

BNP aspirant vows to resist Nitai Roy in Magura-1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Central BNP leader Nitai Roy Chowdhury will be resisted if he is nominated from Magura-1 constituency in the next election, said a party nomination aspirant yesterday.

"He (Nitai) failed in the last election because party men were not happy with him as he was not a voter from the area (Magura-1 comprising Magura Sadar and Sreepur upazilas)", said district BNP leader AN Kamaluddin Mostofa at a press conference held at Magura Press Club. Nitai Roy is a voter from Magura-2 constituency comprising Mohammadpur upazila, he claimed.

Kamaluddin, a retired chief engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), joined BNP in 2001. He is from Sreepur upazila.

In a written statement, he claimed that he was supposed to get alliance nomination in last election. BNP vice-president Tariqul Islam had assured him of

nomination and made a public announcement before the last election. But Nitai got nomination because of a conspiracy by some quarters, Kamaluddin alleged.

His nomination frustrated the BNP rank and file in the area and the alliance nominee was defeated by Awami League candidate MS Akbar, Kamaluddin said.

BNP leaders and activists will resist Nitai Roy if he is nominated again from Magura-1, he said.

In reply to a question he claimed himself to be a 'qualified candidate'. "If I am not nominated, the party high command should at least select a man who is a voter from Magura-1 constituency", Kamaluddin said.

"People of Sreepur upazila have already declared Nitai Roy unwanted", he claimed.

In the statement Kamaluddin also criticised a section of district leaders and alleged that formation of the district BNP committee was largely influenced by black money and muscle power. He blamed them for 'patronising terrorists' but did not identify any body.

Nitai's nomination in the last election gave rise to intra-party feud, he claimed. If he is nominated again, the feud will intensify and the BNP-led alliance will be surely defeated again, Kamaluddin said.

Former joint organising secretary of Sreepur BNP Rezaul Islam, who was also present at the press conference, claimed that the alliance was defeated in Magura-1 because it nominated a man who is not a voter from the area. This created dissatisfaction among party men. After the election, Nitai Roy never visited the area, he said.

Talking to this correspondent later, Sadar than BNP president Sakawat Hossain said, violating party discipline, aspirant candidates and rival leaders have started mudslinging and publicly accusing each other, widening the intra-party conflict. This will affect voters in the area again in the coming election, he said. The party high command should resolve the dispute immediately.

BNP in Magura is dogged by

internal feud. Party sources said four persons at separate press meets declared themselves as aspirants for alliance ticket from Magura-1. They are former leader of central Jatiyobadi Chhatra Dal Khan Monowar Hossain, Brig Gen (Rtd) Masudur Rahman Khan, Dhaka city Juba Dal leader MA Ahad Liton and AN Kamaluddin Mostofa. They are now involved in mudslinging against each other, the sources said.

Magura BNP is divided into two factions, one led by district vice-president Nazimuddin and the other by general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas.

On May 28, the two rival factions came on streets and accused each other publicly. Nazimuddin called Ali Ahmed Biswas an 'outlaw' and demanded his immediate arrest. Ali Ahmed called their rivals 'agents' of the opposition.

On March 5 this year, rivals burnt Nitai Roy's effigy and declared him 'unwanted' in Sreepur upazila, alleging that he was doing anti-party activities.

Party MP opposes campaign, BNP nomination seeker alleges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

BNP leader Aurangajeb Belal, a nomination seeker from Mymensingh-8 constituency (Iswarganj upazila) in the next election, yesterday alleged that men of party lawmaker Nurul Kabir Shaheen are obstructing his supporters from doing pre-polls campaign in his favour.

He declared himself as an aspirant for alliance nomination in the seat against Nurul Kabir Shaheen.

He was addressing a 'citizens' meeting' held at the local press club, organised by Iswarganj Upazila Nagorik Forum.

The meeting was also addressed by local leaders of BNP, Jubo Dal, Tanti Dal and representatives of local elite. Belal is president of Mymensingh district Tanti Dal.

Belal alleged that the lawmaker and his men are threatening him to desist from campaigning. He however said he would abide by the party high command's decision as regards nomination in the next election.



Police obstructed a procession of students on Rajshahi University Campus, brought out yesterday demanding arrest of Shibir leader Salehi, a prime suspect in Prof S Taher murder case.

15 hurt as JCD, Shibir clash in Kulaura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

At least 15 people including a police sub-inspector were injured in a clash between the All Party Student Unity (APSU) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Kulaura Degree College yesterday.

The college authorities arranged a reception for first year students on the campus. A feud ensued between supporters of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and ICS when a student leader was addressing the function.

It turned into a clash between Shibir and all other student organisations as Chhatra League extended their support to JCD.

SI Abdul Latif and students S R Suhel, Kamal Husain, Fayzur Rahman, Abdul Aziz, Abdul Majid, Tanvir Hussain, Delwar Hussain, Rabiul Islam, Imrul Ahmed and Md Badshah were treated at Kulaura Hospital.

After the clash, APSU activists brought out a procession in Kulaura upazila town protesting Shibir attack on APSU activists.

Shibir activists also attacked the APSU procession, its activists alleged. They said glasses of doors and windows of local Islami Bank branch were damaged during attack.

