

Constituency of Biswas to witness a scramble for votes

By Nazmul Ashraf

The major political parties have become active once again after the announcement of December 21 as the date for the by-election in the Bakerganj-5 constituency.

The Bakerganj-5 seat to parliament fell vacant following the taking of oath of its sitting member Abdur Rahman Biswas as President of the republic on October 9.

The Election Commissioner has announced November 27 as the last date for submission of nomination papers while December 4 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal.

Intending candidates of the BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party have already started seeking the blessings of their respective party policy makers, insiders say.

Announcement of the by-election date has also created fresh enthusiasm in the Bakerganj-5 constituency where local leaders of different political parties have begun reviving contacts with various quarters and members of the public.

Central leaders of the parties, expected to contest the by-election, have also started touring the area, party sources in Dhaka said.

Leaders of different political parties in Dhaka could not specifically name the candidates for the by-election. However, they hinted that the prospective candidates were, Kazi Golam Mahub, ex-minister Nurul Islam Manjur, Journalist Amanullah, DUCSU Assistant General Secretary Najmuddin Alam and Prof Rashid Khan of the BNP, former Superintendent of Police Mahubur Rahman.

Amir Hossain Amu of the Awami League and ex-minister Matur Rahman and Abdul Berek of the Jatiya Party.

In the February 27 JS elections and a by-election held later, the opposition party candidates were elected in 27 out of 38 JS seats in nine southern districts while the ruling party candidates won in only 11 seats.

Besides, the number of opposition MPs in the country's eight northern districts is 32 against the lone seat won by the ruling party.

Regaining the Bakerganj-5 JS seat is also important for the ruling BNP to raise its strength in parliament. At present, its strength is 169 while that of the Opposition is 160. On Sheikh Razzak Ali's being elected Speaker of the 330-member parliament, the BNP's strength is now 168. If the BNP loses the Bakerganj-5 seat, the strength of the Opposition will stand at 161.

In the February 27 elections, Abdur Rahman Biswas of the BNP was elected in the Bakerganj-5 constituency bagging 51,972 votes against 28,840 votes by Mahubur Rahman of the Awami League and 22,860 by Matur Rahman of the Jatiya Party.

The Fifth Jatiya Sangsad is going to have the highest record in holding by-elections to the vacant seats. On completion of the by-election in the Bakerganj-5 seat, the number of by-elections will stand at 12.

No by-election was held during the First Jatiya Sangsad while the Second witnessed four and the Third and the Fourth one each.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting on the occasion of joining of 16,000 postal Extra Departmental employees in BNP at Bijoy Saroni Friday.

RAJUK to give a 'shock treatment' Unauthorised houses, shops to be demolished from Nov 25

By Farid Ahmed

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) will go for a massive demolition of unauthorised houses, roadside shops and other temporary sheds and slums in the city from November 25.

Already, some unauthorised houses and shopping centres near the planned link road between Mirpur and Green Road were demolished on Wednesday.

Residential houses and shops not approved by RAJUK will come under the eviction programme, the authorities said.

Initially, the programme will start in Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Banani, Gulshan and Uttara. Other areas of the city will come under the programme gradually, RAJUK authorities said.

constituted two teams headed by Lt Col (Retd) Nurul Haque and Faraz Khan to carry on the programme.

RAJUK Chairman, Anwarul Alam told The Daily Star that a "significant number" of buildings would be bulldozed under the programme. "We want to give a shock treatment to make the people aware so that they abide by the rules in future," said the Chairman.

"Since the government is sincere to make Dhaka a better city, we shall make the programme a success," he said.

Lt Col (Retd) Nurul Haque said that even some government building in the city were constructed violating RAJUK's rules.

Asked if they fail to realise the cost, Nurul Haque said that RAJUK would not approved plans on those holdings in future and the Titas gas, WASA and PDB authorities would be asked not to cooperate with those owners.

According to an estimation of Dhaka City Corporation, there are nearly 1,20,000 holdings in the city whereas constructions on only 90,000 of those holdings were approved by RAJUK. Also many of those 90 thousand houses were not constructed as per the approved plans, said a RAJUK official.

RAJUK authorities said that they had no up-to-date record of all houses, shops, industrial and commercial establishments as they were constructed caring a little for the authorities' approval.

Khaleda Zia

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Chhatra Dal in all elections held in educational institutions manifested that the future generation had confidence and support for the nationalist forces.

Begum Zia said people still remembered the anarchy and confusion created by certain forces in power in the post-independence period.

She said the present government would not tolerate any irregularities and said her government would always strongly oppose all malpractices including corruption and bribery.

