

National



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public gathering as part of election campaign at the Registry Maidan of Sylhet town on Monday last.

Vote for JP to ensure dev of rural Bangladesh: Manju

PIROJPUR, June 10: Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju said here Saturday the politics of his party was concerned with the vast majority of the people living in rural areas of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a big electioneering meeting at Kaukhali, he said in the June 12 election the electorate would choose those persons who would stand by them and work for their welfare. He said the Jatiya Party government had set up health centres at the union level, taken administration and judiciary to the door steps of the people and established four high courts outside Dhaka.

But the past government had stopped all these welfare measures to the detriment of the rural people, he said adding those who had stopped all these works would be made answerable to the people.

He called upon the electorate to cast their vote in favour of Jatiya Party nominees to establish their right and ensure their due share in the development of rural Bangladesh.

Jamaat to ensure due share of Ganges water: Golam Azam

JOYPURHAT, June 10: Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof. Golam Azam said here Saturday Bangladeshis are honest, God-fearing, bold and efficient government for the realisation of the due share of the Ganges water from India, reports BSS.

He was addressing six big public meetings at Pachuri and Panchbibi thana under Joypurhat district and at Manda, Sapahar, Nazipur and Damur under Naogaon district.

The Jamaat chief said if mandated by the people in the coming election, his party would ensure the due share of the Ganges by solving the Farakka problem. Only Jamaat could present an efficient and bold government to the nation, he maintained.

UP member injured in bomb attack

SATKHIRA, June 10: A member of Union Parishad in Sadar thana was injured in a bomb attack near his residence on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Abdul Rashid member of Kushkhari came under attack by a gang of miscreants when he was going for election work. Police said the gang hurled bomb at him injuring him seriously. He was rushed to the Sadar hospital.

A case was registered with the police.

One held with gun, cartridges

KUSHTIA, June 10: Police raided a house in village Panti under Kumarkhali thana recently and arrested one person with one foreign made gun and twenty four cartridges. The arrested person is said to be a member of Biplobi Communist Party, reports BSS.

10 hurt in clashes in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 10: At least 10 persons were injured in two separate pre-polls clashes at Banaripara and Chakhar in the district Saturday. Five seriously injured were admitted to Chakhar hospital.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when an electioneering procession of Awami League came face to face with a procession of the BNP supporters at about 4 pm. Condition of seriously injured Ayub Ali, 33, and Tunida, 27, are reported to be critical.

Following the incident, Awami League supporters brought out a protest procession at Chakhar at about 6:30 pm and when it came in front of the local BNP office, both the groups locked in clash.

36 firearms, 26 hand-made bombs recovered in Bogra

BOGRA, June 10: Bogra police recovered 36 firearms, 26 cocktails and 73 rounds of bullets and arrested 21 persons for possessing illegal arms and ammunition from different parts of the district during the last two months, reports BSS.



AL president Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting during her election campaign at Sylhet Govt Alia Madrasa premises on Saturday.

— Star photo

Nine leading politicians in race in Moulvibazar, Habiganj

From Rajat K Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, June 10: A total of nine leading politicians are contesting in the 7th parliamentary election from Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts. Five of them from Moulvibazar district and rest from Habiganj district.

Of these leading politicians

five were former ministers of AL, BNP (Zia), JP and BNP (Khaleda) governments. Eight of them have experienced election battles and only one is contesting this year for the first time. Of the total VIP candidates of two districts six were elected MP in the past elections while three were never elected though two of them were candidates in previous elections.

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mandated by the people in the coming election, his party would ensure the due share of the Ganges by solving the Farakka problem. Only Jamaat could present an efficient and bold government to the nation, he maintained.

Neela

Chowdhury, president of the Ershad Shishu Kishore Sangathan is contesting as an independent candidate. Chowdhury sought JP nomination in this seat.

In Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura

thana), two leading politicians are contesting. They are president of Bangladesh Muslim League Al-Haj ANM Yousuf and former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (AL) Sultan Md Monsur Ahmed.

Muslim League President

Al-Haj A N M Yousuf

was elected MP in the 3rd

Parliament (1986) but suffered

serious defeat in the 5th

parliament election (1991).

Yousuf

is the vice-chairman of the

Bangladesh Bar Council.

This time Al-haj ANM

Yousuf

is also fighting from

Moulvibazar-1 seat.

