

ROW OVER NOMINATION

Rival factions threaten to 'paralyse' Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayabur Rahman yesterday claimed that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia asked him Thursday night to file nomination paper on Saturday as a four-party alliance candidate from Khulna-3 (Daulatpur-Khalishpur) constituency. "Accordingly, I will file nomination paper with full confidence to win the seat in the next polls race", the city Mayor said.

On Thursday in the evening, an emergency meeting of Khulna city BNP convening committee was held at the residence of the Mayor. Nineteen out of 31 ward commissioners belonging to BNP, 13 leaders of thana BNP committees and 18 Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal leaders attended the meeting, presided over by Shaharuzzaman Martuza, member-secretary of city BNP committee.

Speakers at the meeting threatened party high-ups that they would 'paralyse' Khulna and go for a tough agitation if Mayor Tayabur Rahman, Ali Asgar Lobi and Prof Majidul Islam are not given nomination from Khulna-3, Khulna-2 and Khulna-4 seats respectively.

After the meeting a letter was faxed to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia Thursday night urging her to meet this demand by December 23 or to 'face the consequence from December 24'.

When contacted, former whip Ashraf Hossain said the Mayor is 'bluffing the people to save him from disgrace'.

"My nomination was confirmed by Begum Zia and accordingly I field nomination paper to returning officer on Wednesday."

"The situation in Khulna-3 will turn volatile if there is any change in decision", he said.

Meanwhile, traffic on Khulna-Dhaka highway remained suspended from 8 am to 11 am yesterday as a large number of BNP activists put up barricades on the road demanding nomination of central Chhatra Dal president Azizul Bari Helal from Khulna-4 (Rupsha-Terokheda-Dighalia) constituency.

Buses on seven routes from Rupsha ferry terminal were forced to stop plying for three hours.

The barricades were later removed by members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Later, at about noon, four Union Parishad chairmen of three upazilas jointly held a press conference at Khulna Press Club where they declared former lawmaker M Nurul Islam 'unwanted' in Khulna-4 constituency.

M Nurul Islam was elected from this constituency in 2001 election. Nurul Islam at a recent press

conference on Thursday claimed that he has been nominated from Khulna-4 again for the coming election.

None but Azizul Bari Helal will be accepted as candidate of four-party alliance from Khulna-4 constituency, said the UP chairmen.

A large number Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal leaders who accompanied the UP chairmen and BNP leaders at the press conference threatened hunger strike an to 'paralyse life' in Rupsha, Terokheda and Digholia upazilas if Helal is not nominated.

They also threatened to resign from BNP if their demand is not met.

On Thursday in the afternoon, supporters of Khulna district BNP president Prof. Majidul Islam also threatened agitation if he is not nominated from Khulna-4 constituency.

INTRA-PARTY FEUD

Khaleda Zia to run in Barisal-5 constituency

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be a candidate from Barisal-5 constituency in the coming election because of bitter intra-party feud in the area for nomination.

Khalads Zia's decision was announced to party men here by former lawmaker and Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mozibor Rahaman Sarwar on his return from Dhaka Thursday midnight, party sources said yesterday.

Mozibor Rahaman Sarwar won from Barisal-5 in last three elections including two by-elections.

The intra-party feud in BNP surfaced during the last mayoral election. The feud intensified when central Jubo Dal secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal sought nomination.

To front ranking party leadership BNP president Ahsan Habib Kamal and district BNP secretary Ebadul Haque Chandwere expelled amid a row between rival factions over nomination. The expulsion of Ebadul Haque Chand was later withdrawn.

Supporters block road for ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Several hundred Awami League activists and supporters loyal to Dr Yonus Ali put up barricades on Sadullapur-Madeganj road for two hours yesterday demanding alliance ticket for him from Gaibandha-3 constituency.

His supporters became agitated when a news spread in the area that the AL-led grand alliance is nominating Jatiya party candidate from the constituency in coming election.

Earlier on the day, Yunus loyalists also held a protest meeting on Sadullapur-Shaheed Miner premise.

