

Ex-BNP lawmaker urges Iajuddin to quit post of CA

Maj (rtd) Rajnan's show of strength at Kotiadi for party ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj



Maj. (rtd) Akhteruzzaman Ranjan

BNP nomination seeker and former lawmaker Maj. (rtd) Akhteruzzaman Ranjan has said President Iajuddin Ahmed should resign from the post of Chief Advisor of Caretaker Government as he has become 'controversial'.

The country will move towards a 'state of confrontation among political parties' and a 'constitutional crisis' if atmosphere for a credible election is not created soon, he said while addressing a public rally at Kotiadi Pilot Boys High School in Kotiadi upazila headquarters Tuesday evening.

He made a big showdown in the upazila town to justify his claim for nomination from Kishoreganj-2 constituency (Kotiadi upazila).

Ranjan said, "I was expelled from BNP three times earlier for telling the truth straightway. The party high-ups withdrew the expulsions after they realised that I was right", he told the rally.

He said he was expelled in 1995 for suggesting that BNP should accept the caretaker government proposal by Awami League. In 1997, he was expelled for his anti-hartal stance when Awami League was in power and again in 1998 for joining the then Jatiya Sangsad session and urging party men not to boycott it.

Ranjan was elected with BNP

ency. I should get nomination if the party high command makes a correct evaluation of the situation in Kotiadi", he told the rally.

Ranjan said the current political crisis in the country has been created by a 'handful of persons' but this will affect the whole nation. This is unfortunate.

The nation will plunge into a greater crisis if a credible election is not held and people will blame political parties for that, he added.

He urged BNP chief Khaleda Zia to come out of 'clutches of flatterers' around her who 'misled' her and were involved in corruption in last five years.

The rally, presided over by former upazila BNP secretary Abdus Sobhan, was also addressed by former upazila BNP president Golam Mustafa, and another former upazila BNP secretary, Matiur Rahman.

Ranjan's relations with BNP bigwigs are not that sweet, party sources said. Kotiadi upazila committee was dissolved on July 17 along with four other upazila committees of Kishoreganj district BNP president and former minister Dr Osman Faruq.

At a press release earlier, Ranjan said Kishoreganj district BNP is 'illegal' as it was run by only two members former education minister Dr. M Osman Faruq as president and Waliullah Rabbani as secretary.

ticket defeating Awami League's Habibur Rahman in 1991 and MA Afzal in 1996. As an alliance candidate in 2001, he lost to AL leader Prof. Dr M A Mannan with 1,795 votes. Ranjan got 48,411 votes and Mannan got 50,206.

In the coming election, freedom fighter Ranjan however has four contenders for alliance ticket. They are Ruhul Amin Akil, president of Dhaka city (North) Jubo Dal; his wife Fahmida Islam; Mahmudul Islam and journalist Shafiqul Islam, all based in Dhaka.

He urged the people not to vote for corrupt candidates, black money holders, loan defaulters and godfathers.

"People of Kotiadi will boycott all other contestants from the constitu-



Traders downed shutters (left) and brought out a procession in Jessore town yesterday protesting ransacking of a jewellery shop by extortionists.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

CG should make good use of political will

Bangladesh passing thru' turbulent time, says EC head of delegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Head of delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh Dr. Stefan Frowein yesterday said the EC is following events in the run up to parliamentary elections very closely.

It is clear that Bangladesh is passing through a turbulent political period with significant changes in the caretaker government, continuing stalemate between major parties and deployment of armed forces, he said.

He was talking to newsmen here on their preparation about the forthcoming EU election observer mission to Bangladesh.

Head of the Political and Trade section at the EU mission Charles Whitely also accompanied him.

The envoy said, it is vital that political will is put to good use by the caretaker government and political parties have to ensure that a way forward is found which will fulfil people's expectation for a free, fair and peaceful elections.

The EU is committed to effective and credible observation of the election, as a pivotal plank of our global policy on human rights and democracy.

Each year, the EU selects around 10 countries for full scale election observation, Dr. Stefan added.

Selection of Bangladesh as a priority country for EU observation proves that EU attaches great

importance to 'our relationship with Bangladesh', he said.

The importance is well illustrated by the fact that EU receives 54 per cent of Bangladesh's exports and is also the largest donor to the country.

Moreover, as a democracy in an 'unstable region', Bangladesh carries enormous strategic potential to act as an 'influence' for peace and stability in South Asia. Such considerations explain why the EU and others take such interest in the democratic process in Bangladesh, he said.

Dr. Stefan said, "We will send a much bigger team to observe the 2007 elections than that was sent in 2001. We expect, 40 long term observers, who will arrive around 6 weeks before the election and 100 short term observers".

In addition, there will be 10 strong core teams, headed by a member of the European Parliament, which will include legal, political, media and logistics experts.

The EU team will also be reinforced by several observers from Norway, Switzerland and Canada and by diplomats resident in Dhaka.

"With the US, Commonwealth and others sending international observers and a huge array of domestic observers, we can be confident of a comprehensive and reliable assessment of the parliamentary elections", he hoped.

3x3

4x3

5x3

Showdown by BNP faction in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A faction of Dinajpur district BNP, headed by members of now defunct district committee, staged a showdown in the town yesterday demanding nomination of party chief Khaleda Zia from Dinajpur-3 constituency in the coming election.

The district committee was dissolved in June this year after the death of Begum Khushid Zahan Haque, who was a minister in Khaleda Zia's cabinet.

After dissolution of the committee, the party high command formed an ad-hoc body headed by advocate Yusuf Ali.

No one from the ad-hoc committee took part in yesterday's rally and procession by their rivals, staged as a show of strength.

The processionists comprising party men from most of the 12

wards in the town carried portraits of Khaleda Zia and chanted slogans against their rivals.

They also demanded expulsion of members of the newly formed ad-hoc committee, calling them terrorists and blaming them for tarnishing the party's image in the district.

The rally, held on Dinajpur Institute premises with Md Asrafal Alam in the chair, was addressed by, among others, former District BNP organising secretary Md. Mokhlesur Rahman Rawshan, known to be loyal to Begum Khurshid Zahan Haque.

Police were deployed in and around district BNP office in the town Tuesday night fearing clashes between the two rival factions.

Top outlaw Khora Liton to be brought to Khulna Faces 10 cases including journalists' murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlaw Shahadat Hossain alias Khora Liton, the prime accused in Turjo murder case in Dhaka will be brought to Khulna for interrogation in ten criminal cases including five for five murders, Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Commissioner Nazmul Huq said here yesterday.

According to detective police, the outlaw is a regional leader of Januddho faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He is the son of late Abdul Kader of Pabla village under Daulatpur thana in Khulna City.

Khora Liton fled from Khulna in the middle of 2004 and took shelter in the house of a BNP lawmaker in Bagerhat. From there he went to Dhaka early last year in the face of anti-crime operation by RAB. He was given shelter at the house of a top central leader of Chatra Dal in Dhaka, police sources said.

DB police said Khora Liton came to Khulna last year and killed BNP leader Mizanur Rahman Bablu in Daulatpur in a bomb attack.

According to DB police, the arrested outlaw played a key role in snatching Janajuddho founder Dada Tapan from police custody in Khulna judges court in 2002.

His girl friend Shiuli, also arrested in Turjo murder case, helped him in snatching the founder of Janajuddho faction of PBCP.

Khora Liton was directly involved in killing of journalists Manik Saha and Humayun Kabir Balu in bomb attacks in 2004, DB police claimed.

Khora Liton and Shiuli fell in love while they served as third class employees in Khulna City Corporation in 1999. They were linked with underground organisations since then, DB police said.

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