

Magura BNP men scuffle in presence of central leaders

Quazi Kamal, Nitai Roy blamed at meeting for corruption thru' syndicate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

District BNP leaders in Magura came under fire of grass-roots leaders and activists during a view exchanging meeting yesterday in presence of some central BNP leaders including its vice-chairman and former minister (Ziaur Rahman cabinet) Sarwari Rahman.

The leaders bitterly criticised the district leaders and blamed them for grabbing huge amounts of money through tender manipulation and for dividing the party during the 4-party alliance rule. The meeting continued from noon to evening.

Rival party men were also locked in a scuffle on the stage after an altercation between Shalukha thana BNP leaders Alhaj Makbul Hossain and Rejaul Islam. At one stage, central Zia Parishad chairman Kabir Murad and central BNP agriculture affair secretary former lawmaker Shamsuzzaman Dudu intervened and brought the situation under control.

At the meeting held at Asaduzzaman auditorium in the town, many grass-roots leaders alleged that during the alliance rule, front ranking leaders had formed a syndicate styled 'negotiation committee' that manipulated tenders of different government departments which has seriously

tarnished the image of the party. Though some of the party bigwigs amassed several crores of taka through tender manipulation, the party is facing a serious financial crisis, they said.

Apart from 35 Union Parishad (UP) level leaders, the meeting was addressed by, among others, central BNP vice-chairman and former minister Sarwari Rahman, central leader Kabir Murad, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Principal Sohrabuddin, former lawmakers Newaz Halima Arley, Chamon Ara, district BNP joint conveners advocate Mokaddes Hossain and Akter Hossain. It was chaired by district BNP joint convener Nazimuddin Ahmed.

"While the party was in power, those leaders deflected their popular organisation through tender manipulation. They were involved in controlling tender on the plea of raising party fund, but it is a matter of great regret that the party faces serious financial crisis now", Mohammodpur upazila BNP joint-convenor and Nohata UP chairman Mahmud Hossain told the meeting amid cheers from the audience.

"Though vested quarters in the party formed the 'negotiation committee' in the name of raising party fund, the whole money was grabbed by certain leaders and their cronies", said another party



Quazi Saleemul Huq

leader Golam Azam Shabu. Sources in the party said the tender manipulation 'syndicate' comprised pro-BNP contractors and front ranking leaders of district. They allegedly enjoyed blessings of the then lawmaker Quazi Saleemul Huq alias Quazi Kamal, elected from Magura-2 constituency.

The syndicate was active in all departments including LGED (Local Government Engineering Department), R&H (Roads and Highways), PWD (Public Works Department). All works of the departments were sanctioned by the syndicate in favour of their chosen contractors.

Before sanctioning works, the syndicate allegedly realised 16 per cent of the estimated project cost in



Nitai Roy Chowdhury

the name of 'negotiation money'. The speakers also blamed front ranking district leaders for dividing the party.

"When the party was in power, instead of strengthening the party, Quazi Saleemul Huq Kamal and Nitai Roy Chowdhury were busy to place their men at different level", Hazrapur union BNP president Mohammad Solaiman said at the meeting.

The party is virtually divided into two rival groups led Quazi Kamal and Nitai Roy. They held separate party programmes. Squabbles reached such a stage that Nitai was declared 'unwanted' in Magura by his rival faction.

The speakers demanded change in the district leadership to face the coming national election.

3 carriers hurt as bombs go off in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three criminals were injured as bombs went off at Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila Monday night.

The injured are outlawed Tiger Bahini chief Tiger, 34, and his two accomplices Nazim 24, and Soturul, 28.

The bombs which they were carrying exploded at the village at about 11:30pm leaving the three injured, police and locals said.

Hearing the sound of blasts, people from nearby rushed to the spot and found the injured criminals.

But the criminals fled the scene hurriedly, locals said. The criminals warned locals not to disclose their names to police.

Police allegedly rushed to the spot after one hour of the blast and searched the area but did not find the criminals.

Spurious drink factory detected, four held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mobile court yesterday unearthed a spurious tea and drink manufacturing factory at Palashpur in the city and arrested four people in this connection.

Following a tip, a mobile court team led by Administrative Magistrate ATM Mahbulul Karim and accompanied by Major Kutubur Rahman Sarkar and Major Sahadat of Rab-8 raided the clandestine factory at Palashpur cluster village-2 in the city.

There they found huge chemicals, colours, packets and other elements used for manufacturing adulterated tea and food drinks in the name of famous and popular brands of the country.

The law enforcers arrested Alamgir Hossain, brother of factory owner Abubakar, and three workers. The owner was fined Tk 50 thousand. He, however, managed to flee.

The law enforcers destroyed seized adulterated items and components for making them.

RU admission test from Nov 16

RU Correspondent

Rajshahi University (RU) admission tests will begin on November 16 and will continue till November 28, university sources said.

The decision for admission into first year honours course for 2008-2009 session was taken at a meeting of Rajshahi University (RU) admission committee held at Senate building yesterday with acting vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Mamunul Keramat in the chair.

Sale and submission of application forms will continue from October 18 to November 2.

Forms will be available at RU web site www.ru.ac.bd and it can be downloaded free of cost.

