

Jalil pleads for release, ready to quit politics

Wife presents copy of his petition that also blasts Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained General Secretary of Awami League (AL) Abdul Jalil in a petition to the government has begged for release and said if necessary he was ready to quit politics on personal grounds.

In the letter made public by his wife yesterday, he also came down heavily on AL President Sheikh Hasina for what he said was her dictatorial leadership.

Jalil said the failure to free the AL from its current stifling leadership would prove extremely damaging to



Abdul Jalil

the party as well as the country.

Referring to Hasina's remarks on the military-backed interim administration, he said she has done great harm to the country, party and herself too. She is responsible for the recent political unrest.

The authorities have yet to file any case against Jalil who has been undergoing treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University since June 4.

He was arrested at his Mercantile Bank Office on May 28 and since then been detained

under the special powers act.

"For my grave health condition and looking at the faces of my family and the dear little sons, I have decided even to retire from politics if necessary. I humbly request you (the government) to release me and not to extend my detention on humanitarian grounds," said Jalil, aged 66.

The four-page petition signed by him on July 2 was distributed among the journalists by Rehana Jalil at their Gulshan residence yesterday.

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They want to hear it from Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said they want to hear from a "freed" Jalil about his decision to retire from politics.

"We do not want to hear any statement of Abdul Jalil in detention. We want his explanation—why, on what grounds and how he decided to quit politics," Suranjit said in his reaction to the AL general secretary's surprise decision.

Suranjit said in politics there is no room for those with escaping tendency and Jalil will have to make public the reasons behind his decision to retire from politics.

The detained AL leader suddenly petitioned the government yesterday for releasing him, saying he has decided to retire from politics on personal grounds.

When contacted, senior AL

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Lobi gets 8 years in tax evasion cases

Wealth worth Tk 17.23cr confiscated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the first ever case filed in the country for tax evasion, an anti-graft tribunal yesterday sentenced former BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi to eight years' imprisonment for committing two offences.

The Special Court-3 set up at the MP Hostel in the parliament complex in the capital also fined Lobi Tk 25 lakh in default of which he will have to spend another one and a half years in jail.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the court also directed the government to confiscate Lobi's wealth worth Tk 17.23 crore, including Tk 15 crore in fixed deposit receipts (FDR) with four banks in the city.



Ali Asgar Lobi

Lobi was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment under section 166 of the Income Tax

Ordinance 1984 for evading tax and three years' simple jail under section 165 of the same ordinance for providing false information about his wealth and concealing property information.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against the former BNP lawmaker on May 23.

According to the charge, Lobi evaded income taxes of Tk 4.30 crore by concealing information about Tk 17.23 crore between fiscal years 1984-85 and 2006-2007.

Prosecution lawyer Musharraf Hossain Kajol told The Daily Star, "The NBR has never used the law against tax evaders. This is the first case [for tax evasion] in the history

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Struggle on to establish good governance

Says chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said a tough struggle has started in the country from January 11 to establish good governance and a democratic society free from terrorism, anarchy and corruption.

He said this while addressing a darbar of the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) on the occasion of its 32nd founding anniversary at Shaheed Captain Hafiz Hall at the PGR headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

"We'll have to advance unitedly towards a bright future following the path of the past and the present. If this effort fails, the future

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PHOTO: STAR

Unscrupulous sand traders continue their business illegally occupying part of the Shitalakhya River just beside the Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj.

Falu's wife sued for tax evasion

Arrest warrant issued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Mahbuba Sultana, wife of detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu, after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a tax evasion case.

Hearing on charge framing against former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku and former home minister Nasim in connection with graft cases will be held on July 10.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will interrogate detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Awami League (AL) leader Kamal Ahmed Majumder at the gate of Dhaka Central Jail in connection with criminal cases.

FALU'S WIFE CASE

Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, issued an arrest warrant against Falu's wife after Mohammad

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Lift ban on indoor politics: Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded withdrawal of the ban on indoor politics to hold council session of her party for discussing reform proposals and adopting final decisions in this regard.

She urged the party men to remain united against any "conspiracy".

"BNP is a largest democratic political party. I have asked party leaders and workers to remain united against any conspiracy," she told reporters after offering special prayer at the grave of president Ziaur Rahman in the afternoon.

Khaleda said many of her party leaders have their individual reform proposals and all want to speak on those proposals. For that, she said, it is not possible to complete the council in a one-day session—it will take three to seven days.

"It needs some time to complete the process of convening the party council, and for that, I need to go to the party office to complete preparation for the council," she said.

Khaleda told journalists that there are about 4,000 BNP councilors and all will have to attend the council session for discussion.

Asked about her previous remarks on party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's behind the scene activities, the party chair once again said he must act in accordance with the BNP constitution.

"I want reforms, party workers also want reforms, but all these proposals must be placed before the party council or the chairperson must be consulted about the proposals," Khaleda told the reporters.

She said no one can do reform all on a sudden. There is party

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BNP reformists for balance of power between president, PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-reform leaders of BNP will now propose balancing of power between the president and the prime minister to reduce the absolute power of the prime minister to establish 'accountability and responsibility' in the government.

"We want to see a balance between the president's and the prime minister's powers to run the country with accountability," ZA Khan, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, told the reporters yesterday after meeting party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the latter's Gulshan residence.

They are working to make the party democratic and the party secretary general will make the proposal public within two or three days, said ZA Khan, who is known as a pro-reform leader in the party.

They have already prepared the

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Sigma sent to jail in Tk 2.4cr bribery case

Charges framed against Huda too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday ordered Sigma Huda into jail after framing charges against her and her detained husband former communications minister Nazmul Huda in a case for taking Tk 2.4 crore in bribe from a contractor.

Before the hearing on charge framing, Sigma surrendered to the

Special Judge's Court-2 set up at the MP Hostel on Jatiya Sangsad complex as she lost her claim to immunity from arrest and detention in a legal battle in the High Court recently.

Meanwhile, an executive of Uttara Motors Ltd yesterday filed a Tk 1 crore extortion case against Nazmul Huda.

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5,000 farmers sued for attack on govt offices at Nachole

ANWAR ALI, from Nachole, C'nawabganj

Nachole upazila administration yesterday filed a case against 5,000 unnamed farmers for attacking and damaging government properties on Wednesday.

Emdadul Haq, office superintendent of the upazila parishad,

filed the case with Nachole Police Station.

Farmers in the area fearing arrest have been keeping off their homes. They are also avoiding fertiliser stores and the local agricultural office, locals said.

Fewer than a hundred farmers were seen gathered on the office

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Tigers put on some fight

BISHWAJIT ROY from Colombo

Captain Mohammad Ashrafal finally ended his run-drought by scoring his fourth Test hundred and shared a record partnership with Mushfiquir Rahim, but the valiant effort was not good enough for Bangladesh to avoid another innings defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka inside three days at the P

Sara Stadium yesterday.

As expected, the home side ensured the series victory taking 2-0 lead with one match in hand after winning the second match by an innings and 90 runs when they folded the Bangladesh second innings for 299.

However, it was not all about the ugly episodes like the first two days

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