

Campaign scenes: Barisal

AL-BNP close fight in 14 out of 23 seats

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, June 2: Election campaign for the June 12 parliamentary elections is going on in full swing in the six southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Perajpur, Jhalakathi, Barguna and Bhola under Barisal Division.

According to information received from various sources, at least 14 constituencies out of 23 in the division, there will be tough contest between the candidates of Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

In the other seats, triangular fight is likely among the candidates of AL, BNP and Jatiya Party (JP).

A total of 230 candidates from different parties had submitted nomination papers for the 23 seats but eleven nomination papers were cancelled and 25 candidates withdrew their candidature, leaving 196 in the race.

In the six constituencies of Barisal district, the number of candidates is 50. In the 1991 election, there were 63 candidates and BNP bagged 3 seats, AL 2 and Workers Party 1 seat.

In Barisal-1 (Gournadi-
Agailjhara) constituency, Abul
Hasnat Abdullah, former MP
from AL is again facing in his
BNP rival in the 1991 polls
Kazi Golam Mahubub as well as
Sunil Gupta, a former MP from
JP and minister in Ershad
regime. Zahiruddin Swapan, a
student leader from Chhatra
Maitree, later joined BNP and
won the February 15 election
this year. But this time he
failed to get nomination from
BNP. In the 1991 polls Abul
Hasnat Abdullah defeated Kazi
Golam Mahubub by 8843 votes.
Eight candidates from differ-
ent parties are contesting in
this constituency.

In Barisal-2 (Babuganj-Uzir-
pur) seat, 10 candidates are
contesting. Rashed Khan
Menon, former MP from
Workers Party, faces a tough
contest against AL candidate
Syed Mainul Haq, son of late
politician Syed Azizul Haq
(Nanna Mia). He was in the JP
earlier. Sarifuddin Sentu, a
dissident of AL, is contesting
the polls as an independent
candidate.

Golam Kibria Tipu, a JP dis-
sident is now an independent
candidate while Golam Faruk
Avi, a former student leader, is
contesting as a JP nominee.
Mozam Hossain Alal, a central
leader of Juba Dal, was
nominated by BNP for this
seat. He won from this seat in
the February 15 election.

In Barisal-3 (Hizla-Muladi)
constituency, there are nine
candidates. Mosharrif Hossain
Manju from BNP won from this
seat, defeating AL candidate
Abdul Bari by 4850 votes in the
1991 polls. He is facing the
same rival this time. ATM Ma-
habubul Haq, a former upazila
chairman, is now JP candidate
from this constituency.

In Barisal-4 (Mehendiganj
thana area) the number of con-
testants is six. AL central
leader Mohiuddin Ahmed faces
a tough fight against Md Abul
Hossain of BNP, Mahmud Hos-
sain al-Mamun of Jamaat-e-Is-
lami and JP candidate Abdul
Jabbar Master. In the 1991
election Mohiuddin Ahmed
won by defeating Mahmud
Hossain of Jamaat. The Jamaat
candidate is very strong this
time, sources in the area said.

Barisal-5 (Sadar) is con-
sidered by political circles a
prestigious seat. AL never got
this seat after 1973. Nine
candidates are in the race
here. They are Abdul Hannan
Chowdhury - Freedom Party,
Advocate Sawkat Hossain Hir-
on - JP, Dr. Inteshamul
Nasim Biswas - BNP, Engineer
Mofazzilur Rahman - JSD,
Mahabubuddin Ahmed - AL,
Muazzem Hossain Helal - Ja-
maat, Syed Nasir Ahmed
Kausar - IJG, Md Abdul Malek
Mridha and Md Hannan Serni-
abat - Independents.

Politically conscious people
and observers say a triangular
fight among Mahabubuddin of
AL, Dr Nasim of BNP and Hiron
of JP will take place here.

President Abdur Rahman
Biswas, as BNP candidate, was
elected MP from here defeat-
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AL by 23,360 votes in the
1991 election. When he be-
came president the seat vacant
and later in the by election,
BNP candidate Majbar Rah-
man Sarwar won the by-
election defeating JP candidate
Shawkat Hossain Hiron.

Dr Nasim Biswas is the
president's son and from this
seat he was elected in the
February 15 elections.

In Barisal-6 (Bakerganj),
there are eight candidates.
Former BNP MP principal Ab-
dur Rashid Khan faces former
JP MP Dr. Engineer
Ruhul Amin Howlader and AL
candidate industrialist Syed
Masud Reza. The main fight is
likely among the three.

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Rashid for Comilla-2, Prof Ali
Ashraf for Comilla-6 and
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She will go to Feni tonight
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Palestine President Yasser Arafat walks hands in hands with Israeli police officers for the first time toward Arafat's special plane which landed on the airport during the ceremony for opening of the first Palestinian airport in Rafah Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP photo

4 killed, 42 hurt in road accident

MANIKGANJ, June 2: A head-on collision between two minibuses on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today left four people dead and 42 others injured, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said a Dhaka-bound minibus from Dhamrai collided with an Aricha-bound minibus in front Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) at about 4:30 pm.

Two of the passengers — Aklima, 35 and Abdus Sattar, 17 died on the spot while another two — Sumon, 9, and unidentified one aged about 40 succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital.

The injured were admitted to Savar health complex and also sent to different hospitals in the capital.

A case was filed with Savar police in this connection.

Richardson

From Page 1
ing his visit. However, sources said it is unlikely that he would be able to meet the chiefs of the Awami League or the BNP as they have programmes outside the capital.

This is the second trip of the US Congressman. He also came here in March this year to negotiate the political stalemate in the country at that time.

The US Congressman will address a press conference before his departure this evening.

