

# Disgruntled BNP men agitate for tickets

Rival asks party men to 'chase' nominee in Kishoreganj, hartal threatened in Khulna

## STAR NATIONAL DESK

'Rebel' BNP candidates continued agitation yesterday for 4-party alliance tickets in several constituencies in different districts.

They held rallies and brought out processions in their areas demanding nomination and rejecting rival BNP leaders as candidates.

A BNP nomination seeker from Kishoreganj-3 (Sadar) at a party meeting at his election office in Station Road area in the district town Friday night asked his followers to 'chase' 4-party alliance nominee former BNP lawmaker Ataur Rahman Khan and his workers whenever they are seen in the constituency, reports our Kishoreganj correspondent.

Disgruntled BNP nomination seeker retired judge Rejaul Karim Khan Chunnun at the meeting said his men would not give Ataur Rahman Khan any chance to come out on streets in the constituency to campaign for the coming election.

Warning the party high command, Chunnun said, Kishoreganj BNP would face serious consequence if Ataur Rahman is given ticket from the constituency.

Chunnun also urged his activists to form committees at each ward and union to resist Ataur Rahman Khan.

Chunnun joined BNP on October

7 at a function in Kishoreganj town, attended by BNP chief Khaleda Zia. BNP leaders and activists brought out a big procession in the town on the previous day protesting his joining the party.

Chunnun's meeting was addressed by, among others, district BNP president Jalal Ahmed, Krisak Dal president Mainuddin, Seccha ebak Dal convener Naymul Alam. The meeting was followed by a procession in the town.

In Kushtia, BNP leader industrialist Nasir Uddin alias Nasir Biswas declared at a rally that he would contest the polls from Kushtia-4 (Daulatpur) constituency as an independent candidate if he is denied alliance ticket, our correspondent reported.

Nasir himself arranged the meetint at Allahrarga High School ground Friday evening.

Nasir, owner of Nasir Group of Industries, claimed that he has done a lot for the people of Daulatpur and he will win the seat if nominated.

With BNP Daulatpur upazila vice-president Altaf Hosain in the chair, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Sirajul Islam, Azibor Rahman, Hasan Ali and Alauddin Ahmed.

Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah, son of former minister for post and telecommunications Ahsanul Haq Mollah, got the 4-party alliance

ticket from Daulatpur, party sources said. Bachchu Molla became a lawmaker in a by-election held in 2004 after the death of his father. No political party took part in the by-election.

Bachchu's nomination in the by-election was protested by many party men as he allegedly patronised outlaws in the district.

Nasir Uddin also sought nomination in the by-election and in the 2001 election but was denied.

In Khulna, Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal activists from Daulatpur, Khalishpur and Khanjahan Ali thana held a rally and brought out a broom procession in Daulatpur yesterday protesting four-party nomination to BNP leader Ashraf Hossain from Khulna-3. They demanded the party ticket for city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman.

Presided over by Daulatpur Mahila Dal secretary Noorjahan Akhter, the rally was addressed by, among others, party leaders Chamon Akhter, Nighat Shima, Mabiya Khatoon, Jhama Begum, Manjila Khatoon and Taslima Akhter.

They threatened greater agitation including hartal after Eid if city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman is not given four-party alliance ticket from Khulna-3 constituency, our Staff Correspondent reported.

They said that BNP leaders, activists and supporters in Khulna-3 constituency have rejected

Ashraf Hossain as a BNP leader as he violated the party constitution by making objectionable remarks against party chief Khaleda Zia and its senior joint secretary Tarique Rahman time and again in last one year.

Four-party alliance will lose this seat (Khulna-3) if nomination of Ashraf Hossain is not changed, they said.

The demonstrators laid siege to Daulatpur bus stand for about an hour disrupting traffic demanding Mayor's nomination.

In Pabna, rival BNP leaders and activists brought out procession, held a rally and burnt an effigy of former lawmaker Anwerul Islam, a four-party alliance nominee from Pabna-3 (Chatmoher upazila) constituency. They also held demonstrations on Thursday in the area protesting his nomination, a correspondent reported.

Friday's procession was brought out from Chatmoher Degree College premise adjacent to Anwarul Islam's residence. The rally held at Chatmoher Thana Crossing was addressed by, upazila BNP leaders Nazir Sharker, Harun Bishwas, Jahirul Haque, Abdul Moziid and Bilchallan Union Parishad chairman Mohammed Ali.

The speakers demand nomination for Saiful Azam Suza, who also submitted nomination paper.

Party sources said agitation against Anwarul Islam's nomination is continuing since news reached here that he got the party ticket. They also claimed that Anwerul Islam could not hold any public meeting in the area since he got the nomination.

# 1X1

# Cox's Bazar brims with life and colour

Tourists gather in thousands to welcome the New Year

## MUAZZEM HOSSAIN SHAKIL, Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar is now crammed with tourists who have flocked here to see off the last sunset of 2006 and welcome the New Year.

All hotels, motels and tourist lodges are jam-packed with visitors from home and abroad, with some innkeepers making hefty profit by charging three to four times the regular fares.

Posh hotels have arranged music concerts and other shows to celebrate the New Year Eve today with their guests, starting right after seeing the last sunset of 2006.

Local administration, Parjatan Corporation and beach management committee said the world's largest natural sea beach will brim with life and colours today and tomorrow, with uninterrupted overnight festivities.

