

National

Opponents polluting
fair polls
environment,
alleges Nasim
From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 8: Awami League central leader and candidate for the Sirajganj 1 and 2 constituencies Moham-mad Nasim Friday expressed his fear that the elections in his constituencies might not be fair as his opponents had already polluted the environment with black money.

At a press conference, Moham-mad Nasim said that some of his opponents were offering money to voters.

He said, some terrorists were threatening voters to cast their votes in favour of those opponents.

Rickshawpullers in Sirajganj town were offered money and given banners to campaign in favour of those candidates, Nasim alleged.

"I urge foreign and local polls observers to come to Sirajganj on the election day and see for themselves if things are alright here," Nasim pointed out.

The press conference was held at Nasim's election office here. It was attended among others by district AL President Motahar H Talukdar.

Mohammed Nasim is contesting against BNP's Shamsul Al-Amin and JP's Prof MA Matin in Sirajganj 2 seat.

Patuakhali: 10 hurt in pre-polls violence

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 8: At least 10 persons were injured, 3 of them seriously, in a pre-polls violence and clash between Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party supporters at Sreerampur Village under Sadar thana of Patuakhali district on Thursday night.

The clash erupted following altercation between the two rival party supporters centring a procession. Several bombs were exploded during the clash.

Seriously injured Mannan Chowdhury, 45, Abdus Salam, 25 and Mizanur Rahaman, 27, were admitted to Patuakhali Sadar Hospital. Two separate cases were lodged by AL and BNP in this connection.

Student killed in Bogra

BOGRA, June 8: A beheaded body of a student was recovered from a rooftop of a one-storyed building at Temple road in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Police, acting on a tip-off, searched the different rooms of the building and recovered the body of Nikhil, 23, first year student of Government Azizul Haq College, from its rooftop.

The residence is being used as district Rickshaw Sramik Union office for a long time, police said.

Police arrested two people for interrogation in this connection.

JP would emerge as single largest party, if Ershad was released: Mizan

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, June 8: Acting chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has said, questions might arise about the neutrality of the caretaker government if JP chairman H M Ershad was not allowed to take part in the election.

Chowdhury claimed that JP would emerge as the single largest party in the coming election. "If Ershad is released, JP would sweep the election," he said.

The JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was addressing a public meeting in favour of local JP candidate at Moulvibazar Pourashava Shishu Park Wednesday evening.

He called upon the people to vote for Jatiya Party in the coming polls as also to voice their protest against corruption of the BNP government during the last five years. He said, due to mismanagement of the BNP government the country had turned into an Indian market and many factories were closed down.

Double murder in Sirajganj:

Miscreants yet to be arrested

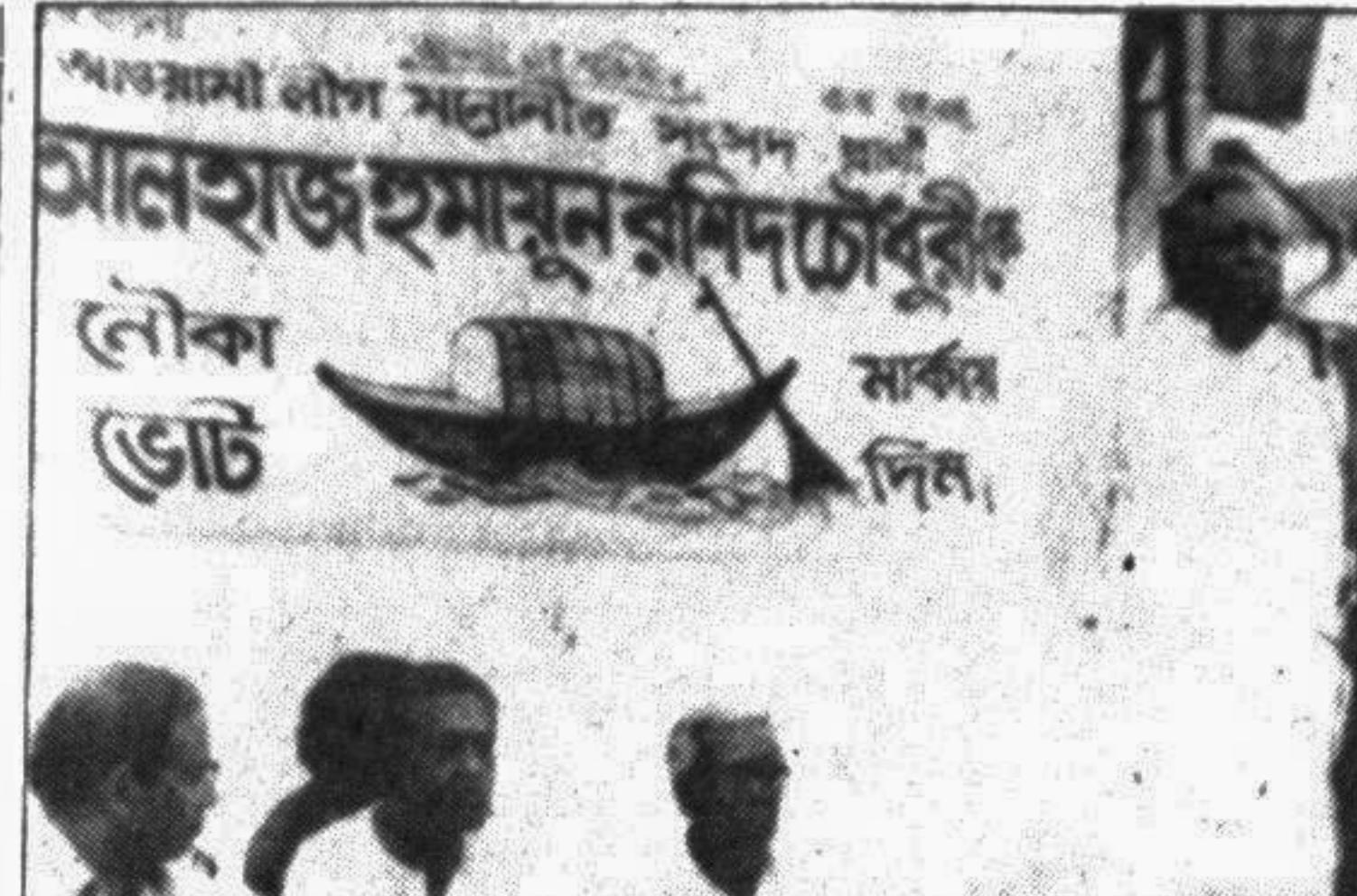
SIRAJGANJ, June 8: Even after a week the mystery of the double murder on Bogra-Nagarbari highway was not yet unearthed and none was arrested in this connection, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of four youths killed a micro bus driver, Abdus Salam, 35, hailed from Faridpur and its helper, Anwar, 34, from Kushtia, in the evening on May 29 on the highway.

