

# B'baria BNP bigwigs not with Bhuiyan

Ex-state minister, several other leaders tell The Daily Star

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Most front ranking leaders of BNP and its fronts in Brahmanbaria are united under the leadership of party chief Begum Khaleda Zia, claims former state minister and district BNP president Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan.

But very few of them met with him since declaration of emergency, Abdus Sattar said while talking to this correspondent. He however said they maintained contact with him over phone but could not hold any meeting as indoor politics is still banned.

This correspondent also talked to some other leaders including vice-presidents Shafiquer Rahman and Hafizur Rahman Molla, general secretary Syed Imranur Reza and Sharail ppazila BNP president advocateAbdur Rahman.

They said that they do not support "expelled" general secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. BNP led by Khaleda Zia is the mainstream BNP as it carries the ideology of its founder Ziaur Rahman.

Sariful Islam Malder, senior vice-president of Zia Parishad, said that he along with all party workers support the newly appointed general secretary Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, who is maintaining a low profile, said he is engaged more in legal profession because there is no politics now.

Some sources claimed that Sattar Bhuiyan is maintaining a low profile because there are allegations that he amassed wealth during the rule of BNP-Jamaat rule.

According to tax officials, Sattar Bhuiyan legalised Tk one crore undeclared income by paying Tk 12,31, 000 taxes and fees last month.

Sattar Bhuiyan said he will work for BNP which was formed by late president Ziaur Rahman.

"Mannan Bhuiyan is no more with BNP and it is not our headache where he is. It is clear that we are still with BNP and will remain in the party ", Sattar Bhuiyan said.

He said the party leaders will meet and discuss Khaleda's arrest after ban on indoor politics is withdrawn.

Sattar Bhuiyan claimed that no BNP leader of Brahmanbaria met Mannan Bhuiyan after his expulsion from the party.

It was gathered that Md. Abdul Khaleque, president of Bancha-rampur upazila BNP, along with a group of party men met Manna Bhuiya recently in Dhaka.

Asked about this, Sattar Bhuiyan said they might have met Mannan Bhuiyan for 'personal work'.

In political circles in the district, it is widely discussed that two front ranking BNP leaders are quitting politics.

They are former lawmaker advocate Haroon Al Rashid and party's senior vice-president Hamidur Rahman Hamdu.

Contacted, they avoided a direct reply but said they do not like mud-slinging.

Haroon Al Rashid said he was elected from Brahmanbaria-3 constituency

five times consecutively. He said he does not like mudslinging in politics.

Haroon however said, "Politics is one kind of disease. There is no last word in politics.

"If I am attacked with such disease again or circumstances compel to do politics, I will be with the mainstream BNP that can be run by only Khaleda Zia."

Some sources however claimed Haroon will return to politics with full vigour once emergency is lifted.

According to tax officials, Haroon legalised over Tk 60 lakh undeclared income by paying Tk 6 lakh taxes.

Haroon however told this correspondent that some relatives deposited their money with his account and so he had to pay the taxes.

Advocate Hamidur Rahman Hamdu, said he joined BNP being inspired by the Sheed President Ziaur Rahman. He will not be in BNP if the party is divided.

## JESSORE BLASTS Arrest warrant against Tariqul's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Warrant for arrest has been issued against former minister and BNP bigwig Tariqul Islam's son Aninda Islam alias Amit for his alleged involvement in the three bomb blasts in Jessore town on August 25.

Amit was the mastermind behind the blasts, police claimed, saying he crossed the border after the incident. Tariqul is now detained on corruption charges.

According to investigation officer (IO) of the case SI Khalilur Rahman of Jessore Kotwali police station, outlaw Golam Zakaria arrested earlier in the case, named Aninda Islam Amit as the mastermind behind the blasts in front of Circuit House, Kotwali police station and Jessore bus terminal.

The arrested outlaw made his statement in this regard before court under Section 144 of CrPc.

According to Jessore Police Superintendent Md Iqbal Bahar, cadres of detained former minister and his son were involved in the serial bomb blasts on August 25.

Intelligence agencies said that they had got all clues to the incident. The detained minister's son Amit is staying in Bongoan district of West Bengal since the incident, said the IO of the case.

## 'Strengthen local govt bodies'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Speakers at a discussion here underscored the need for strengthening the local government organisations at the grassroots level for development of the country.

Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF) and Democracy Watch jointly organised the discussion on local government

Held at Mymensingh Pourasabha auditorium Thursday afternoon, the discussion was presided by Democracy Watch executive director Taleya Rehman.

Termining the Union Parishad (UP) as a 136 years old organisation, speakers said the local government leaders are working for people facing obstacles in difficult situations.

They urged the UP chairmen to work without fear or favour for the interest of common people.

In the discussion, Boror Char UP chairman Ataharul Islam Bulbul, also a BUPF member, placed 11-point suggestion to strengthen local government organisations.

Among others, Mymensingh Pourasabha chairman Advocate Mahmud Al Noor Teraq, Anisur Rahaman of Nagorik Andolan, Prof Mukarram Hossain, Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu and Char Nilaxia Union Parishad (UP) chairman Fayezur Rahman Fakir addressed.

# Ex-Jamaat MP sent to jail after remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A former Jamaat lawmaker has been sent to jail by a court here on completion of his 3-day remand at Shyamnagar police station.

Ex-Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam who was remanded for three days at the police station in connection with an extortion case was produced before the court on Thursday.

Earlier, the investigation officer (IO) of an extortion case filed by Zamal Uddin, submitted a prayer before the court for granting seven days' remand of the accused. After hearing, the court granted 3-day remand of the former Jamaat lawmaker on September 9. He was remanded at Shyamnagar police station since September 10

Gazi Nazrul who is also a member of the central Mazlish-e-Sura of Jamaat-e-Islami was elected a lawmaker from Satkhira-5 (Shyamnagar) constituency as a BNP led 4-Party Alliance candidate during the national election in 2001.

