

GREATER RANGPUR, DINAJPUR

# Alliance tickets for JP will be a big blow for Jamaat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Jamaat-e-Islami's plan to expand its network in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts and bag more seats in the coming election by using BNP's 'shield' will be shattered if Jatiya Party joins the four-party alliance, according to political observers.

There are 33 parliamentary seats in the region22 in greater Rangpur and 11 in greater Dinajpur. Contesting alone, Jamaat fielded candidates in all the seats and got only two seats in the region in 1996 election. BNP got three seats two in Panchagarh and the other in Dinajpur Sadar. Awami League got 10 seats and the rest 18 went JP.

Using BNP's influence in the name of alliance in 2001 election, Jamaat got four seats Nilphamari-1, Gaibandha -1 and Dinajpur-6 and Dinajpur-1.

Of the rest 30 seats, JP bagged 14, BNP 9, and AL got 6 in 2001 election.

The constituencies from where Jamaat contested in 2001 election are Thakurgaon-1 (Abdul Hakim), Dinajpur-1 (Abdullah Hil-Kafi), Dinajpur 6 (Azizur Rahman), Nilphamari 2 (Abdul Latif), Nilphamari-3 (Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury), Lalmonirhat-1 (Abu Hena Md Ershad Hossen), Lalmonirhat-2 (Md. Mozibur Rahman), Rangpur-1 (Abdul Gani), Rangpur-2 (ATM Azharul Islam), Rangpur-5 (Hifizur Rahman), Kurigram-3 (Abdul Latif),

Gaibandha-1 (Md. Abdul Aziz and Gaibandha-3 (Principal Nazrul Islam).

In the coming election, Jamaat is demanding seats as a partner in the ruling alliance.

Jamaat is demanding 28 seats in the region and 60 across the country in next election.

Sources said, Jamaat targeted this region as it is a poverty stricken and the people are religious and simple-hearted.

It's prospective candidates have already started campaign in their respective areas.

The party has changed campaign tactics. It is not shouldering the government's alleged failure in checking price spiral, maintaining law and order and incidents of harassment of opposition leaders and minority community people at places.

It is blaming BNP for these and trying to prove its innocence, taking the advantage of having no party representation in parliament from the areas concerned, political observers said.

In campaign, Jamaat leaders tactfully avoid other issues and concentrate only on political issues, mainly criticising Awami League.

A number of BNP leaders talking to this correspondent said Jamaat's campaign policy in the region is to keep them aloof from non-political issues to present themselves as 'clean man'. At places, they even shift the blame on the prime minister, the BNP leaders said.

But Jamaat's dream has been

shattered with the possibility of JP's joining the alliance.

JP is claiming most of the seats in this region in the coming election.

The JP central vice president Ahsan Ahmed said that JP has strong footing in the region.

He said JP bagged 14 seats in last election and its candidates got more than 40,000 votes in other 14 constituencies.

"The polls scenario is better for JP now because of government's failure in ensuring power supply, price hike of essentials and rise of militants during the government's tenure", Ahsan said.

He claimed that it is not Jamaat but JP that deserves alliance nomination in all the seats in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

He claimed that his party candidates are in better position now in constituencies where Jamaat won with alliance ticket in last election.

He said his party, with alliance nominees, would rout Jamaat from greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

When contacted, Moniruzzaman Nontu, vice-president of Nilphamari district Jamaat and convener of sadar upazila unit of the party claimed that his party is in good position in many of the constituencies.

He said Jamaat has good organisational strength with dedicated leaders and workers. We were in second position in many constituencies before 1996 election and our position has improved, he claimed.

## HBFC engineer held for selling Phensidyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An engineer of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) here was arrested on charge of selling Indian Phensidyl Tuesday midnight.

HBFC assistant engineer Abdur Rab was arrested by the Detective Branch (DB) of police. Twelve bottles of Phensidyl were recovered.

On interrogation, Rab confessed to his involvement in drug trafficking in connivance with HBFC security guard Abul Kashem for the last two years. But police could not arrest the guard.

## JP's Howlader to run in Patuakhali-1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Jatiya Party (Ershad) secretary general ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader yesterday said he would contest from Patuakhali-1 (Sadar, Mirzagonj and Dumki) constituency in the coming election as a candidate of the BNP-led four party alliance.

"Jatiya Party will join the four party alliance and I will be a party candidate from this constituency", he said and urged party workers to launch a vigorous campaign.

He demanded two seats-- Patuakhali -1 for me and Bakhaegonj-6 for my wife Ratna Amin", he told a party workers meeting held at a cinema hall in the town recently.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Khaleda Zia during her visit to Patuakhali on November 29 last year announced that former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury would be the party candidate from Patuakhali-1 in the coming election.