The Prime Minister said her government was determined to eliminate terrorism from educational institutions. She said the government would take action in accordance with the recommendations of the parliamentary committee formed to work out ways and means to put an end to campus violence. She also mentioned that her meetings with the leaders of different political parties, guardians and concerned authorities held several times for working out ways for curbing terrorism in educational institutions.

She also called for maximum utilisation of local resources to achieve self-reliance in economic sector.

Outlining the development programmes of the present elected government the Prime Minister said her government had already taken steps to revitalize the socio-economic sectors of the country which were damaged by nine years of autocratic rule. She said, "We have to work hard to cover up the lapse created in the economic sector caused by the autocratic ruler."

Teachers

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Prior to the rally, they will bring out a silent procession from the BUET Shaheed Minar at 10 am and parade the campus thoroughfares in DU and BUET.

At the rally the federation will announce fresh anti-terrorism programme.

Anniversary of Bhashani's death tomorrow

The 15th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani will be observed tomorrow (Sunday), reports BSS.

Different political and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre (BNPRC) and Maulana Bhashani Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will jointly hold a discussion at Jatiya Grantha Kendra on November 17 at 3-30 pm.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafez will be present as the chief guest. The discussion will be presided over by former Chief Justice Kamal Uddin Hossain, while former Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BSPSC) Prof A Q M B Karim and Chairman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Dr Ashraf Siddiqi will attend as the special guests.

President of BNPRC, Poet Mohammad Abdul Khaeque will present the key-note paper at the discussion.

Bangladesh Jukta Front has taken up a two-day programme in memory of Maulana Bhashani. It will hold a seminar on "Role of the Maulana in Independence Movement" on November 16 at Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium at 3 pm. Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas will be the chief guest, while State Minister for Forest and Environment Goyeswar Roy will attend as special guest.

Jukta Front will arrange discussion, milad mahfil, Telwa-e-Quran and feteha and will place floral wreath at the mazar premises of the Maulana at Santosh of Tangail at 10 am. It will march to Santosh from the central office at 7 am on the day.

Maulana Bhashani Smriti Chhatra Sangsad will arrange a discussion today (Saturday) at the children auditorium of National Museum at 4 pm. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will be present at the discussion as the chief guest.

Progotihil Ganatantrik Shakti (PROGOSHI) will also observe the day in memory of the Maulana.

Bhashani Smriti Sangsad will hold discussion today (Saturday) at the National Press Club at 4 pm.

The Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Razzak Ali, will be the chief guest while Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will attend as the special guest. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan, Haroon-or-Rashid Munnu, MP, Barrister Motnu Hossain, and Sanaullah Nuri will take part in the discussion.

Ashrawi to be charged for flouting Israeli laws

JERUSALEM, Nov 15: Police have recommended charging Hanan Ashrawi, a key adviser to Palestinian negotiators at the Madrid peace talks, with meeting PLO officials in violation of Israeli law, radio stations reported Friday, reports AP.

Palestinian leaders and liberal Israelis said it would be a serious blow to the peace process if the attorney general prosecutes Mrs Ashrawi.

At least one legislator who supports prosecuting Mrs Ashrawi predicted that it will not happen. Another lawmaker, who opposes such a move, called it a negotiating ploy.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Etty Eshed confirmed that the attorney general received the police file on Mrs Ashrawi, but refused to say what police recommended.

A senior source in Jerusalem said the government would weigh Mrs Ashrawi's prominent role in the peace process when it decides whether to prosecute her.

"We are certain that all these things will be taken into consideration," the source said.

The radio reports, citing police sources, said a similar investigation against another top Palestinian adviser, Faisal Hussein, was closed for lack of evidence.

Mrs Ashrawi and Hussein were not part of the Palestinian delegation, but



were considered key leaders behind the scenes. They met with US Secretary of State James A Baker during the preparatory stage to the peace conference.

Haider, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, called on the United States and the Soviet Union, the co-sponsors of the peace talks, to block any legal moves against Mrs Ashrawi.

Li visits India next month

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Chinese Premier Li Peng will pay a landmark five-day visit here in December for talks with his Indian counterpart, P V Narasimha Rao, official sources said here today, reports AFP.

Repatriation

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repatriation problem," he said. Khan said that he had "very cordial" discussion with D. Nasseef and explored the ways and means for ferrying of the stranded Pakistanis.

Pakistan earlier announced to take back all of its stranded nationals from Bangladesh and settle them in 32 districts of Punjab province.

The Rabita Secretary General Friday morning visited the stranded Pakistanis' camps at Muhammadpur and was moved by their pitiable condition.

Nasim Khan said that the survey to identify and categorise the stranded Pakistanis will begin soon and a committee has already started working.

According to a survey conducted in 1984 there were 20 lakh 58 thousand and 28 Pakistani nationals stranded in this country, he said.

Meanwhile, Islamabad has formed three sub-committees for transport, housing and rehabilitation of the returnees.

