

# 3,000 BNP men to join LDP in Netrakona

## Renegade BNP leader and former MP Karim Abbasi tells The Daily Star

JAHANGIR ALAM, Natrakona



Karim Abbasi

About 3000 BNP leaders and activists in Netrakona district will join the newly formed Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by dissident BNP leaders Prof Badruzza Chowhury and Col. (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, renegade party leader and former lawmaker MA Karim Abbasi told this correspondent yesterday.

Abbasi, who was president of Netrakona BNP and a party Whip in the Jatiya Sangsad, joined LDP recently.

Abbasi claimed that the BNP leaders and activists will to leave the party and join LDP because of frustration and alleged corruption by men of former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babor.

Many dedicated BNP leaders in Netrakona are frustrated as they were ignored and elbowed aside by those who joined the party from Jatiya Party (Ershad), Abbasi alleged.

Those who will join LDP will include a senior vice-president and a former general secretary of

but said they will join LDP within a week.

It is yet to be decided where and how they will join the new party, he said.

Abbasi said that in last five years, newcomers in BNP from Jatiya Party came to leadership at different upazilas. They earned huge amounts of money through corruption under the protection of some influential BNP leaders, he alleged.

Abbasi also alleged that after he joined LDP, BNP activists attacked houses and business centres of his followers in different upazilas. About 200 houses and business centers of his followers were attacked in which at least 50 people were injured in different areas of the district, he claimed.

This correspondent also talked to some followers of Abbasi who have decided to join LDP. Seeking anonymity, they said, after joining LDP, they will form a district convening committee of the party but declined to speculate on who would be the convener.

Abbasi and some of his follow-

ers also brought allegations of corruption by men of Babar.

Babar's men took graft from people in recruitment in police department. A APS of the former state minister and a district BNP leader realised money from job seekers for recruitment in police department, they claimed.

Besides, corruption by a section of local BNP leaders in implementing development projects defamed the party and frustrated dedicated leaders and workers, they claimed.

Some families of a minority community were also harassed and repressed by some BNP men in Mada, Mohongonj and Khalajuri upazilas during last five years but they did not get justice and proper act in by law enforcers, they claimed. Many minority family left their native villages and took shelter in others upazilas, they said.

This correspondent repeatedly tried to contact Lutfuzzaman Babor on cell phone but his aide (former APS) said he would not talk to any newsman now.

## Milon's 'threat' to newsman protested

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Local journalists yesterday brought out a procession in the town protesting alleged death threat given to Chandpur Press Club secretary Ikram Chowdhury by cell phone by former state minister for education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon on Sunday.

The procession was brought out under the joint banner of Chandpur Press Club and Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity.

Protestionists, carrying banners, paraded the streets of the town and chanted slogans against Milon. They submitted a memorandum to president and chief adviser through Chandpur Deputy Commissioner (DC) at about 11:30 am.

Later, a protest meeting was held at Chandpur Press Club auditorium with club president Advocate Iqbalbin-Bashar in the chair.

Speakers asked Milon to apologise, otherwise they threatened a tougher agitation shortly.

Among others, Ikram Chowdhury, Iqbal Hossain Patwary and Delwar Ahmed addressed.

## IU reopens today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Islamic University (IU) will reopen today after a 24-day Ramadan vacation since October 18.

The university was scheduled to reopen on November 2. Following abnormal political situation across the country, the vacation was extended till November 10.

Earlier, a deadlock was created at the university on May 20. The then vice-chancellor (VC) Rafiqul Islam left the campus in face of agitation of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). He declined to employ at least 500 BNP men in university jobs as desired by JCD.

Two former VCs gave mass appointment to 336 BNP and Jamaat leaders and activists in the university.

## 'Implement CHT peace accord for peace in hills'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS) and its front organisations observed the 23rd death anniversary of Manobendra Narayan Larma, founder of PCJSS, in Khagrachhari and Ranganati hill districts.

Speakers at a discussion meeting in Khagrachhari called for full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord to establish rights of indigenous people and lasting peace and security in the hills, our correspondent reported.

The then Awami league government signed the accord with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity (PCJSS) in 1997.

In Rangamati, the death anniversary of Manobendra Larma was observed through various programmes by PCJSS and its front organisations Paharee Chhatra Parishad, Hill Women Federation and CHT Mohila Samity, our correspondent reported.

