

Staff Reporter

Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad on Wednesday relived party chief whip Tajul Islam and state minister for rural development and cooperatives Moshir Rahman Ranga from the party presidium amid growing infighting among the party leaders. "The party chairman has relived Tajul Islam and Moshir Rahman Ranga from the presidium exercising his power according to section 39 of the party constitution," Abdul Hasan Ahmed Jewel, office secretary of the Jatiya Party told yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party chairman dissolved the Rangpur city and district and Kurigram district units, and formed convening committees for those, said a press release.

It said Mofazzal Hossain Master was made convener while Abul Masud Chowdhury joint convener of Rangpur district unit, Mustafizar Rahman was made convener while Salauddin Quaderi and Abdur Rouf Manik were made joint conveners of Rangpur city committee while Mustafizur Rahman made convener and Rezaul Karim member secretary of Kurigram unit convening committee.

The convening committees will submit other names of the committees to the party central office within 10 days. They will hold district units councils within 90 days on completion of upazila unit councils, the release added.

Infighting in the party of HM Ershad, a former military ruler, has taken a serious turn in recent times over various issues, including quitting the government and selection of the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament from the party.

Party chairman HM Ershad and opposition leader Raushon Ershad have been at loggerheads over choosing the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament with the two recommending separate candidates for the post.

Tajul Islam Chowdhury on Tuesday sent a letter to Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury saying that the Jatiya Party parliamentary party has chosen Kazi Feroz Rashid as the deputy leader of the opposition.

Hours later, Party chairman HM Ershad sent another letter to the Speaker opposing Kazi Feroz Rashid's appointment.

In the letter, Ershad mentioned that the appointment of the deputy leader of the opposition is only his discretion, not the parliamentary party.

On July 27, Raushon sent a letter to the Speaker, seeking nomination of Kazi Feroz Rashid as the deputy leader of the opposition.

The following day, Ershad sent another letter to the Speaker opposing it.

The Speaker did not give her decision on the ground that she did not get the documentary evidence that Kazi Feroz Rashid got the highest number of opposition MPs in his favour.