

Jamalpur BNP bigwigs may join LDP with followers

Renegades to include a former minister and a former lawmaker, sources in the parties claim

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Over 4,000 BNP leaders and activists including a former minister and a lawmaker from Jamalpur may join the newly formed Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by dissident BNP leaders Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, sources in BNP and LDP said.

The political scenario in Jamalpur started changing after former state minister for power Maj Gen (Rtd) Anwarul Kabir Talukdar joined LDP. Before joining LDP, he held meetings with his followers in his Sarishabari constituency and in other areas in Jamalpur. The meeting in Sarishabari was held a day before the Eid-ul-Fitre, the sources said.

Talukder has a large number of party followers in the district and his image has been enhanced after he joined LDP, they claimed.

On the other hand, intra-party feud in Jamalpur BNP intensified after Talukdar held a press conference in Dhaka recently under the banner of LDP where he disclosed irregularities in power sector during BNP-led alliance government.

Meanwhile, at least 2,000 leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations in Bakshiganj and Sarishabari upazilas led by former lawmaker from Bakshiganj Ashraf Hossain and Jubo Dal leader Azizul Kabir Talukder, younger brother of former state minister Anwarul Kabir Talukder, have completed preparations to join LDP, local LDP sources claimed. Azizul Kabir Talukder is president of Sarishabai upazila Jubo Dal Talukder, Former lawmaker from Islampur constituency Sultan Mohammad Babu may join LDP along with a large number of party men if he does not get four-party alliance ticket from Islampur constituency in coming election, BNP sources said.

The ticket may go to former cabinet secretary ASM Abdul Halim, who is known to be 'faithful and loyal' to former prime minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia. He joined BNP by presenting wreaths to Khaleda Zia at her office on October 3.

LDP sources here also claimed that senior BNP leader and former

deputy minister for health Sirajul Haque may join LDP if he does not get party ticket from Jamalpur Sadar constituency. Sirajul Haque has 'good connection' with top leaders of LDP, they said.

'Rebel' BNP leader Mostafizur Rahman Babul who ran as an independent candidate in last election from Melandaha-Madarganj constituency is well known for his loyalty and links with LDP leader Anwarul Kabir Talukder.

Political circles are rife with rumours that he would join LDP if he does not get alliance ticket from the constituency.

BNP central committee member Mahbubur Rahman Ansary of Jamalpur, who has 'good understanding' with LDP president Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, may join LDP with a good number of followers, local LDP sources claimed.

When contacted, Sirajul Haque, Sultan Mahmud Babu and Mahbubur Rahman Ansary however refuted the claims about their possibility of joining LDP.

Local LDP leader Nuruzzaman

Talukder Babu, who joined LDP recently, claimed that at least 4,000 leaders and activists in seven upazilas in Jamalpur district will join LDP when Talukder comes here.

"He will come soon and organise his new party", he said. Talukder is yet to come to his home district after joining LDP.

Nuruzzaman Babu however declined to disclose the names of BNP leaders who may join LDP.

Talking to this correspondent, Jamalpur district BNP organising secretary Shamim Ahmed admitted that some party leaders at district and upazila levels who are 'very much close and loyal' to Talukder, may follow him.

JCD burns BNP leader's effigy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna city unit of Chhatra Dal, belonging to the BNP faction led by former lawmaker Nurul Islam burnt an effigy of rival party leader and former lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi at Picture Palace cinema intersection yesterday.

Earlier on the day, they brought out a procession in city protesting filing of a 'false' case against 39 party activists belonging to their faction. The FIR-named accused include city unit president of Chatra Dal Masud Parvez Babu.

The case was filed with Khulna Sadar police station by their rival faction.

The protest procession was followed by a rally. Presided over by Chatra Dal district unit acting president Shamim Kabir, the rally was addressed by, among others, Arifzzaman Arif, Shaikh Saadi, Abul Hossain, Rubayet Hasan and Abu Saeed.