On the following day, police recovered the bodies under the two bridges Salam from Boalia bridge in Ullapara thana and Anwar from Bhuiyan-gati bridge in Raiganj.

Earlier, the youths hired the micro bus from a "Rent-e-Car" in Mohammadpur of the capital city and left Dhaka for Bogra through Aricha-Nagarbari ghat.

Police could not yet recover the micro bus. The case, however, was handed over to the CID for investigation.



SYLHET: AL nominee for Sylhet-1 constituency Humayun Rashid Chowdhury (L) speaking at an election meeting at Rikabibazar of Sylhet town Saturday last. BNP nominee for Sylhet-1 M Saifur Rahman (R) addressing a public meeting during an election campaign in Tukerbazar of Companyganj thana of the district.

— Star photo

China virus kill huge quantity of shrimp fry in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, June 8: Shrimp fry worth worth took several crores died of water borne disease that broke out in an epidemic form in Cox's Bazar district: "China virus" disease has taken serious turn in sadar thana and other parts of this district.

Shrimp farmers said that, the shrimp being affected with this disease become weak and float on the surface of the water and gradually die. This disease started from first week of April, this year according to local shrimp businessmen.

The disease caused heavy loss to the shrimp project owners during the current season. Most of the shrimp culturists with the hope of good output had invested a huge amount of money and brought their projects under semi-intensive and improved culture programmes. But the China virus disease, second of its kind, threw them into a state of frustration.

Meanwhile, the shrimp farmers used Oxi-Tetracycline medicine for prevention of the disease but to no effect. Project owners said that, no medicine was available in Bangladesh to cure the disease. Some unscrupulous traders

taking advantage of the situation have been engaged in selling adulterated medicines.

In the meantime, Cholera Research Centre, recently conducted chemical tests which reveal that dangerous bacteria diseases namely vibrio and salmonella were found in the shrimps affected with the disease.

The local fishery experts said that environmental imbalance, use of polluted water and improper nursing of fry, were the main causes of the disease.

The area of land used for shrimp cultivation is increasing every year. Sea water is coming up in the lower stream. Salinity is drawing many entrepreneurs to shrimp cultivation. A huge quantity of money is being invested in shrimp culture. Government machinery is already supporting the shrimp cultivation. But very alarming situation has arisen in production of shrimp in Cox's Bazar region.

It is apprehended that the shrimp culture will be limited to half of the total area of the normal shrimp cultivation during the current season. The season has started last week of March this year but no fry of

the tiger shrimp was available to the owners of shrimp enclosures in the Cox's Bazar region.

This unprecedented situation has been created out of catching excessive frog and that too in an unplanned manner by fishermen in the Bay of Bengal as well as in other coastal belt of the country for the last one decade.

They newly introduced semi-intensive shrimp culture on small scale as test case by some people of Cox's Bazar with the financial and technical assistance from the BSCIC increases production by at least 25 times compared to the traditional method.

About 2.25 lakh acres of land in the coastal region of the country has been brought to shrimp culture. The shrimp produced in saline water in the traditional method is popularly known as "black tiger" in the United States.

