

JP's joining 'grand alliance' deepens rivalry for ticket

Two contenders declare each other 'unwanted' in Nilphamari-2 constituency

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Two renegades, who joined Jatiya Party (JP) leaving BNP and Awami League earlier, are now engaged in mudslinging over nomination from Nilphamari-2 constituency.

Jatiya Party's electoral alliance with 14-party has intensified their rivalry as the contender who was earlier associated with Awami League could influence both AL and JP high-ups to get the ticket, his rivals claim.

Ahsan Ahmed, now JP central vice-president, joined the party in 1996 leaving the post of Nilphamari district BNP president. His contender Joinal Abedin deserted the post of district Awami League secretary and joined JP in 2001 as its central assistant secretary.

They are now abusing each other at public meetings while their supporters declared each other 'unwanted' in the constituency.

Ahsan Ahmed staged a big show of strength and held a rally on the Shaheed Minar premises yesterday, where he called Joinal Abedin a 'traitor'.

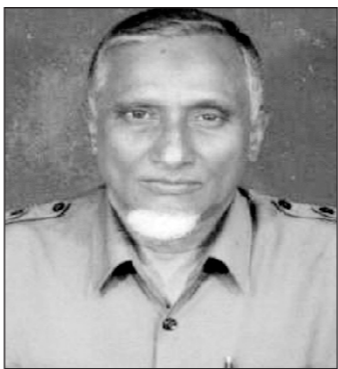
He said that in 1996 he (Ahsan Ahmed) was elected MP with JP



Ahsan Ahmed



Joinal Abedin



Abdus Sattar

ticket but Joinal Abedin snatched his candidature in 2001 after he (Joinal Abedin) joined JP leaving Awami League.

"But he (Joinal Abedin) got a shameful defeat (in 2001 polls) with a big margin of about 30,000 votes with Awami League candidate and ran third", Ahsan told the rally.

"Joinal Abedin has been rejected by people. He was also expelled from Awami League as he betrayed with the party", Ahsan said. Awami League would never influence JP in giving him nomination, Ahsan claimed.

Ahsan also claimed that only he can snatch victory in the coming election as JP candidate.

At the rally, Ahsan's supporters declared Joinal 'unwanted' in their Ramnagar Haat and Tumapari

Haat strongholds. The markets are prime spots in the constituency for campaigning.

The faction led by Joinal Abedin got a big boost after Ershad joined the AL-led 'grand alliance'. His loyalists say the situation is more favourable now for them as they would feel comfortable to campaign for him among his former party men.

Joinal Abedin at a party meeting at district JP office on Tuesday last alleged that Ahsan Ahmed is 'BNP's planted man in JP' and he is 'soft to 4-party alliance'.

He also claimed that Ahsan has 'secret understanding with BNP and Jamaat'.

He claimed that in the present situation Ahsan Ahmed has no right to claim nomination from Nilphamari-2 constituency as a JP

Hartal enforced in Kishoreganj for BNP ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A BRTC bus was damaged and three pickets were arrested during a half-day hartal called in Kishoreganj -3 (Sadar) constituency yesterday by followers of a disgruntled BNP nomination seeker.

Being angered at the news that former judge Rejaul Karim Khan Chunnun is getting nomination, supporters of his rival Salauddin Ahmed Selu called the hartal.

They damaged the BRTC bus on Kishoreganj-Dhaka highway at Rashidabad. Two picketers were held from the BRTC bus stoppage and another from Sadullar Chr, police and locals said.

Vehicles on streets were lesser than usual and most business establishments remained closed in Kishoreganj town during the hartal hours.

While contacted Selu said, BNP men will accept any candidate but Chunnun in the constituency. "He is corrupt and black money holder", Selu claimed.

Chunnun joined BNP in presence of party chief Khaleda Zia at a function at Kishoreganj town on October 7. His joining was opposed by other nomination seekers, who organised demonstrations protesting his joining BNP.

In 2001 and 1996 elections, Awami League candidate Sayeed Ashraf Islam defeated BNP's Marud Helali in Kishoreganj-3.

Seven BNP ticket seekers are in the field. Among them former BNP lawmakewr MP Aabdur Rahman Khan and municipal chairman Abu Taher Mia submitted nomination forms to returning officers in Kishoreganj.

PROF YUNUS MURDER AT RU Charge sheet not given in 2 years

RU CORRESPONDENT

The second anniversary of murder of Rajshahi University teacher Prof. Muhammad Yunus will be observed today but the charge sheet of the case is yet to be submitted.

Economics teacher Prof Yunus was killed this day in 2004. He was also president of RU unit of Bangabandhu Parisad.

Submission of the charge sheet is awaiting approval of home ministry's Monitoring Cell, sources said.

To mark the day, RU Bangabandhu Parisad, Progressive Teacher's Society and Economics department have chalked up programmes but the university administration, like the previous year, is yet to plan any programme, sources said.

Prof Yunus was brutally killed by unidentified terrorists on December 24 in 2004 when he was on a morning walk at Binodpur near his university campus residence.

His brother Abdul Halim filed a case with Mother police without mentioning name of any killer.

Police arrested eight persons including Saleem Chhatra Shibir cadres Salekin, Jafar Babu, Mizanur, Jilur and Manirul for their alleged involvement in the killing.

The trial slowed down and took a new dimension when outlawed Jamaatul Mujaddideen Bangladesh's top leaders Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai confessed that JMB men assassinated Prof Yunus.

