

Frustration grips Satkhira BNP

4 bigwigs on the run, another abroad since emergency

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Frustration has gripped the BNP rank and file in Satkhira as there is none to lead them while indoor politics has been allowed.

The neither has a full-fledged district committee nor an office in the town.

Yesterday, party men were seen gathering at different points of the town and roaming around different private chambers and houses of leaders.

Of the four bigwigs, three are on the run to evade arrest and the other flew to the USA after promulgation of emergency.

District BNP convenor and former lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib, member-secretary of the convening committee Habibur Rahman and former vice-president Abdur Rouf are on

the run. Rouf is also secretary district bus-minibus owners association. Habibur Rahman is chairman of Alipur Union Parishad (UP). Both Habib and Rouf face several cases each.

There is none other than the four to run the party in the district, party sources said.

Sadar upazila BNP president and Labsa UP chairman Abdul Alim and Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal leader and Dhulihar UP chairman Modasserul Haque Huda are on bail. Alim and Huda were in jail for extortion and murder cases respectively.

BNP has no office in the town as the caretaker government demolished its office illegally constructed on Road and Highways land at Itagachha in the town.

Dogged by internal feud, a full-fledged committee of Satkhira

district BNP could not formed in last four years despite several moves by the party high command.

The party high command on June 5, 2005 dissolved the district BNP committee headed by MA Jalil and Syed Iftekhar Ali and formed a committee with Habibul Islam Habib and Rahmatullah Palash as president and secretary respectively to form a full-fledged committee.

Amid squabbles among party front-runners, the party high command on April 22, 2006 again dissolved the committee and formed a convening committee with Habib and Samsuzzoha Bablu as convenor and member-secretary.

Despite repeated instructions by the high command, a full fledged district committee could not be formed. Since then, party activities virtually stopped as the

chain of command collapsed, said a senior leader seeking anonymity.

Some dedicated senior leaders have also distanced from party activities.

Another senior leader preferring anonymity said the party, now divided into two groups, has lost credibility among people due to misdeeds by some senior leaders. Satkhira BNP now faces leadership crisis, said two senior leaders of Sadar upazila BNP.

Launch a movement for release of BNP chief Khaleida Zia will be not easy in Satkhira in the present situation, they said.

Party leader Sirajul Islam however said there is no crisis in the party. "The district leaders were implicated in false cases and we believe they will be released one day. Other leaders will run party activities", he said.

Freedom fighter protests his name in Jamaat's so-called FF body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Freedom Fighter Sheikh Zahur Ali of Sanka village in Kaliganj upazila in a statement yesterday protested inclusion of his name in the Satkhira district committee of so-called Jatiya Muktojoddha Parishad formed by Jamaat-e-Islami.

He said the committee in Satkhira was formed with Jamaat men, none of whom was freedom fighter. Their names were included in the list of freedom fighters during BNP-Jamaat rule, he said.

Expressing his surprise at inclusion of his name in the committee, he said, the anti-liberation Jamaat has formed the committee by taking in fake freedom fighters when the nation is demanding trial of war criminals. This is a hoax and an attempt to divert people's attention from the demand.

He also urged the government to try war criminals by forming a special tribunal.

Child injured in bomb explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A child was injured in a bomb explosion at Kanchon Nagar in Jhenidah town yesterday.

Injured Subarna alias Sumi, 5, daughter of Monoar Hossain has been admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Police later recovered another bomb from the spot. They said the bomb exploded when Sumi and Rokon were playing with it unknowingly.

Chevron begins seismic survey in Komolganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

US oil company Chevron yesterday began its 3D seismic survey in Baligram and Bagmara villages in Komolganj upazila in the district. The area is about five kilometers from Lawachhara reserve forest.

The survey will continue for three days, sources said.

Chevron completed its 3D seismic survey in Lawachhara reserve forest Tuesday morning. The survey in the forest triggered protests by locals and environmentalists.

All private clinics in Rajshahi city stop admitting patients

All diagnostic labs also closed protesting 'unjust fining' by government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Around 60 private clinics and diagnostic centre owners in Rajshahi city went on an indefinite work-stoppage yesterday afternoon for what they said 'unjust fining' by the government.

As the clinics and diagnostic centres, where around 3,500 people take treatment everyday, stopped admitting new patients and conducting pathological tests, hundreds of treatment seekers from different areas in the northern region faced problems.

The clinics, however, continued treating the patients who had already been admitted.

The action was taken just after the joint forces led by a magistrate raided four clinics

and diagnostic centres and realised a total of Tk 41,000 for unhygienic surroundings and lack of necessary doctors and other staff.

At an emergency meeting yesterday evening, Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association (CDOA) President Dr Abdul Mannan said they closed their institutions as giving fines has exhausted them.

He alleged misbehaviour of the law enforcers when they went to Mukti Clinic owned by him.

"We operate with limited doctors, staffs and facilities so that we can survive by charging the minimum from the patients," said Mokhlesur Rahman, CDOA secretary.

"We have shut down our clinics in fear of further raids. There were

over 150 clinics and diagnostic centres in the city before the emergency. Due to the drives, number of clinics went has gone down to 60," he said.