Speakers at the rally called Ali Asgar Lobi a 'godfather of terrorists' and demanded action against him.

They accused Lobi of filing the 'false' case against Chhatra Dal leaders and activists.

Rangamati BNP to boycott polls if 'hired' person nominated

Press conference told after party meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati district BNP and it fronts at an emergency meeting yesterday demanded nomination either for their party president Md. Nazim Uddin or its secretary M. Zahir Ahmed and threatened to 'boycott' the coming election for noncompliance.

Addressing a press conference after a day-long meeting, BNP leaders said they will work for any of the two if he runs in the polls race as an independent candidate in case a "hired indigenous candidate" is nominated by the four-party alliance.

They were critical of former deputy minister Moni Swapan

Dewan.

The 4-party alliance in Rrangamati was "betrayed by the hired indigenous candidate", they alleged. Whenever national election comes, party high-ups take an "unwanted decision" as regards Rangamati, which deprives dedicated BNP leaders, they said.

At the press conference, they declared the names of district BNP president Md. Nazim Uddin and its secretary M. Zahir Ahmed as possible candidates and said the decision was taken unanimously at the meeting.

They said Nazim Uddin and Zahir are holding their posts for over 20 years. So, party high-ups should evaluate their contribution while giving nomination.

They brushed aside the possibility of Dipen Dewan as a candidate. Dewan is lobbying with party high ups in Dhaka for nomination, party sources said.

"We will boycott the election and may resign (from the party) if party high-ups nominate any body having no contribution to the party", Nazim Uddin told the press conference.

"All party leaders and workers will work together if any of the dedicated party leaders is nominated", he said.

District, upazila and union level leaders of BNP and its front organisations attended the meeting. Many of them were also present at the press conference.

3x2

Madrasa student killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A madrassa student was killed here allegedly by his teachers Friday night.

The victim, Mohammed Abdul Walid, 12, was a student of Jamaya Asrafia Koumi Madrassa in Nasindara area in the town.

Police recovered the body from a drain of the madrassa Saturday morning.

Local people besieged madrassa after the incident.

Two madrassa teachers were sent to jail for their alleged involvement in torturing the student.

An unnatural death case was filed with Bogra Sadur Police Station.



BNP brought out a procession in Sylhet city yesterday protesting 'anarchy' in the country by the 14-party alliance.

4x2

10.5x2

4x2

6.5x2

JMB death threat to Mymensingh Pourasabha chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Pourasabha chairman Advocate Mahmud-AI-Noor Tareq received a death threat allegedly from the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Tareq also vice-president of district Awami League (AL) received the threat in a letter sent to him by post on Wednesday.

The letter was signed by the 'northern region chief' of JMB.

On receipt of the letter, an emergency meeting was held at the municipality.

The meeting demanded investigation into the alleged threat and security for Tareq.

Accord on peace in politics

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Leaders of both the 4-party Alliance and the 14-party Combine at a meeting held in Babuganj upazila town agreed on peaceful co-existence.

The meeting was held under the initiative of the police officials at Babuganj Police Station on Thursday. Babuganj officer-in-charge (OC) Delwar Hossain presided the meeting.

The leaders also decided to withdraw all political cases and counter-cases.

Four-party Alliance and 14-party Combine leaders Shamsul Alam Fakir, Israt Hussein Kochi, Azizur Rahman Walid, Kazi Emdadul Huq Dulal and Bazlur Rahman Master addressed.

JCD-BCL clash at PSTU: 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 Chhatra League (BCL) leaders were injured in an attack on a rally by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on the Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) campus Friday night.

The injured are BCL leaders Arifur Rahman Jewel, Polash, Saidur Rahman, Jahid, Shakil, Amin, Debashish and three others, campus sources said.

Later, an emergency meeting of the university coordination committee was held at Shahid Zia hall. Proctor Nizam Uddin was in the chair. The meeting urged all students to obey the Residential Acts.

Additional police were deployed on the campus.

4.5X3

6X3