

## 5 Rajshahi indigenous leaders to contest polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Five indigenous leaders will submit nomination papers for contesting in the next general elections from Rajshahi division.

Bogra district Jatiya Adibashi Parishad leader Raton Rabi Das announced this at a dialogue on 'Role of Journalists in Raising Indigenous People's Voice' held at the Community Development Library (CDL) Auditorium here on Saturday morning.

The leaders are Aunil Marandi, Rabindra Nath Saren, Advocate Babul Rabi Das, Amin Kuju and Raton Rabi Das.

They will submit nominations from various constituencies of

Rajshahi, Bogra, Naogaon, Joypurhat and Dinajpur districts.

Jatiya Adibashi Parishad president Aunil Marandi will submit nomination paper from Rajshahi-1 constituency (Godagari-Tanore), Raton said. He also said that Marandi will get support of 45,000 indigenous people in the constituency. Marandi got more than 30,000 votes in the last general election, Raton said.

Rabindra Nath Saren, general secretary of the organisation will be a candidate from Dinajpur-6 constituency (Nawabganj-Ghoraghat).

More than 85,000 indigenous people were enrolled as voters in the area, Raton said.

Advocate Babul Rabi Das will

be a candidate from Joypurhat-2 constituency consisting of Akkelpur, Khetlal and Kalai upazilas.

About 35,000 indigenous people were enrolled as voters in the constituency.

Another indigenous leader Amin Kuju will submit nomination paper from Naogaon-6 constituency (RaninagorAtrai). About 40,000 indigenous people were enrolled as voters in the constituency.

Raton Rabi Das will submit his nomination paper from Bogra-5 constituency (Sherpur-Dhanut). About 40,000 indigenous people were enrolled as voters in the area.

## MAGURA-1

# Suja poses as a formidable rival of Nitai Roy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Advocate Hasan Seraj Suja of Jatiya Party (JP) has posed as a formidable rival of former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury in Magura-1 constituency (Sadar and Sreepur upazilas) if JP joins BNP led 4-party Alliance, sources in both JP and BNP said.

Magura district JP president Khan Ziaul Huq said, 'Chairman Ershad announced the name of Hasan Seraj Suja as a party candidate at a public meeting at Noman ground here on September 25 last year'. 'Ershad sought this seat for JP as one of his condition to join the BNP led 4-party Alliance', Huq said.

Suja who is the organising secretary of JP central committee and general secretary of the party's district unit said, 'Our party chairman Ershad has sought Magura-1 seat as one of his conditions to join the BNP-led Alliance'. 'I got the highest vote among all JP candidates in 10 south-western districts in the last election, he claimed.

Suja, also a lawyer of Ershad said, 'So far as I know BNP high command and local leaders are also ready to extend their support to me for greater interest of the Alliance'. 'Alliance candidates Maj Gen (Retd) M.Majidul-Huq and Nitai Roy Chowdhury failed to win the elections in 1996 and 2001,' he said further.



Hasan Seraj Suja



Nitai Roy Chowdhury

District JP leader Captain (Retd) Khalilur Rahman claimed that Magura BNP had been dogged by internal feud for several months while top ranking BNP leaders are also expecting party high command's decision to let off the seat to JP if it joined the 4-party Alliance.

On contact, district BNP organising secretary Akter Hossain said, 'Not only for Alliance candidate, we shall work jointly for any party nominee but former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury as he already lost confidence of party men.'

District BNP president and former lawmaker Quazi Saleemul Huq said, 'We are bound to work for anyone for the interest of Alliance.'

Meantime, Advocate Suja staged several showdowns at Magura Sadar and Sreepur upazilas, JP insiders

said. He launched all-out campaign for the last several months, holding rallies and moving from door to door, they said.

BNP sources said, district BNP is now divided into two groups after being dogged by intra-party conflict. One faction is being led by its president and former lawmaker Quazi Saleemul Huq Kamal and its organising secretary Akter Hossain while the other by former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury and its general secretary Ali Ahmed Biswas.

