

FALLOUT OF JAIL TO JALDHAKA PARTY LEADER ANWARUL KABIR

# 300 desert BNP protesting 'Jamaat-appeasing policy'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About 300 BNP leaders and activists of Jaldhaka municipality have resigned from the party in protest against what they called its policy to appease Jamaat-e-Islami.

Leaders and workers are leaving the party at upazila, ward and union levels while 300 men resigned on Thursday, party sources said.

Central and Nilphamari district leaders of the party remained 'indifferent' to filing of a 'false' abduction and rape case against Jaldhaka upazila BNP president and municipal chairman Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury. The case was filed at the instigation of Jamaat, some of the BNP leaders who left the party alleged while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

"It is false case influenced by local Jamaat lawmaker because Kabir was

a possible contender for nomination in the coming election", a BNP leader said seeking anonymity.

Kabir and six others were given life term by a special tribunal on October 18.

More leaders and activists will leave the party, he claimed.

The deserters alleged that central and district BNP leaders have 'adopted a policy to appease the anti-liberation forces' in Jaldhaka by abandoning its dedicated leaders.

The district leaders did not take any move to protest the 'false' case against Kabir Chowdhury and six others, they said.

They claimed that Jamaat men filed more than 50 cases against a number of BNP men at different levels in Jaldhaka in last one year.

BNP, the main partner in the alliance, remains silent and does not come to the aid of party men, they

alleged.

Abdul Majid, one of the deserters in Bogulagari in Jaldhaka municipality, alleged that their leader Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury was victimised by the Jamaat lawmaker as he (Anwarul Kabir) wants to contest in the next election from here.

"It is useless to be associated with BNP as its central and district leaders do not protect party men in time of need", he added.

Earlier, acting president of Jaldhaka BNP Omar Faroque, in his instant reaction after hearing the court verdict commented that he was planning to quit BNP.

"Presence of plaintiff (in the rape case) Morsheda Begum at Jamaat district office on Wednesday (when the verdict was pronounced) surrounded by Jamaat cadres to meet the press proved that she was a tool in the hands of Jamaat in the whole

matter", Farooq said.

He said more leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations will leave the party.

When contacted, Jamaat lawmaker from Nilphamari-3 Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury denied the allegations. The incident was tried and he (Kabir) was convicted, he said.

Local BNP leaders alleged that during the trial, plaintiff Morsheda was given all possible assistance by Jamaat leaders and activists. They took her to the court in their transports and provided protection.

Asked why Morsheda was at Jamaat office during delivery of the verdict, Jaldhaka poura Jamaat vice-president Selimur Rahman said it was done for her protection.

## Seven BNP men sued for beating judge court employee in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Seven BNP activists were sued yesterday for beating a Satkhira judge court employee for his alleged delay in reaching bail bond of the main accused in Journalist Belal Murder Case in due time on Wednesday.

Satkhira judge court fourth class employee Munshi Amirul Haque filed the case with Sadar Police Station against the accused for beating his fellow colleague Saiful Islam at the jail gate.

He was beaten for his alleged delay in reaching the bail bond of Helatala union BNP general secretary Rafiqul Islam, the main accused in Journalist Belal Murder Case.

The BNP men went to the jail gate to receive the accused.

However, police did not disclose the names of the accused for the sake of investigation, said Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Ataur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Advocate Tapan Chakraborty and Advocate Shah Alam, president and general secretary of Satkhira Bar Association, in a press statement yesterday, demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Advocate Shafiqul Islam who stood for the accused submitted a prayer to judge court to withdraw the bail bond on Thursday. The court accepted the prayer asking the jail authorities to return the bail bond.

Source said, BNP activists Mahsin, Siraj, Taleb, Fazlu, Shariful, Matiar, Rouf, Gani, Babu, Rafique, Hasan, Mosharrar, Yunus, Korban and others led the attack.

On contact, judge court administrative officer Abdul Hakim confirmed the incident.

Journalist Belal was murdered at village Picchlapole in Kalaroa upazila on September 14. Belal was on way his Digong village home in the same upazila.



Sammiito Nagorik Andolon, a citizens' forum, formed a human chain in Sirajganj town yesterday demanding reforms of caretaker system and the Election Commission.

PHOTO: STAR

## Party men call BNP MP names in Netrakona

### Lawmaker terms it all baseless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Lawmaker from Netrakona-1 (Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazila) and president of Netrakona district BNP MA Karim Abbasi left his constituency yesterday as party activists use abusive language and demonstrated against him, party sources in Kalmakanda said.

Jalaluddin, president of Nazirpur union BNP, organised an Iftar party at Nazirpur Bazar under Kalmakanda upazila on Friday. Kalmakanda upazila BNP president Muslemuddin Ahmed was the chief guest there.

Though not invited, MA Karim Abbasi went there and charged Jalaluddin and Muslemuddin why he was not invited. At this BNP activists there became angry and hurled abuses at him.

Karim Abbasi left the Iftar party. He spent the night at the upazila dakbungalow at Kalmakanda.

Yesterday morning, several hundred activists of Kalmakanda Jatiyabadi Mahila Dal led by its president Rekha Akhter, secretary

Halima Akhter and party leader Reshma Habib swooped on the dakbungalow and asked the lawmaker to leave Kalmakanda. Soon after, Karim Abbasi left Kalmakanda.

