

Jubo Dal trying to keep BNP alive in Khagrachhari

District unit president quits, most other bigwigs in jail or on the run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

BNP rank and file in Khagrachhari is gripped with frustration as most of its front ranking leaders are either in jail or on the run to evade arrest for alleged corruption.

Some leaders of its youth front Jubo Dal are trying to keep the party alive, party sources said.

After allowing indoor politics, BNP office in the town was opened by Jubo Dal president Abdus Salam and secretary Saidul Islam Babul on May 17. But few party men visit the office, party sources said.

Activities of district BNP is virtually stopped after arrest of its secretary former lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan on February 4 by joint forces.

District BNP organising secretary Mostafizur Rahman Millat was arrested on March 10 and its press secretary Nazrul Islam on March 8. There are four cases against each of them. They were however released from jail on bail on Monday.

After their arrest, district BNP president Rajib Roy resigned on March 24.

Earlier, during his tenure, Wadud Bhuiyan suspended several key party men from their posts without any approval from the party high command, allegedly for protesting



Nakkhatra Lal Dev Barman

his corruption and irregularities, the sources said. They are district BNP vice-president Nakkhatra Lal Deva Barmon, organising secretary Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Sdar upazila president Mohammad Rafiq, Panchhari upazila president Amin Sharif, Mohalchhari upazila president Anup Mohazon, Matiranga upazila president Nashir Ahmed Chowdhury and Dighinala upazila president Zafar Ahmed.

Wadud Bhuiyan then formed a new committee allegedly without approval of the central committee. Most of the new office bearers appointed by him are now on the run since Wadud Bhuiyan's arrest.



Wadud Bhuiyan

They are district BNP president Abu Yusuf Chowdhury, youth affairs secretary Mohammad Belal Hossen alias Baitta Belal, Sadar upazila BNP president MN Ahsan and Sechchasebok Dal president Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman alias Garbaka Mahfuz.

Joint secretary of district BNP Joyal Abedin, known earlier as body guard of Wadud, faces four cases for crimes and corruption.

Joyal was suspended from the post of Khagrachhari municipality chairman on January 12 for alleged corruption and irregularities but was reinstated on a Supreme Court order.

Joyal is also known for patron-



Sanu Mong Marma

ising the Somo Adhikar Andolon, an organisation of Bangladeshes.

Jubo Dal president M Abdus Salam, vice-president Sanu Mong Marma, secretary Saidul Islam Babul and joint secretary Abdur Rob Raja are trying to keep party activities alive in the district, party men said.

Talking to this correspondent, Saidul Islam said, "We are working to unite BNP men under the leadership party chief Khaleida Zia as most of front ranking BNP leaders are either in jail or hiding". He admitted that frustration has gripped party men in Khagrachhari.

Huji member held in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a suspected member of banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) from his Sonatundi village house in Sreepur upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The arrestee is Farhad Hossain. But Rab did not hand him over to police here till filing of the report at about 4-25 pm.

Family sources said Rab raided the house at about 4-00 am and picked Farhad up for his alleged involvement in Huji activities.

Family members, however, expressed their ignorance about Farhad's involvement in militant activities.

Farhad has been working as a health-worker of Magura-based Islamic NGO 'Ehsan S Bangladesh', they said.

Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul of Jhenidah, a top cadre of Huji who was arrested by Rab earlier in connection with August 21 grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka was also a worker of Ehsan S Bangladesh, an investigation of the law enforcers revealed.

2 BNP leaders arrested in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Matiranga police yesterday arrested two BNP leaders from Matiranga municipality area on charges of extortion, corruption and other crimes.

They are Matiranga upazila BNP leader and Matiranga Municipality Commissioner Abul Kalam Azad and former municipality administrator and Matiranga upazila BNP convener Abu Yusuf Chowdhury.

They were in police custody when the report was filed.

2 bombs, bomb making materials recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Jhenidah police recovered two powerful bombs, bomb making materials and a handcuff from the house of district microbus owners association Secretary Abdul Matin at Paglakana of the town early yesterday.

Sensing the presence of police, Matin had left the scene, Jhenidah Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kazi Wazed Ali said.

