

Outsider JP bigwigs eye alliance ticket in greater Rangpur

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

As Jatiya Party's joining the ruling alliance is becoming a reality, some central JP leaders having little chance to win election in their constituencies in other districts are trying to get alliance tickets in greater Rangpur, known as a stronghold of the party.

But local leaders in greater Rangpur have strong objection to nomination to 'outsider candidates'.

Taking to this correspondent, central JP vice-president Ahsan Ahmed said the JP chairman 'must select local leaders for alliance nomination because voters in greater Rangpur would not accept the outsider candidates'. HE is a JP leader from Nilphamari sadar upazila (Nilphamari-2 constituency).

Seeking anonymity, some front ranking JP leaders in Nilphamari Sadar said some party heavy-

weights from outside greater Rangpur are now contacting them and taking about nomination and election. They declined to be identified while taking about party seniors but said the party should select local candidates for the coming polls.

Alongside lobbying for nomination, some central JP leaders have started pre-polls campaign in greater Rangpur.

Central JP secretary general Ruhul Amin Hawladar visited some remote areas in Lalmonirhat district and met party activists and the elite, keeping in mind the coming parliamentary election, party sources said. He made the visit on his own although there was no party programme there.

During the visits he addressed public rallies in remote Patgram and Hatibandha upazilas (Lalmonirha-1), urging people to vote for JP in the coming election,

whoever might be the candidate 'to honour Ershad, a man from Rangpur'.

His visit gave rise to speculations and confusion about his hidden intention. Questions were raised why he came to the remote area without addressing rallies or holding party programmes at Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and other district headquarters.

Asked about this, JP central vice-president NK Alam could not give any satisfactory reply. But he did not rule out the possibility of Howladar running from the area (Potgram and Hatibandha).

Hawladar lost parliament elections in 1991, 1996 and 2001. In 2001 election, he fought from Bakherganj-6 constituency and lost to BNP candidate with a big margin. He also lost his security money.

In 1996 election, he got only 5,332 votes against 66,000 score by Awami League's Shajhan Mia in

Patuakhali-1 constituency. He lost his security money there also.

Like Hawladar, JP top leaders Mostofa Jamal Haider, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Firoj Rashid Chowdhury also could not win any of the last three parliament elections from their respective areas.

Former JP chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and former secretary general Shah Moazzem Hossen however won bye-elections in Rangpur in 1991. They ran in two seats out of four seats vacated by Ershad, who won in five seats there.

But local people wee not happy with them (Mizan Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem) because after winning the by-election, they never visited the areas, party sources said.

JP chairman HM Ershad was also unhappy with them as they did not press for his release from jail.

RIVALRY OVER NOMINATION BNP MP declared 'unwanted' in Matlab

A CORRESPONDENT, Chndpur

Ruling BNP lawmaker and former state minister for establishment Nurul Huda (MP from Chandpur-II constituency) has been declared unwanted in Matlab North upazila municipal area.

The declaration was made at an opinion exchange meeting held at Chhengarchar College auditorium Thursday evening.

Chhengarchar Paura Chairman Amena Begum presided over he meting, attended by industrialist and nomination seeker from Chandpur-II constituency (Matlab North) Feroze Ahmed as chief guest.

BNP leaders ABM Moinuddin (Tunu Haji), Nurul Hoque, Jahangir Alam Prodhan, Nannu Mia Prodhan, Ehsin Molla, Rehan Mahmud and Motlab JCD president Nazmul Huda Dollar spoke at the meeting, among others.

They brought allegations of corruption against Nurul Huda.

They termed Huda as 'a seasonal bird'. Representatives from about 40 villages attended the meeting, the organisers claimed.

The speakers said they would not allow Nurul Huda to hold any meeting in the area, they claimed.

When contacted Nurul Huda MP said people of all walks of life in Matlab North upazila will reject those who declared me unwanted in the area.

Some people want to create trouble before the election as they did in the past.



