

MP nomination seekers start mass contact tours in Sirajganj

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

As the next general election is nearing, MP nomination seekers have started mass contact tours in all the constituencies of Sirajganj district.

Sirajganj district is divided into seven constituencies. Sirajganj-1 consists of 11 union parishads of Kazipur upazila, Sirajganj-2 consists of Sadar upazila, Sirajganj-3 consists of Raiganj and Tarash upazilas, Sirajganj-4 consists of Ullapara upazila, Sirajganj-5 consists of Belkuchi and Kamarkhand upazilas, Sirajganj-6 consists of Chowhali and four unions of Shahjadpur upazilas (eastern part of Shahjadpur upazila) and Sirajganj-7 consists of the rest unions of Shahjadpur upazila.

In the last election held on June 12, 1996, Awami League (AL) candidate Alhaj Mohammad Nasim won the Sirajganj-1 constituency. He bagged 62,383 votes while his nearest rival BNP candidate Abdul Mojid Mino got 23,927 votes. Later Alhaj Mohammad Nasim vacated the Kazipur-1 constituency.

His elder brother Dr Mohammad Selim, present MP is most likely to be an AL candidate. Home and Tele-Communications Minister Alhaj Mohammad Nasim is also a probable candidate of the aforesaid constituency.

In this constituency BNP leader Lutfar Rahman Talukder (Abul) and Abdul Mojid Mino are lobbying for party tickets.

In Sirajganj-2 Alhaj Mohammad Nasim, present MP is most likely to be a ruling party candidate. He bagged 68,598 votes in the 1996 Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections.

In the mean time, the opposition four-party alliance has announced unofficially Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, a BNP central leader as the alliance's probable candidate

Meanwhile, expelled Jubo Dal central leader Alamgir Al Amin Kazol is the probable independent candidate in this constituency. The sitting MP's nearest rival AK Shamsul Al Amin got 52,709 votes in the last JS election. AK Shamsul Al Amin is the father of Alamgir Al Amin Kazol.

Jamat-e-Islami candidate Advocate Abdul Latif bagged 22,795 votes and Prof MA Matin of Jatiya Party (JP) got 32,515 votes in 1996 election.

In Sirajganj Sadar-3 constituency Home Minister Alhaj Mohammad Nasim is most likely to be a candidate from the ruling party. He has already started mass contact programme.

On the other hand present MP of the constituency and district convenor of BNP Abdul Mannan Talukder who got 74,192 votes in the last JS polls is most likely to be the candidate from the opposition led four-party alliance. Md Ishaque Hossain Talukder who got 70,995 votes in the last polls is likely to be his rival.

In Sirajganj-4 constituency Alhaj Abdul Latif Mirza MP is most likely to be the candidate from the ruling AL. He got 8,04,777 votes in the last JS election.

In the constituency BNP has two candidates. Former MP Akbar Ali left his constituency and went to India without permission of the party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. So the party nominated A Y Mohammad Kamal who got 38,626 votes in the last JS polls where BNP lost the polls.

Now Akber Ali has become very active to win the party nomination. Morshed Elahi may also lobby for the party ticket. He is the son of late Elahi Box, a former Supreme Court lawyer. His mother Rowshon Elahi was MP of greater Pabna during Zia and Khaleda Zia's regime for two terms. She has come from London after 26 years. Now she has been getting prepared for contesting the next election.

Former Chhatra Shibir central president Rofiqul Islam has started lobby-

ing for the party ticket. In the last parliamentary election Jamaat candidate Moulana Abu Bakker Siddique got 37,826 votes and now he aspires for party nomination.

Local president of the ruling party and former upazila chairman Safiqul Islam Shafi has started lobbying for party ticket in the constituency.

In Sirajganj 5 constituency Abdul Latif Biswas MP is the most probable candidate of the ruling party. He got 51,681 votes in the last election. Public Prosecutor (PP) Advocate Abdur Rahman is the main rival of Abdul Latif Biswas MP. In this constituency former BNP MP Sahidullah Khan who contested in the 1996 election bagging 48,360 votes died of cancer last month. Omar Faruque Probat contested with JP ticket and got 16,301 votes in the last polls. He has started lobbying for party ticket.