Police did not arrest any one from the spot. Police have been deployed in Kulaura upazila town as tension mounted.

Yunus, daughter visit temple in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

Grameen Bank chairman Prof Muhammad Yunus and his daughter popular singer Monika Yunus yesterday visited Ramkut Mandir, a historic temple of the Hindu community in Cox's Bazar and exchanged views with leaders of the community.

Priest of the temple, Bashaqit Shen welcomed Yunus and Monika at around 10:30am.

They saw different structures of the temple and talked to the leaders of Cox's Bazar Sarbojanin Puja Committee.

Joy won't contest JS election

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Awami League (AL) president and leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated



that he had no intention to contest in the next parliamentary election.

He said this while addressing a meeting to exchange opinion with the elite in Pirganj.

He said that he would help his

mother in the election campaign in favour of the 14-party Alliance candidates throughout the country, specially in Rangpur.

Criticising the coalition government, Joy said that Rangpur had been kept out of the development programmes unlike Bogra and Rajshahi.

Joy promised that Rangpur would be made a division comprising eight northern districts while a university would be set up and gas will be supplied there through pipe line, if the 14-party Alliance is voted to power.

Pirganj upazila Awami League organised the meeting with Roushanara Wahed in the chair.

Earlier, he offered prayer at his grandfather's grave at Fatepur in Pirganj upazila. Later, he addressed a press conference at his ancestral home.

While talking to newsmen, he said that the BNP-Jamaat led alliance government is the mastermind of militancy across the country.

TENGRATILA BLOWOUTS Victims start 3-day fresh agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

People of villages in and around Tengratila gas field began a 3-day fresh agitation yesterday to press their 6-point demand including payment of compensation for damage of property by blowouts during drilling by Canadian company Niko.

They held a protest rally and brought out a procession in Tengratila yesterday afternoon and will lay a siege to the gas filed office today.

The agitating villages will hand over memoranda to the Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent tomorrow.

The agitation programme was fixed at a meeting of the Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad, held on Thursday.

Freedom fighter Azimuddin Master, Convener of the Parishad, chaired yesterday's rally, held at Tengratila bazaar near the gas field office.

Speakers at the rally said the environment and ecology of the area have been badly damaged by a the blowouts on January 7 and June

24 last year due to negligence by the drilling company.

They said they want measures in the light of reports of the government-formed high level probe bodies, which conducted inquiry after the blowouts.

The Canadian company has been trying to evade payment of compensation money to affected villagers by shifting the blame on the government. No conspiracy or tricks of Niko will be able to deprive the affected people of their just demands, they said.

The 6-point demand includes immediate payment of Tk 84 crore in compensation for environmental loss, proper compensation to the 611 families affected by the blowouts, employment for locals in the gas field work, establishment of a gas-based 50 MW power plant near Tengratila, steps for supply of safe water to affected villages, establishment of a health complex in the area and inclusion of 28 affected families who were earlier dropped 'intentionally' from the compensation list.



The Post Office Road in Patuakhali town inundated by tidal water yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Price hike of yarn, dye protested DEPRESSION WHIPS UP TIDAL WAVE Southern coastal areas inundated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

Hundreds of handloom owners, weavers and traders of 35 villages in Sirajganj Sadar and Kazipur upazilas yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally at Bajgati Bazar here protesting abnormal price hike of yarn and dye.

The procession was brought out from Bejagati bus station under the banner of Handloom Owners and Workers Association.

Processionists paraded the main street of Bajgati Bazar before the rally held at Bejgati High School ground. Tant Shramik Front president Akhtar Hossain presided the rally.

Speakers demanded reduction in prices of yarn and dye to keep the weaving industry alive. They also demanded resignation of Textile Minister Shahjahan Siraj and urged the government to give them interest-free loan for the interest of the industry.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Tidal waves whipped up by strong winds under the influence of a depression has inundated vast areas in southwestern coastal region, disrupting ferry service on some routes.

The meteorological department has issued cautionary signal no. 3 for seaports and signal no. 1 for river ports in the coastal areas, he said.

Fishing trawlers have been asked to stay at safe places for at least next 48 hours, the district administration and Barisal port authorities said.

About two-thirds area of Patuakhali town have been inundated by water as there is no protection embankment.

Ferry operation at Kalapara, Mohipur and Hazipur on Patuakhali-Kuakata highway is disrupted since Friday afternoon as gangways of terminals have gone under 5 to 6 feet water, BIWTA sources here said.

Over 100 families have become homeless as their houses went under water in Lalua village. Crops on about 3000 acres as about 300 meters of the flood control embankment at Ramnabad has been washed away, official sources said.

Low lying areas in Galachipa, Kalapara, Bauful, Dumki, Mirzaganj, Sadar and Dashmina upazilas have gone under water.

About 40,000 people in Char Ganga, Lata Chapli in Kalapara; Char Halim, Char Agunmukha, Char Karforma and Char Bangla in Galachipa; Ramgopaldi, Khalishakhali and Alipura in Dashmina; Muradia in Dumki and North Badura in the Patuakhali Sadar upazila have been affected.

Meteorologist Prodip Chandra at Kalapara radar station said a monsoon depression has been created on the south-western Bay. It was centred at about 350 kilometers from Mongla coast yesterday noon.

9X2

5X2

5X2

10X2