

# Most BNP men in Kushtia are with Delwar, 3 ex-MPs claim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Majority of BNP leaders and activists in Kushtia have expressed their support to party's new secretary general Khondokar Delwar Hussain, three out of four former lawmakers in the district claimed.

The party rank and file expressed their 'full confidence' in the leadership of Khaleda Zia, they said while talking to this correspondent.

They alleged that expelled secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan is "misleading" party men in the name of reform.

This correspondent also talked to many other front ranking leaders including presidents and secretaries of upazila units who are party councilors and hold vital posts.

A good number of Kushtia BNP leaders and activists including upazila presidents and secretaries led by former lawmakers Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi and Sohrab Uddin met with Khondokar Delwar at his residence in Dhaka on Wednesday and expressed their support to him, party men said.

Rumi was elected from

Kushtia-4 (Khosha-Kumarkhali) constituency and Sohrab from Kushtia-3 (Sadar) in 2001 election.

Those who met Delwar included woman affairs secretary Syed Fahima Rumi, district BNP joint secretary Khondokar Sazder Rahman Bablu, Kushtia city BNP secretary Kutub Uddin Ahmed, Khosha upazila BNP president Syed Amzad Ali and some leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Another former lawmaker - Sahidul Islam - now on the run being listed as a corruption suspect by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), also expressed his support to Khaleda Zia.

"There is no alternative to Khaleda Zia to lead BNP as she carried the ideology of late President Ziaur Rahman", Rumi told this correspondent over cell phone.

Rumi, general secretary of Kushtia district BNP and elected twice from Kushtia-4 constituency, is known as a powerful party leader in the district. He is the son of former BNP lawmaker late Syed Mas-ud-Rumi.

Sohrab Uddin, organising

secretary of Kushtia BNP, is publicly known as an honest politician. He was elected from Kushtia Sadar constituency for the first time in 2001 by defeating prominent Awami League leader barrister Amir-ul-Islam. Sohrab also scored the second highest number of votes in 2001 parliamentary election.

"All leaders and activists of BNP in the district are with us and support Khaleda Zia," Sohrab told this correspondent.

"Mannan is misleading party leaders and activists", Sohrab said.

Asked about reform in the party Mehedi Rumi said, "Will we eat the fruit by uprooting the tree?"

Asked about two other former BNP lawmakers from the district - Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah and Abdul Khaleque Chantu who reportedly joined Mannan Bhuiyan, Rumi said, "They will not be able to do any harm to the party in Kushtia".

"No body is with them as they are now detached from party leaders and activists at grassroots level", Rumi said.

Bachchu Mollah, son of late post and telecommunications

minister Ahsanul Haq Mollah was elected from Kushtia-1 seat in the by-election following his father's death in 2004. Abdul Khaleque Chantu was elected twice (1991 and 1996) from Kushtia-3.

This correspondent also talked to a good number of leaders at district, upazila and union levels.

"They criticised Mannan Bhuiyan, saying he is also not free from corruption. They claimed that Mannan Bhuiyan is using the shield of reform to save himself. He is also surrounded by beneficiaries during the BNP-Jamaat rule, they claimed.

They claimed that Bachchu Mollah joined Mannan Bhuiyan to evade arrest and Abdul Khaleque Chantu is now detached from party activists.

Five extortion cases were filed against Bachchu Mollah in last three months. Charge has been framed in one of the cases, while the rest are under investigation.

Kushtia is a stronghold for BNP for long. BNP captured all four parliamentary seats in the district in 1996 and 2001 elections. BNP got three seats in 1991 election while Awami League got one.

Voters decline by 90,077 in Khulna city in new listing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Distribution of ID cards in the first phase will begin in wards 5, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 in Khulna city today as work on voter registration with photograph ended yesterday.

GOCC of Jessore cantonment Maj Gen Md. Rafiqul Islam PSC will formally inaugurate distribution of ID cards among 50 voters in a simple function at Zia Hall in the city at 10:30 am, sources said.

The voter registration works with photographs began in Khulna city on August 26. Maj. Abu Saeed Mohammad Bakir acted as the coordinator.

According to district election officer, a total of 3,91,403 persons enrolled their names as voters in all the 31 wards in Khulna city this year.

There were 4,81,480 voters in the previous voters' list. Enumerators have listed five reasons for not registering names of 90,077 people in the current voter list in Khulna city this year.

A total of 1,605 enumerators, 321 supervisors and 35 assistant registration officers were involved in the voter registration work.

**Jubo League leader murdered in Pabna**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A central leader of Awami Jubo League has been killed by 'unidentified' assailants here, police said.

Saiful Islam Sabu, 42, a central committee member of Jubo League, youth wing of Bangladesh Awami League was chopped to death by a gang of assailants near his residence on Shinga Bazar road at about 10 pm on Tuesday, police said. At that time, he was returning home by a motorcycle.

Sabu was immediately rushed to Pabna General Hospital in a critical condition but on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Being informed, police rushed the spot and sent the body to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday.

Victim's brother filed a case with Pabna police station.

On contact, Pabna police station officer-in-charge (OC) Md Iqbal Safi said the motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained. Political feud or past enmity might be the cause of the murder, he said.