District Ameer of Jamat-e-Islami Moula Ali Alom who bagged 23,815 votes in the last parliamentary election, has started lobbying for four-party ticket.

Other probable candidate is JP (E) leader Monjur-e-Matin Raju. He is the son of former Muslim League leader and alleged killer of the former East Pakistan Provincial Assembly's Deputy Speaker Shahed Ali. He has started lobbying for the party ticket. Other probable candidate is BNP leader Jamal Uddin Bhuiya who lost his deposit in Belkuchi upazila in election during Ershad regime.

Former Kamerkhand upazila Chairman Abdul Aziz Sarker and a BNP leader has started lobbying for winning the four-party ticket.

In Sirajganj-6 constituency Prof Shahjahan Ali MP is most likely to be a candidate for the ruling party. He got 29,592 votes and was elected a member of parliament (MP) in this constituency in 1996. After election he allegedly sold the passport of his wife at a cost of Tk 6 lakh to another woman showing herself as his wife. Police arrested the woman with fake passport from Zia International Airport.

General Secretary of Chowhali upazila Awami League Mokdum Ali is the main rival of Prof Shahjahan Ali MP.

In this constituency former MP of BNP Lt Commander AKM Mahbubul Islam bagged 26,855 votes in 1996 parliamentary election. He has been lobbying for the party ticket.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) central leader Anser Ali Joy and General Secretary of Tanti Dal Humayun Islam Khan are also aspirants of BNP tickets.

Abdul Matin, a stalwart of the Language movement who got 11,449 votes in the last parliamentary election is likely to be the most probable candidate of the Left Front.

JP leader Nurul Islam Talukder who got 3,018 votes in the last JS election also wants to contest in the next election.

Jamaat leader Maolana Abdus Salam who won 7,077 votes in the last election has also started lobbying for party nomination.

In Sirajganj-7 constituency Chayan Islam MP is the probable candidate of the ruling Awami League.

He has already started lobbying for the party ticket. In this constituency Prof MA Matin who is also Chairman of JP (M-N) faction is most likely to be a candidate for the four-party alliance. Former MP BNP leader Kamruddin Eahia Khan Majlish has started lobbying for party ticket. BNP leader Anower Hossain is also lobbying for himself.

According to the District Election Office, a total of 18,27,027 voters will exercise their franchise in the next parliamentary election in this district.

Now he is under treatment of Dr Din Mohammad with no virtual improvement in his eyesight and chest. Doctors said Rezaul needs to be sent abroad for better treatment.

The poor vegetable trader, who is now unable to send his kids to school, cannot think of going abroad for treatment unless the government or philanthropists come up in aid of him.

Before the accident, Rezaul, the only bread-earner of his four-member family, borrowed Tk 14,000 from the Grameen Bank and he was smoothly repaying the loan in installments.

As he failed to keep up the

installments after the accident, the bank has issued a notice to attach his homestead.

Having no money, Rezaul now sees dark all around. He needs money for his own treatment, he needs money to repay the bank loan and he needs money to meet his kids' education expenses.

Meanwhile, he appealed to the General Manager of Bangladesh Railway (West) Seeking a job for his wife and help for his better treatment.

He is now under care of MAK Azad of 12/13 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur in Dhaka (Phone 9126357).



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Two BDR jawans are seen going to Protappur frontier camp on foot after crossing the River Ping in Sylhet district while a porter is carrying their bedding. Road communication along this frontier area is very bad. Only rickshaws ply in the dry season. This shot was taken from Sangrampunji on Friday.

9-year-old girl raped, strangled in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A nine-year-old girl was raped and killed by a group gangsters at a bordering village in Gowainghat upazila in the district last week.

The villagers caught three criminals and handed them over to police on Tuesday. Later police also arrested another woman in this connection.

