



PHOTO: STAR

BNP brought out a procession in Kendua town in Netrakona district yesterday demanding dissolution of the party's upazila committee formed by lawmaker Khadija Amin.

## Fresh protests against Kendua BNP body

Party men march streets for dissolution of committee formed by lawmaker

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Netrakona

BNP leaders and activists brought out a big procession and held a rally at Kendua upazila town yesterday demanding dissolution of upazila BNP committee, formed on June 27 at a council, boycotted by a faction.

At the rally held in front of Kendua Press Club, party leaders said the agitation will continue till dissolution of the committee and they will not work for the party candidate in next parliamentary election under this committee.

They said the committee formed by Khadija Amin MP included newcomers in the party and sidelined dedicated leaders and workers. The lawmaker also formed party's union committees as per her choice, which created division in party units at all levels, they said.

They said Nazmul Haque Kachi and Delwar Hossain Bhuiyan, president and secretary of the newly formed committee, joined

BNP from Jatiya Party (Ershad) a year ago. After joining, they started placing their men in different posts, which angered the party rank and file, they alleged.

They said BNP activists in Kendua will not accept the newly formed committee and urged the district and central BNP to dissolve it immediately.

They also blamed Khadija Amin for her alleged autocratic behaviour. They claimed that there has not been any development in Kendua and Atpara upazilas in last five years.

Additional police were deployed in Kendua upazila headquarters as tension mounted during the procession and the rally.

Earlier, on June 25, several hundred BNP activists from Kendua and Atpara upazilas (constituency of ruling party MP Begum Khadija Amin) brought out a procession and held a rally in Netrakona town protesting BNP council scheduled for June 27. The procession was led by central

Juba Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Hilali.

Speakers at the rally sought immediate intervention of BNP chief Khaleda Zia and secretary general Abdul Mannan Buiyan to resolve the crisis arising out of autocratic attitude of the lawmaker Khadija Amin.

Ignoring the protest, a faction of the party led by lawmaker Khadija Amin and Netrakona district BNP president MA Karim Abbasi MP formed a district committee without voting, violating BNP constitution, party sources said.

Netrakona district BNP secretary Mahfuzul Haque and organizing secretary Nazrul Islam Khan opposed did not join the council.

The rival faction rejected the committee and continued protests, demanding its dissolution.

Since the council, the faction led by Mahfuzul Haque, Nazrul Islam and Helali are holding protests demanding its dissolution, party sources said.

## Mudslinging by AL contenders in Tangail-2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Intra-party rift in Awami League in Tangail-2 constituency deepened further as the two main contenders for nomination have started mudslinging against each other.

Khondokar Asaduzzaman and Rafiqul Islam Manju, the two main contenders for nomination from the constituency (Gopalpur-Bhuapur), held separate press conferences at Tangail Press Club recently, accusing each other.

Asaduzzaman, advisor of AL chief Sheikh Hasina and former AL lawmaker from Tangail-2, held a press conference on September 17. He claimed that said Rafiqul Islam Manju is an employee of Acme Laboratories owned by state minister Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Asaduzzaman said.

"He (Rafiqul Islam Manju) is trying to create chaos and confusion in the party by introducing himself as a possible candidate from the constituency in coming election", he said.

Claiming that he would get AL ticket from Tangail-2, he said he has been maintaining regular contact with local party leaders and activists and also holding different programmes including meetings and demonstrations since 2002, ignoring harassment by ruling party men.

There is no feud in Gopalpur-Bhuapur AL and all are united under the leadership of Asaduzzaman, other party leaders told the press conference. There was some internal problem which has been removed by expelling five 'misguided' members of Bhuapur upazila AL, they said.

The press conference was attended by, among others, Gopalpur upazila AL President of Halimuzzaman Talukdar, its secretary Rakibul Haque Chhana and Bhuapur upazila AL president Abdul Halim.

The other contender for nomination, Rafiqul Islam Manju, held a press conference on September 22, introducing himself as assistant secretary of central AL sub-committee on environment and forests.

It was attended by, among others, convener of Gopalpur Krishak League Belayet Hossen, Juba League joint-convenor Ashrafuzzaman Azad, Gopalpur Poura Juba League president Sakhaawat Hossain, and Chhatra League convener Biman Kumar Shaha.

In a written statement, Rafiqul Islam Manju alleged that indiscipline cropped up in Gopalpur AL after Khondokar Asaduzzaman was elected from the constituency in 1996.

"Gopalpur upazila Awami League, elected in 1997, was changed by Asaduzzaman, which created a rift in the party" Rafiqul Islam said.