Joint forces arrested him following enlistment of his name in the corrupt suspect list of the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) on March 9. In the list, the ACC has suspected him to be a graft suspect

Zamal Uddin, a staff of a shrimp enclosure owned by Khaja Nazim Uddin at Nidaya village in Shymanagar upazila filed an extortion case with Shyamnagar police station on April 22. In the case, he accused Gazi Nazrul, his private assistant Gausul Azam of Khanpur village and a Jamaat Rokon Mahfuzur Rahman of Nurnagar village for taking illegal toll from him.

The plaintiff alleged that a group of people led by Mahfuzur Rahman attacked the staff of the aforesaid enclosure, beat them up and forc-



Gazi Nazrul Islam

ibly occupied the enclosure on April 22, 2006.

When he went to Gazi Nazrul for help to get back his enclosure, Gazi Nazrul demanded Tk 3 lakh as toll from him through his personal assistant Gausul Azam on April 23, 2006.

Later, the complainant went to Nazrul's Islampur house in Shyamnagar town and paid him Tk. 2 lakh through Gausul Azam and Mahfuzur Rahman on April 24, 2006, according to the complaint.

Earlier, a court here placed Gazi Nazrul on two-day remand as the IO of another case submitted a prayer before the court for granting 5-day remand.

SM Abdur Rashid of Chakbara village in Shyamnagar upazila filed the extortion case of Tk 50,000 with the same police station against Gazi Nazrul and others on April 16. But Gazi Nazrul is yet to be taken to the police station for interrogation, sources said.

On contact, Shyamnagar police station officer-in-charge (OC) Mizanur Rahman said the former Jammam lawmaker will be taken on remand again in another case.

## PATUAKHALI LAND DISPUTE 8 hurt in attack on Hindu families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

At least eight members of Hindu community were injured and a house was burnt in an attack by a gang of armed miscreants in Marichbunia village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila yesterday.

The incident was sequel to a land dispute, police said.

Police said a group of armed miscreants allegedly led by Delawar Peyada, attacked the house of Narayan Chandra Majhi and Sushila Rani.

The attacker searched for Narayan and failing to find him, beat and injured eight of his family members and relatives.

House of Sushila, widowed sister of Narayan, was burnt.

The miscreants looted goods worth about Tk 2 lakh, they alleged.

Informed by local people, a police team led by Sub inspector Emran came and sent the injured people to Patuakhali Sadar Hospital. The attackers had left the village before police came.

Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain at Patuakhali Sadar police station said a case is being processed and efforts on to nab the attackers.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Flood water, swelled by downpour yesterday, overflowing Bhojon Danga-Sadipur road in Faridpur district.

## Alleged bid to grab Hindu family land in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Some influential people are allegedly trying to grab the ancestral land of a poor Hindu family in Talaimari area of Rajshahi city on the plea of building a madrassah there.

The family of Abonikanta Saha yesterday rushed to Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club and alleged that the land grabbers are using political influence to capture their land.

They are threatening them to vacate the land, they told a press conference. They are taking help of a section of policemen, they claimed.

The family showed a number of documents and court orders to prove their right on the land and drew attention of the caretaker government to help them protect it from grabbers.

Pallab Saha, Abonikanta's son said, he filed a general diary with Motihar police station on March 19 seeking help to protect the land.

But the officer-in-charge PS Ferdous Ahmed demanded four kathas (6 decimal) of land and Tk 6 lakh for this, he alleged.

As the family failed to provide the money, police did not help them. Moreover, the OC on September 4

called Pallab at the police station and later drove him away keeping his mobile phone and Tk 4000. However, the mobile was later returned, to Pallab said.

Police also threatened Babul Sarker, their attorney and business partner, with harassment by implicating in cases, Pallab alleged.

Out of his total 51 kathas (about 76.5 decimal) of land, Abonikanta recently rented 3.5 katha to Babul Sarker to start a business there, he said.

But local ward commissioner Tarikul Islam Paltu forced Babul to stop business as he declined to pay him Tk one lakh as toll, pallab alleged at the press conference.

Pallab's cousin Amrita Rani Saha, brother Polash, mother Chobi Rani Saha and uncle Amol Kumar and Babul Sarker were present at the press conference.

Contacted later, OC Ferdous denied the allegation of demanding bribe from the Hindu family. He said police were always busy in maintaining law and order in the city and had hardly any time to look into the matter.

"The allegations are mere propaganda", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

A BDR shop for essentials at Bahaddarhat in Chittagong drew customers in large numbers on the first day of Ramadan yesterday.

## BSF abducts 2 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted two Bangladeshi cattle traders from Challishpara border point in Daulatpur upazila in Kustia on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Mintu, 35 and Mirza Alam, 44, of Challishpara village.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said BSF personnel picked up the Bangladeshi traders from Talpatti bazaar when they went there to buy cattle.

## Colleges should be free from politics

### Kushtia principals say at meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Principles of government and non-government colleges in greater Kushtia in a view exchange meeting said that students at higher secondary level need not be involved in politics and that the campuses should be free form politics.

The view exchange meeting titled 'Qualitative Education and Ensuring Good Atmosphere at Higher Secondary Level' was held at Teachers Lounge of Kushtia Government College on Thursday.

The speakers in the meeting said, students need to be involved in politics at his early education life even if he wants to be politician in future.

Dr. Paritosh Kumar Das, inspector of colleges in Jessore board presided over the meeting while principle of Kushtia Government College Sheikh Abul Hossain attended as chief guest.

A total of 99 principals from different colleges in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts took part in the daylong programme.

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