Election to UP

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order to hold the coming Union Parishad elections in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

The Election Commission has already appointed all the Deputy Commissioners to act as the chief coordinator for their respective districts and all Upazila Nirbahi Officers as coordinator for their respective upazilas.

The district election officers will appoint the returning officers from amongst the upazila-level officers of their respective jurisdictions, the Election Commission announcement said.

Two burnt alive in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent MANIKGANJ, Nov 15: Two people were burnt alive and another two sustained burn wounds in a fire at Saver bazar yesterday night.

The fire originated from an electric short-circuit at a seed store of the bazar at about 1 pm. Property worth about Taka 12 lakh was gutted.

The Midnight File

Churchill's hat sold at auction for \$11,800

LONDON, Nov 15: A homburg hat worn by Britain's cigar-smoking World War II Prime Minister Winston Churchill was sold at auction today for 6,600 pounds (11,800 dollars). The hat, with Churchill's initials embossed in gold inside, was bought by a unidentified telephone bidder, Christie's auction house said. Churchill wore the hat on state visits and other formal occasions, reports Reuter.

UNICEF vessel fired upon

ROME, Nov 15: An Italian government minister on board a hydrofoil chartered by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) confirmed the vessel was fired on near the Yugoslav coast today. Immigration Minister Margherita Boniver said in a telephone interview with the Italian news agency Ansa that four shells hit the water near the bow of the ship, which was due to evacuate children from the besieged adriatic port of Dubrovnik, reports Reuter.

Palestinian shot dead

JERUSALEM, Nov 15: Israeli border guards today shot and killed a masked Palestinian youth and put a brutal end to festivities marking the third anniversary of Palestinian "independence day." Israeli and Arab sources said. Police identified the victim as Moussa Abu Eida, 21, and said he was shot dead as he tried to put up pro-PLO posters in the old city here. Another Arab was arrested, reports AFP.

Gustav Husak ill

PRAQUE, Nov 15: The former Communist President, Gustav Husak, is critically ill in a hospital in the Slovak capital Bratislava, news reports said Friday. The reports, quoting hospital officials said Husak, 78, is in a coma and has lost weight after several cancer operations. He was hospitalised Nov 8. Husak was forced to resign as president on Dec 10, 1989, as Czechoslovakia's "velvet revolution" threw off decades of rule, reports AP.

CHT mourners

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for several hours and people from different walks of life crowded to see the victims expressing shock and anger at the brutalities committed from across the border.

President of the Coordination Council of the Bar Associations Shamsul Huq Choudhury, while addressing the rally, strongly condemned the atrocities committed by the insurgents.

He called upon the ruling and opposition parties to arrive at a consensus to solve the problem peacefully and politically. He also urged the government to seek cooperation of the Indian government to end the insurgent attacks of Shantibahini inside Bangladesh.

The trip to the capital was organised by the Khagrachhari Krishak-Sramik Kalyan Parishad and the district unit of Human Rights Commission. The rally was addressed, among others, by the President of the Parishad S M Rezaul Karim Helal, Secretary Abdul Awal, Vice-President A K M Shahidul Islam, who is also the Chairman of the Upazila Central Cooperative Council, the President of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Bangalee Chhatra-Gano Parishad Muniruzzaman Munir and Chairman of Panchhari union parishad Sirajul Islam.

Claiming that at least 35 people were killed in the Khagrachhari district during last one month alone, speakers at the rally demanded that the government call off all dialogues with the insurgents immediately. They also slated

the recently-announced amnesty to the Shantibahini men at a time when the atrocities are continuing unabated.

Alleging that the armed insurgents were committing acts of terrorism in the region in direct collaboration with the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), the speakers said that it is a conspiracy against the national sovereignty and demanded that the government take immediate steps to end such conspiracies.

"If the government fails to resolve the crisis then we will have no other option but to take counter measures ourselves as our backs have already been pushed to the wall," one speaker warned.

After the rally when the protesters along with the bodies of the victims attempted to march towards the Indian High Commission at Dhanmondi, the police blocked their way near the Ramna Park and persuaded them to turn back. Earlier, they were also persuaded not to go towards the Prime Minister's office and the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition at Mintoo Road.

The protesters then went to Baitul Mukarram mosque where namaz-e-janaza was held following Juma prayers.

The bodies of the victims were then carried on the truck under police escort to the Azimpur graveyard for burial.

Kader Siddiqui

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Azam, Siddiqi said, "being a citizen of the country by birth I was given one-month visa to visit my country. I want to know for how many days Golam Azam was given permission to stay here?"

Organised by the local unit of Kader Siddiqi Sangram Parishad, the meeting was presided over by President of district Bangabandhu Parishad Dr. Abdul Khalek. It was addressed, among others, by Awami League leader of Natore Abdul Kuddus, MP, and Tangail District Awami League President Afabuzzaman Piroz.