Son of Md Abdul Kashem of Singa village, Sabu was former general secretary (GS) of Pabna Polytechnic Institute Students' Union, sources said.

# Future nation builders vow to resist corruption



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Rasulpur High School in Satkhira at a solemn function yesterday taking oath to launch a campaign against corruption.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a different day in as over 500 students at a gathering vowed to raise their voice against corruption and not to bow down to corrupts.

It was a solemn occasion when boys and girls on Rasulpur High School premises in the town spoke against corruption and decided to launch a campaign to create awareness among school and college students against corruption.

The function was organised by Sachetan Nagarik Committee

Hossain, Shafiqur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam spoke on the occasion.

They urged students to come forward to root out the corruption, which is destroying all potentialities of the country.

They said, corruption in every sphere of life is retarding development of the country.

They said black money holders are now controlling politics in the country, sidelining devoted politicians. This must be reversed so that honest people come to politics, they said.

## 2 guards hurt in failed bank robbery bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Armed robbers made a failed attempt to rob the Islami Bank Satkhira branch at Pransayer in the town on Tuesday night.

Two night guards of the bank were seriously injured while trying to resist the criminals.

The gang entered the bank on the second floor of Islamia Market after breaking the window at about 2:00am, police quoted the night guards as saying.

The robbers, who had brought gas cylinders and welding machine to break the vault of the bank, stabbed the guards indiscriminately as they tried to resist, injured guards Nazrul Islam and Khalilur Rahman, now undergoing treatment at Sadar hospital, told police.

But the robbers failed to break the vault and could not take cash or other valuables, said Abdus Sabur, manager of the bank branch.

## BSF returns bodies of 2 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday night returned to Bangladesh Rifles the bodies of two Bangladeshi citizens killed by BSF on September 6 at Dudli, a bordering village under 24 Parganas district in West Bengal opposite to Kushtia in Satkhira Sadar upazila.

Bangladeshi cattle traders Hosain Ali, 22, of village Satani, and Harun ur Rashid Mollah, 26, of Kushtia in Sadar upazila, along with others were returning home with cattle from India when the BSF men shot them. The BSF also took away the bodies.

Following a company-level flag meeting between the BDR and BSF at zero point on Bhomra border in Sadar upazila at about 8:00pm on Tuesday, the BSF returned the two bodies.

The bodies were handed over to their relatives after postmortem yesterday noon, Satkhira Superintendent of Police Mirza Abdullah Bakir said.



PHOTO: STAR

Flood victims wait in long queues at Shailkhola Union Parishad ground for relief yesterday.

## Kailashthila LPG bottling plant to remain silent for a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Operation of the LPG bottling plant of state-run Petrobangla established the new NGL Fractionation Plant with a capacity to produce 110 tonnes of LPG per day.

It will now meet the ever-increasing demand for LPG. The sources said they are hopeful of commissioning the new plant in mid-October.

The RPGCL was getting only about 375 tonnes of LPG per month from its old NGL plant. The 8500 tonne capacity plant produced only 4400 tonnes LPG in 2006-2007 financial year.

The decision was taken on an emergency basis, the source added.

## Ensure rights of indigenous people Rajshahi meeting urges govt

RU CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous people at a discussion meeting in Rajshahi yesterday called upon the government to safeguard indigenous people's right to education through their mother language and protect their culture and lands and constitutional recognition.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad organised the meeting on the premises of Rajabarihat school to mark the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Speakers at the meeting put forward various demands of indigenous people for an end to persecution on ethnic minorities so that they can ensure their right to practice their religion, language and culture independently.

Indigenous leaders also urged all the indigenous peoples of the northern region to launch a movement jointly for ensuring their

rights.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Anil Marandi was present as chief guest at the meeting chaired by Nironzana Kuzu.

Among others, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Rajshahi district president Bimol Chandra Razwar, Andraus Biwas, Babu Lal Uraw, Komol Topo, Roghunath Paharia and Poresh Hasda addressed the meeting.

After the discussion, the parishad announced a two-day long colourful programme at Rajabarihat school playground on September 26 and 27 when reception will be awarded to indigenous freedom fighters and indigenous students achieving brilliant result in the HSC examinations.

Discussion meeting and cultural programmes will also be held.

12X3

## 2 children drown

Diarrhoea spreads as floodwater recedes in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Two children drowned while playing near their flood-hit homesteads in Fulchhari and Shaghata upazilas yesterday.

The victims are 7 year-old Amirul Islam of Khatiyamari village in Fulchhari and 2 year-old Shawon of Tepa Padumshaher in Shaghata.

As flood water is receding, intestinal diseases including diarrhoea are spreading in Sunderganj, Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata upazilas, officials and locals said.

At least 44 diarrhoea patients

were admitted to different upazila health complexes and hospitals, the officials said.

A total of 297 people were attacked with the disease in last one week, they said.

The diarrhoea situation in flood-affected areas is under control, officials at Civil Surgeon's office said yesterday.

All the four rivers in the district are flowing below their danger marks but floodwater is stagnant in many areas in the district. The flood disrupted road communication in the district as roads to Fulchhari and Shaghata were washed away at several points, officials said.

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