Aman turning yellowish in Rangpur

AED officials said leaf blight disease due to lack of potash and TSP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Aman plants in many areas of Rangpur are turning yellowish and withering away, shattering farmers' hopes.

Aman fields in eight upazilas in the districts are showing the symptoms, farmers and agriculture officials said.

Officials of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) said the Aman fields could be attacked with leaf blight disease, which may be due to less use of potash fertiliser. The fields are also attacked with brown leafhopper.

Most farmers could not use potash fertilizer in the current Aman crop due to high price of the ingredient, they said. Less than proportionate use of potash weakens the plants and make them susceptible to attack by leaf blight and brown hopper, they said.

Instead of pricey potash and TSP (triple super phosphate), farmers used heavy doses of urea. Excessive use of urea in Aman fields encouraged brown leafhoppers to attack plants, they said.

"We are advising farmers to use five kilograms of potash immediately to save Aman fields from the diseases," said Sirajul Islam Siraj, assistant agriculture officer in Kounia upazila while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

When contacted, DAE Deputy



PHOTO STAR

An Aman field infected with leaf blight disease at Mominpur in Rangpur Sadar upazila.

Director in Rangpur Kamal Sharuzzaman said, "We are aware of the attack by diseases and pest. Field workers and officials are advising farmers what to do". He however said the situation is still under control.

About 1,58,000 hectares were brought under Aman cultivation this season in Rangpur, DAE sources said.

Abed Ali of Lakhmitari under Gangachara upazila said Aman on his five bighas are turning yellowish and in some places plants withered away.

Uday Chandra Barman of Rajendrapur in Rangpur Sadar upazila said his three acres of Aman have turned brown.

Both the farmers said no DAE field official visited their areas.

1 killed, 45 hurt in Netrakona clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

One person was killed and 45 others were injured in a five-hour-long clash at Bogajon village under Kalmakanda upazila in the district on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Tiachand, 33, son of Khacha Mia of village Bogajan.

The clash followed a land dispute between Tiachand group and Joyal group of Bogajan village during the last few days, police and locals said.

At about 5:00pm on Monday, Joyal and his men went to the disputed land. Hearing this, Tiachand and his men rushed to the spot and attacked the opponents with sharp weapons. Joyal group also reorganised and made a counter attack.

As over two hundred people got involved in the five hour-long clash with sharp weapons, Tiachand was killed on the spot and at least 45 people were injured, locals said.

On information, police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Seriously injured Joyal, Mahub, Ali Ahamed, Rupchand and Rukon were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Tense situation is prevailing in the area. Additional police have been deployed.

C'nawabganj BNP pouira committee dissolved

Several leaders dropped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A new convening committee of Chapainawabganj pouira committee was formed after dissolution of the pouira BNP committee and 'removal' of a few leaders including its general secretary Mosidul Haque Masud.

A meeting presided over by advocate Emdadul Haque Emdad, president of the pouira committee, took the decision on Monday evening.

The meeting along with iftar and doa mahfil arranged on the occasion of party chief Khaleda Zia's release was held at the residence of former lawmaker Harunur Rashid Harun in his presence.

Following dissolution of the pouira committee, a 31-member convening committee was formed with advocate Emdadul Haque as its convenor, party sources said.

"The pouira committee has been abolished, a new 31-member committee formed and a few leaders have been expelled for their anti-party activities. Their involvement with LDP and connection with the government has been found," former lawmaker Harunur Rashid said.

Former lawmaker Harunur Rashid Harun, elected from Chapainawabganj-3 constituency, was accused in two cases including one for extortion. After getting permanent bail from the High Court, Harun came to Chapainawabganj and started political activities.

Party sources said most of the leaders of the party and its front organisations boycotted yesterday's meeting, the first formal meeting of the party's pouira unit, held at former MP's residence, since allowing political activities a couple of months ago.

BNP leaders and activists have boycotted former lawmaker Harunur Rashid Harun in his anti-party activities, said district BNP Organising Secretary Amir Hossain.

"We sat with BNP central committee General Secretary Khondokar Delwar Hossain and discussed the party situation in Chapainawabganj," he said.

Mosidul Haque Masud said his 'expulsion' came due to Harun's own decision.

The local BNP faction led by Mosidul Haque Masud has arranged iftar and doa mahfil on Friday on the occasion of party chief Khaleda Zia's release.

Barisal Jubo Dal factions hold separate iftar parties today

Alal, Sarwar lead rival groups

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Tension has been created among the activists of Barisal Jubo Dal as two factions of city Jubo Dal have arranged separate iftar parties on the same day.

Newly formed Barisal city Jubo Dal led by Rafikul Islam Shahin and Akhtaruzzaman Shamim, president and secretary of city Jubo Dal recognised by central Jubo Dal Secretary Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, has arranged an iftar party at Barisal Club today.

Another group of Jubo Dal led by Abul Kalam Shahin, convenor of city Jubo Dal and followers of district BNP President Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, also former mayor of Barisal and lawmaker, arranged an iftar party at the party office on the same day and time.

Arrangement of separate iftar parties on the same date and time has created tension among pro-Alal and pro-Sarwar factions of city Jubo Dal.



PHOTO STAR

Farmers block Dhaka-Jessore highway at Tularampur in Narail district yesterday demanding adequate supply of fertiliser.

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