Local Awami League leaders were not seen at the meeting.

Slum-dwellers

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walling, all the time appealing to the officials and police not to uproot them without alternative arrangements.

Bangladesh Bastuhara Jana Kalyan Samity and Bangladesh Garib Dal brought out a joint procession in the afternoon condemning the police action.

Processionists alleged that police attacked their peaceful procession at Bakshbazar and picked up many, including NAP (Bhasani) Chairman Prof Noor Muhammad Kazim and Garib Dal President Sheikh Joinal Abedin.

Bastuhara Jana Kalyan Samity and the Garib Dal have demanded compensation for the evicted slum people and their proper rehabilitation.

They regretted that instead of rehabilitation, the present democratic government chose to uproot the homeless people. The situation will turn worse if these people are not rehabilitated immediately, they warned.

Nasseef leaves for Jeddah

Rabita Secretary General Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef, former Saudi Ministers Dr Muhammad Abdur Yemani and Shaikh Ahmed Salah Jamjoom left Dhaka for Jeddah Friday afternoon, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar saw them off at the airport. Among others Education Secretary Mir Mustafizur Rahman, Secretary of Science and Technology Division Heshamuddin Ahmed, and Rector of Darul Ihsan University Syed Ali Ashraf were present.

Earlier the Rabita Secretary General presided over a meeting of the Board of Governors of Rabita Dhaka and visited vocational training centre of Rabita at Kallayanpur in the city.

CPB terms country a sinking ship

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) said here today that a consensus is needed between government and opposition for rapid progress of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a rally of the CPB, Chittagong District Committee, as the chief guest at the Muslim Hall here, the CPB chief termed the country as a sinking ship and underlined the importance of nurturing the nascent democracy so that the country might be self-reliant in economy, agriculture and industry.

Presided over by labour leader Tapan Datta, the rally was also addressed by president member Ahsanullah Chowdhury, Mohammad Shah Alam, Asok Saha and Mohammad Jahangir.

Manik said the new, hard-earned democracy would be meaningless, if Special Powers Act of 1974 and Indemnity Ordinance are not annulled.

JU student activist assaulted

JU Correspondent

A student of Jahangirnagar University was roughed up by his rival group Friday morning and was later brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with veins cut.

Officials and witnesses said Arshed Ali, an Honours examinee of the Physics Department, was assaulted by a group of students at the Al-Beruni Hall premises. They cut off the veins of two legs of Arshed.

Authorities later rescued Arshed from the hall and sent him to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Sources on the campus said the incident was a sequel to feud within the JU unit of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Arshed was expelled from the organisation in May for his alleged involvement in a violent clash between local and non-local factions of JCD which left seven students injured.

JCD leaders, however, in a hastily called Press conference on the day said Arshed was captured by the students for his suspicious movement on the campus with outsiders.

A razor and a crude bomb was recovered from his possession, the JCD leaders alleged.

The university authorities have deployed police at the Al-Beruni Hall and other parts of the campus where tension prevailed.

Trains stranded as one derails

A local train derailed near Kanabari station disrupting rail communications between Dhaka and Chittagong Friday, railway sources said, reports UNB.

Express trains from Dhaka and Chittagong remained stranded as the engine and a compartment of the Akhaura-bound passenger train from Dhaka derailed at about 6.45 pm.

There was no report of any injury or causality.

A relief train from Dhaka left Kamalapur at 8-15 pm but it could not clear the busy rail track till writing of this report at 10 pm.

Inter-city express trains Parabat, Mahanagar, Upakul and Karnafuli did not leave Kamalapur railway station while Mahanagar from Chittagong, Parabat from Sylhet and Upakul from Noakhali remained stranded at Methikanda. The Noakhali Express from Dhaka was halted at Narasingdi.

Dacoity in Ctg-bound night coach

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Dacoits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk six lakh from the passengers of a night coach today on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Chandina upazila of Comilla district, reports UNB.

Witnesses said miscreants armed with revolvers, pipe guns and other lethal weapons stabbed three passengers and beat up five others.

They boarded the Chittagong bound coach MR Paribahan from Dhaka and attacked the passengers when it reached Iltoganj ferry ghat at around 12.30 am.

The dacoits forced the driver of the coach at gunpoint to drive slow, snatched cash and valuables from the passengers and got down safely near Kutumbpur.

Five states ask Burmese junta to free Suu Kyi

OSLO, Nov 15: Five western nations appealed to Burma's military rulers this week to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel peace prize, Norway said today, reports Reuter.

"The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and Norway signed the letter, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bjoern Blokhuis said.

He said the 12 European Community countries planned a separate appeal.

Editor : S. M. Ali