

BNP ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

Young leaders' future looks bleak

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Appointment of 'aged leadership' in Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) spread fears among the leaders of other front organisations of BNP as they think they would also be deprived of getting fresh blood in the leadership.

At least eight associate bodies of the party, including Jatiyabadi Jubo Dal and Mohila Dal, are expecting new committees as the existing committees of these bodies expired long ago.

Party insiders said committees of Jatiyabadi Swechhasebak Dal, Jatiyabadi Mohila Dal and Jatiyabadi Krishak Dal might be announced within a couple of days.

Besides a number of senior and mid-level leaders, many

former student leaders and young ex-lawmakers of the party are trying to bag the top posts of these bodies.

The party started reorganising its associate bodies through announcing JCD committees on July 1, but the newly announced committee has created huge criticism from the party men as newly appointed leaders, including president and general secretary, are non-student and controversial.

Sources said leaders, workers and supporters of Jubo Dal are also waiting for a fresh committee, but JCD committee made them frustrated as they think the party high command may also impose old leaders on them.

"JCD committee is a wrong signal to us as we hoped fresh and leaders with good image

will be picked up for front bodies," said a Jubo Dal leader, adding that wrong leadership will create more problems in the organisations.

Talking to The Daily Star, a Mohila Dal leader said young leaders should be appointed, as the new committee has to face huge challenges in the way to reorganise the organisation across the country.

Sources, however, said following the JCD committee, a senior woman leader like former state ministers Sarwari Rahman or Selima Rahman might be appointed as president of Mohila Dal.

Eight of the 11 associate bodies that pump political lifeblood into the BNP have remained without valid committees for the last two to 12 years as the party ignored democratic practice within

itself focusing only the top leadership instead.

According to the BNP constitution, the party has 11 front organisations -- JCD, Jubo Dal, Mohila Dal, Muktiyoddha Dal, Sramik Dal, Jasas, Krishak Dal, Swechhasebak Dal, Tanti Dal, Olama Dal and Matsyajibi Dal.

The associate bodies of the party which have now valid committees include JCD, Jatiyabadi Muktiyoddha Dal and Jatiyabadi Tanti Dal.

According to a party decision, these front bodies will be treated as associated bodies in the party's constitution, which would be approved in next council. The country's existing law does not allow any political party to keep any special organisation.



Police charge truncheon on the feuding party leaders after two groups of Chittagong south district unit of BNP locked into a chase and counter-chase over the first meeting of the convening committee here yesterday afternoon.

Two BNP factions chase each other

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two groups of Chittagong south district unit of BNP locked into a chase and counter-chase over the first meeting of the convening committee here yesterday afternoon.

The affray broke out when the leaders and activists of the deprived faction tried to resist the first meeting of the new convening committee at the party office at Dost Building in front of Chittagong New Market.

The agitating leaders and activists, who also burnt effigy of Convener Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and padlocked the party office on Sunday, started taking position in front of the office since 1:00pm.

As the leaders and activists supporting the new committee started coming to the meeting defying a medium-scale downpour, the deprived group tried to resist them from entering the party office resulting in the clash at around 3:30pm.

Police charged baton to disperse both the feuding groups.

Around 15 minutes later, Jafrul Islam along with other leaders and activists of the convening committee entered the party office in a procession and held the meeting.

The meeting was held smoothly without any further disturbance from aggrieved group and the party office was completely under the control of the new convening committee.

Since the list of 51-member full committee was sent to the central office, the deprived group had been agitating with a demand for forming a new committee, excluding Jafrul Islam from the convener post.

Regarding yesterday's incident, Joint Convener of the new committee Sheikh Mohammad Mohiuddin said they wanted to work unitedly to increase the party's strength.

On the other hand, MA Hashem Raju of the aggrieved group said they cannot accept a committee headed by Jafrul.

He alleged that the new committee comprised those loyalists, whom Jafrul managed to get in the committee through furnishing wrong information to the central office, worked for grand alliance candidates from Awami League and LDP against the four-party alliance candidate in the last parliamentary election.

He demanded steps to form a new committee with inclusion of dedicated and proven leaders.

Mamun's bail stayed for two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) chamber bench yesterday stayed for two weeks a High Court (HC) verdict that granted bail to detained Giasuddin Al Mamun, a close aide to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman, in an extortion case.

Chamber bench of Justice MA Aziz passed the order upon a government petition moved by Additional Attorney General MK Rahman against the HC verdict.

The judge also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC judgment in this period.

Harun Ferdous, a businessman filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on March 27, 2007 against Mamun on charges of extorting Tk 35 lakh from him.

The case was placed under Emergency Power Rules (EPR), 2007 during the rule of the last caretaker government.

Mamun's lawyer Advocate Sabir Hamza Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the HC on July 1 this year granted him (Mamun) bail in this case.

Mamun was arrested on March 25 in 2007 during the caretaker government.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Renu Rahman, mother of Md. Majibur Rahman, former publicity and publication secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity and chief reporter of the Dainik Deshpatra, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered at her grave at Azampur graveyard and a milad mahfil will be held at her residence at Siddhirganj in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

BNP TRIO'S GRAFT Probe body to place report by July 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday said parliament would decide on actions against former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain for alleged graft.