A mourning procession by Awami League in Khulna city yesterday marking the third death anniversary of party leader Manjurul Islam.

Practising political nicety

7 BNP leaders in Patuakhali sign 6-pt 'code of conduct'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Seven leaders of ruling BNP in Patuakhali have started showing nicety in politic, at least within the party.

They have signed a six-point 'code of conduct' on political activities before and during the coming election in their area.

The seven leaders in a joint statement said all of them would seek nomination for contesting in Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina) constituency but would work together for the party nominee, whoever he might be.

The six-point agreement is: Nobody would make adverse propaganda against any one, every body would do mass contact in his area but all would be present in any party meeting or programme, all

would be invited and attend any programme of the party and its front organisation, any local or central leader could sponsor any political programme under the party banner, once the nomination is announced, all would work together for the party nominee and finally, any body violating the agreement could be recommended for expulsion from the party.

The seven leaders are Shahjahan Khan, vice-president of Patuakhali district BNP and president of party's Galachipa upazila unit, central assistant finance secretary of Krishak Dal industrialist Golam Mostafa, Jatiyatabadi Aynijibi Forum central joint secretary Shah Alom Bhuayan, central law affairs secretary of Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal Md Afzal Hossain, central joint secretary of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal Harun-or-Rashid

and businessman Golam Mostafa.

Shahjahan Khan was defeated by Awami League candidate AKM Jahangir Hossain in 2001 election with 12,758 votes. Jahangir Hossain, a former state minister, had also won from the constituency in 1991 and 1996 elections. AL also bagged the seat in 1973 election.

BNP won the polls from the constituency in 1979 and in the February 15 election in 1996, which was rejected by all other political parties.

The agreement was signed at a meeting in Dhaka recently, a copy of which was made available to local journalists.

Some of the leaders later talked to journalists. They said they would abide by the agreement and work together for the party nominee.

Zia Fertiliser resumes production

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Ashuganj Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFCL) resumed urea production yesterday after 45 days' closure due to mechanical fault.

According to ZFCL sources, the authorities stopped operation of the factory on July 10 for overhauling, which was supposed to be completed by 35 days. The factory was supposed to be ready for production on August 14.

ZFCL General Manager Md Ali Akbar, said the overhauling was completed in time (35 days) at a cost of Tk six crore. Some minor faults were detected in the 'alternator' of the electricity generating unit and in some other old equipment. The faults were removed and the factory resumed production yesterday, he added.

The ZFCL has a production target of 4,50,000 tonnes of urea during the current financial year. It has already suffered a production loss of 60,000 tonnes due to the closure.

'Illegal' leasing of lawyer's house in Sylhet protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet unit of Arpita Sampatty Protirodh Andolan, a body to resist Vested Property Act, will hold a rally at the city's court point today to protest the 'illegal leasing' of paternal property of a senior lawyer by declaring it a vested property.

The district officials recently leased the ancestral house of senior lawyer Dhrubo Jyoti Shyam on 43 decimal land in Kashtoghar area in the city to two persons showing it a vested property.

The incident triggered widespread protest by different quarters. Leaders of different organizations through statements protested the leasing.

The Arpita Sampatty Protirodh Andolan held a rally in the city on Thursday where today's programme was announced. Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, who is also convener of the body will

chair Friday's rally.

Lawyers in the city took out a procession and held a rally at the district bar library hall on Thursday protesting the leasing. They also boycotted magistrate courts as well as those of the district magistrate and the additional district magistrate.

They are demanding withdrawal of the Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) and the superintendent of the Vested Property Section.

President of Sylhet Bar Association Dewan Golam Rabbani Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that the district administration officials had did it with an ulterior motive.

"If needed, we will go for tougher agitation", he said.

However, the Deputy Commissioner assured of taking steps against the persons concerned who leased the land, sources said.

'Enact law to protect indigenous culture'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Speakers at a discussion held here yesterday urged the government to enact law for preservation of language and culture of indigenous people.