Presided over by Rezaul Karim Sarker, vice-president Sadullapur AL, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Shahrier Khan Biplob, Nagorik Committee leader ABM Hannan Madol Pintu, Naldanga Union Parishad chairman Ismail Hossain and local JSD leader Anser Ali.

Dr TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury of JP won the seat in 2001 election defeating Dr Yonus Ali by a narrow margin.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP activists and supporters loyal to Sheikh Mojibur Rahman Iqbal barricaded the Dhaka-Kishoreganj rail track near Sorarchar railway station yesterday demanding nomination for him from Kishoreganj-6 constituency in coming election.

Shun politics of confrontation

Roundtable in Satkhira told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday urged leaders of all political parties to shun 'politics of confrontation', saying this will plunge the country into violence and soil the polls atmosphere.

They urged the parties to arrive at a consensus to hold the election and carry forward the democratic process for development of the country.

The roundtable organised by two local dailies- Patradut and Dristipatwas held with assistance from the European Commission under a civic awareness program taken up by two local NGOs Uttaran and Progoti.

The Patradut Executive Editor Abul Kalam Azad moderated the discussion, held at the Officer's Club in the town.

It was addressed by, among

others, nomination aspirants district Awami League (AL) president Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ghosh Sanat Kumar and former lawmaker BM Nazrul Islam of AL; former MP Habibur Islam Habib of BNP, advocate Mostafa Lutfullah and Union Parishad chairman Pranab Ghosh Bablu of Workers Party; Hossain Ali of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Abul Kalam Azad of Jatiya Party (JP), Dristipat Editor Nur Islam, Master Abdur Rouf, Zillur Rahman and Abul Kashem.

They also called upon the parties to nominate honest and efficient candidates in the coming election for development of the country as to institutionalise democracy.

Nominating 'clean' candidates has become a demand of the

people, they said.

Transparency and accountability of the member of the parliament will have to be ensured for the sake of fulfilling people's aspirations, they added.

There is no alternative to continuation of political government. For that politicians should evolve a way for peaceful co-existence, they said.

They alleged that non-political people and black money holders are now controlling politics, sidelining devoted politicians as money plays an important role in politics. Corruption is increasing in fields due to this. This must change, they said.

Demanding compulsory registration of political parties, they said this is vital for ensuring a fair political process, free from corruption.

More 56 submit nomination papers in 10 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Fifty-six candidates filed nomination papers in five districts in Barisal division and in Tangail, Sirajganj, Pabna and Dinajpur districts till yesterday to contest the coming parliamentary election.

Most of them are leaders of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, our correspondents reported.

Barisal
More 17 candidates submitted nomination papers yesterday and the day before to contest from 11 constituencies of Barisal division, raising the total to 25, according to sources at Barisal divisional election office.

They include leaders of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and independent aspirants.

Former BNP lawmaker Mosharraf Hossain Mongu and central BNP leader advocate Joydul Abedin submitted nomination papers to the Returning Officer (UNO) in Muladi to contest from Barisal-3 (Hizla-Muladi) constituency.

Former state minister and BNP leader Shah Muhammad Abul Hossain submitted nomination to contest from Barisal-4 (Mehendiganj).

Others who submitted nomination papers yesterday and the day before are Sarfuddin Ahmed Santu and Barister Albert Baroi for Barisal-2 (Uzirpur-Babuganj); former BNP lawmaker Abul Hossain Khan for Barisal-6 (Bakerganj); AKM Rezaul Rahman of BNP for Pirojpur-3 (Kawkhali-Bhandaria); LDP leader Ruhul Amin for Pirojpur-1 (Pirojpur-Nazirpur); Jubo Dal leader Shahed Akon Samrat for Banaripara-Swarupkati (JS seat-132); former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim and party leaders Abul Bashir Md. Nurul Huq and Abdur Rashid for Bhola-2 (Bohanuddin-Daulatkhan); BJP chief Nazir Rahman Monju's son Andalib Rahman Partha and former BNP lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam for Bhola-4 (Charfession-Monpura); Nazir Rahman Monju, former BNP lawmaker and minister Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and Abul Bashir for Bhola-1 Bhola (Sadar); Barguna district BNP organising secretary Nazrul Islam Khan for Barguna-1 (Sadar), advocate Haider Ali Khan of Jamate Islami for Jhalakati-2 (Sadar-Nalchhity); Ruhul Amin of LDP for Pirojpur-1 (Pirojpur-Nazirpur); Hemayet Hossain Haider for Pirojpur-3 (Mathbabria).

