

Split in Rajshahi AL surfaces

Liton loyalists demand expulsion of Tajul followers for violating party decision in city corporation polls

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

After the victory in Rajshahi mayoral elections, the feud in Rajshahi Awami has come into the open while some bigwigs in the district committee are publicly saying about change in the leadership to 'ensure victory in next polls'.

The split will certainly affect the party's vote bank in next upazila and parliamentary polls, a number of party insiders told this correspondent. The party's fate in the two elections will be uncertain without changes in leadership, they added.

The difference between the groups loyal to city AL general secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and district AL president Tajul Islam M Faruk surfaced during campaign for the August 4 city corporation polls when Tajul backed the 'rebel candidate' and city AL president Masudul Haque Dulu instead of Liton.

After Liton won the polls, the split became quite open as grassroots leaders and workers loyal to him demanded action against those who worked against him (Liton) defying party decision.

At two meetings of Liton loyal-

ists held on August 8 and 10 in the city, party leaders and workers identified Tajul, Dulu, city AL vice-presidents Mir Iqbal, Bazlar Rahman, Tabibur Rahman and Mostak Ahmed Labu as 'violators' of the party's decision as regards the mayoral polls.

They demanded expulsion of those leaders branding them 'unnecessary' and 'conspirators'.

Senior AL leaders including Sardar Amjad Hossain and AL adviser Prof Abdul Khaleque expressed solidarity with the grassroots claim and said those who conspired against AL should be identified and brought to book.

After the meetings, acting city AL general secretary Shafiqur Rahman Badsha told newsmen, "A recommendation for expulsion of conspirators inside the party will be sent soon to Dhaka for approval".

He said, a change in the leadership may occur any time as the demand is growing from inside the party.

He said the 'rebel' candidate and his men spoiled over 5000 votes though Liton won the election.

On the other hand, feeling

somehow cornered, Tajul blamed Liton and district AL general secretary Omar Faruk Chowdhury for 'creating intra-party rivalry'.

At a press conference on August 10, he claimed that he did not work for or against any one in the city corporation polls and so the demand for his expulsion for working against party's candidate is illogical.

He also blamed Omar Faruk for using influence of Liton against him.

The feud between Liton and Tajul began years ago over establishing supremacy in leadership.

Tajul blamed Liton and Omar Faruk for working against him in January 22, 2007 general election in Rajshahi-4 (Puthia-Durgapur). The election was cancelled later.

Party sources claimed that there were two other reasons behind the rivalry between Liton and Tajul. These are murder attempt on Tajul on February 2004 at Bagha and false case against his son-in-law and journalist Jahangir Alam Aakash.

"For these very reasons, I did not work for Liton or any one else in last poll", Tajul said while talking to this correspondent.

Liton said, "I have no personal

enmity with him (Tajul). He took me as a rival when I was trying to organise the party in BNP-Jamaat dominated areas in different upazillas".

Some Liton loyalists claimed that Tajul's men have no support among grassroots workers, which was proved in the last city corporation polls.

However, Tajul's supporters claimed that presence of presidents and secretaries of 15 upazila committees out of 18 in the district in a post-election party meeting called by them proves that they enjoy majority support.

Liton's supporters brushed aside the claim, saying those who showed up at Tajul's meeting are members of his pocket committees.

Party insiders however think the crisis in the party started since Tajul and Omar Faruk was elected district AL president and secretary respectively in September 2005.

Although Tajul and Omar Faruk were responsible for forming district and upazila committees within three weeks, they could not do it so far except some pocket committees formed by Tajul, they said.

Marmas demand equitable share of PSC job quota

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Bangladesh Marma Oikya Parishad yesterday submitted a memo to the Chief Advisor Dr. Fakrudin Ahmed through Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner demanding distribution of the five per cent job quota under Public Service Commission (PSC) among 13 indigenous communities in Chittagong Hill Tracts as per their population ratio.

The memorandum alleged that 12 ethnic communities are facing discrimination in PSC jobs as most of those go to Chakma people as they are advanced in all respect.

The memo was submitted by the Parishad president Kongchhari Marma alias Kongchhari Master and its secretary Babusshi Chowdhury. Copies of the memo were also sent to the PSC chairman and the CHT affairs ministry secretary.

10 charge-sheeted in AL leader Sabu murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ten people including a BNP leader have been charge-sheeted in Pabna Awami League leader Saiful Islam Sabu murder case.

Sabu, a central leader of Awami Jubo League and Pabna district committee member, was killed near his house at Singa village on September 18 last year.

The charge-sheeted accuses are Bokul, Helal, Amirul, Shahid, Khoikun, Asad, Nazrul Islam allies Nurul, Bachchu allies Kata Bachchu, advocate Suja and Malonchi Union Parishad chairman and BNP leader Ali Reza Kakon.

