

Shibir throws away Shaheed Minar wreaths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Islamic Chhatra Sibir activists at Carmichael College threw away wreaths placed at the Shaheed Minar on the college campus as a mark of respect to martyrs of the Liberation war.

Eyewitnesses said, Shibir activists in a bid to stop placing of wreaths 'occupied' the Shaheed Minar just at 10 pm Friday and held a rally there.

When activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal approached the Shaheed Minar at one minute past 12 am Saturday, Shibir

activists intercepted their processions. They were however allowed to place wreaths at the intervention of college principal.

As soon as BCL and JCD activists left the Shaheed Minar after placing wreaths, Shibir activists threw away those.

Carmichael College BCL president Biplob Bishwas and secretary Zashed-Bin Zummon, later in a statement condemned the 'heinous act by Shibir and called upon conscious students to resist them.

Campus sources said Shibir is strong on the campus and none dares to resist them.

PRESENCE OF JAMAAT LAEADERS

FFs boycott Victory Day functions

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Awami League and Muktijoddha Sangsad boycotted Victory Day programmes at Dumuria college ground in Khulna yesterday protesting presence of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists there.

In Juri upaila in Moulvibazar district, freedom fighters left the venue protesting presence of Jamaat leaders at a Victody Day function.

The programmes in Dumuria were taken up by the upazila administration. Those included placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, reception to freedom fighters, a discussion meeting on Liberation War and a cultural function, our Staff Correspondent reported from Khulna.

Leaders of Awami League and Dumuria upazila unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad were

annoyed at seeing at least 30 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir on the podium.

UNO Iddris Siddiqui remained tight-lipped when AL leaders asked him why he invited Jamaat and Shibir leaders to attend programmes despite objection by them earlier.

At one stage, Shaikh Mokhlesur Rahman Bablu, cultural secretary of Khulna district Awami League, snatched the mike from Golam Haider, a Rokon of Jamaat.

Later, at about 10-30am, Awami League leaders, freedom fighters and members of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi left the venue and held cultural programmes on the Khulna-Satkhira highway.

On the other hand, the UNO held a discussion meeting at the college ground amid tight security. It was attended by leaders and activists of of Jamaat, Shibir and

BNP.

In Juri upazila in Moulvibazar district, freedom fighters left the venue of the Victory Day function protesting presence of Jamaat leaders and activists, our correspondent reported.

The function, held at Harirampur Government Primary School premises, was organised by the local administration.

The programme also included a reception to freedom fighters. As the reception was about to start at about 11 am, freedom fighters present there asked the Upazila Nirbahi Officer why Jamaat leaders and activists were invited.

As the UNO could not give any satisfactory reply, freedom fighters led by MAMumitAshuk left the venue.

The UNO was later quoted as saying that every citizen has the right to boycott or attend any function.

Jamaat's podium dismantled in Pabna

A CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

People vandalised the podium erected by Jamaat-e-Islami in the town marking the Victory Day yesterday.

Pabna Poura unit of Jamaati organised a rally to observe the day and erected a podium at the Duel Chatter in the town, blocking the road.

Awami League and its fronts also planned a rally and a meeting at the same place on the occasion.

Jamaat erected the stage without taking permission from the administration, sources said.

At about 1:30 pm, agitated people joined by activists of AL's fronts Jubo League and Chhatra League, dismantled the podium. This triggered a chase and counter-chase between activists of the rival parties.

After the incident, police barred both Jamaat and AL from holding programme there.

Later, Jamaat brought out a procession in the town protesting the incident. Pabna district Jamaat president Abdur Rahim demanded punish of the persons responsible for vandalising their podium.

Pabna district Awami League secretary Shamsul Haque Tuku refuted the allegation that his party activists vandalised the Jamaat posium. It was done by people, he said. Police later said Jamaat was not permitted to erect a podium on the road to observe Victory Day.

BNP factions hold separate programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two factions of Khulna BNP held separate programmes in the city yesterday in observance of the Victory Day.

The faction headed by former lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi held a discussion meeting and a cultural function at Sonali Bank intersection with Sonadanga thana BNP convenor Kazi Rashed in the chair.

Their rival faction led by former lawmaker Nurul Islam held discussion meeting and a cultural function in front of city BNP office. Senior leader of City BNP convening committee Morshed Alam presided over the programme.

However, neither Lobi nor Nurul Islam attended any of the programmes by their men.

Speakers at both the meetings called upon the people to resist what they called the 'conspiracy to foil the coming election'.

They also urged BNP chairperson Khaled Zia to identify and drive away 'agents and saboteurs' from BNP, who would join LDP if not given ticket in the election.



Victory Day in districts: (Clockwise) Children carrying colourful festoons in a procession in Bogra, a 14-party truck procession in Rajshahi, school children in a march past at Bells Park ground in Barisal city and Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran along with party men placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

71-strong Netrakona LDP body formed

More may join LDP after BNP announces nomination

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A 71-member convening committee of Netrakona district Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was announced here yesterday with advocate Siddiquir Rahaman as its convener.

Former BNP lawmaker Karim Abbasi, who joined LDP as its Presidium member last month, announced the committee at a press conference at Netrakona Circuit House.

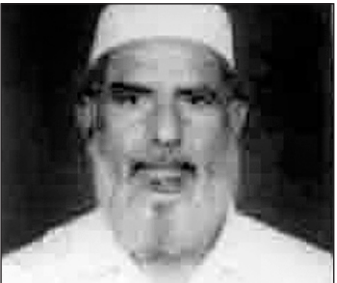
The committee includes advocate Ekhlasseuddin Ahamed, advocate Abdul Hannan Ranjan, Nayan Datta and Shahid Hasan Shamim as joint-convenors. Former lawmaker Dewan Shahjahan Chowdhury is also a member of the convening committee. A former Awami League leader, Shajahan Chowdhury became a lawmaker from Netrakona-4 constituency in 1986 election with Jatiya Party ticket. He is a maternal cousin of former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

Abbasi said he left BNP because of corruption by a section of its leaders. He claimed that a large number of BNP leaders and activists, including a former lawmaker from Netrakona, may join LDP after BNP announces nomination for the coming election.

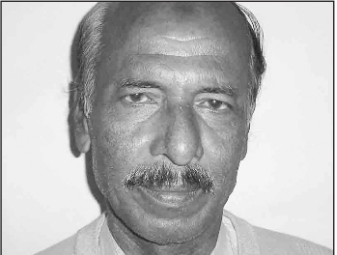
"Most of them are frustrated and want a payout. LDP led by Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Col (ret) Oil Ahmed has raised new hopes among them", he told newsmen.

Before joining LDP, Karim Abbasi was president of Netrakona district BNP, the post he held for about 15 years. Besides the 2001 election, he also won the 1991 polls and became a BNP whip in the Jatiya Sangsad. He lost to Awami League's Jalaluddin Talukder in 1996 polls.

Karim Abbasi said he will contest



Karim Abbasi



Siddiquir Rahaman

the coming election from Netrakona-1 constituency (Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas) as a LDP candidate. He will get the ticket as per LDP's electoral understanding with Awami League-led 14-party alliance, he claimed.

He also declared Purbadhala upazila LDP committee headed by Anuarul Haque as its convenor.

LDP convener Siddiquir Rahaman and some joint conveners were also present at the press conference.

Later in the day, the former lawmaker visited his constituency where he held a big rally Kalmakanda upazila headquarters.

Addressing the meeting, he called upon the people to reject BNP in the coming election. He said he left the party because of corruption by a section of BNP leaders and also urged BNP men to join him.