

BNP-Jamaat men become Khagrachhari hill dist council members

JASIM MAJUMDER, *Khagrachhari*

Four BNP-Jamaat men have been appointed members of the Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC), according to an official order issued on July 12, KHDC sources said.

The new members are Sadar Upazila BNP vice president Animesh Dewan Nandith, dis-trict Jubodal organising secre-tary Sanumong Marma, Mohalchhari upazila BNP presi-dent Ruhity Karbari and Ramghor Upazila Chhatra Shibir president Abu Bakkar Siddique, they said.

Earlier, arrested 'corrupt' BNP lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan proposed names of the follow-ing persons to Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs and local govern-ment, rural development and cooperatives ministries for

appointment as members of the council on March 28 last year, BNP sources said.

They are Animesh Dewan Nandith, Sanumong Marma, Ruhity Karbari and district BNP organising Secretary Mostafizur Rahman Millat, they said.

All but Mostafizur Rahman Millat have been made mem-bers of the council. Shibir leader Abu Bakkar Siddique became one of its member instead of Millat.

But the then BNP-Jamaat led Alliance government did not give appointment to anyone of them as the KHDC member.

Animesh Dewan Nandith was a former armed cadre of now defunct Shanti Bahini. He earned bad name as a hill plun-derer, locals said.

Sanumong Marma is doing BNP politics for the last 10

years. He is now holding a vital post in the party. He allegedly played a key role in dividing the indigenous Marma community into two groups. Once Marma Unnayan Sangshad was their lone platform. But he floated another platform titled, 'Marma Aikkha Parishad' during the Immediate past 4-party Alliance regime, locals said.

Some other alliance leaders are also been blamed for divid-ing the community into two parts for political purposes.

Mohalchhari upazila BNP president Ruhiti Karbari is doing party politics for the last 10 years. He was allegedly involved in illegal toll collection, land grabbing, misappropriation of government fund and other criminal activities, reliable sources said. He allegedly did not do anything for welfare of his

own community.

Local people have been surprised to see the names of the BNP-Jamaat leaders as the council members.

KHDC sources said equal representation of three indige-nous Chakma, Marma and Tripura communities was not ensured in the new appoint-ment.

The new appointment has shattered hopes and aspirations of the indigenous people, they said.

It has been alleged that no indigenous Tripura community member was included in the council although names of two Marmas were included there.

Former BNP law maker Wadud Bhuiyan was arrested on charge of corruption on February 4, official sources said.

2 biscuits cost child's life!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Only two biscuits cost the precious life of a student of Changmari Government Primary School in Sundarganj upazila yesterday, police said.

Harun Mia, a student of Class One, also son of Ainal Mia, a day labourer, succumbed to his brain injuries caused by torture of his school teachers on Saturday. He was beaten badly for keeping two biscuits, his teachers distributed to him as relief, in his pocket, police said.

Doctors said the ill-fated child died of acute brain hemorrhage at Sunderganj Health Complex.

The teachers fled from the school after hearing the child's death news. The incident sparked violent protest among people in the locality. The mob besieged the school and kept all class rooms under lock and key. They demanded punishment to the teachers including headmaster Joynul Abedin of the school.

Later, joint forces brought the situation under control. They sent the body to Gaibandha hospital morgue for autopsy. The on-duty physician said the child died of brain hemorrhage.

A case was filed with Sunderganj Police Station but none was arrested till filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

Move to improve law and order situation in 16 N dists

Bogra model of community policing to be replicated to bring down crime

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, *Bogra*

Rajshahi Range police have under-taken a new initiative to improve the law and order situation in16 north-ern districts.

Under the programme, Rajshahi police have taken upa plan to replicate Bogra model of commu-nity policing in all northern districts.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police of Rajshahi Range AKM Shahidul Haque announced this at a press conference held at Bogra Police Line auditorium recently.

Community policing programme was launched in Sadar upazila three years ago by Light House, a Bogra based NGO. The programme has succeeded, to a great extent, in decreasing crimes in the project area, the DIG said.