Jugantar newsman held, freed on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Netrakona police yesterday morning arrested the district correspondent of Dainik Jugantar and ETV, Yasirur Rahman Ripon from here on charge of extortion, police said.

Later, he was produced before court at noon from where he was granted bail.

Arshad Mia, a chicken trader of Madni area in the town filed the case with Netrakona police against Yasin for demanding 200 chickens worth about Tk 40,000 on May 22. Since filing of the case, Yasin remained absconding.

However, on a secret information, police arrested him from a house belonging to Salam at Islampur here. Police beat him in front of Shaheed Minar here in presence of hundreds of people. As a result, he sustained serious injuries.

On contact, Netrakona police station officer-in-charge (OC) said Yasin was injured while trying to flee.

Meanwhile, businessmen of Machuabazar area brought out a procession in the town demanding his punishment.

Released AL leader flees Meherpur fearing arrest again

Former district AL vice-president Ahmed Ali held twice earlier, released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

A court in Meherpur granted bail to Ahmed Ali, suspended chairman of Gangni municipality, Monday evening.

Soon after release from Meherpur jail, Ahmed left the district fearing arrest again in another case.

Accused in five cases, Ahmed was earlier suspended from the post of municipality chairmanship on March 9.

According to police, four cases were filed against him last year in four consecutive days—July 8, 9, 10 and 11. His name was included as accused in a murder case after his arrest.

Police said joint forces at first arrested him on January 12 last year. He was released on bail on February 10.

Gangni municipal commission-

ers Palash Hossain filed a case against Ahmed on July 7 for misappropriation of municipal funds.

Joint forces arrested Ahmed again on the night of July 7. He released on 17 March but joint forces arrested him again at the jail gate.

One Sikandar Ali filed an extortion case against Ahmed on July 9. In the case Sikandar alleged that Ahmed took Tk 1 lakh from him, returned Tk 50,000 and declined to pay back the rest.

A butcher of Gangni bazaar, Mohammad Ali, filed another case against Ahmed on July 10. Atiar Rahman, another commissioner of Gangni municipality filed another case against him on July 11.

Police said Ahmed's name was included as accused in Amirul Islam murder case after investigation.

Amirul, a former chairman of Gangni municipality, was killed by

criminals on September 12 in 2005. After Amirul's murder, Ahmed was elected municipal chairman in a by-election held in December that year.

Police said he might have left Meherpur. They said they can not arrest him without any court order.

According to several sources, Ahmed had called his men and relatives to keep a microbus ready on the jail gate. He fled away from the jail gate in the microbus, the sources claimed.

When contacted, Ahmed talked to this correspondent from an undisclosed place. He said he left Meherpur to avoid arrest in 'false and conspiratorial' cases.

He claimed that all the cases filed against him were sponsored by BNP-Jamaat so that he can not run in the next parliamentary election.

Sunamganj BNP demands removal of 'reformist' president Holds first meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Parties and activists at the meeting criticised the role of Nozir Hossain and district BNP secretary Kolim Uddin Ahmed Milon for their inaction in party activities in the district for last one and a half years and their allegiance to reformists. Milon however managed to attend the meeting and save his skin though he is known as a reformist, the sources said.

The three-hour meeting was held at Sunamganj Press Club after one and a half years without its president. District vice president Wakibur Rahman Gilman called the meeting, attended by all upzila

presidents and secretaries.

When contacted, Nozir Hossain told The Daily Star in the evening that a process is going on to unite the party. "We are working for that. After completing that we will join meeting in the district", he claimed.

"I am a reformist no doubt. I demand reforms in the party as whole to get rid of so many odds, for which the whole nation suffered a lot. We want the party should run in a transparent way."

He however claimed that yesterday's meeting was an informal one and that "they cannot drop me this way."

Outlaw killed in Chuadanga 'shootout' 2 others held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of the outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP-ML) was killed in a 'shoot-out' between police and his cohorts in Chuadanga yesterday.

Police also arrested one of his woman accomplices during the shootout and two other outlaws in separate raids in Kushtia on Monday.

Hamidul Islam Samrat alias Monirul, 32, regional leader of PBCP-ML was killed in the 'shoot-out' at Bhalapur village in Alamdanga upazila.