He was talking to reporters after releasing fry at the lake around the parliament building.

Earlier on Monday, the probe body finalised its report with a set of recommendations including scrapping the House membership of Sircar and taking legal actions against Akhtar and Delwar.

It also suggested that parliament recover the money the BNP trio took as medical bills and fuel allowances beyond what they were entitled to receive.

Hamid said the committee's report is voluminous and so

would not be read out in the House. It, however, would be distributed among the lawmakers who would decide upon reading if it should be discussed.

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CHITTAGONG ARMS HAUL Prime accused Hafizur on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday took Md Hafizur Rahman, prime accused in the Chittagong arms haul case, on a three-day remand for further interrogation on the vessel that transported the illegal consignment.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Fazlul Bari sanctioned the remand against six-day remand prayer by Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, investigation officer of the case.

Moving the remand prayer public prosecutor Kamal Uddin said Hafizur in his confessional statement on March 2 mentioned about offloading the arms and ammunition from a vessel into two engine boats near St Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal.

However, the statement did not give a clear picture of the vessel, which required further interrogation in remand to identify it, he argued.

Hafiz was directly taken to the CID divisional headquarters at Dampara Police Line from the court.

Sources in CID said the investigators suspected three vessels as the carrier of the consignment and one of them resembled the vessel Hafiz mentioned in his statement.

Identification of the vessel would also help them know about the place of shipment, he said.

Hafizur Rahman was earlier placed on remand six times in the case.

The confessional statement Hafiz made on March 02 gave a breakthrough in the investigation into the case.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 76 bullets of SMG rifle from the city's Hazaribagh area yesterday evening.

The bullets were found hidden underground at an abandoned place near the house of Rowshan Ali of Baddanagar Lane and were taken away from the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters during the mutiny on February 25-26.

Assistant Police Super (ASP) Mohammad Talebur Rahman of Rab-2 told The Daily Star that these bullets were suspected to be taken away from Pilkhana and later were hidden inside the surface of the ground.

The ASP also said that the

TRIPLE MURDER HC asks BNP leader Lutfor to surrender before trial court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed city unit BNP leader Lutfor Rahman popularly known as L Rahman to surrender before the trial court within eight weeks in the Karwan Bazar triple murder case.

In response to a bail petition filed by Lutfor, the HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Abdur Razzak, however, asked the law enforcers not to harass or arrest him (Lutfor) during this period in the case.

Lutfor appeared before the HC bench for anticipatory bail.

Three people -- Faruque Mollah, Ashraf Miah and Nuruddin Sarkar Jewel were killed in a gun attack at Karwan Bazar on June 26.

Mobarok Hossain Mollah, brother of Faruque Mollah, filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station the same day against four local BNP leaders and seven other unknown persons in this regard.

The accused are L Rahman, president of 39 ward BNP, Nabi Solaiman, former religious affairs secretary of Jubo Dal central committee, and Sayeed and Nurul Islam, two ward level leaders.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for the petitioner.

ACC DG's job extended for one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The service tenure of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal has been extended for one year till July 6, 2010 yesterday.

The ACC director general's service tenure was extended after President Zillur Rahman had approved the extension proposal the government placed for his approval.

Hanif joined the anti-graft watchdog on June 16, 2007 as the DG.

He also performed duty as a spokesperson of the commission until March 2009. With this time, service tenure of Hanif has been extended for the second time.

Hanif began his career by joining the army in 1976 as a commissioned officer.

DEATH OF PATIENT 7 injured as relatives clash with N'ganj hospital staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Seven people, who were relatives of a patient who died at Narayanganj 200-bed Hospital at Khanpur in the town yesterday, were injured in a clash with the hospital staff.

The clash ensued when the relatives of the patient started vandalising patient-carrying trolleys and hospital beds alleging that the patient died because of negligence of the doctor.

The injured were identified as patient Khodeza Begum's brother Sattar, her son Nurul Nabi, her daughter Mariam, Shanta, Sattar's sons Iqbal, Jasim and Khorshed.

Witnesses and police said relatives of Khodeza Begum, 55, brought her to the hospital at around 9:30am yesterday with heart and diarrhoeal complications but Dr Haider Khaleq at the emergency department announced her dead.

However, while she was being taken back to her residence, her relatives found that her hands and legs were moving and they immediately brought her back to the hospital.

This time Haider Khaleq gave her saline and injection, but she passed away after about 20 minutes.

Following the incident, the relatives of the patient became agitated and locked into an altercation with the on duty doctors and nurses.

However, Dr Haider Khaleq fled the scene while hospital staffs Zia, Javed, Alamgir, Nurul Haque, Mannan and Suma attacked the relatives of the patients.

Later, police and Rab members rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Govt to protect historic places related to liberation war

HC told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) was told yesterday that the government will protect and maintain historic places related to liberation war as per the provisions of the constitution.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman and Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam said this while placing arguments during the hearing of a writ petition.