Nine wards of Bogra Sadar upazila were covered under the programme with assistance of police. Now the programme has been developed as a model, he said adding police will replicate the model in all the northern districts including other parts of Bogra to bring down crime.

The DIG has expressed his optimism saying crime situation is likely to improve in the northern districts on completion of the programme.

Under the programme, people and police will jointly discuss crime and community safety issues and implement it, he said.

International downer agency, Asia Foundation will fund the programme and provide technical support to it, he said.

Light House worked for three years in Sadar upazila and suc-ceeded in implementing the programme. As a result of the programme intervention, some visible changes relating to law and order have been visible.

In respect of changes made before and after the programme intervention, the respondents have given their positive opinions at a survey conducted in several areas of Bogra town and other targeted areas in the district.

In the survey, 97 out of 100 respondents said that crimes have reduced to a great extent after the programme intervention. About 71 respondents said the law and order situation improved significantly after the programme intervention. About 45 respondents said that awareness of people increased to a great extent compared to previous situation. Two respondents said relationship between police and the community has developed. They are of the opinion that justice seek-ing behavior of people has been changed after the programme intervention.

Many people said that Community Policing Forum (CPF) is playing an effective role in resolv-ing local disputes and thereby

facilitating positive change in improving security, justice and good governance.

About 75 respondents are of the opinion that CPF is very much required for dispute settlement.

Bogra Sadar Police Station Officer-In-Charge said criminal activities including snatching have been reduced in some part of the town due to community policing.

In order to achieve the objec-tives of the programme, different strategies were undertaken by police.

Kazipur police in Sirajganj already launched the Bogra model of community policing programme in the upazila.

PBCP man gets 14-year RI for keeping arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A regional leader of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was sentenced to 14-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a court here for keeping arms yes-terday.

The convict is PBCP leader Ashoka Kumar Saha alias Palash, son of Srendra Nath Saha of Ziala Nalta in Tala upazila.

5.5x2



PHOTO: STAR

The Karotoa flowing across Bogra town is being choked with garbage dumped by the municipality.

'Save our academic life'

People's Jute Mills High School students' appeal to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The students of Khalishpur People's Jute Mills High School at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club appealed to the chief adviser (CA) of caretaker govern-

ment Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed to save their academic life.

Md Masum Billah, a student of the school addressed the press conference on behalf of his school-mates Tuesday morning.

The students also placed their

six-point demand before the CA as a means to resolve the crisis in the jute mill.

The demands are withdrawal of termination notices of all employ-ees and workers, exemplary pun-ishment to corrupt officials, steps to make the jute mills free from cor-ruption through appointment of honest and efficient officials, reno-vation of the high school for creat-ing a congenial academic atmo-sphere, payment of arrear wages and salaries and stop issuance of any more retrenchment notice to workers and employees of any other jute mills of Khulna- Jessore industrial belt.

About 423 students of the high school put their signatures in an appeal sent to the chief adviser.

ARNAB MURDER 8 witnesses examined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*



One more prosecution witness (PW) of the sensa-tional Arnab murder case in Kaliganj upazila gave his state-ment before a court here yesterday.

Judge Ashish Ranjan Das of the District and Sessions Judge court recorded the statement and fixed August 6 the next date of hearing.

The witness is ANM Ahmed Ali, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Barisal.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of seven PWs on June 26 and July 8 respectively. They are Samir Kumar Das, Murari Mohon Sarkar and Dr. Abul Hossain, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Saidur Rahman Sardar, Fazlur Rahman and Nur Mohammad, a classmate of slain Arnab.

With the latest one, a total of eight witnesses were examined by the court.

Trial of the murder case began at a court here with deposition of complainant Nishan Chandra Das on June 11 after six years and nine months of the gruesome murder.

Eight-year-old Arnab was killed on June 18, 2000.

4x2

8x2

3x2

12x3