Talking to this correspondent on Monday, some dedicated AL leaders and activists expressed their frustra-

tion over mudslinging between the two nomination aspirants from the constituency. There is good prospect of regaining the seat, which is being shattered due to the rivalry between Asaduzzaman and Rafiqul, they said.



Asaduzzaman



Rafiqul Islam

## Rejoinder and our reply

Two Awami League leaders of Gopalpur upazila in Tangail have contradicted a report published on the National page of the Daily Star on September 6 under the headline 'Infighting threatens AL hopes in Tangail-2'.

The rejoinder signed by Gopalpur upazila AL president Selimuzzaman Talukdar and general secretary Md. Rakibul Haq Sana said the report stated that Khandaker Asaduzzaman, after losing the parliamentary election from Gopalpur constituency in 2001, did not maintain any contact with local party men. This is not true, they said.

In fact he won the polls but was declared defeated, they claimed. Since the election, he is with the party men, protecting them from 'repression of ruling party men', and holding party programmes. AL leaders and workers in Gopalpur are united under the leadership of Asaduzzaman, they said.

Rafiqul Islam was never involved with Awami League and its activities in the area. Blessed by some BNP leaders, he is trying to create confusion among AL men in the area, they alleged.

Our reply: Our story was based on facts and statements of local party leaders.

Rival supporters of Asaduzzaman and Rafiqul Islam brought out separate processions and held rallies in the area on many occasions. They clashed on July 17 and August 11 during such programmes. Section 144 was imposed at Gopaldi on August 12 as rival factions announced programmes at the same venue.

## Infighting shatters AL hopes in Satkhira-3

Five to seek ticket in Assassuni 'stronghold'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Feud over nomination has shattered Awami League's prospect for regaining the Jatiya Sangsad seat in Satkhira-3, known as a stronghold of the party.

There are at least five contenders from the constituency comprising Assassuni upazila, party leaders said.

Awami League lost the seat in 2001 election as its candidate Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman was defeated by four-party alliance nominee Riasat Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami with a small margin, allegedly due to non-cooperation by two other nomination aspirants.

Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman was elected from the constituency in 1996.

The rift widened as the rival factions observed party's recent agitation programmes separately.

A large faction of the party led by upazila AL president Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman and general secretary Shahidul Islam Pintu brought out a procession at the upazila town on September 23 as part of opposition alliance's countrywide agitation programme.

They held a rally at local BRDB premises at Assassuni with Dr.

Mokhlesur Rahman in the chair.

Speakers at the rally blamed the other faction led by Satkhira district AL industry secretary ABM Mostakim for dividing the party. Mostakim is also a nomination aspirant in the coming election.

Mustakim's followers brought out another procession and held a rally.

There are other aspirants also. They are district AL vice-president Bose Sukishan, Assassuni upazila AL general secretary Shahidul Islam Pintu and newcomers Lt. Col. (Rtd) Jamayet Ali and former Chhatra League leader Mir Mostaque Ahmed Rabi.

All are engaged in mass contact in the constituency, saying they would also be in the polls race.



Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman



A B M Mustakim



Mostaque Ahmed Rabi



Lt. Col. (Rtd) Jamayet Ali

The rival factions have been holding party programs separately for months, casting aspersions on leaders of either faction. The infighting has spread to grassroots level, frustrating workers, party sources said.

Taking advantage of the rift, another aspirant Mir Mostaque Ahmed Rabi staged a showdown on Sunday in the constituency.

The rift surfaced during the 2001 election after Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman was nominated again, some party leaders said.

Failing to get nomination, aspirants Ruhul Amin and Sardar Hafizur Rahman, who contested from the constituency as AL candidates in 1986 and 1991 respectively, opposed Moslesur Rahman.

They worked against the AL candidate, who lost with a small margin of only 11,067 votes.

This correspondent talked to many local AL leaders regarding the intra-party feud and the pre-polls scenario. They include local Union Parishad chairman Matiuur Rahman, Assassuni upazila AL vice-president and Bardal UP chairman Yunus Ali,

Khajra union AL leader and Khajra UP chairman Ruhul Quddus, Assassuni thana AL leader Prof. Mafizul Islam and Shreeula union AL president former UP chairman Noor Mohammad.

They said Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman is an honest and popular leader.

They alleged that Mostakim had supported the four-party candidate in last election and threatened minority community people to vote for the Jamaat leader.

Dedicated Awami League leaders and activists support Dr. Mokhlesur as candidate as he is the fittest man, they said.

They called Mir Mostaque Ahmed a 'seasonal bird', who was not known to people earlier.

"He (Mostaque) is an outsider", said upazila AL leader Noor Mohammad.

However, Mustakim refuted the allegations.

On contact, Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman said, "Most of the leaders and activists in the area are with me".

3X3

3X2

10X3

6X3

4X2