In Habiganj-2 (Bantachong and Ajmirigonj thanas), two former ministers are contesting against each other. They are minister of H M Ershad government Sirajul Islam Khan and adviser of the first cabinet of late president Ziaur Rahman Zakaria Chowdhury.

Sirajul Hussain Khan (JP candidate) was the only minister of Ershad government who served for the longest period. He was elected MP in 1986 and 1988 elections. In 1991 election Khan stayed away from the race. This time he is being considered as a strong candidate.

Azizur Rahman of AL was the whip of the opposition in 5th Parliament. He was also elected MP in 1970 and 1986 election. A senior parliamentarian of the country Azizur Rahman is also a central leader of AL. Rahman is also a popular and powerful candidate in the election race. He will face BNP nominee and former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the coming polls.

Neela Chowdhury, president of the Ershad Shishu Kishore Sangathan is contesting as an independent candidate. Chowdhury sought JP nomination in this seat.

In Moulvibazar-3 (Sadar and Lakhai thanas), two former state minister of H M Ershad government and well-known industrialist Syed Md Kaiser is contesting as an independent candidate.

In Habiganj-1 (Nabiganj and Bahuban thanas), former State Minister Dewan Farid Gazi is contesting as an AL nominee.

He was also an AL nominee in 1991 election but suffered serious defeat to a local JP leader Khalilur Rahman.

This time Al-haj ANM Chowdhury who is again contesting against Gazi.

Election scene in 16 N-dists

From M A-Ali Himu

NATURE, June 10: Election campaigning in sixteen northern districts reached climax as candidates and their supporters make last minute effort to win hearts of common voters.

Many places wore festive scenes with placards, banners and miles while some candidates were seen going door to door asking voters to votes in their favour.

All the four major parties have strong organisations in this region. In 1991 election, out of total 72 seats of North Bengal, BNP captured 27 seats while AL bagged 17 seats, JP got 18 seats, Jamaat-e-Islami got seven seats and NAP and CPB got one and two seats respectively.

But this time, political observers say, candidates of AL and BNP will have to face tougher contest facing the candidates of JP and JI.

The greater Rajshahi consists of Natore, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts and have 18 parliamentary seats. Of them, BNP bagged 9 seats, AL got 5 seats, JI got 3 seats and JP got one seat in '91 election.

There are four constituencies in Natore district. According to observers, Natore-1, 2 and 3 seats may go for BNP candidates. But they have to face strong battle with their arch rival AL. Fazlur Rahman Patil, former State Minister for Social Welfare is contesting from Natore-1 seat. Natore-4 seat is likely to witness triangular fight among AL, BNP and JP.

The greater Chapainawabganj consists of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur districts. Of them BNP bagged six seats and Jamaat got one seat in 5th parliamentary election. Some observers say that the situation may not change this time while others say that BNP candidates may face strong battles with their power base.

Joypurhat district consists of 7 seats. BNP won six seats and AL Organising Secretary Md Nasim bagged one seat in 1991 election. This time, the JP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister M A Matin is contesting the polls. This is why, BNP may lose one of its seats in Sylhet.

There are seven constituencies in Thakurgaon. Of them BNP bagged six seats and Jamaat got one seat in 5th parliamentary election. Some observers say that the situation may not change this time while others say that BNP candidates may face strong battles with their power base.

Joypurhat district consists of two seats, both of which were bagged by BNP in 1991. This time BNP candidates will face tougher contest with Jamaat candidates who have strongholds in the area. AL and JP are also strong in the two seats. Jamaat central leader

Abbas Ali Khan lost this seat by easy sail in all the three seats of Chapainawabganj political leaders say. But they are likely to face tough contest with AL candidate, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khondoker and BNP candidate Rafiqul Islam Bakul. AL candidate in Pabna-5 seat may see easy sail this time while triangular fight is likely in Pabna-3 and 4 seats and among AL and Jamaat.

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The greater Dinajpur consists of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Rajshahi districts. Greater Rajshahi has 22 JS seats. In 1991 election, JP won 17 seats while AL bagged 3 seats and NAP and CPB got remaining seats.

In Pabna-5 seat, Jamaat candidate Maulana Abdus Sobhan will also face tough contest with AL candidate, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khondoker and BNP candidate Rafiqul Islam Bakul. AL candidate in Pabna-5 seat may see easy sail this time while triangular fight is likely in Pabna-3 and 4 seats and among AL and Jamaat.

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