A rally was held at the district town. It was addressed by PCJSS leaders Satyabir Dewan and Mithura Lal Chakma, communist leader Dilip Dev and writer Biro Kumar Tangchangya.

## Tortured domestic help dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A domestic help who sustained serious burn injuries following inhuman torture by her house owners died at a hospital here yesterday after fighting for life for the last four days.

Rupa, 11, a domestic help and daughter of Omar Ali of Jamalpur, died at Aveceena hospital yesterday evening after fighting for life since Tuesday. She sustained severe burn injuries on various parts of her body when her masters threw hot water on her body.

Rupa was working as a domestic help of Jakir Hossain, a T & T engineer and his wife Nasrin Shultana Shaz at their Banani staff quarters house in Dhaka for the last two years, police said.

Police arrested Jahanara Siddique, mother of Shaz from the hospital for interrogation.

## PBCP leader held in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police have arrested a top leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Red Flag) from Hugra in Sadar upazila Thursday midnight.

Acting on tip-off, a team of Tangail Sadar police raided a house in Kashinagar village in the shoal area and arrested Omar Ali, police said yesterday.

Omar Ali, who faces 10 criminal cases including seven for murders, was absconding for long. The cases were filed with different police stations in the district, police said.

# Chief advisor, CEC acting as 'puppets' of BNP-Jamaat

## Former deputy speaker Hamid tells Kishoreganj public meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Awami League leader and former deputy speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid yesterday claimed that the BNP-Jamaat alliance wants to hold a farcical election like the February 15 polls in 1996 to go back to power.

The Chief Advisor of the caretaker government and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) are working as 'puppets' of the alliance to bring it to power through an 'election engineering', he told at public meeting in Kishoreganj town.

The former deputy speaker warned that efforts to materialise the plan will only trigger a political turmoil in the country, for which, the

Chief Advisor will be solely responsible.

Hamid said there will not be any election keeping MA Aziz as the CEC.

He urged the president and chief advisor to accept 14-party alliance's 11-point demand to hold a free, fair and credible election. A countrywide blockade will begin from tomorrow if the demands are not met, he said.

The chief advisor was given enough time to accept the demands and prove his neutrality but he is acting on advice of the BNP-Jamaat alliance, Hamid claimed.

He is wasting time as was done by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the name of dialogue with Awami League secretary

Abdul Jalil, he said.

The former deputy speaker advised BNP not to forget that it wanted to retain power by holding a farcical election in 1996 but was dislodged by the people.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance wants to hold such an election as its leaders know they will not be voted due to their alleged misdeeds and corruption, price hike of essentials and failure in all sectors including power.

District NAP leader Moza-mmel Haque Khan Ratan presided over the meeting addressed by former AL lawmaker and a deputy minister Sayeed Ashrafur Islam, Ganatantrai Party secretary Bhopendra Bhoumik and district AL joint secretary MA Afzal.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad formed a human chain in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday protesting arrest of women leaders in Dhaka and demanding steps for holding a free and fair election.

# RU vacation extended again 'to complete illegal recruitment'

## 'Progressive' teachers to start agitation today for VC's resignation

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University authorities extended the Eid vacation for the second time yesterday.

The university was scheduled to reopen today. It will now reopen on November 25.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the university Syndicate, held at the Vice Chancellor's office with VC Prof Altaf Hossain in the chair, campus sources said.

However forms for first year admission test would be distributed

and accepted by the RU office during the vacation. Admission test will begin on December 4, the sources said.

The university authorities did not mention any reason behind the extension but campus sources claimed that they have a plan to

complete the process of recruitment of around 50 teachers and over 600 officials and employees during the vacation so that sections of teachers and students can not protest and foil the move.

The fresh extension of vacation was protested by pro-Awami League teachers grouped under the banner of Progressive Teachers Society (PTS). Sources in PYS said yesterday they will begin agitation today with a three-hour sit-in in front of Senate building for removal of the VC and cancellation of the 'mass recruitment'. The agitation will continue till the VC's resignation, they said.

All the 15 residential halls of the university will remain open during the vacation. The authorities took the decision ignoring suggestion by some Syndicate members, the sources said, adding, this will give Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres to keep the dormitories under their 'occupation'.

Talking to newsmen, RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam did not explain the reason behind the extension of vacation. He said the political unrest in the country is not conducive for reopening of the university.

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5X3

7.5X4

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