Held at the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) auditorium, the discussion titled, 'Role of Journalists in Raising Voice of Indigenous People' was organised by the Centre for Community Development (CCD), a national NGO.

Speakers urged the government for constitutional rights of indigenous people. They said 30 lakh indigenous people of the country are subjected to repression and oppression because of lack of their constitutional rights. They blamed the government for showing indifference to their issues.

Truckers' strike for withdrawal of check post

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Truckers in Cox's Bazar yesterday called an indefinite transport strike from today on Teknaf route, demanding withdraw Balo Khali customs check post on the road.

On August 24, customs officials seized four trackloads of goods smuggled from Myanmar worth about Tk one core at Balo Khali check post.



Awami League brought out a procession in Jessore town yesterday protesting an attempt on life of party leader Khaledur Rahman Tito on Thursday.

'Cancel Phulbari coal mine project'

Asia Energy office to be besieged today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port will lay siege to the Asia Energy Corporation Office at Phulbari here today.

Committee leader Prof Anu Muhammad announced this at a press conference held at Dinajpur Press Club yesterday afternoon. Other members of the committee were also present.

A protest meeting will be held after the siege programme..

While announcing the programme, the press conference demanded of government to cancel the Phulbari Coal Mine Project. It alleged that the 4-party Alliance

Government is serving the interest of foreign country and working against people's interest. Some ministers and government officials would derive benefit from the project, it said. The proposed project will only destroy natural resources, it further said.

Meanwhile, tension mounted at Phulbari over the programme. A large number of police has been deployed in the area to resist any possible untoward incident.

However, Anu Muhammad said their programme will be peaceful.

People of the coal mine area earlier held several demonstrations protesting the open pit mining planned by the Asia Energy.



Prominent litterateur Hasan Azizul Huq addressing a meeting held at Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club in memory of poet Shamsur Rahman yesterday.

Mudslinging by Netrakona BNP leaders over ticket

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

The intra-party rift in Netakona BNP has widened over nomination in Netrakona-3 constituency (Atpara and Barhatta) in the coming parliamentary election.

The party is divided into to factions, one led by lawmaker Begum Khadija Amin and another by central Juba Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Hilali. Both are seeking nomination and are now engaged in mudslinging on each other.

They are holding workers meetings and public rallies to show their strength and are lobbying with party high-ups, sources said.

At several public meetings recently, Rafiqul Islam Hilali bitterly criticised Khadija Amin saying, "The four-party alliance will lose the seat to the 14 party opposition if Khadija Amin is nominated because she has become became unpopular for her inefficiency and ill treatment with people and party men". He also claimed that she could not do any development work in Atpara and Kendua

upazilas during her tenure.

"I believe the party high command will not nominate Khadija Amin as alliance candidate in the coming election", he said while talking to this correspondent.

"I got hint from our party chairman about getting nomination", he said. "If Khadija gets nomination, I and my followers will not support

ing Awami League candidate M Jubed Ali. She got 95,251 votes against 69,966 of Jubed Ali. The by-election was held following the death of her husband BNP lawmaker Nurul Amin Talukder.

BNP sources said Khadija and Rafiqul Islam are political foes for long. The feud intensified after Kendua upazila BNP committee was dissolved on June 27, by Netrakona district BNP president MA Karim Abbasi MP, in which she was allegedly involved, party sources said.

Rafiqul Islam Hilali, Netrakona district BNP secretary Mahfuzul Haque and organizing secretary Nazrul Islam Khan did not attend the party council in which the Kendua committee was dissolved.

Soon after dissolution of the Kendua committee, Khadija's rivals brought out a procession in Kendua town protesting it. On the next day (June 28), several thousand party activists from Kendua and Atpara upazila brought out a procession in Netrakona under the leadership of Hilali.



Khadija Amin MP



Rafiqul Islam Hilali

6X2

8X3