

MAGURA-1 CONSTITUENCY

Newcomer Chand out to elbow out AL lawmaker Akbar

HOSSAIN SERAJ, *Magura*

Intra-party feud in Magura Awami-League (AL) has intensified over nomination from Magura-1 (Sadar and Sreepur Upazila) in the coming parliamentary election.

Party leaders and activists in Magura Sadar and Sreepur upazilas are divided into two factions. One faction wants incumbent lawmaker Dr. Akbar as candidate while the other is in favour of newcomer Kamruzzaman Chand, former deputy controller of Dhaka Education Board now a central member of Krishak League, opposition Awami League's peasant forum.

Chand is holding meetings with party men and rallies in Sreepur upazila where he has mustered support of a large section of party workers, party insiders claimed.

A faction in Sadar upazila also supports him, they said.

Dr. Akbar was elected twice from the constituency. He defeated BNP's Maj Gen (Rtd) M Majidul Huq in 1996 and central BNP leader Nitai Roy Chowdhury in 2001. Nitai joined BNP from Ershad's Jatiya Party.

But now, a sizable faction of local AL leaders have distanced themselves from Akbar, sources in the district AL claimed.

Seeking anonymity a front ranking district AL leader said, "As Akbar has already lost popularity and



M S Akbar

confidence of local people, the party may face election debacle if he is nominated again."

Talking to this correspondent Chand said, "So far as I know, the party high command is now fully aware of Akbar's position in the constituency. He was declared 'unwanted' in Sreepur upazila by party men and the party high command is already in search of a new face for nomination."

He also claimed that AL men in Magura are now united to work for any nominee but Akbar.

"I have started mass contact after getting green signal from several party stalwarts," Chand claimed.

But Akbar claimed, "A few self-seeking people in the party declared me 'unwanted' in Sreepur upazila



Kamruzzaman Chand

but most of the party men were not involved in it."

In reply to a question Akbar said, "As each of the party men has right to seek nomination, I have nothing to say in this connection."

Expressing his optimism to get nomination again, he said, "Party high command knows it very well who should be nominated to retain the seat."

Sreepur upazila Jubo League president Kutubuddin Kuti however refuted Akbar's claim and said, "Almost all party men in Sreepur upazila were united on the issue of declaring him 'unwanted' and they are now determined to resist his political activities here."

"Party men here also planned to hold broom procession on

September 11 against Akbar, but postponed it following intervention by top leaders of district Awami League and some high police official", he claimed.

A senior leaders of Sreepur upazila AL claimed, "We have already made our leader Sheikh Hasina understand that she should nominate anybody except Akbar as he did nothing for the party during his 10-year tenure".

Party sources said, on September 5, rival party men in Sreepur upazila at a meeting with upazila AL president Akbar Hossain Mian in the chair declared lawmaker Akbar 'unwanted' in the upazila. The meeting also decided to bring out a broom procession in the district town on September 11 to protest his alleged anti-organisational activities and misbehavior with party men but was postponed following intervention by district AL leaders.

"We have already started organising tougher agitation programmes against him (Dr. Akbar) and you will see those within a few days", Sreepur Jubo League president Kutubuddin Kuti said while talking to this correspondent.

Sunamganj AL council postponed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A council of Sunamganj district Awami League, scheduled to be held today, has been postponed again, allegedly due to intra-party feud.

"It has been deferred and a fresh date will be announced next week", Nurul Haque Mukut, acting general secretary of the AL unit told this correspondent over phone yesterday.

This is the third time that the AL council has been postponed.

Sunamganj AL is divided into two factions. One faction is led by party stalwart Sunajit Sengupta and the other by AL central committee member and Sunamganj district vice-president Matiur Rahman and acting general secretary of the district unit Nurul Huda Mukut.

Matiur Rahman and Mukut were loyal to late AL stalwart Abdus Samad Azad.

The party council is not held for about eight years. October 14 was fixed for the council in a letter sent to the president and the acting secretary of the party unit by AL general secretary Abdul Jalil last week, party sources said.

Earlier, the party high command had asked its Sunamganj district leaders to hold the council by September 30 but it could not be held due to intra-party feud.



Lighter vessels stranded in Chittagong port channel as the waterway is yet to be cleared after lighter vessel MV Shah Badar-1 sank there on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pro-AL lawyers boycott Nizami's function in Pabna

A CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Lawyers led by Shammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad yesterday boycotted Industries Minister Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami's function marking formal inauguration Pabna judge court building in the town.

They boycotted the programme protesting inauguration of the building 'for the second time' by a Jamaat leader, who played an anti-Bangladesh role during the Liberation War, said Shamsul Haque Tuku, convener of Pabna Shammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad.

"It is a hypocrisy that the Jamaat leader inaugurated the judge court building for the second time. People believing in values of Liberation War did not attend the programme", he told The Daily Star.

Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami inaugurated court building as a chief guest at about 3.30pm.

District and Session Judge Md Mofizul Islam presided over the function, attended by a large number of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and workers.

Sources said District and Sessions Judge Mofizul Islam had earlier inaugurated the court building on July 11

through a Hilal Mahfil.

When contacted over phone, the district judge said that the July 11 programme was an 'unofficial' one. Yesterday's function marked its official inauguration, he said.

On Thursday, the Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad brought out a procession, held a rally and formed a human chain in the town protesting inauguration of the court building by Nizami 'for the second time'.

Pabna Bar Association President Abdul Motin Miah however claimed that the boycott was steered by lawyers aligned with opposition Awami League.

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