Administration sources said they have taken adequate security preparations. Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been deployed in all sensitive areas including the entire beach and tourist zones to ensure a truly happy New Year.



Thousands of tourists have flocked to Cox's Bazar to spend the Eid vacation and welcome the New Year.

PHOTO: STAR

## Landslide kills two in Cox's Bazar

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two people were killed and three others injured in landslide at Chadergona village of Eidgona union in Sadar upazila here yesterday morning.

Mohammad Kalo, 35, and Zafor Alam, 12, were buried alive when their house collapsed following a landslide at a nearby hill at about 10.00 am, police and local people said.

The injured are Abul Kashem, 42, Mohammad Quader, 35, and Monir Hossain, 41.

Later, police recovered the bodies.

It has been alleged that landslides are on rise due to indiscriminate hill cutting in Cox's Bazar.

## 20 AL, JP 'rebel' candidates in Nilphamari

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

'Grand alliance' nominees are facing 20 'rebel' candidates of component parties -- Awami League (AL) and Jatiyo Party (JP) -- in four constituencies in Nilphamari district.

The 20 candidates filed nomination papers ignoring party directives and threat of expulsion, sources in the parties said.

Three JP candidates and one AL candidate got grand alliance nomination from the four constituencies in the district.

In Nilphamari-1 (Domar-Dimla), JP central assistant secretary N K Alam Chowdhury, who was elected in 1996, got the alliance nomination. AL leader Hamida Banu Shova, who was elected in 2001 election, filed nomination paper from the constituency to fight the alliance candidate.

The other candidates from this constituency are AL leaders former ambassador Aminul Hossain Sarker, Domar upazila AL convener Khairul Alam Babul and district JP secretary Jinal Abedin.

Opponents of Alam Chowdhury alleged claimed that he is 'physically

unfit' to run in the poll race and never visited the constituency in five years from 1996 to 2001 when he was the lawmaker.

In Nilphamari-2 (Sadar), AL central publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Noor is the alliance candidate. District AL president Dewan Kamal Ahmed and district JP secretary Jinal Abedin also filed nomination paper to challenge Noor.

In 2001 election, Asaduzzaman Noor won the seat securing 69,960 votes against his nearest rival Abdul Latif of Jamaat-e-Islami who got 65,835 votes.

In Nilphamari-3, six candidates of AL and 3 of JP filed nomination papers against grand alliance candidate Kazi Faruk Kader.

All the AL 'rebels' are demanding cancellation of nomination of Kazi Faruk Kader. In a statement, they said they feel are embarrassed to campaign for the son of a 'collaborator of Pakistani occupation army in 1971'. Kazi Faruk Kader is the son of Kazi Kader, who was a central minister erstwhile Pakistan.

The six AL candidates are Golam Mostafa, Ansarul Islam Minu,

Dipendra Nath Sarker, Kamrul Alam Kabir, Benjir Ahmed and Ohidul Islam.

The 3 JP candidates are Jinal Abedin, Rashidul Alam Chowdhury and JP chairman HM Ershad's younger brother G M Kader.

In 2001 election, AL candidate Dipendra Nath Sarker got 55,043 votes and was defeated by a Jamaat candidate who got 64,180 votes.

In Nilphamari-4 (Saidpur and part of Kishoreganj) constituency, the grand alliance candidate Shawkat Chowdhury of JP.

In 2001 election, AL candidate Maruf Saklain was defeated by BNP's Amzad Hossain Sarker with only 2,914 votes. Maruf Saklain got 57,285 votes and Amzad Hossain got 60,199.

AL candidates in this constituency are barrister Moksedul Islam, engineer Sekandar Ali, Saidpur Upazila AL president Akhtar Hossain Badal and Mosarraf Hossain.

The JP candidates are Ershad's younger sister Merina Rahman and Ahsan Azelur Rahman.

# 6X3

## Fuel crisis in Sylhet deepens

### IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

At least 10 filling stations in and around the city were closed yesterday due crisis of diesel and octane.

On the other hand, about 100 tank lorries which went to depots of Jamuna and Padma oil companies in the city for fuel returned empty, president of Sylhet Division Petroleum Dealers and Agents Association Mohsinur Rashid said yesterday evening.

Supply of petrol is however normal, he said.

He apprehended that fuel crisis in the district may aggravate as officials at the depots told dealers that there would not be any supply for three days from yesterday due to Eid vacation.

An official of Padma oil com-

pany, when contacted, however said there was no supply from depots yesterday because of weekly government holiday.

But the dealers and agents said, as in the past, oil depots should have supplied fuel yesterday in view of the Eid.

Most of the filling stations in Sylhet are running without octane for last few days while supply of diesel was also reduced by about 50 per cent, the dealers claimed.

Owners of a number of filling stations in Sylhet city claimed that the three state run oil companies did not to supply octane to about 100 filling stations in Sylhet region in last six days.

A dealer of Meghna at Sobhanighat in Sylhet city said, the depot authorities informed him

earlier that supply of diesel and octane would remain suspended for five days from Thursday.

Supply was suspended for two days only on previous Eid vacations, he claimed.

Mohsinur Rashid said that supply was suspended due to storage in Padma and Jamuna oil depots in Sylhet. He demanded immediate resumption of supplies to avoid a greater crisis.

An official of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) seeking anonymity said diesel supply was reduced in last six months to stop smuggling through border.

He however hinted that there could be short supply from Chittagong due to problems in import.

# 10X2

# 6X3

# 6X3