The arrested eight persons were released on bail, police said. Later, as per directives of home ministry, seven JMB cadres including Borna Matin, Kashem, Golam Mostafa, Shafiulla and Ibrahim were named in the case, police sources said.

After two years of the killing, police and yet to submit the charge



sheet only on political grounds. Yunus colleagues alleged while talking to this correspondent.

Several months back, investigation officers told newsmen that they submitted the charge sheet to home ministry's monitoring cell and were awaiting its green signal to place it before court.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official in Rajshahi Helal Uddin told newsmen that investigation of the case was completed earlier.

"We will submit it to court after getting directives from higher authorities", he said.

The only so of Prof. Yunus, now a teacher at Rajshahi University Dramatics and Music Department, expressed grave concern and anguish as killers of his father is yet to be tried.

RU Bangabandhu Parisad will place floral wreaths on the grave of Yunus, bring out a mourning procession on the campus and will hold a prayer for salvation of the departed soul.

Teachers and students of economics department and Progressive Teachers' Society (PTS) also will bring out a mourning processions on the campus. PTS will also hold a discussion meeting at the Senate building.

Besides, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Progressive Students' Alliance have also taken up programmes for punishment of killers.

2 BNP, BJP leaders declared 'unwanted'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BNP organising secretary Principal Abdur Rashid Khan and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) leader Nazir Rahman Manjur, also a partner of Four-party Alliance, were declared 'unwanted' on Friday.

BNP organising secretary and former lawmaker Abdur Rashid Khan was declared 'unwanted' in Barisal city and Bakerganj town for alleged anti-party activities and working against Abul Hossain Khan who got the official party nomination for contesting from Barisal-6 constituency (Bakerganj upazila) in the upcoming polls.

The meeting was held in front of Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall here jointly organised by Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal Friday night to welcome BNP chairperson Begum Zia's decision to contest in election from Barisal-5 (Barisal Sadar) constituency.

While announcing the decision, district Jubo Dal secretary Parvez Akon Biplab alleged that Abdur Rashid brought out processions and called strike in Bakerganj town after the official party nomination of Abul Hossain to contest from the same constituency.

District joint secretary Hafiz Ahmed Bablu, city JCD president Masihul Alam Sentu, district Jubo Dal secretary Shahed Akon Samrat and other party leaders addressed the meeting.

Speakers blamed Rashid for terming BNP as a party of corrupt persons and looters.

Former state minister for religious affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shajahan who got the official nomination for contesting as an Alliance candidate from Bhola-1 constituency (Bhola Sadar) declared BJP chairman Nazir Rahman Manjur 'unwanted' in Bhola.

He declared Manjur unwanted at a meeting held at Bhola on Friday.

BNP activists vowed to prevent entry of Manjur in the constituency for the next three months.

1X2

NOMINATION FROM KHULNA-2 En-masse resignation threatened if Manju given BNP nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of a faction of Khulna BNP yesterday threatened to 'paralyse' the city if their leader Ali Asgar Lobi is not given nomination from Khulna-2 (Sadar and Sonadanga) in the coming election.

Lobi's rival in the party Nazrul Islam Manju is also seeking 4-party alliance ticket from the constituency.

The threat by Lobi loyalists was made at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club. They said they will go for tougher programmes including hartal if their demand is not met by tonight (Saturday night).

Addressing the press conference, member-Secretary of Khulna city BNP convening committee Shahraruzzaman Martuza branded Nazrul Islam Manju as a 'notorious godfather' of armed cadres of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and drug traffickers.

Besides, Manju is an agent of Awami League hiding in BNP, Martuza said criticising BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuyan for 'playing double standard' in giving nominations.

Shahraruzzaman Martuza, who is also president of Khulna Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, also threatened to resign from BNP along with 16 ward commissioners and hundreds of leaders and activists of BNP and all its front organizations if the decision to nominate a 'godfather of extremists' from Khulna-2 is not withdrawn.

"It is Mannan Bhuiyan, not Begum Khaleda Zia, who is sabotaging BNP by trading on nomination issues", Martuza said.

"We will be compelled to go for stern action if a famous politician like Lobi is disgraced in such a dirty manner", said the BNP leader, warning Manju not to launch polls campaign in Khulna-2 constituency.

The press conference was also attended by five ward commissioners and eleven leaders of BNP and Jubo Dal loyal to Ali Asgar Lobi.

Convenor of city BNP and former lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi was not present in the press conference.

On Friday, he released advertisements in local newspapers admitting to his failure to get nomination from Khulna-2 from where he was elected unopposed in 2001 bye-election.

Martuza filed nomination paper in favour of Lobi as candidate of four-party alliance from Khulna-2 constituency yesterday.



Quami Jute Mills workers and employees brought out a stick procession in Sirajganj town and held a rally yesterday for payment of arrear salaries and Eid bonus.

Zainul's birth anniversary today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The 92nd birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin will be observed here today.

Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (Art gallery) has chalked out a two-day programme on the occasion.

The programmes include painting competition for school children, discussion, cultural function and prize giving ceremony.

The painting competition will be held tomorrow while a discussion on life and works of Shilpacharya will be held on December 29.

Mymensingh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md. Shamsul Alam will chair the occasion.

Director General of National Museum Kazi Akhtar Hossain will attend the discussion as chief guest while Joint Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry Suhraya Begum, Chief Executive of Zila Parishad Abul Kasem, Police Superintendent Aurangajeb Mahbub will attend the discussion as special guests.

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