

Osman's man declared 'unwanted' in Kishoreganj-1

Feud with Abbas-backed faction intensifies

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

Intra-party feud in BNP in Kishoreganj-1 constituency took a new turn yesterday when the party faction opposed to former minister Dr. Osman Faruq at a rally declared 'unwanted' his man Dhaka city BNP secretary Abdus Salam, an aspirant for alliance ticket from the area.

The rally held at Hossainpur upazila headquarters was organised by local BNP leaders protesting dissolution of Hossainpur and Pakundia upazila committees by Dr Osman Faruq earlier.

BNP leaders at the rally vowed to 'resist' Abdus Salam, terming him an 'outsider' and demanded alliance ticket for former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, who was minister-in-charge of Kishoreganj district during the 4-party alliance government. Kishoreganj-1 constituency comprise Hossainpur and Pakundia upazilas.

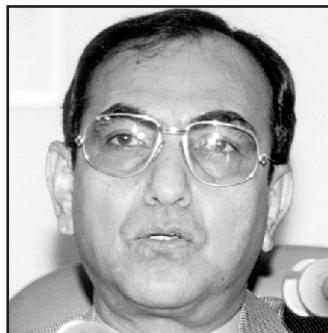
Rival BNP factions in Kishoreganj are backed by Dr. Osman Faruq and Mirza Abbas, party sources said.

Leaders of all the six union BNP committees in Hossainpur upazila attended the meeting, organisers claimed.

It was addressed by, among



Dr. Osman Faruq



Mirza Abbas

others, Abu Bakr Siddique, vice-president of now-dissolved Hossainpur upazila BNP committee, its secretary Rafiqul Islam, joint secretary Abu Raian and Shahedul Islam BNP president Abul Hashem Sabur.

They alleged that Kishoreganj BNP president and former education minister Dr Osman Faruq illegally dissolved party committees in Hossainpur and Pakundia as local party men did not support Osman's candidate Abdus Salam in the constituency in the coming election.

They also challenged the two-member Kishoreganj district BNP committee headed by Dr. Osman faruq as its president. The other member of the district committee Rabbani as its

Pakundia BNP committee boycotted that meeting, party sources claimed while talking to this correspondent during yesterday's rally.

Abu Bakr Siddique and Rafiqul Islam said they are continuing as president and secretary of Hossainpur upazila BNP committee as per instruction of Mirza Abbas and will hold the posts till a new committee is elected at a council.

They said Abdus Salam suddenly appeared in the constituency and is distributing money to influence party men but all party men have rejected him.

They also said, in 2001 election, BNP-led alliance candidate Idris Ali Bhuiyan lost to Awami League's Dr. Alauddin only with 114 votes. BNP has a good chance to win the coming election, but 'undemocratic' activities by Dr Osman is shattering the prospect, they claimed.

Dr. Osman dissolved Hossainpur upazila BNP committee on November 27 last year but leaders of the committee are still holding their posts as per instruction of Mirza Abbas, party sources said.

The factions led by Osman and Abbas were locked in clashes in several occasions earlier in the constituency, party sources said.

Don't nominate Mehedi again

Kumarkhali yarn traders urge Khaleda

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Yarn Merchant Association in Kumarkhali urged BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia not to nominate immediate past lawmaker Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi from Kushtia-4 constituency again in the coming election.

The association at a press conference at its office here termed Mehedi Rumi a 'failed and incompetent public representative' and said 'did nothing for development of trade and business in the area in his last ten years' tenure'.

In a written statement read out at

the press conference on Thursday, the association's general secretary Mafizur Rahman alleged that Mehedi 'committed many things before every election but did not fulfil any of those'. He has become unpopular because of this, he claimed.

The press conference was also addressed by the association's vice-president Abdur Rafiq, treasurer Monwar Hossain and joint secretary Raju Joarder.

They said once flourishing weaving and textile industries in the area dwindled during his tenure. Yarn traders and weavers urged him

repeatedly to take steps to save the sector but he did not do anything, they alleged.

Earlier, Nurul Islam Ansar Pramanik, chairman of Kumarkhali municipality and president of Pouro BNP unit, urged the party high command not to nominate Mehedi Rumi in the coming election.

According to party insiders, Kumarkhali BNP is divided into two factions—one led by Nurul Islam Ansar Pramanik and the other by Kumarkhali BNP president Anwar Hossain Bakul. Bakul is loyal to Mehedi Rumi, they said.

PCJSS council begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jyotirindriya Bodhpriya Larma alias Santi Larma yesterday urged his party men and people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to take 'right decision' and elect 'honest candidates in the coming election.

According to party insiders, Kumarkhali BNP is divided into two factions—one led by Nurul Islam Ansar Pramanik and the other by Kumarkhali BNP president Anwar Hossain Bakul. Bakul is loyal to Mehedi Rumi, they said.

Santi Larma, who is also chairman of CHT Regional Council, called upon PCJSS leaders, activists and supporters to unite against forces who are opposing the CHT peace accord.

Santi Larma was inaugurating a three-day PCJSS convention at a private tourist resort in Balukhali union in Rangamati Sadar upazila.

PCJSS central secretary Satyabir Dewan also addressed the inaugral session, chaired by CHT Mohila Samity vice-chairperson Unu Pru.

Leaders, activists and supporters of PCJSS and it fronts Paharee Chhatra Parishad (PCP) and Hill Women Federation (HWF) from three hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari are attending the convention.

PCJSS sources said they will take a decision about the coming election at the convention, which will be announced at a press conference here.

'Death threat' to Satkhira journo by former MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira district BNP convenor and former lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib yesterday threatened Satkhira Prothom Alo Staff Correspondent Kalyan Banerjee with 'death' for running a report in Thursday's issue of the daily.

The threat was made over cellphone, the victim said in a general diary (GD) filed with Sadar police station yesterday.

Habib, immediate past lawmaker Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) constituency, is an aspirant for alliance ticket from the seat in the coming election.

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