

Rajshahi BNP in crisis as bigwigs in jail or hiding

Party men sat at the chamber of its district president yesterday as the district unit has no office

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

With opening of indoor politics, the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Rajshahi are facing crisis due to lack of guidance in absence of party bigwigs.

One of the them is in jail and four others are hiding.

BNP has no office of its own in the city. Party men sat at the chamber of district BNP president Azizur Rahman yesterday.

The building at Sonadighi intersection that Rajshahi Red Crescent rented from Rajshahi City Corporation was used as BNP office for over a decade. After taking over of the present government in January last year, Red Crescent re-established its office there.

Another office that was running at a house at Chal Patty in the city was also closed after emergency.

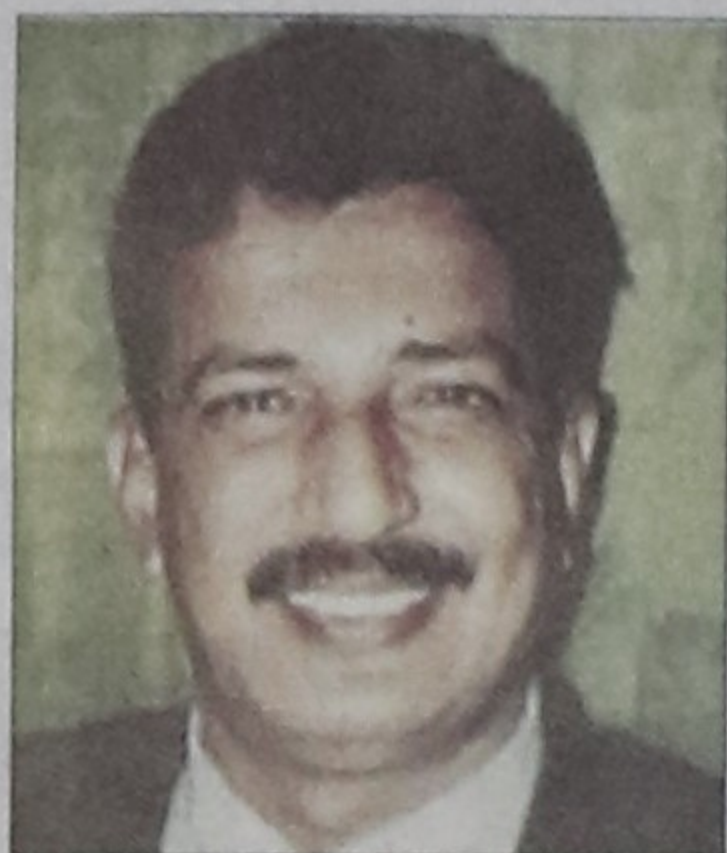
Former lawmaker and Rajshahi mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, who got 13 years imprisonment in an extortion case, is now in jail. Several other cases for corruption, tax dodging and extortion against him are under trial.

Former telecommunications minister Aminul Haque, ex-lawmaker Nadim Mostafa and Rajshahi district BNP Secretary Shish Muhammad are absconding while ex-lawmaker Abu Hena is staying abroad.

Another bigwig, ex-lawmaker Kabir Hossain is virtually inactive due to his illness.

City committee is non-existent and there is no office in the city for its workers to meet.

Former minister Aminul Haque went into hiding after declaration



Mizanur Rahman Minu



Aminul Haque



Azizur Rahman



Nadim Mostafa

of emergency. He and Shish Muhammad were awarded 31 years and six months imprisonment for patronising militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Shish Muhammad is also absconding.

Nadim Mostafa, also city BNP secretary, went into hiding after the

party after announcement of elections (later cancelled) scheduled for January 22 last year. He went abroad about a year ago.

Due to illness, former lawmaker Kabir Hossain has refrained from any outdoor politics for a few years. However, many BNP leaders and workers regularly meet at his house for political discussions.

The last city BNP committee was formed on September 30 in 2003 with Minu as its president but Minu was later pressurised to step down.

Later following directives from BNP high-ups, Saleh Uddin Baby and Nadim Mostafa were made president and secretary of the city committee.

Nobody assumed the president's post after Baby died on November 3, 2005.

At present, the party's city unit is inactive while there are several minor groups among the workers.

Azizur Rahman is working as the district committee president while Mustafizul Iqbal was made the secretary after district BNP secretary Shish Muhammad went into hiding.

BNP activists were yesterday seen gathering at different city points and roaming around private chambers and houses of leaders.

Former lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu, also the central organising secretary, was at the centre of BNP politics in the district. He was the mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation for 16 years.