Of them, seven are in jail. UP chairman Kakon was freed on bail.

"Dispute over money is the reason behind the murder", investigation officer (IO) of the case SI Badruddoza told this correspondent. The charge sheet was submitted to Pabna Chief Judicial Magistrate court on Thursday, he said.

National ID cards found on Daulatpur road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

Two youths found 55 national Identity (ID) cards lying on a street in Daulatpur upazila Sunday evening, police said.

Ziarul, 25, and Manik, 27, of Rifaayatpur in the upazila found the cards on the street running in front of the upazila health complex.

Later, they handed over the cards to Daulatpur upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Rupom Anwar.

When contacted, the UNO confirmed the incident saying he had issued a show cause notice on Daulatpur Sadar Union Parishad (UP) chairman asking for an explanation.

All the UP chairmen distributed

ID cards to people in the concerned

unions, sources said.

All 7 BJMC mills in Khulna face closure for want of jute

Traders refuse to supply jute as Tk 50cr arrear dues not paid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All the seven state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt are virtually on verge of closure as jute traders have stopped supply of raw jute on credit and non-payment of outstanding bills amounting to about Tk 50 crore.

According to sources at Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation (BJMC) zonal office, daily production of the seven mills have fallen to 109.60 metric tonnes from 269 metric tonnes due to crisis of raw jute.

None of these seven jute mills

in the Khulna-Jessore industrial belt has stock of raw jute for more than four days from Sunday to continue production, they said.

BJMC allocated Tk 165 lakh on August 12 to the seven mills to buy raw jute, which is a scanty amount to meet the need, the sources said.

Only 2,259 quintals of jute goods were produced against the production target of 8,10,538 quintals in the seven mills during current financial year, they said.

As a result, authorities of the

mills are failing to pay wages to workers regularly.

Because, there has so far been no indication that the jute mills would at all be able to reach production target due to financial crisis and stoppage of raw jute supply, said Project Director Monowar Hossain of Alim Jute Mills.

General secretary of Khulna Jute Traders Association Shamim Ahmed said they would not resume supply of raw jute to mills until full payment of outstanding bills is made.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Water overflows the road at Bara Hatia in Lohagara upazila in Chittagong following breach of Dalu River embankment due to torrential rain yesterday.

RU PROF YUNUS MURDER

Charge framing against 8 JMB men deferred for third time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The second court of Additional District Judge here yesterday deferred charge framing in Rajshahi University (RU) professor Mohammad Helauddin pressed charges against a total of eight militants on September 10 last year. Thirteen accused including six cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir were dropped from the charge sheet.

Judge Lutfa Begum fixed October 15 for charge framing after rejecting the bail prayer of Shahidullah Mahbub, husband of executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai's niece.

Additional public prosecutor Masum Ahmed Tipu told newsmen that charge framing deferred yesterday as the district law and order committee sent a letter to the home ministry for trial of the case in Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Charge framing was delayed

twice earlier as law enforcing agencies could not produce all the accused before the court.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Mohammad Helauddin pressed charges against a total of eight militants on September 10 last year. Thirteen accused including six cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir were dropped from the charge sheet.

Earlier police reports on the murder found alleged involvement of some Shibir cadres, but the investigation took new turn following confessional statement of executed JMB chief Shaikh Abdul Rahman, it was stated in charge sheet.

Later, two prime accused -- Shafulah Tarek (grandson of suspected militant kingpin Asadullah Al Galib) and Shahidullah Mahbub (husband of executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai's niece)

gave judicial confessions.

The other accused are zonal JMB commanders Abu Isa Enamul and Golamur Rahman Mostafa, and Galib's Ahle Hadith Jubo Shanga members Abul Kashem Tufan, Abdul Matin Borna, Abdur Rahman Arif and Zakir Zayed.

Other exempted accused are JMB militants Fazle Rabbi Sanaullah, Abdur Rashid Shilpi, Asadullah Asad Enamul, Masud, and Shibir men Sirajus Salekin, Abu Zafar Babu, Zillur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman Rumon, Nazimul Islam Bachchu, Monirul Islam.

Yunus, a professor of economics, was killed while he was on a morning walk near his Binodpur house on December 24, 2004. He was president of RU Bangabandhu Parishad and senior vice-president of Bangladesh Economic Association.

3 Allaher Dal militants held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive yesterday arrested three alleged activists of banned Islamist militant outfit Allher Dal from different areas of Sunderganj upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Afzal Hossain, 44, of Chicha village; Delwer Hossain, 43, of Uttar Shams village and Raju Mia, 33, of Pachim Dulal village. Rab handed over the militants at Sunderganj police.

