Baksa blamed Kazi Alauddin for the rift in the alliance, alleging that he 'ignored' BNP. "We will not support him as an alliance candidate. We will support Dr Shahidul Alam as he is the most popular leader in the constituency. There is no alternative to him if the alliance wants to retain the seat," he added.

Kazi Alauddin however refuted the allegation and said he maintained good relations with BNP leaders and activists and never ignored them.

He also claimed that he implemented a lot of development projects in the constituency and that he would get nomination in the coming election.

10 hurt as AL factions clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Clashes between two rival factions marred an extended meeting of Awami League in Mehendiganj upazila town yesterday. At least 10 party activists were injured.

Five of the injured were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police and party sources said the extended meeting of Mehendiganj upazila AL was called by its president Sardar Maheb Hossain.

The clash ensued when Maheb, who led a faction, asked uninvited party men to leave the venue.

15 injured as Jubo League rivals clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

At least 15 people including a police SI were injured in a clash between two rival factions of Awami Jubo League over formation of a ward committee under Nilphamari Pourasabha Sunday night.

Activists of a Jubo League faction who were not given any post in the Ward-5 committee attacked the district Awami League office and locked it at about 8:30 pm Sunday.

Later, Azad Khan, an aspirant for the post of general secretary assaulted district Jubo League general secretary Shahid Mahmud at Chourangi intersection.

After the incident, a fierce clash erupted between two party factions that left 15 hurt.

Both the factions also brought out separate processions in the town.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim addressing a public meeting in Sirajganj town yesterday.

Remove Aziz, refrain from appointing Hasan: Nasim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

Former home minister and central Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim MP yesterday urged the government to immediately remove MA Aziz from the post of chief election commissioner and not to appoint KM Hasan as head of the caretaker government for holding of a fair election.

He also demanded removal of all election officials appointed at district and upazila levels with a political design.

He urged the ruling parties to

accept opposition demands or face tougher agitation after the Eid.

He was addressing a public meeting at Bazaar Station Square in Sirajganj town, organised by district AL. The meeting was presided by district AL president Abdul Latif Mirza MP.

Nasim said Awami League wants a fruitful outcome of the ongoing dialogue with BNP.

The former minister said failure of the dialogue will mean that the parties in power want to retain power by any means and do not want a fair election.

They are afraid of a fair election because they know they will be rejected by the people, he said.

If the talks fail, the 14-party alliance will compel the government through movement to accept the reform proposals, he warned.

Among others, the meeting was addressed by former lawmaker Abdul Latif Mirza, K M Hasan Ali, Abu Yusuf Surjo, Golam Kibria and Anwar Hossain Ratu.

This government could not add even one megawatt of power to what was left by the AL government, Nasim alleged.



Sultan's death anniversary today

A CORRESPONDENT, *Narail*

The 12th death anniversary of legendary artist SM Sultan will be observed here today.

The district administration along with SM Sultan Foundation has taken up day-long programmes at his ancestral residence at Kurigram in Narail pourcesava.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at his grave, Quran Khwani, children's painting competition, prize distribution and a discussion meeting, to be held at the art gallery there.

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