

# Party in power made once VDP man a millionaire

Wadud's aide Abdus Salam on the run in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

The party in power came as a magic lamp for once VDP (Village Defense Party) member and Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Abdus Salam. He became a millionaire by virtue of being a closed aide to the then BNP lawmaker from Khagrachhari Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan.

Salam is on the run after Wadud Bhuiyan's arrest last month. Sources in security forces said Salam is on their arrest list and they raided his house several times but failed to nab him.

Abdus Salam owns at least three luxurious houses worth about Tk 4 crore at Molla Para (besides hospital gate), Shanti Nagar and Bangalkathi in Sadar upazila, over 180-acre orchards at Vuyachhari, Alutla, Panchhari in the district and some seven plots for shops in markets in Khagrachhari town, according to sources in police and intelligence. Salam was president of Khagrachhari district Jubo Dal.



Mohammad Abdus Salam

The sources said Salam's Molla Para house encroaches government land, the Shabdamia Para house was built by grabbing his paternal uncles land and the Santinagor house partly occupies land of a local journalist.

Tozammel Hossen Zoarder,

resident medical officer of Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital, said yesterday he demanded a judicial inquiry to recover the government land encroached by Salam's Molla Para house.

The journalist whose land was grabbed in Santinager told this correspondent that he was preparing to file a case against the land grabber. He also demanded probe into Salam's assets.

An engineer of LGED seeking anonymity said, "He (Salam) spent more than Tk 4 crore for building the three houses, where imported materials were also used".

The sources said the Jubo Dal leader, using party cadre, occupied at least seven plots for shops in different markets, now valued at around Tk one crore.

Salam earned money illegally by extracting percentages from development works under the district council, Chittagong Hill Tracts

Development Board, LGED and Roads & Highways department. He was the main mediator for tender negotiations, the sources said.

Allegations also have it that he realised handsome amounts of money in the name of giving jobs in schools and government departments.

Salam's illegal wealth is now a talk of the town with many political leaders demanding probe into his alleged corruption.

Talking to this correspondent, district Awami League Secretary Zahedul Alam claimed that Salam amassed property worth at least Tk 7 crore in last five years and demanded probe into his alleged corruption.

LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) leader Rafiqul Islam and Jatiya Party central leader Sahaz Uddin also demanded probe on how Salam earned the resources.

## 5 JCD, BNP leaders arrested in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Rab men arrested seven persons including Sylhet city JCD chief Ziaul Gani Arefin Zillur and general secretary of Roads & Highways Contractors Association and BNP leader Milad Ahmed.

The law enforcers also recovered some liquor and others things from their possession while picking up the group from Roads & Highways building in the city's Chouhatta area in the early hours of yesterday.

Others arrested during the raid include vice-president of Sylhet district JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) Omar Ashraf Imon, Hisham Ahmed Chowdhury, BNP leader Mollik Ahmed Chowdhury alias Lollik repeat Lollik, contractor Mozammel Hossain Nantu and Nazat Kabir.

They were caught on charge of forcibly entering the R& H office, gambling and taking liquor there. There had been allegations of grabbing contracts in the name of BNP and JCD from R & H office against a group of BNP men including Milad Ahmed during the past 4-party alliance rule.

In another raid, the law enforcers picked up JCD activist Iftekhar Ahmed Dinar from in front of his house sat Shahjalal Uposahar in the early hours yesterday.

Dinar, former assistant general secretary of district JCD, was allegedly involved in mugging, extortion and other crimes in the in the city.

After arrest, police said he was wanted in a number of cases including murder.

He was expelled from JCD two years ago but the suspension was withdrawn in January last year.

## Month long trade fair begins at B'Baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

A Month long trade fair jointly organised by 'Brahmanbaria Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI)' and 'Development Patronising Society', a local body to promote trade and business, began at Annada High School field here Monday night.

Fifty stalls have already been opened in the trade fair.

Some stalls of agriculture tools, looms and cottage industry products are the main attractions in the fair.

The Deputy commissioner Sayed Ahmed Safa opened the fair at a function, attended by Police Superintendent Md Ataul Kibria, officials, businessmen and elite of the town. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by BCCI president Farid Uddin Ahmad.