Tangail
Fourteen persons including three ministers of BNP-Jamaat government submitted nomination papers in Tangail district till yesterday.

Three former ministers Shajahan Siraj, Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, and Abdus Salam Pintu submitted their nomination

papers from Tangail-4 (Kalihati), Tangail-3 (Ghatail), and Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhuapur) respectively.

They submitted nomination papers to local election offices, according to sources at Tangail election official yesterday.

Besides, BNP leaders Fakir Mahub Anam Swapan, Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui, and Ahmed Azam Khan submitted nomination papers from

Tangail-1 (Madhupur-Dhanbari), Tangail-7 (Mirzapur) and Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) constituencies respectively.

Eight others also submitted nomination papers as independent candidates or candidates of other parties.

The independent candidates are Nasir Uddin, Ismail Hossen, Syed Khaled Mostofa, Shahidur Rahman Khosnobia, Syed Mozibor Rahman and Abul Kashem from Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhuapur), Tangail-4 (Kalihati), Tangail-5 (Sadar-Delduar), Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur), and Tangail-7 (Mirzapur) respectively.

Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) leader Fazlul Haque and Bangladesh Progressive Party (BPP) leader Dr Mohammad Molasim Billah submitted nomination papers from Tangail-6 (Nagarpur) and Tangail-5 (Sadar-Delduar) respectively.

Sirajganj
Six persons submitted nomination papers yesterday to run in the polls battle in seven constituencies in Sirajganj. One of them is a BNP leader and the rest belong to Jamaat.

Immediate past BNP lawmaker Maj. (ret) Monjur Kader submitted his nomination paper Sirajganj-6 constituency (Chowhali-Shahzadpur). Jamaat leader Meer Nadim Mohammad also submitted nomination paper from the same constituency to contest as an independent candidate.

Two Jamaat leaders—Abdul Latif and Aminul Islam have submitted nomination papers from Sirajganj-2 (Sirajganj Sadar). The other Jamaat leaders to be in the polls race are advocate Hafijur Rahman in Sirajganj-3 (Raiganj-Tarash), Dhaka city Jamaat Ameer Rafikul Islam in Sirajganj-4 (Ullapara) and Sirajganj district Jamaat leader Ali Alom in Sirajganj-5 constituency (Belkuchi-Kamarkhanda).

Pabna
Two Jamaat men and a BNP leader have submitted nomination papers to contest from Pabna-1, Pabna-2 and Pabna-5 constituencies, according to sources at Pabna election office.

Jamaat Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami and party central leader Abdus Subhan have submitted nomination papers from Pabna-1 (Santhia upazila) and Pabna-5 (Sadar upazila) as candidates of

four-party alliance. Local Jamaat leaders submitted the nomination papers on their behalf, the sources said.

Former lawmaker and BNP leader Salim Reza Habib has submitted nomination paper from Pabna-2 (Sijanagar upazila).

Three other BNP leaders have purchased nomination paper for Pabna-2 and they will submit those soon, party sources claimed but declined to disclose their names.

Dinajpur
Seven Jamaat and BNP leaders have submitted nomination papers to contest from five constituencies in Dinajpur district.

They are Jamaat leaders Aftabuddin Molla and Yakub Ali from Dinajpur-1; former army chief Mahubur Rahman of BNP from Dinajpur-2; Tamijuddin Ahmed of Jamaat from Dinajpur-3; Aftabuddin Molla of Jamaat and Akhtaruzzaman Mian of BNP from Dinajpur-4 and BNP leader AZM Rezwanul Haque from Dinajpur-5. Jamaat leaders Aftabuddin Molla submitted nomination papers from Dinajpur-1 and Dinajpur-4 constituencies. Two Jamaat leaders have filed nomination papers from Dinajpur-1 constituency.



PHOTO: STAR

Three suspected Islamist militants belonging to Hijbut Touhid were arrested in Pahchagarh yesterday.

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