EC decision

From Page 1
and Post and Telecom-
munication Secretary M A Reza.
Chairman of the T and T Board, Chairman of Rural Electrification Board, acting chairman of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA), acting chairman of Power Development Board (PDB), Director General of Bangladesh Television, Director General of Radio Bangladesh and other high officials were also present in the meeting.

The CEC apprised the meeting of the arrangements for announcing the election results, like the setting up of additional generators for the supply of necessary electricity and additional telephone and fax, installation of temporary centres of Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television and provision of other incidental facilities.

Salman's petition

From Page 1
Yesterday, Barrister Rafique-ul Huq submitted that the HC passed an oral order, but is yet to sign anything and that was why he prayed for stay of that order till hearing of the stay petition after receiving the certified copy of the order.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam submitted that before passing the stay order it has to know how the judgement has prejudiced the petitioner.

"Stay cannot be allowed in anticipation," he submitted. He argued that according to the petitioner the judgement

Dhaka-7

From Page 1
Salam of Jamaat-e-Islami, according to some voters.
Sadek Hossain Khoka had defeated AL Chief Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka-7 constituency by over 25,000 votes in the 1991 election.

Fazlul Karim, a dedicated AL leader in the old part of the city, is getting city Mayor Mohammad Hani's all-out assistance and advice in his campaign strategy this year, party sources said.

According to some voters, the candidates are making their best efforts to secure votes of the 'silent majority'. "Besides, minority votes will be an important factor because there is a good number of Hindu voters in the area," they said.

CPI to join Gowda's coalition govt

NEW DELHI, June 2: Communists will join an Indian government for the first time since independence following the Communist Party of India's (CPI) decision today to join Prime Minister HD Dev Gowda's coalition, reports AFP.

India's oldest communist party decided to join the new united front coalition at a closed door meeting of its national council. It said the participation of communists in the minority government was 'vital'.

The participation of the left parties is vital for the work of the united Front government, a statement released by CPI Deputy General Secretary A B Bardhan said.

The national council is of the view that the participation of left parties would greatly contribute in the functioning of this government and in carrying out the tasks it has undertaken, it said.

"This is what the people and in particular the left masses have been looking forward to, it said.

The CPI, founded 1925, is a member of a leftist alliance which has ruled West Bengal since 1977, and was returned to power in the southern state of Kerala in last month's elections.

The party, with 12 MPs in the 545-seat federal parliament, is a member of the United Front coalition which comprises of about a dozen centrist, regional and leftist parties.

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3 killed as oil tanker rams vegetable shop

CHITTAGONG, June 2: Three people were killed and four others injured when an oil tanker rammed into a vegetable shop in the city's Nasirabad area today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the oil tanker ran into the shop at Zakir Hossain road at about 7:30 am after the driver lost control of the steering.

Two vegetable vendors, Sultan Ahmed, 30, and Sundar Ali, 24, died on the spot while another unidentified youth aged about 22 succumbed to his injuries at Chitragong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in the evening.

The injured were admitted to the CMCH.

Police arrested the driver and seized the lorry. A case was filed with Panchlaish thana.

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Snackmaker Toaster Oven

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PHILIPS

Showcase on Information Secy, CEC

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday directed the Secretary, Ministry of Information and the Chief Election Commissioner to show cause within 48 hours as to why they should not be requested to give coverage of the election propaganda of Democratic Republican Party on the television and radio.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin upon a writ petition filed by Md Anisuzzaman Khokan, convener of Democratic Republican Party and a candidate for the Dhaka-5 Jatiya Sangaad constituency, issued the rule nisi.

The court also ordered the respondents to show cause as to why they should not be requested to call upon the petitioner or his party to address the voters on the parliamentary election on television and radio.

Complaints filed with CEC against Maj (Retd) Mannan

By Staff Correspondent

A number of complaints have been lodged with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) against Major (retired) Abdul Mannan, BNP nominee from Dhaka-10 (Ramna-Tejgaon) constituency.

Ramna thana unit president of Awami League Abul Bashar registered the complaints alleging that the BNP candidate has violated the clauses 3, 5 (7), 5 (17) of the Election Code of Conduct '96, said a press release yesterday.

The complaints lodged against Mannan include - distribution of money among slum dwellers, allocation of Tk 5,000 for a tubewell at a slum at Kakrail, pasting posters of Mannan overlapping the posters of AL candidate Dr IJBM Iqbal, giving threats to AL workers engaged in electioneering, delivering speeches hurting the religious sentiments and making provocative statements, the press release added.

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The Midnight File

Night curfew in Calcutta to continue

CALCUTTA, June 2: Night curfew continued to be in force in the violence-ridden Ekbalpur police station area of south Calcutta where the situation is now under control, the police said today. They said that curfew would be in force from 2200 hours to 0500 hours, reports PTI.

CA's surprise visit to Nat'l Archives

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman paid a surprise visit to the National Archives yesterday, reports UNB.

During the visit, he went around different sections of the Archives to see the preservation of books and documents there.

The Chief Adviser directed the authorities concerned to take proper care of the valuable collections in it.

2 killed

From Page 1
came under a mob attack at Mogdara village under Sandwip thana.

During the clash firearms were used and a series of cocktails were exploded amid chase and counter-chase, police and local people sources said.

Police later arrested one person from the area. He was identified as Shah Alam.

Both BNP and AL blamed each other for the clash.

Meanwhile, after the arrest of Shah Alam several hundred BNP supporters gheraoed the Sandwip thana and staged demonstrations demanding the release of Shah Alam, police said.

The demonstrators stayed in front of thana till 4 am today while tension spread around Sandwip island, police added.

The BNP unit of Sandwip yesterday observed a day-long hartal here protesting the killing of its activists Saiful Islam and demanding release of arrested Shah Alam immediately.

Normal life was disrupted yesterday at Sandwip during