

Feud in Magura BNP intensifies as district committee dissolved

Dissolution a 'victory' for Quazi Kamal over Nitai Roy, insiders say

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

The intra-party feud in Magura BNP has taken a new turn following dissolution of the district committee Monday night.

A convening committee was formed with lawmaker from Magura-2 constituency Quazi Salimul Huq Kamal as its convener.

The district committee was dissolved at a meeting held in Dhaka in which party high-ups including secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan were present, party sources said here yesterday.

Quazi Kamal attended the meeting but former minister and BNP central executive committee member Nitai Roy Chowdhury, who hails from Magura, was absent, the sources said.

On the same night, a new committee of Magura district Jubo Dal, youth front of BNP, was formed in Dhaka with Alamgir Hossain as its president, Khan Aminur Rahman as general secretary and Habibur Rahman as organising secretary.

Last month, the district committee of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was



Quazi Salimul Huq Kamal

also dissolved.

BNP insiders here said dissolution of the district committee is a 'victory' for Quazi Kamal over Nitai Roy Chowdhury.

Seeking anonymity, many BNP leaders told this correspondent that Quazi Kamal won the race against Nitai Roy in establishing supremacy in Magura BNP.

The party sources claimed that Quazi Kamal got the BNP and JCD committees dissolved as some of its front ranking leaders were working for his rival Nitai Roy.

The youth and student fronts



Nitai Roy Chowdhury

were dissolved as district Jubo Dal convener Rezaul Islam and JCD president and secretary Nazmul Hasan Liton and Shahidul Islam Rupak took stand against Quazi Kamal and were supporting Nitai Roy. The district BNP secretary was also enjoying blessings of Nitai Roy, they claimed.

Supporters of Quazi Kamal claimed that the committees were dissolved as their tenure ended.

But party men belonging to Nitai Roy's faction alleged that this was done to turn Magura BNP into a 'pocket organisation' of Kazi

Kamal.

Talking to this correspondent, Nitai loyalist Ali Ahmed Biswas, who was secretary of the dissolved BNP committee, said, "Tenure of the committee had expired but its dissolution ahead of the election will be a blow to the party".

Neither Quazi Kamal nor Nitai Roy could not be contacted despite repeated attempts over cellphone.

Front ranking party leader Akter Hossain, a close aide to Quazi Kamal said, "Party central leaders have dissolved the district committee to reshuffle and strengthen the party".

Magura district BNP is dogged by internal feud for long. The feud came in the open when rival factions brought out separate processions and held discussion meetings in the town on September 1 in observance of the party's founding anniversary.

Leaders and activists are divided into two groups—one led by Kazi Salimul Huq Kamal and Akter Hossain and the other by Nitai Roy Chowdhury and Ali Ahmed Biswas.

ATTACK ON C & F AGENT

Indefinite strike threatened at Hili land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Importers and Exporters Association and the Clearing and Forwarding (C & F) Agents Association at a meeting at Hili Land Port yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities to punish attackers on their fellow agents by today or face an indefinite strike from tomorrow.

C & F Agents Association general secretary Md Shahin Hossain said, at least 10 people were injured and an amount of Tk 12 lakh was looted from the KT International Complex at the port in an attack by Hakimpur Awami League organisational secretary and Pourasabha chairman Kamal Hossain Raj and his men on Friday night. The attackers also threatened the complex owners to stop their business, he said.

A case was filed with Panchbibi Police Station after the incident.

A large number of police force has been posted in and around the attacked complex.

On contact, Kamal Hossain Raj admitted his presence at the complex along with 100 men, but denied their involvement in ransacking the complex or snatching money from there.

Diarrhoea spreads in Nilphamari

2 killed 300 attacked in three days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Diarrhoea claimed two lives and attacked at least 300 people in the district in last three days.

The dead are Moslema Begum, 6, of Chatunama village and Kalu Mia, 55, of Bhasanir Char village in Dimla Upazila.

Sources at the control room at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital said at least 214 patients were admitted to six government hospitals in the district in last four days. The number of patients is increasing.

Reports of diarrhoea were received from 11 unions in the district, they said.

The affected unions are Tepakharibari, Charkharibari and Balapara in Jaldhaka upazila; Nitai, Bahagili and Panialpukur in Kishoreganj; Sonarai and Bhogdaburi in Domar and Kachukata, Tupamari and Itakhola unions in Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

Visiting Nilphamari Sadar Hospital yesterday, this correspondent saw diarrhoea patients lying on corridors as beds were occupied.

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at the hospital, Khorshed Alam, however claimed that the situation was under control.

He said diarrhoea in this time of the year is a seasonal phenomenon. The disease spread as poor people are compelled to take unwholesome food due to munga, he said.

NILPHAMARI-1

Rivalry for ticket shadows AL's prospects in its stronghold

Lawmaker Shova faces three contenders

ELECTION 2007

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Intra-party feud and too many contenders for nomination in the coming election has shadowed Awami League's prospects in Nilphamari-1 constituency (Domar and Dimla puzilas), a stronghold of the party for long.

Incumbent lawmaker from the constituency Hamida Banu Shova is facing rivalry from four nomination aspirants, three from her own Domar upazila and the other from Dimla upazila.

On July 18, Domar and Dimla AL leaders brought written allegations against Hamida Banu Shova to AL chief Shaikh Hasina during her meeting with them in Dhaka.

They made allegations of anti-party activity and misbehaviour with party men against the Shova.