When contacted later, Jalaluddin and Muslemuddin confirmed the incidents and said BNP leaders and workers in Kalmakanda upazila are united against Karim Abbasi over nomination. They will not allow him to do any political activity in the area as he is not a man from the upazila, they said.

Karim Abbasi is a man from Durgapur and so there was no development work in Kalmakanda, they claimed.

They said they will urge the high command to nominate a person from Kalmakanda in the coming election. Party sources said two local leaders

Kaiser Kamal and Abdul Wohabare aspirants for alliance ticket in the coming election.

MA Karim Abbasi was elected from Netrakona-1 constituency in 1991 and 2001 elections.

This correspondent contacted Karim Abbasi over cellphone in Dhaka. He said he did not go to Nazirpur Bazar to attend the Iftar party.

When this correspondent drew his attention that local BNP leaders Jalaluddin and Muslemuddin said he was abused there, he said, "They are liars".

When asked why Jatiyabadi Mahila Dal activists went to the dakbungalow, he said, "They demanded wheat from me".



PHOTO: STAR

United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) activists carrying bows and arrows at a rally at Mukhtamancha in Khagrachhari town yesterday to press its seven-point demand including preparation of a voter list only with permanent residents in the hills.

## Jamaat may face tough task to retain its stronghold

BNP to oppose coalition partner in Satkhira-2

**ELECTION 2**

ABU AHMED, SATKHIRA

Jamaat-e-Islami, a key partner in four-party alliance, may face a tough task to retain Satkhira-2 (Satkhira Sadar upazila) seat in the coming election as a large section of ruling BNP leaders and activists are out to 'resist' incumbent Jamaat lawmaker Maulana Abdul Khaleque Mondal if he is nominated again.

BNP leaders blame Khaleque for creating a rift in the alliance by ignoring BNP. Khaleque may get alliance ticket in the coming election, Jamaat leaders claimed.

Satkhira-2 constituency is a stronghold of Jamaat as it won the Jatiya Sangsad seat in 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001 elections.

But the situation may be different in coming election as Jamaat and BNP have fallen apart in the area, allegedly because Khaleque Mondal sidelined BNP in all activities including implementing development projects and distribution of VGF cards and relief, political circles said. Jamaat and BNP leaders are now engaged in mudslinging, they said.

In 1996, Jamaat leader Kazi Samsur Rahman own the seat defeating Jatiya Party candidate Syeda Razia Foyez by a margin of only 209 votes.

In 2001, Jamaat's Maulana Abdul Khaleque Mondal won the seat with an alliance ticket. He got 1,24,206 votes against Awami League candidate Nazrul Islam's 69,861.

A senior leader of Satkhira district BNP claimed that Jamaat's hopes may be shattered in the coming election mainly because of Abdul Khaleque's alleged nepotism and corruption in selecting development projects and for neglecting BNP.

"People are also annoyed with Abdul Khaleque because he depends solely on party men. Whenever any body goes to him for



Abdul Khaleque Mondol

anything, he seeks recommendation from local Jamaat men", the BNP leader said.

Amid widening rift in the alliance, an influential BNP leader and general secretary of Satkhira Bus-Minibus Owners Association, Alhaj Abdur Rouf announced that he would seek alliance ticket from the constituency.

"As Khaleque Mondol lost people's confidence, there is no alternative to nominating Abdur Rouf. He is a popular leader", said another BNP leader.

"Maulana Khaleque won the seat in last election with BNP votes. This time it will be hard to convince BNP supporters to vote for him as he

(Khaleque) ignored BNP", he said.

Khaleque and Abdur Rouf are campaigning in the area.

At a recent meeting, 12 out of 14 Union Parishad (UP) chairmen belonging to ruling BNP declared that they would not support Khaleque Mondal if he is nominated again by the alliance, party sources claimed. Abdur Rouf is also chairman of Alipur Union Parishad.

They alleged that the Jamaat lawmaker ignored UP leaders in all development activities, and even in distribution of VGD cards and relief work. Only Jamaat men were involved in such work, they alleged.

Rouf's supporters are holding meetings and doing mass contact in the constituency for the last one and a half years, said Khabir Uddin, a front ranking leader of Jatiyabadi Shramik Dal, labour front of the BNP and general secretary of district transport workers union.

When contacted, Khaleque Mondol however denied the allegations. He claimed that he did a lot of development works in the area in last five years and has good relations with BNP leaders and workers.

## Lightning kills mother, daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A woman and her minor daughter were killed as a thunderbolt struck them during heavy rainfall accompanied by storm in Jaldhaka, Kishoreganj and Sadar upazilas Friday night.

The victims are Maziron Nesa, 25, wife of Kabir Hossain and their daughter Lipi Akhter, 9, of Kalkeute village in Jaldhaka upazila.

At least 30 people were injured, two of them critically, when houses collapsed and trees were uprooted

during the storm which lashed at a velocity of 40-kilometre per hour.

Eleven of them were admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital and Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex. Critically injured Habibur Rahman, 20, and Hasinur Rahman, 23, of Kalkeute village in Jaldhaka were shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Two hundred kutcha houses were damaged and 100 big trees uprooted during the storm.

8X3

9X2

2X8