Denying any crisis in Rajshahi BNP, Azizur Rahman said, "We believe our leaders were implicated with false cases and one day they will be released. Now the district committee will control the activities of all other units."

BDR rescues 29 people from traffickers

A CORRESPONDENT, Ch nauabganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued 29 people from traffickers at bordering village Charboairmari under Godagari upazila in Rajshahi on Monday night.

BDR arrested Md Asaduzzaman of Charboairmari village in this connection.

Acting on a tip, a BDR team of Chapalnauabganj raided the house of Hannan Member of Charboairmari village under Godagari upazila in Rajshahi on Monday at around 8:30pm and rescued them from there, BDR said.

They had been brought from different areas in Narail district on Monday for being trafficked to India, sources said.

Operation Officer of 39 Rifles Battalion Major Syed Abu Hasan said they found information about an organised gang who were involved in the crime.

BDR handed over the rescued people to Godagari Police Station.

Shibir show of strength on RU campus

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) including outsiders staged a show of strength on Rajshahi University campus, hunting for Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists who on Monday beat a Shibir leader at Shahidullah arts building.

On Monday, a group of JCD activists led by Sher-e-Bangla hall JCD convener Arafat Rahman Ashik beat Shibir cadre Zakaria Alam alias Sumon, a 2nd year student of Islamic History, allegedly for his misbehave with a JCD activist.

Yesterday morning, general students were panicked as Shibir activists joined by outsiders on 20 motorcycles, staged a show of strength, moving on the campus and hunting for JCD activists.

No untoward incident however took place, campus sources said. Sumon filed a general diary (GD) with Mother police station accusing JCD activist Muhammad Salim and six others for beating him.

Shibir activists also met Proctor Enamul Haque and threatened that they will 'taken action' against JCD activists if they are not 'punished' within 24 hours.

Talking to newsmen, RU Shibir president Delwar Hossain also said they demand punishment of JCD activists who beat a Shibir cadre.

When contacted Rabindra Nath Roy, Officer-in-Charge of RU campus, he told this correspondent that he was trying to arbitrate between Shibir and JCD to avert any clash.

When contacted RU Proctor Enamul Haque said he was trying to maintain peace on the campus.

Body of missing trader found in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Body of a trader missing since Monday was recovered from a roadside in Keshobpur village in Moheshpur upazila of the district yesterday.

Throat of the victim, Samaul, was slit, police said. He was son of Abdur Rahman of Keshobpur village.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Shahidul Islam of Moheshpur police station and family sources said, Samaul had been missing since Monday night. The murder might be due to enmity, police said. None was arrested till yesterday evening.

15 of 23 'top' outlaws stay in India, run parties thru' cell phone

Police say drives on to nab them before polls

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Twenty-three hardened outlaws and gang leaders in Kushtia and Chuadanga are yet to be netted despite all out attempts by law enforcers including announcement of bounty for their arrest three years ago.

Of them, 9 are from Kushtia and 14 from Chuadanga. All are 'most wanted' hardened criminals.

According to sources, at least 15 out of the 23 criminals are staying at different hideouts in West Bengal province of India. They maintain links with their men in Bangladesh through cell phone and carry out party activities from there.

They stay in Bongram, Dangarpura, Barhatroy, Tilakpur, Ujipur in Nadia, Guru Dura and Shibmandir in Siliguri. Several of them stay in rented flats in Kolkata, the sources claimed.

Talking to this correspondent, some high officials of Khulna Range police admitted that they have information about activities of the criminals outside the country.

"They are being sheltered by some criminals in a neighbouring country in exchanging large amounts of money," one of the officials said over cell phone seeking anonymity.

Indian police have arrested some of the criminals including 'most wanted ones' in recent times.

Bangladesh government, at talks, also requested the Indian government to arrest the criminals, he said.

Some of them are staying in their areas in Bangladesh. They

collect toll from businessmen and contractors through their grassroots cadres.

Several joint combing operations by law enforcers including Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were launched at different times but showed little success.

The government on October 23, 2005 announced bounties varying from Tk 20,000 to Tk five lakh for information leading to arrest of 20 hardened outlaws of Chuadanga who created a reign of terror in ten districts of southwestern region and three districts in Northern region.

Twenty hardcore outlaws of Chuadanga were Abdur Rahid Malitha has Tapan Malitha alias Dada Tapan, Jamal Uddin alias Rabi alias Nuruzzaman, Rony Biswas, Bidi, Kalu, Rabi, Somser alias Sama, Shajahan, Azad, Tahndu, Amirul, Habibur alias Oltu, Mizanur alias Major, Rabiul, Mozammel alias Moka, Sahidul, Khorsed, Tomsel and Kismat.