At a public meeting during Sheikh Hasina's visit to Dimla last year, party joint secretary Obaidul Kader declared Hamida Banu Shova as party candidate for the next election.

Obaidul kader also said that as long as Shaikh Hasina remains AL chief, Shova would be party candidate from Nilphamari-1 constituency.

On September 29 this year, angry party workers obstructed Shova when she went to visit a Pujá Mondap at Chilahati in Domar upazila. At a meeting there at night, they also declared her 'unwanted' in Domar.

Two weeks ago, at least seven party men were injured when some Jubo League activists loyal to her attacked some Chhatra League activists belonging to a rival group in Domar.

Former ambassador and freedom fighter Aminul Hossain Sarker has emerged as a strong contender for AL ticket from the constituency. Aminul Hossain claimed that majority party leaders and workers in Domar upazila have rejected Shova for her alleged misbehaviour and rendered support to him.

This correspondent also talked to Domar and Dimla upazila AL secretaries Monju Chowdhury and Sanwar Hossain Lohani. They claimed that it might not be possible for Awami League to retain Nilphamari-1 parliamentary seat if Shova is nominated in the coming election. She has less contact with people and party workers, they alleged.

They said Aminul Hossain Sarker would be a better candidate.

Another AL nomination seeker is agriculture scientist Abu Inamdar, elder brother of Domar municipality chairman Al Azhar. Inamdar enjoys support of Domar municipal committee of the party, party sources claimed. He has launched a massive mass contact.

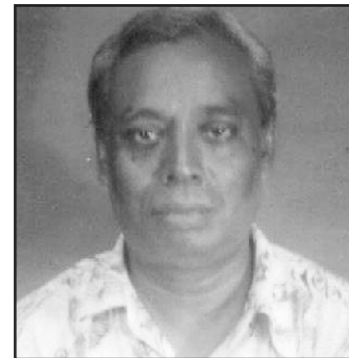
Domar upazila Awami League convener Khairul Islam Babul is another nomination seeker. He



AL MP Hamida Banu Shova



Ex-ambassador Aminul Hossain



Agri scientist Abu Inamdar



Dimla AL chief Aftab Uddin

alleged that Hamida Banu Shova is an "unsuccessful" lawmaker and has shattered the party image in the area.

But the most uneasy situation for all the candidates was created when freedom fighter Aftab Uddin Sarkar, president of Dimla upazila Awami League and a veteran in 1969 student movement declared his candidature from this constituency last month.

He is the lone party candidate from Dimla upazila where the number of voters is more than that in Domar upazila, party sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Dimla AL senior vice-president Abdul Kader Master and joint secretary Abdul Wahed said this time they will 'not hire any outsider candidate' (Hamida Banu Shova) from Domar as they have genuine Awami League leader Aftab Uddin

Sarkar.

Nural Islam and Tariqul Islam, former president and vice-president of Domar upazila AL and supporters of Shova however said those who oppose her are not genuine Awami League members. Domar AL convener Khairul Islam Babul and many others like him campaigned for BNP candidate in 2001 election, they alleged.

Hamida Banu Shova however refuted all the allegations against her and said, "I am facing opposition as I am a woman candidate".

She expressed her optimism about getting nomination from Nilphamari-1 in the coming election.

"My leader Shaikh Hasina has confidence on me", Shova said.

Correction

In our report headlined "BNP aspirants engaged in mudslinging" published in The Daily Star on National page on October-3 it was mistakenly reported that Sachingpru Zeri would contest from Bandarban constituency as an independent candidate in the coming election if he does not get nomination from BNP. We regret the mistake.

5 JCD men jailed for keeping drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A special tribunal here on Monday jailed five activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for seven years for possessing drugs.

They are Malay Karmokar, Shaymol Ghosh, Shahidul Islam Sumon, Jasim and Sentu.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested them with 745 bottles of Phensidyl from a mess on the Bogra Road here on February 22 last year.



PHOTO: STAR

Bus service on Khulna-Satkhira highway is still snapped as the road is under water in Noapara, 18 days after it was inundated by flood. R&H officials said they can not take any step due to lack of funds.

Text books in indigenous language demanded

ABU KALAM back form Godagari, Rajshahi

'Indigenous Children Rights Day' was observed here through colourful programmes with a demand for right to education through their mother languages.

The indigenous children also demanded medicare facilities and government steps to protect indigenous culture.

The day-long programmes held at Godagari High School playground included colourful rallies, discussion meetings and cultural functions participated by indigenous children. A memorandum was submitted to the authorities to fulfil the demands. The programmes were organised by Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha (AUS), an organisation working for rights of indigenous people.

The programmes started in the morning with a colourful procession in Godagari municipality, participated by several hundred indigenous children from different villages in the area.

Children carrying placarded and banners in favor of child rights paraded the streets of Godagari.

The discussion meeting was presided over by AUS Director Bhagabat Tudu. It was addressed by Godagari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nazibul Islam, BARSIC representative Saykat Shubho, Adivashi Sangskritik Sangstha Director Rajkumar Shau and Adivashi Samaj Unnayan Sangstha Director Gonesh.

The speakers urged the people to come forward to stand against violation of child rights.

The discussion over, indigenous children joined by men and women went to Godagari UNO office and submitted a memorandum for the prime minister to fulfil their 15-point demands.

The demands also include quota for indigenous students in educational institutions and scholarship for them.

3X2

8X3

8X2

7.5X2