The yield is only 75 kilograms per acre on an average but the semi intensive method produces as high as 3,000 kilograms per acre which is very low compared to a South Asian average of 1500 kilograms.

The shrimp cultivated areas are concentrated in Chokoria, Maheshkhali, sadar Thana, Ukhia and Teknaf.

people, marginal farmers and small farmers are losing their jobs, their agro-based social system and earning pattern.

A huge amount of foreign exchange can be earned from shrimp export if modern method of shrimp culture is adopted.

They are satisfied with the arms recovery rate in Rajshahi division and hope that the armed terrorists will not be able to influence the June 12 election," said a police officer who preferred not to be named.

As the arms recovery drive began on April 1, most of the criminals, who were unleashing a reign of terror in 128 thana headquarters of the districts, have gone into hiding with their firearms, they said.

We are satisfied with the arms recovery rate in Rajshahi division and hope that the armed terrorists will not be able to influence the June 12 election," said a police officer who preferred not to be named.

Candidates directed to refrain from filing false complaint

JHALAKATI, June 8: Election Commission directed the candidate of Jhalakati-1 constituency Major (retd) M Shahjahan Omar on Tuesday to refrain from filing any false complaint, reports UNB.

Shahjahan Omar, a BNP candidate from the Rajapur-Kathalia constituency lodged a complaint with the district Electoral Inquiry Committee on May 22 in which he said a group of armed men led by Awami League candidate Abdul Mannan attacked his residence on May 19 night injuring 17 BNP workers.

But the committee found the allegation false after examining the witnesses and records and directed the complainant not to file such false complaint in future.

Arms-recovery drive not satisfactory in N-dists

NATORE, June 8: With three days left for the June 12 parliamentary election, the arms-recovery drive in the country's 16 northern districts could not make any significant headway, reports UNB.

Official sources said 168 firearms were recovered from the districts till May 31 while police made a list of 7,500 "terrorists", including 5,000 unauthorised arms holders.

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Employees of FP deptt not getting wages for 3 months

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 8: Employees of Family Planning (FP) Department in Jhenidah district have been deprived of monthly salary for last three months, it was learnt from the concerned sources. According to reports a total of 693 employees consisting of Family Welfare Assistants (FWA), Family Welfare Visitors (FWV), Family Planting Inspectors (FPI), Medical Assistants (MA) and Security Guards of the department are passing their days in hardship for want of salaries since last three months.

When contacted the Deputy Director, Family Planning, Jhenidah district admitted the fact and told that no fund was allocated for those employees since March this year.

By keeping the departmental staff on the strength of 693 employees, the department is facing a financial crisis.

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In Jhenidah, the departmental staff is facing a financial crisis.

According to reports, a neck and neck fight is likely among the candidates of AL and BNP in all the seats of the district.

Election scene in Jamalpur dist

From Our Correspondent

among other contestants.

In their election campaign in the district, BNP nominees are trying to bank on the damages caused by the opposition parties especially during the recent non-cooperation movement.

On the contrary, candidates of AL and other parties are mainly concentrating on issues like political killings, armed terrorism and political administration during BNP rule. They are also trying to highlight failure of BNP during its rule to develop road communication of west Jamalpur district.

In the 1991 election, BNP bagged two out of five seats, while AL won three seats.

But this time internal feuds in Awami League and BNP have figured prominently making of quite uncertain who has better chance of winning seats.

On the other hand, Awami League could not gain expected result in 1991 election despite organised campaign due to a negative issue raised by their opponent.

In Jamalpur-3 (Melandah and Madarganj thanas) five

candidates are contesting for the seats.

The candidates are, Abdul Hai Bacchu Mia (BNP), Mirza Azam (AL), Professor Nuruddin Miah (Jamaat), Shafiqul Islam (JP) Haroon-or-Rashid (Muslim League) and Nayeem Jahangir (Left-Front).

BNP candidate Abdul Hai Bacchu Mia will have to face tough competition fighting strong AL candidate Mirza Azam.

In Jamalpur-4 (Sarishabari) constituency, BNP candidate Salam Talukdar is contesting against ex-upazila chairman AL candidate Moulana Nurul Islam who is also considered to be a strong candidate, political leaders said.

In Jamalpur-5 (Jamalpur constituency) hard contest may take place between BNP candidates ex-minister Serajul Haq and AL candidate district AL secretary Rezaul Karim Hossain.

According to observers, a neck and neck fight is likely among the candidates of AL and BNP in all the seats of the district.

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Black money holders controlling economy of country: Azam

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 8: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Prof. Golam Azam said he yesterday that several thousand neo capitalists and holders of black money were now controlling the economy of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

BNP secretary general Salam Talukdar from Jamalpur-4 and ex-deputy minister for health Md Serajul Haq from Jamalpur-5 are contesting

for the seats.

In the 1991 election, BNP bagged two out of five seats, while AL won three seats.

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