



**Bangladesh – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 23 September 2016**

**Any information on the BNP and Student wing of same in Sylhet, local MPs, constituency offices, secretary of the BNP in Sylhet.**

A fact-finding mission report published by the Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (OFPRA), in a section titled “BNP Organisational Chart and information on the party in Sylhet”, states:

“Executive members:

- 1 president
- 5 vice-presidents
- 3 to 5 co-secretaries
- 1 treasurer
- 1 assistant treasurer
- 1 secretary to the organisation
- 2 or 3 co-secretaries to the organisation

18 BNP offices open before 5 January 2014.

Terms of membership before BNP offices were closed on 5 January 2014

A new member must be familiar with the bases of the BNP’s ideology.

Initial dues are 5 TK; they may later rise depending on a member’s means.

Three copies of a membership form must be completed:

- one copy is given to the new member along with a receipt;
- one copy is kept at the district’s party office;
- the last is sent to the central office in Dhaka.

The form must include:

- the new member’s name;
- the BNP office’s address;
- the membership number;
- the signatures of the new member and party officials at the district office: President and Secretary.” (Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides (OFPRA) (June 2015) *Report on the mission to the People's Republic of Bangladesh*, p.10)

An article from The New Nation states:

“Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Sylhet district unit has finalised candidates for the chairman, vice-chairman and female vice-chairman posts in six upazilas of the district in the upcoming upazila election- 2014. The candidates were finalised at a meeting of Sylhet district BNP on Monday

night. District BNP secretary Advocate Abdul Goffar said in a press note on Monday at around 11:00am. In Biswanath upazila, Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury will contest for the chairman post, Abul Kalam Kochir for the vice- chairman post. In Golapganj upazila Jilal Ahmed will contest for the chairman post, .In Goainghat Upazila, Abdul Hakim Chowdhury has been picked for the chairman post. In Jaintapur upazila, Joynal Abedin will run the race for the chairman post, .In Jakiganj upazila, Iqbal Ahmed has been selected for the chairman post. In Balaganj upazila, district BNP has given support to Alhajj Abdal Miah and ATU Fokhor Uddin to fight for the vice-chairman posts respectively while the candidate for chairman post will be selected soon at a meeting of the district BNP, added the press note.” (The New Nation (14 February 2014) *BNP finalises candidates in Sylhet*)

An article from The Daily Observer states:

“With BNP's National Council likely in the offing, former student leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party are visiting senior leaders and policymakers for a berth in the revised executive committee, trying to partly overcome their frustration due to what they feel long negligence. They are former leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), BNP's student wing, who despite their previous positions that ended years ago have remained active in the party's programmes and responded to the call of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia. They have become active again ahead of BNP's 6th Tri-Annual Council which will select a new executive committee, bring in new leaders as part of BNP's reorganisation programme and may also bring some changes to the party constitution, BNP insiders said.” (The Daily Observer (7 February 2016) *Former JCD leaders swarm pre-council BNP for posts*)

An article from New Age states:

“Sylhet district president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Sayeed Ahmad, alongside seven others, was arrested Friday evening, one day after he was named the new committee president. A team of Sylhet Metropolitan Police arrested them after carrying out a drive at the Electricity Supply Road at Ambarkhana in the city in the evening. Police raided the area after a series of clashes between supporters of JCD district president Sayeed Ahmad and other organisation activists who failed to secure positions in the district and city unit committees, and arrested them, the police said.” (New Age (20 September 2014) *Sylhet JCD president held after factional clashes*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### **References:**

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