## Doctor denies removing kidney

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A doctor here facing a charge for removing a kidney from a patient yesterday denied the allegation.

Dr Abu Sayeed at a press conference at Brahmanbaria General Hospital said he removed a stone from a kidney of Nasir Uddin. A false case has been filed against him to harass him, said the doctor.

Dr Abu Sayeed performed an operation in one of the kidneys of Nasir Uddin Chowdhury of Mahammadpur village in Madhabpur upazila on April 18, 2005 to remove a stone from it.

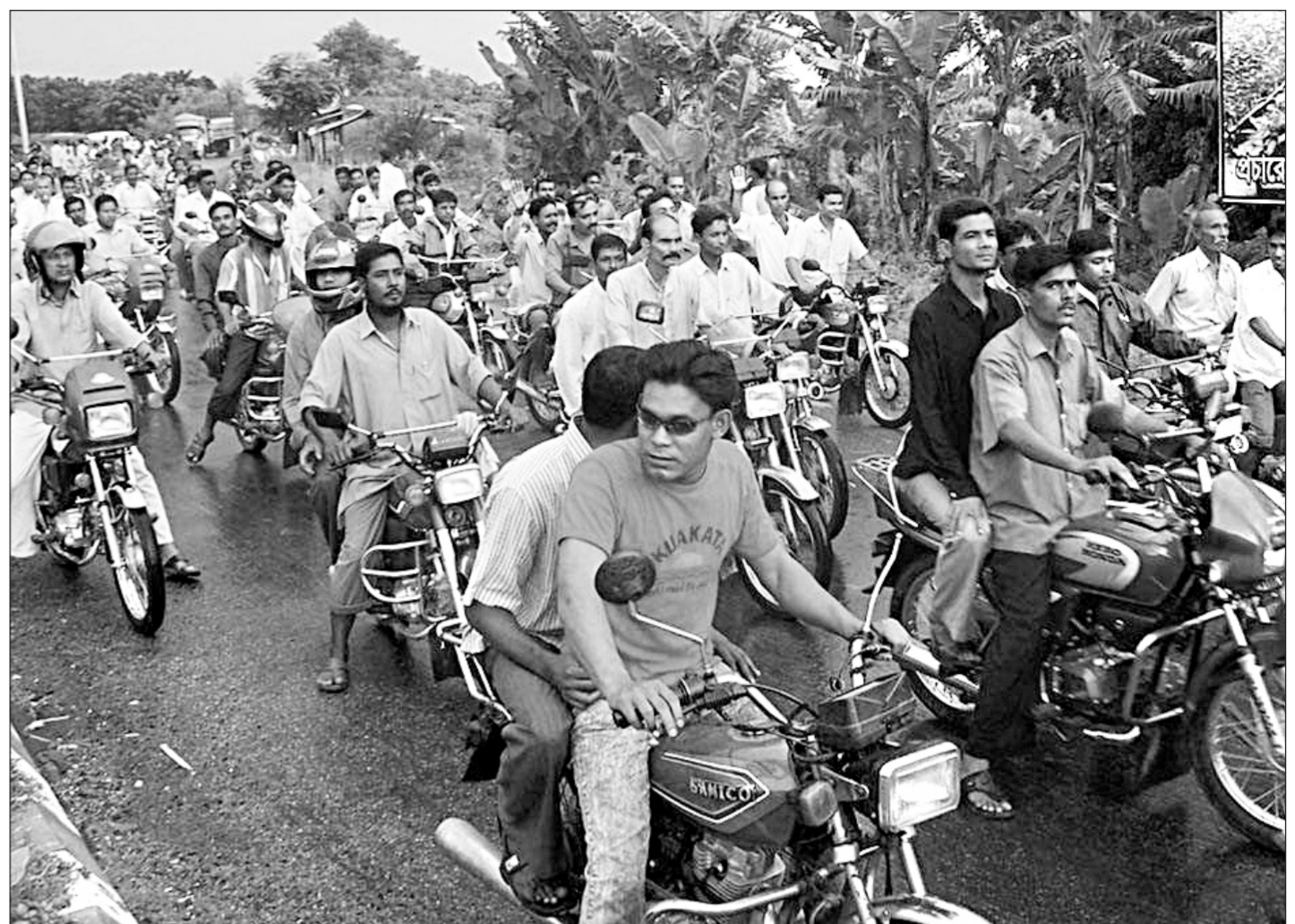
On July 21, 2005, Nasir Uddin, relative of Habzo Mia, went to Saudi Arab for a job. He returned home on May 4 this year as he was found physically unfit.

