

# 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 town 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 upzila 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

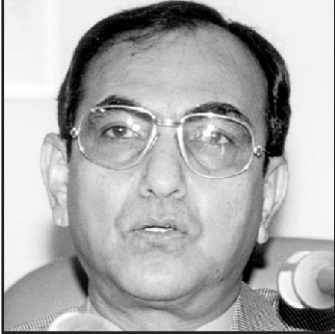


Dr. Osman Faruq

others, Abu Bakr Siddique, vice-president of now-dissolved Hossainpur upazila BNP committee, its secretary Rafiqul Islam, joint secretary Abu Raihan and Shahedal union BNP president Abul Hashem Sabuj.

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 Rabbaniacts as its



Mirza Abbas

secretary.

They claimed that the two-member district committee formed two years ago is illegal as it was not formed through a council.

They (Osman and Rabbani) did not form a full-fledged committee. Rather, Dr. Osman undemocratically dissolved at least four upazila committees as those opposed him.

They also alleged that Dr. Osman formed a pocket committee in Tarail upazila, which was protested by Tarail upazila BNP leaders at a press conference in September.

The BNP leaders said Dr. Osman at a public meeting on September 24 at Egarosindu in Pakundia introduced Dhaka city BNP secretary Abdus Salam as 'guardian' of BNP in the constituency. But most leaders of

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 only 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.

# '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 Bannerjee 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.

The Prothom Alo in its November 23 issue published a news item headlined: Three sensational murders may change election result of 4-party alliance in Satkhira-1 constituency.

The report said Tala thana BNP president ABM Altaf Hossain,

district Krishak Dal president Mirza Masud Jewel of Tala and journalist Belal Dafadar in Kalaroa upazila were killed during the 4-party alliance government's tenure.

Relatives of the slain leaders and the journalist in separate press conferences recently accused former lawmaker Habib as the mastermind in the killings. The report was prepared on the statements of the victims' families.

Protesting the threat, journalists in Satkhira held a meeting yesterday at Satkhira Reporters Club with Prof. Abu Ahmed (Daily Star) in the chair.

Speakers condemned the threat, demanded steps by the administration for security of all newsmen. The journalists also decided to boycott Habib.

Meanwhile, Awami League-led 14-party combine in a statement yesterday condemned the threat.

# Attack on Bogra newsman protested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists of Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Satkhira yesterday protested attack on The Daily Star journalist Hasibur Rahman Bilu of Bogra and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits immediately.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Local journalists at a protest meeting held at Sirajganj Press Club gave a deadline to the caretaker government for arresting the attackers within three days from yesterday, otherwise they threatened a greater agitation on expiry of the deadline.

Club president Jakirul Islam Santu presided the meeting. Golam Mostafa Jibon of The Daily Star, Aminul Islam Chowdhury of The Daily Ittefaq, Hedayetul Islam of The Bangladesh Observer and others addressed.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Journalists in an emer-

gency meeting held at Gaibandha Press Club warned the vested quarters that they would have to pay a high price for the attack.

Press Club president Gobinda Lal Das chaired the meeting.

Local journalists K M Rezaul Haque, Nurul Islam Jahangir, Abu Zafar Sabu and others spoke.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Local journalists, in a statement, termed the attack a manifestation of BNP-Jamaat's vengeance on journalists.

Prominent among the signatories are: Prof Abu Ahmed of The Daily Star, Subhas Chowdhury of Jugantar and Kalyan Banerjee of Prothom Alo.

Satkhira Press Club and Satkhira Reporters' Club also expressed their grave concern over the attack. Journalists threatened to go for tougher agitation if the attackers are not punished without further delay.



PHOTO: STAR

Newsmen in Netrakona brought out a procession in the town and held a rally in front of the press club on Thursday protesting the recent attack on Daily Star Staff Reporter in Bogra and on other journalists in different districts earlier.

# Don't nominate Mehedi again

## Kumarkhali yarn traders urge Khaleda

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Yarn Merchant Association in Kumarkhali urged BNP chairperson Khelada 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 weaning 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 Santu 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.

Santu 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.

Santu was inaugurating a three-day PCJSS convention at a private tourists resort in Balukhali union in Rangamati Sadar upazila.

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

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

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

4X3

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4x2

4x2

12X3