

ROW OVER TICKET FROM NETRAKONA-1 CONSTITUENCY

Seven BNP leaders threaten to join LDP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

Seven BNP aspirants for ticket from in Netrakona-1 constituency have united in opposing newcomer Golam Rabbani and threatened to join Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) if he is nominated in the coming election.

Former Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker Golam Rabbani, who was elected from the constituency (Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas) in 1988, joined BNP on November 7 at a function held on Netrakona Shahid Miner premises.

He said he joined BNP with assurance from party high-ups that he would be nominated from Netrakona-1 in the coming election.

His joining triggered protest and resentment by local BNP leaders and dashed hopes of seven party men who vied for four-party alliance ticket.

The seven are Durgapur upazila BNP president Hamidur Rahman Rashad and its former president MA Jinnah, former Kalmakanda upazila BNP president of Muslemuddin Ahmed and its former convenor advocate Abdul Wahab, former Netrakona JCD president Jahangir Alam Masud, Durgapur upazila Juba Dal president Salim Raza and former central JCD leader barrister

Kaysar Kamal.

They, along with their supporters, brought out a procession at Kalmakanda upazila headquarter Sunday evening against Golam Rabbani and vowed to resist him.

They also asked all BNP leaders and activists in Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas not to invite Golam Rabbani to any party activity.

This correspondent talked to all the seven nomination seekers. They said the party high command should evaluate contribution and dedication of party men in giving nomination. They sharply reacted to the reported statement of Rabbani that he joined BNP after assurance of alliance nomination.

Two of the BNP leaders seeking anonymity claimed that all the seven would join LDP if Golam Rabbani gets nomination from Netrakona-1 constituency.

They said they have urged BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia to nominate a 'dedicated' party leader from among them.

Earlier, Netrakona BNP president MA Karim Abbasi joined LDP, that triggered mudslinging among BNP leaders in the district.

Talking to this correspondent, Durgapur upazila BNP president Hamidur Rahman Rashad claimed that failing to get support of BNP

leaders in the constituency, Rabbani joined BNP as a member of its district unit. The district leaders took Rabbani in the party without consulting leaders in the constituency. This proves his ill motive, Rashad alleged.

The seven nomination seekers are now united under the leadership of Kaysar Kamal to oppose Rabbani, party sources said.

Abul Khair, former convenor of Kalmakanda upazila BNP, said Golam Rabbani was elected in a farcical election in 1988, which was boycotted by both BNP and Awami League.

The 4-party alliance will lose the seat if he is nominated, he claimed.

Wazed Ali Chashi, former president of Kalmakanda upazila BNP, alleged that Golam Rabbani is an ill-tempered and corrupt man. People will not vote him, he claimed.

When contact, Golam Rabbani refuted the allegation of corruption against him and said, "I joined BNP with blessings of party chairperson Khaleda Zia and secretary general Abdul Mannan Buiyan. They assured me of nomination".

But Kaysar Kamal said, "We hope BNP high command will not nominate Rabbani because he is a corrupt unpopular person".

Khulna BNP factions hold rallies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Two factions of Khulna BNP held separate rallies yesterday as part of their central programme.

The faction led by former lawmaker Nurul Islam held its rally in front of BNP office at KD Ghose Road. Nurul Islam presided over the rally.

The faction led by city BNP convenor and former lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi held its rally at Hotel Royal square. Member-secretary of city BNP convening committee Shahrzaman Martuza presided over the rally.

They urged the Chief Adviser of caretaker government to announce election schedule without any further delay and deal with the 'anarchy' by Awami League-led 14-party alliance with a heavy hand.

Later, both the factions brought out separate processions in the city. City Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and city BNP convenor Lobi did not attend the rallies of their respective factions.

RU admission forms to be sold till Nov 26

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities yesterday extended the time for distribution of admission forms for first year honours courses for 2006-2007 session till November 26.

However, the date and time of the pre-scheduled admission tests will remain unchanged, said a university press release yesterday.

The admission test will begin on December 3 and continue till December 14, campus sources said.

Former Rangpur JP lawmaker faces corruption allegation

False propaganda by rivals for ticket, says Solaiman

RAFIQUE SARKER, *Rangpur*

Former Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker from Rangpur-5 (Mithapukur upazila) Shah Solaiman Alam faces allegation of involvement in corruption and misappropriation of government project money and food grains.

Allegations have it that his cronies and party men, under his protection, misappropriated about 200 tonnes of rice under Test Relief (TR) and Food for Work Programme in the name of rural infrastructure maintenance in the current fiscal year. They drew project rice by producing fake documents without virtually doing any work, different sources in Mithapukur alleged.

President and secretary of Noya Para Moktab Moyazzem Hossain and Abdul High alleged that the former MP's men drew one tonne rice to repair the institution's

furniture under TR programme but they came to know it later. The rice was misappropriated by producing fake documents, they claimed. When they came to know it, the former lawmaker through a messenger sent Tk.2200 to them but they refused it.

President and secretary of Rani Pukur Truck Stand Wazed Ali and Nuruzzaman alleged that the lawmaker's men draw one tonne rice in the name of maintenance of the stand without their knowledge.

They submitted a memorandum to Mithapukur Upzila Nirbahi officer to investigate the matter and take action against the culprits.

The UNO, Nurul Islam, when asked admitted that he received the memorandum. The next UNO would investigate it as he was transferred, he told this correspondent.

Defending himself and the

former lawmaker, the UNO said, the administration issued DO letter on October 22 and 23 and project committees might complete works by June 2007.

Joint convener of JP in Mithapukur upazila Saifur Rahman Saleem said, the former MP's men misappropriated money and food grains allotted under TR and Food for Work Programme.

When contacted, Shah Solaiman denied his involvement in the irregularities. "My rivals in the party made this propaganda to tarnish my image", he claimed. A number of JP leaders want party ticket to participate in the coming parliament from the area. He claimed that as the immediate past lawmaker, he would get the party ticket for the coming election.

"They are hatching conspiracy against me", he said.

Hajee Danesh Varsity Students' memo for peace on campus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

The students of Hajee Danesh University of Science and Technology (HDUST) here gave an ultimatum to the university authorities for fulfilling their 4 points of demands by today or face a tougher agitation from tomorrow.

The students gave the ultimatum through a memorandum submitted to the registrar, Md Abdul Majid Sunday afternoon.

The demands included punishment to those responsible for campus violence, cancellation of all political appointments in the university and setting up of a police box on the campus.

A tense situation prevailed on the campus following JCD factional clashes for the last three days as 12 people were injured in classes.

College teachers protest attack on colleague

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Teachers of all government colleges here yesterday brought out a procession protesting attack on a teacher of Government Begum Rokeya Women's College by miscreants on Sunday.

Rokeya college assistant professor Saiful Islam was beaten up on the campus by some miscreants who picked him up from a class earlier, alleged college principal Anjuman Ara.

They also submitted memoranda to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the Superintendent of Police (SP) for arrest and punishment of the culprits.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP leaders and activists brought out a procession in Kalmakanda upazila headquarters yesterday protesting Golam Rabbani's joining the party.



PHOTO: STAR

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) brought out a procession on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Nimtoli during yesterday's blockade.

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7X2

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