Back to Bangladesh, Nasir Uddin did a lot of tests at different hospitals in Habiganj, Madhapur and at reputed diagnostic centres in Dhaka.

All the reports said that Nasir lost his left kidney.

On June 10 this year, Nasir's relatives rushed to Dr Abu Sayeed and showed him all the test results.

Nasir Uddin's relative Habzo Mia then filed a case with a First class Magistrate court against Dr Abu Sayeed on August 27, alleging that the doctor removed a kidney from Nasir Uddin's body and sold it.



A motorcycle showdown by Rajshahi district Awami League president Tajul Islam Md Faruk yesterday in Puthia-Durgapur upazilas during hartal hours.

## A showdown aimed at next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Taking the advantage of countrywide hartal enforced by the 14-party combine, Rajshahi district Awami League president Tajul Islam Md Faruk and his followers yesterday staged a showdown in his constituency in Puthia-Durgapur upazilas.

Faruk started the showdown from Durgapur at around 3pm in two private cars and nearly 100 motorcycles. His workers in more 100 motorcycles joined him at Ashraf's Crossing on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

Faruk's motorcade went to Belpukur crossing where he addressed a roadside meeting.

The motorcade then went to Bhallukgachhi union in Puthia upazila and Faruk addressed another meeting there, organised by local AL.

The showdown drew flak from party leaders who, seeking anonymity, said this would create a bad impact among people.

"His work will make us ashamed", said an AL leader.

Faruk was not available on phone for comment. His aides said he was busy in party activities.

Some local BNP leaders said it was unfair to make a show-down with vehicles after forcing people to keep their vehicles off the road.

## 37 sued as rivals ransack BNP office in Hizla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 37 BNP men were sued in Hizla upazila on Tuesday following ransacking of Kawria Bandar office of the party by the activists of another faction on Monday.

Five people were injured at that time.

Pro-Mongu BNP faction filed two criminal cases against the activists of their rival faction led by Advocate Joydul Abedin.

Hizla BNP vice president Ali Ahmed Howlader and Guabaria ward BNP secretary Shahjaman Bhuiyan filed the cases with Hizla Police Station.

Prominent among the accused

are Upazila Krishok Dal president Mahtabuddin Kamal, Guabaria UP chairman Shah Alam, JCD leaders Kamal Hossain and Nahid Howlader, Sechhasebok Dal leader Rafiq Talukdar, Jubo Dal leaders Panna Hazari and Nipu Hazari.

Three Pro- Joydul faction leaders said they did not lodge any case against their rivals as they lost trust on police. They are upazila BNP publicity secretary Khalilur Rahman, party leader Nurul Islam Razu and upazila JCD organising secretary Mahtab Sikdar. They said they would try their rival faction leader Mosharrarf

Hossain Mongu MP, in a people's court after the caretaker government takes over. Mongu will be tried for his alleged corrupt practices and illegal toll collection by his men, they said.

Earlier, 20 people including four police personnel were injured in BNP factional clashes at a meeting

ground of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Muladi on Sunday. The clash ensued after party chairperson's announcement of nomination of Mongu for contesting from Barisal-3 constituency comprising Hizla and Muladi upazilas in the next Jatiya Sangsad election.



Moulvibazar Awami Jubo League staged a token hunger strike in the town yesterday demanding international probe into the August 21 grenade attack on AL chief Sheikh hasina in Dhaka in 2004 and execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

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## New Gaibandha AL body triggers protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A section of Gaibandha district Awami League leaders and activists brought out a procession in the town Tuesday evening rejecting the newly formed 71-member district committee, saying dedicated leaders have not been included in it.

The new full-fledged committee headed by Mohammed Khaled as president and Abu Bakker Siddique as secretary was announced in Dhaka on Sunday.

Party sources here said the party may face a split in Gaibandha because the new committee has been formed by avoiding 'dedicated leaders'. This has been done under the influence of some vested quar-

ters, they alleged.

Many 'unknown' people have been included in the new committee, they said.

The committee has been formed to serve purpose of some individuals, Saiful Alam Saka, a 'deprived' leader, told this correspondent yesterday.

Saiful and some other 'deprived' party leaders blamed Mahub Ara, a close aide to party chief Sheikh Hasina, for formation of the committee 'just to make her men happy'.

Many leaders like Ahsanul Karim Lachu, Abdur Rashid and Abdul Hye have been dropped from the committee. Even general secretaries of Shaghata, Fulchari and Gobindaganj upazila unit are not in the district committee, they said.



Lawyers in Satkhira boycotted courts and brought out a procession in the town yesterday as part of a countrywide programme to protest government's alleged politicisation of the judiciary.

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