Raju is district Nayek of Allaher Dal, Rab sources said. Afzal and Delwer confessed to police that they maintained close links with Allaher Dal kingpins Matin Mehdi and Babul Ansari. Both Matin Mehdi and Babul Ansari were arrested on charge of involvement in the August 17, 2005 serial bomb blasts across the country.

Nilphamari OC, SI withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Nilphamari Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Mohammad Selim and sub-inspector (SI) Yamin Ali have been withdrawn on charge of illegal arrest and torture on trader Sazzadur Rahman Roman, also a contractor and police rating supplier here on August 12, police said.

The action was taken as per order of deputy inspector general (DIG) of police of Rajshahi range Mokhesur Rahman.

The additional superintendent of police (ASP) of Nilphamari yesterday confirmed the report of their withdrawal.

The incident triggered series of spontaneous protests by local people.

Give duty-free access of agri items to developed nations

S Asian farmers demand at Mymensingh meet on Food Security and Food Scarcity in Asia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Farmers' representatives from south Asian countries at the inaugural session of a four-day meeting yesterday demanded duty and quota free access of their agricultural products to developed nations to ensure food security in the region.

Farmers who work for security of food and other agricultural products are themselves in insecure position as fair prices cannot be ensured, said the farmers while sharing views at the meeting on 'Food Security and Food Scarcity in Asia', held at the auditorium of CARITAS Regional office.

The farmers of South Asian countries need sustainable agriculture with modern technology to maintain their existence, which is needed for reasonable production and ensuring food security, a crying need for the present world, they said.

'Fair Trade Agreement at International level' is needed so that the farmers can get fair price for their products, speakers said at the programme.

They urged 'technology learning' from each other to boost agricultural production.

Like those in Bangladesh, the farmers of other South Asian countries do not get fair prices of their produce while the middlemen eat up the lion's share of their profit, Eleazar V Gomez from Philippines told this correspondent.

The farmers, the main force of agriculture, should get better profit for their survival as well as for better food production and food security, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the inaugural session of four-day meeting on food security at Caritas regional office in Mymensingh yesterday.


Gabriel Baroi from Thailand said if the farmers get sustainable agriculture with bio-fertilizer, the use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides will be reduced reasonably and ultimately it will result in reduction of production cost and better ecological balance.

Urging promotion of organic farming to reduce production cost, speakers said promotion and use indigenous seeds instead of genetically modified and hybrid seeds is needed for overall safety of environment.

Some 25 farmers from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka,



Thailand, Philippines and Bangladesh are taking part in the four-day programme organised by CARITAS Bangladesh. Bishop of Mymensingh Catholic Diocese Ponon Paul Kubi spoke the opening ceremony as chief guest while Francis Atul Sarker, Development Director of CARITAS Bangladesh, was the special guest.

Display of seeds of local varieties of paddy, fruits and vegetables of the participating countries was a salient feature of the programme.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
মেরিন ফিশারিজ একাডেমি, চট্টগ্রাম

৩০তম ব্যাচ ক্যাডেট ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

একাডেমিতে তিন বছর মেয়াদী বিএসসি (পাস) নটিক্যাল/মেরিন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/মেরিন ফিশারিজ (শিকাবর্ষ ২০০৮-২০০৯) কোর্সসমূহে ক্যাডেট ভর্তির জন্য বাংলাদেশের যোগ্য স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। নির্বাচনী লিখিত পরীক্ষার সন্ধ্যা তারিখ ও সময় আগামী ০৭/১১/২০০৮ইং সন্ধ্যা ৯-৩০ ঘটিকা। একজন প্রার্থী ইচ্ছা করলে যেকোন একটি, দুটি বা তিনটি কোর্সের জন্যই ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

ভর্তিচ্ছু প্রার্থীদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা :

- ১। বয়স : ১২/১০/২০০৮ইং তারিখে ১৬ থেকে ২০ বৎসরের মধ্যে অর্থাৎ তার জন্ম তারিখ অবশ্যই ১৩/১০/১৯৮৮ইং তারিখ বা তার পরে হতে হবে।
- ২। শারীরিক মান :
ক। উচ্চতা : ১৬২.৫ সেঃ মিঃ।
খ। ওজন : ৫০ কেজি।
- ৩। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা :
ক। নটিক্যাল বিভাগ : এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি (বিজ্ঞান) বা সমমানের পরীক্ষাসমূহে গণিতসহ কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগে পাশ কিংবা ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ২.৫ পেতে হবে। তবে গণিত ৪র্থ হিসেবে থাকলে উক্ত বিষয়ে অবশ্যই কমপক্ষে ৪০% নম্বর বা লেটার গ্রেড 'সি' থাকতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য ২০০৮ইং সনের এইচএসসি (বি