"As per the government rules, we have to keep three doctors, six nurses, six aayas and three sweepers for a 10-bed clinic but if we maintain the rules, our monthly expenditure would be much higher than our income," said Dr Arifur Rahman, owner of Cure Nursing Home.

Terming the statements of clinic owners to be baseless, Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Dr Sajjadul Islam said, "If government rules are barrier for their profit, why should they come to the business? Besides, the clinic owners were given warning several times earlier."

BNP memos for CA in 2 dists for Khaleida's release

STAR NATIONAL DESK

BNP leaders and workers of Rajshahi and Panchagarh districts yesterday submitted memorandums (memos) to the chief adviser (CA) of caretaker government demanding fulfillment of their 11 points including release of party chief Khaleida Zia.

They handed over the memos through the deputy commissioners (DCs) of their respective districts.

Our Rajshahi Staff Correspondent reports: Azizur Rahman, president of Rajshahi district BNP led the group of about 30 leaders and workers to the DC office.

The BNP unit secretary Mustafizul Iqbal, organizing secretary Alauddin, vice president Enamul Haque, Shahin Shawkat, Chhatra Dal city president Abul Kalam Azad were among the group.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports: BNP district general secretary Advocate Hasan Prohan and other executive members of the party handed down the memorandum to Panchagarh DC.

CHARGE FRAMING IN CORRUPTION CASE

Tariqul taken to Jessore court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP vice chairman and former minister Tariqul Islam was produced before a special court in Jessore yesterday in connection with charge framing of a corruption case.

Special judge Obaidus Sobhan fixed May 18 as the next date for charge framing.

The date for charge framing was deferred twice earlier due to Tariqul's absence owing to illness.

The former minister was brought to Jessore Central Jail from Dhaka at 9-30 pm on Tuesday.

Manzur Morhsed, deputy director of Jessore Zonal Office of Anti Corruption Commission filed the case as complainant on September 9 last year with Jessore Kotwali police station accusing Tariqul, his wife professor Nargis Begum, sons Shantanu Islam and Aninda Islam and daughter-in-law Lamia Sharmin for hiding wealth worth Tk one crore twenty six lakh and 3,24 and acquiring



BNP vice-chairman Tariqul Islam being taken to Jessore court yesterday.

more illegal wealth worth Tk one crore ninety four lakh and 30,000 beyond known sources of their income.

Charge sheet of this case was

pressed to court on February 28 this year.

Tariqul Islam was arrested by joint forces from his Jessore residence on February 5 last year. Four other accused of the case have been absconding.

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Design, Supply and Installation of 132/33KV 50/75 MVA Power Transformers and Associated Materials at Mogbazar, Maniknagar and Shyampur 132/33 KV Substations (ICB/DPDC/SPSDP/2007/03)	Original : 22/05/2008 at 12:00 hours	Original: 22/05/2008 at 12:30 hours
	Revised: 05/06/2008 at 12:00 hours	Revised: 05/06/2008 at 12:30 hours
Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 5 Nos. new 33/11 KV Substations (ICB/DPDC/SPSDP/2007/05)	Original : 25/05/2008 at 12:00 hours	Original: 25/05/2008 at 12:30 hours
	Revised: 08/06/2008 at 12:00 hours	Revised: 08/06/2008 at 12:30 hours

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged

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Tayebur's 2 cases sent to other courts as judge 'embarrassed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two extortion cases against detained Khulna mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman have been transferred to two other courts as Additional District and Sessions Judge (3rd court) Mohammad Barezuzzaman felt 'embarrassed' to try them.

District and Sessions Judge Shafiuddin on Tuesday evening passed order to transfer the extortion cases to two other courts for trial and accordingly, trial of the two cases began yesterday in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (4th court) and Khulna Special Tribunal.

The detained mayor was produced before both the courts yesterday in connection with the extortion cases filed on November 2 and 3 last year with Khulna Sadar

Fake ACC official held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a fake officer of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) from Natia Malipara Land Office in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district, when he was realizing toll from a revenue collector of the office.

Rab also seized a passport, a few pads signed by the chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission and a fake identity card from his possession.

The arrestee, Habibur Rahman, of Mokimpur village in Belkuchi upazila of the district, introduced himself as an ACC officer and demanded Tk 3,000 as toll from Belal Hossain, a revenue collector of Natia Malipara Land Office yesterday morning.



Sheikh Tayebur Rahman

Police Station.

SM Hafizur Rahman, a suspended official of Khulna City Corporation, filed the first extortion case against the mayor and two others on November 2 last year. The Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Barezuzzaman already recorded statements of 17 prosecution witnesses during the trial.

The same court recorded statements of 11 out of 14 prosecution witnesses during trial of the extortion case filed on November 3 last year by fish trader Abdullah Elin against the mayor and seven others.

But Judge Md Barezuzzaman on May 12 wrote an official letter to District and Sessions Judge Md Shafiuddin expressing his embarrassment to continue trial of these cases.

In his judgement pronounced on April 22, Judge Md Barezuzzaman acquitted Tayebur Rahman in the arms case.

The judge observed in his judgement that the arms case was filed against the mayor in a pre-planned way on orders of senior officers of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

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