The fair drew hundreds of visitors yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Several hundred farmers stand in two long queues in front of a fertiliser dealer's shop at Binnati Bazar in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

# 10 kg urea for each farmer as hundreds queue

104 tonnes supplied against 659 this month in Kishoreganj Sadar

MUKLESUR RAHMAN LITON, *Kishoreganj*

A sack of 50 kg Urea is being distributed among five farmers at Binnati Bazar of Kishoreganj Sadar. This correspondent saw this at the market at noon yesterday.

Several hundreds farmers were standing in long queues on both sides of the fertiliser dealer's shop at the market. A group of five farmers got a slip given by local Union Parishad members. On their behalf, one farmer got chance to stand in the line keeping four others waiting to share a sack of Urea.

Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer of Kamaliarchar block in Kishoreganj Sadar, Abu Bakkar Siddique, said, each farmer was given 10 kilograms of urea due to its short supply. Despite this arrangement, many farmers will have to return home disappointed as they are not on the day's list, he said.

Asked would this quantity be enough for farmers, Abu Bakkar said, "This small quantity of urea will virtually be of no use for their Irri-Boro crops because the fertiliser has to be applied in the field once at a time". This is only to keep farmers' agitation under control, he said.

Farmer Md. Ali of Kuttagore village in Binnati union in Sadar upazila said, he had one acre of Irri and one acre of maize field but he got only 10 kg urea against a demand for at least 100 kg.

Another farmer, Abu Taher Sabuj of Charmaria village in Maria union in the upazila said, he has about 10

acres under Irri-Boro and maize cultivation and needs 500 kg of urea. But he also got 10 kilogram.

Nuruzzaman, 60, of Kuttagore village in Binnati union said the local Union Parishad member enlisted his name but reaching Binnati Bazar, he found that his name was dropped from the list. He said, the UP member

enlisted names of people who are close to him.

When contacted Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohsin Uddin Khan said, 104 tonnes of urea were received by dealers in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila against a demand for 659 metric tons for the current month.

## Baha festival of Santals begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A three-day Baha (flower) festival of indigenous Santal community people began at Sundorpur in Godagari upazila in Rajshahi yesterday amid great enthusiasm.

Eminent literature Prof Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the festival in the evening as chief guest. Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University and Moloy Kumar Bhoomik of Rajshahi University attended as special guests.

Santal Pargana leader Bishonath Tudu delivered the address of welcome Danish Ambassador in Bangladesh Einar Hebogaard Jensen in a message greeted the indigenous people on the occasion.

The festival began with a traditional prayer, followed by dance and songs to the tune of homemade drums and other musical instruments.

A fair was organised at Sundorpur where stalls displayed articles depicting Santal life and their history.

to thousands of Santals attending the festival from different areas of the country.

Adivasi Unnayan Songstha with assistance from OXFAM-GB and Manusher Jonne, an NGO, organised the event.

As part of the traditional programme, Santals men and women exchanged greetings and honoured elders by washing legs.

# Bhasani university VC resigns

Teachers, students hold rally for action against his accomplices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Vice-chancellor of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) at Santosh Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman has resigned from his post.

The VC submitted his resignation letter to secretary of education ministry on Monday, university sources said.

Hearing the news of VC's resignation, teachers and students of the

university brought out victory processions on the campus and distributed sweets yesterday and the night before, campus sources said.

Teachers and students also held a rally in front of the administrative building yesterday demanding steps against accomplices of the VC in his alleged irregularities and corruption.

All teachers and students had been agitating since February 22 for the VC's resignation for his alleged irregularities and corrup-

tion. The VC was in Dhaka since then, when the students held demonstrations on the campus.

To press the demand, 16 out of total 28 teachers including the proctor, assistant proctor, provosts, assistant provosts and chairmen of departments resigned from their administrative posts on March 8 and desisted from all academic activities.



PHOTO: STAR

After resignation of VC Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, teachers addressing a rally at MBUST yesterday demanding action against his accomplices.

8x3

8X2

9.5x3