Of them, six were killed in 'crossfire' in last three years in Chuadanga. They are Abir Hasan, Rnoy Biswas Jamal Uddin, Somser alias Sama, Habibur alias Oltu, Kalu and Mozammel alias Moka.

According to Kushtia police, two GMF leaders--Sahin and Abdewer arrested by West Bengal police last month. They are still in custody of Indian police.

According to police, law enforcers in last three years arrested a good number of outlaws and gang leaders.

Kushtia Police Superintendent Mosleh Uddin Ahmed said they

give top priority to arrest of outlaws as the parliamentary election is expected in December.

Chuadanga Police Superintendent Abdur Razzak said outlaws and hardened criminals must be arrested before the polls so that they can not be used by politicians to influence election results.

Ariful falls sick in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

As Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury fell sick in the courtroom, the judge adjourned deposition of the prosecution witnesses in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission against him yesterday.

It happened after Judge Md Abdul Gafor of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, also the special tribunal, took deposition and argument of prosecution witness Md Bahadur Ali, sub-divisional engineer of the PWD.

The judge fixed today for recording deposition of some other officials of the PWD.

The court on April 22 framed charges in the ACC-filed case against Arif. As many as 27 people including the complainant had been made witnesses in the case.

The ACC filed charge sheets against Ariful and his wife Shama Haque Chowdhury on charge of accumulating wealth worth over Taka 2 and a half crore through corruption.

HIDING CORRUPTION BY MAYOR TAYEBUR Probe body for removal of legal adviser Ruba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The four-member probe committee formed on April 21 has recommended immediate removal of advocate Nurul Hasan Ruba from the post of legal adviser of Khulna City Corporation.

Headed by KCC Chief Health Officer Dr ABM Mahabubul Haq, the committee submitted its report Monday evening to acting mayor Moniruzzaman Moni.

SM Hafizur Rahman, suspended procurement officer of KCC's municipal services project (MSP) filed a petition with the acting mayor on April 10 against Nurul Hasan Ruba.

SM Hafizur Rahman, who is

complainant of the first extortion case filed against Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman on November 2 last year, said in his petition that Ruba was involved in concealing important documents on alleged corruption and irregularities done by the mayor in last ten years.

The probe committee in its report said that allegations against Ruba were correct and suggested action against him.

Advocate Ruba who is the defence lawyer in extortion cases against the mayor, denied all the allegations against him. He also termed the probe committee 'biased' and its report 'baseless, designed to malign his reputation as legal practitioner'.

EXPULSION OF EX-MP IN NILPHAMARI Wife alleges Jamaat discrimination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The wife of former Jamaat lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has alleged that the party showed 'discriminatory treatment' towards her husband.

Ismat Ara Chowdhury said the party promptly expelled her husband as soon as charges of misappropriation of corrugated iron (CI) sheets of government relief were brought against him last year. The case is still under-trial, she said while talking to this correspondent.

Ismat Ara said the party did not take any action against former

lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury of Chittagong though he was convicted by a court to suffer 10 years' imprisonment on April 12 this year for earning illegal wealth beyond his income.

Five other cases are also pending against him, of which one for murder and two others for extortion. 'But it is strange that Jamaat did not take any action against him', Ismat said.

Joint Forces recovered 104 pieces of CI sheets of government relief from Mizan Chowdhury's Dalia Road house in Jaldhaka town on February 16 last year. A case was filed against him on charge of misappropriation of CI sheets under Emergency Act. Mizan surrendered to court and was sent to jail on February 19.

During his expulsion from party, Jamaat leaders told media the party will take action against those whose involvement in corruption will be proved beyond suspicion, she said.

Mizanur Chowdhury was elected to parliament from Nilphamari-3 (Jaldhaka and part of Kishoreganj) constituency in two consecutive terms in the parliamentary elections in 1996 and 2001.

When contacted, Jamaat's Jaldhaka upazila unit secretary Antazul Islam said he is not the proper authority to comment in this regard.

Study in the UK OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY Spot Admission Date: 15 May '08 (2 PM - 6 PM)

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation HEAD OFFICE, NOW SHIFTED TO- New Address Hotel Abakash 83-88, Mohakhali C/A

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Superintending Engineer Dhaka PWD Circle-III, SB Nagar, Dhaka Memo No-PQ-01/SBND-3/2007-08/KAZ-476/7482 Date: 12-05-08

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