On a tip-off, police raided an abandoned brick kiln near Bhalapur intersection at about 4.50 am where the PBCP men led by Samrat was holding a secret meeting. At that time, the outlaws fired gunshots towards police. As police retaliated, Samrat was killed on the spot and his accomplices managed to escape.

Police arrested Rahima Khatun, 22, a woman accomplice of Samrat on the spot and recovered a shutter gun and eight bullets.

Police said Samrat was involved in murder, robbery, abduction and extortion, police said.

Meanwhile, police arrested two outlaws in Kumarkhali upazila in Kushtia Monday night.

Police raided Kaloa bazaar and arrested Kubhat Ali, 38, a top cadre of the outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) at about 5.30 pm.

Hailing from Radhanagar village in the upazila, Kubhat was an accused in several cases including murder, police said.

Kumarkhali police arrested Seken Malitha, 32, another cadre of the outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) from a Rijbari-bound passenger bus at Kumarkhali bus stand.

Hailing from Muragacha village in Khoksa upazila, Seken was an accused in several cases including extortion and abduction. He fled the area last year to evade arrest, police said.



PHOTO STAR

Two bogies of this Chapainawabganj-bound train skidded off the tracks near Rohonpur Railway Station in the district yesterday morning, causing injuries to at least 10 passengers.

BARAPUKURIA COALMINE

'Don't take any decision harmful for local people'

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Leaders of National Oil, Gas, Power, Mineral resources and Port Protection Committee at a meeting yesterday urged the caretaker government not to take any decision that will go against the people's interest.

Serving the interest of multinational companies ignoring people's sentiment cannot be allowed, they said at a seminar on 'Development of north and maximum utilization of mineral resources for national interest'.

Pirganj upazila unit of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Power Port Protection Committee organized the seminar at Pirganj upazila auditorium in Thakurgaon.

People stopped smuggling of gas in to India from Bibiana by staging a long march in 2002 and resisted the smuggling of coal by Asia Energy through a mass agitation in Fulbari on August 26, 2006, the speakers said.

The mineral resources should be used for the welfare of common people who are the owner of the resources, Prof Anu Muhammad said.

We oppose open pit mining in the country as the process will have serious consequences on the surrounding areas, he said, adding that Asia energy has invested Tk 18,000 crore with the hope of plundering huge amount of national resources. Engineer Sheikh Muhammad

Sohidullah, convener of the central committee, said if needed mass movement will be launched to resist any conspiracy to smuggle our oil, gas and mineral resources.

Noor Muhammad demanded formulation of a long-term energy plan that would reflect national interest.

Among others, Prof Yasin Ali, member secretary of the local committee and Sumsuzzoha Bablu, Member secretary of Thakurgaon district unit, spoke on the programme presided over by Monsurul Alam, convener of Pirganj upazila unit of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Power Port Protection Committee.

RAT INVASION IN CHT WFP starts food aid for victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

World Food Program (WFP) yesterday launched its three-month-long food aid programme for the jhum cultivators in the rat-infested areas in Rangamati and Bandarban hill districts.

Different unions of Baghaichhari, Barkal, Jurachhari and Bilaichhari upazilas in Rangamati and Thanchi, Ruma and Rowangchhari upazilas in Bandarban have been brought under the package food aid programme, WFP sources said.

WFP officials in presence of local public representatives including UP chairmen and ward members yesterday formally distributed rice, edible oil and salt to the jhum cultivators who were affected by rat invasion at Vijakjijing in Banjogichhara union under

Jurachhari upazila. A sack of 50 kg rice, 3.75 litres edible oil and a kg of salt were given to each household.

The WFP is running this programme through the Centre for Indigenous Peoples Development (CIPD), a local non-government development organisation in Rangamati.

WFP identified a total of 25,680 households, who were severely affected by the rat attack, in Rangamati and Bandarban districts.

At the first stage, 7152 jhum cultivators in different remote areas in Rangamati will be provided the food aid.

Initially this programme is for three months but it may be extended if fund is available, said Rita Chakma, in-charge of WFP in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Table with columns for exam name, subject, date, and time. Includes 'ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী' and 'জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়'.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. INVITATION FOR BIDS. Supply and Installation of H.T. Consumer Remote Metering Unit on Turnkey Basis.