Intra-party feud in the party became public when two rival factions brought out separate processions and also held discussions separately to mark the party's founding anniversary on September 1.

Ahead of election Nitai Roy has been facing serious challenge from inside.

## MURDER IN SAIDPUR

# Ex-BNP lawmaker yet to be arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Former BNP lawmaker Amjad Hossain Sarker is yet to be arrested even five days after filing of a murder case against him.

This has created tension among villagers in eight villages of Saidpur upazila.

Several thousand villagers of Sipaiganj village and surrounding areas at a big public meeting held at Sipaiganj Bazaar on Friday night gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the upazila administration to arrest the former lawmaker.

Speakers warned local administration to paralyse entire Saidpur town if the accused and his aides are not arrested within 48 hours ending today.

They blamed police for not arresting him intentionally 'although he is hiding at a place known to them'.

Among others, Public Service Commission (PSC) member Mahfuzur Rahman, also a BNP nomination seeker from Saidpur-Kishoreganj constituency, former chairman of Kashiram Belpukur Union Parishad (JP) Motahar Hossain, Moinul Islam, Dr Abul Hasan Bulu and others addressed. A fierce clash erupted at Sipaiganj village between the followers of Amjad Hossain Sarker and his rival Mahfuzur Rahman on arrival of

Amjad at Sipaiganj village with a rally of 100 motor-cycles on October 30 night.

Kashiram Belpukur union BNP general secretary Kazi Rubel, also a nephew of Mahfuzur Rahman, was critically injured in the clash. He succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital the same night.

The deceased's younger brother Ataur Rahman filed a murder case accusing 13 people the next day. Amjad was named as the main accused in the case while other accused are Amjad's younger brother Rashidul Alam Sarker, also Saidpur upazila Jubo Dal general secretary and Saidpur upazila BNP president Abdul Gafur.

Amjad went into hiding after filing of the case.

On contact, Saidpur Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Abdul Khaleque said police raided all possible hideouts to arrest Amjad and other accused.

Amjad harassed a good number of Awami League, JSD and other party workers by filing false cases against them during tenure of the 4-party Alliance government. Amjad's name is on top of the list of 100 godfathers made by Awami League a few years ago.

This correspondent tried to contact Amjad over cell phone several times on Saturday noon, but in vain.

## Former Netrakona MP declared unwanted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Former BNP lawmaker Dr Mohammad Ali was declared unwanted in Netrakona-5 constituency (Purbadhala in Netrakona and Dhubaura in Mymensingh) due to his alleged corruption and inefficiency.

Four-party Alliance leaders have declared it at a meeting held at Purbadhala ground Friday evening. Former president of Purbadhala upazila BNP Mostaque Ahmed presided the meeting.

Alliance leaders said Dr Ali became unpopular in his constituency. They blamed him for his failure to do any development work in Purbadhala and Dhubaura upazilas during his tenure. They further alleged that he had stayed in London during a crisis period of the party from October 5 to 31. They urged the party high command not to give him nomination, otherwise,

they threatened to boycott the election.

Among others, former general secretary of Netrakona district BNP Abu Tahar Talukder, former general secretary of Purbadhala upazila BNP Saydur Rahaman, former president of Dhubaura upazila BNP Advocate Fazlul Haque, Purbadhala upazila IOJ president Sheikh Moulana Mohammad Abdul Majid, Purbadhala upazila Jamaat Amir Moulana Sadek Mohammad Haris and other Four-party leaders addressed.

Earlier, a big procession was brought out in Purbadhala town. Former general secretary of Netrakona district BNP Abu Tahar Talukder led the procession. Over 1,000 Alliance leaders and workers joined the procession which paraded the main streets of the town.

When contacted, Dr Ali told refuted the allegations saying he is still popular in his constituency.

4X3

4X2

20X3

5.5X3

5.5X2