The writ has been filed seeking directions from the HC upon the government to take steps for protecting and maintaining the historic places at Suhrawardy Udyan where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech on March 7, 1971 and Pakistani army surrendered before the Joint Command Forces of the Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters) on December 16, 1971.

Freedom fighters Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Safiullah Bir Uttam, and Prof Muntasir Mamun have jointly filed the petition as public interest litigation (PIL).

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice M Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed held the hearing on the petition.

MK Rahman told the bench that the government has extended its support to the petition since the state is constitutionally bound to protect and maintain historic places related to liberation war of the country.

At a stage of hearing, the four cops among 34 injured in Narsingdi clash

UNB, Narsingdi

At least 34 people, including Raipura Police Station officer-in-charge and his three colleagues, were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Sapmara Bazaar in Raipura upazila in Narsingdi yesterday.

Police said the trouble between a few inhabitants of Sapmara and Begambad villages started brewing at about 9:30am over establishing supremacy in the bazaar.

At one stage, both the groups equipped with sharp weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 30 people injured from both sides.

Four police personnel, including Raipura Police Station officer in-charge Emdad Hossain, were also injured as the warring groups attacked them when the law enforcers tried to quell them.

Later, police from Sadar Police Station rushed in and brought the situation under control at about 2:00pm.

The injured villagers were admitted to the local health complex and different clinics while the cops to a private clinic.

Additional police contingent have been deployed in and around the bazaar to fend off further trouble.

court asked petitioners' counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid why they have come to the court rather than going to the government for protecting the historic places.

Manzill replied that as the state failed to protect and maintain the historic places the court should pass direction to the government in this regard.

Vice Chairman of the Bar Council Abdul Baset Majumder and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary SM Rezaul Karim, who were present in the court, said the previous Awami League government had taken

steps to maintain the historic places but it could not complete the task due to time constraint.

The HC adjourned the hearing and fixed today (Tuesday) for hearing the statements of the petitioners KM Safiullah and Muntasir Mamun.

Upon petition, the HC on June 25 issued a rule upon the government to explain by July 6 (yesterday) why it should not be directed to protect and maintain historic places at Suhrawardy Udyan by removing the structures at the places, if any.

Indian state of Monipur, and it is unwise to come to a conclusion before the visit.

"The issue will be discussed in parliament after the parliamentary team submits its report on return," he said, adding that the committee will decide the date on July 13 to be approved by the foreign ministry.

Asked whether the BNP has been protesting against the dam to cover up its Chairperson Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence issue, Ramesh said opposition will always look for issues and urged the BNP not to oppose the issue for the sake of opposition.

Political parties and sections concerned have been protesting the construction of the dam asking India to scrap the plan for the sake of environmental disaster both in India and Bangladesh.

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WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

It is also likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	27.4	75	71
Chittagong	30.2	26.3	80	98
Rajshahi	34.3	27.0	92	79
Khulna	33.7	26.6	77	84
Barisal	32.7	26.0	80	79
Sylhet	34.0	26.2	69	92
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.6	98	95

DHAKA TODAY

Conference

South Asian Network of Economic Modeling and Commonwealth Secretariat, UK jointly organise a regional conference on managing regional integration in South Asia. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable

SARPV-Bangladesh organises a roundtable on sharing experiences of women with disabilities. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Despremik Jonogoner Manch organises a discussion on caretaker government. Venue: Gono Sangskriti Kendra. Time: 3:00pm.

Dialogue

Centre for Studies in Social Transformation organises a dialogue on Timapimukh dam and our duties for interest of the country. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30pm.

Award giving

The FPAB award giving ceremony on journalism will be held. Venue: FPAB office. Time: 10:00am.

Road crashes kill four

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Rajshahi yesterday.

Staff Correspondent adds: A boy was killed in a road accident at Companyghat in Hazaribagh area in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sabir Hossain, 6, son of Delwar Hossain of Kunal Mahal in Hazaribagh.

Witnesses said Sabir was crushed under the wheels of a speeding passenger bus of Brothers Paribahan when he was crossing the Hazaribagh intersection at around 3:00pm.

Following the accident, the agitated locals ransacked

three vehicles and put up barricade on the road, causing an hour-long traffic jam.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for an autopsy.

Police arrested bus driver Rafique and seized the bus.

Staff Correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Three people, including a couple, were killed and seven others injured in a road accident at Tanore upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead were identified as Jahangir Alam, 26, son of Ibrahim of village Jugiso and his wife Marjina Begum, 21, and rickshaw-van puller Shahar Ali, 35.

The accident occurred when an Amnura-bound passenger bus from Tanore upazila hit a rickshaw-van in the Jugiso Santalpara area in Tanore, leaving Jahangir and Marjina dead on the spot and Shahar Ali injured seriously.

Shahar Ali succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The injured, including the couple's son Imon, 4, and one-year old Barsha, were rushed to Tanore Health Complex and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The locals caught the bus driver Sharif and helpers Delwar and Golam Rabbani and handed them over to police after good beating. They also damaged the bus.