According to police, the victim of village Bhadeswar was returning home after procuring water from the river Piain at about 10 am Saturday. Shukur, son of Rajab Ali, and another youth, identified as Shukur son of Tamiuddin of the nearby area, swooped on the girl and took her to a nearby jungle. Later another man, Abul Kalam, joined them and they raped the girl.

The criminals left her there in an unconscious state. After several hours, they came back and strangled her. The girl remained missing till Monday afternoon when relatives and villagers found torn clothes of the victim on the riverbank.

In the meantime, the criminals went to the spot several times and tried to dump the body in Indian territory across the border. The villagers caught the three for their suspicious behaviour. Later they confessed to the crime. Police also arrested Shukur's mother Tajiri Begum, wife of Rajab Ali, as she tried to save the criminals.

A case was registered with the Gowainghat police. The deceased, Bilkis, daughter of Quashem Miah, worked as a cook in the nearby BDR camp.

Jamalpur newsman gets death threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Editor of a local weekly in Jamalpur recently filed a general diary (GD) with police after he received death threat following publication of a news item on tax evasion in the paper.

Bazlur Rahman, editor of weekly the Sachatankantha and district correspondent of news agency UNB, filed the GD against Abdul Awal, owner of cloth store Awal Brothers, and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, secretary of Jamalpur Cloth Merchants' Association.

Leaders of Jamalpur Press Club and Jamalpur Sangbadik Samity (journalists' association) recently submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner and expressed grave concern over the life threat Rahman received.

Hoodlums create reign of terror in Shariatpur

UNB, Shariatpur

An organised gang of terrorists, in the name of an outlawed party, has created a reign of terror in Shariatpur district.

The gang, identifying them as members of Sarbahara Party, extort money, and even commit murders, creating panic among the common people.

A number of cases have been filed against them, but police hardly take any initiative to arrest them, local people alleged.

The identified gang abducted local businessman Dulal Sharif from Damudya Bandar last week and demanded Tk five lakh as ransom. The extortionists demanded money to Dulal's father-in-law Ahmadullah, who is also a businessman, while he contacted them. They beat him up severely as he refused to pay the money.

Later, the terrorists after inhuman torture set both the businessmen free taking Tk 50,000 from them.

Following a case police arrested a man in this connection but later they released him due to reasons best known to them.

Meanwhile, the terrorists started threatening the victims to withdraw the case.

The local leaders urged the Home Minister to arrest the criminals to protect life and property of the common people.

NEWS SNAPS

Sherpur road mishap claims two

UNB, Sherpur

A housewife and her domestic help were killed in a road mishap at Kushumhati in Sadar upazila of Sherpur district on Monday.

Police and witnesses said housewife Jahanara Begum, 35, along with her domestic help Kalu Mia, 30, were run over by a speeding truck at Kushumhati on Sherpur-Jamalpur feeder road while going to her parents' house at village Tikker Char. The tragic accident occurred only half km away from her father's house, police added. Jahanara, a mother of four children, was going to her father's house from her husband's Bagraksa area residence in Sherpur town riding a bicycle.

Mystery shrouds death of teen

UNB, Narayanganj

Mystery shrouds the death of a teenaged girl at Kalainagar village in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla district.

The victim's father Monir Hossain of Ramarbagh area in Fatulla upazila filed a case with the police in this regard on Thursday. According to the case, Moslemuddin, a tenant, took Nargis Akhter, 14, to his village home on May 18 and killed her after rape. Later, the girl was buried at a graveyard at Kalainagar. Police said a team has already been set to Daudkandi to recover the body.

Woman killed in Kishoreganj road accident

UNB, Kishoreganj

An unidentified woman was killed in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh highway in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila on Thursday.

The 30-year-old woman died on the spot as a speeding microbus hit her while she was crossing the road in front of police line. A case was filed.

Boy crushed under wheels of truck

UNB, Narayanganj

A teenaged boy was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Pirojpur in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj district on Thursday.

The dead was identified as Mintu, 14, son of Kamal Mia of Hafezi Colony in Bandar upazila. Police and witnesses said Mintu was run over by the truck in the afternoon while he was crossing the road. The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Youth held for producing fake certificate

UNB, Bagerhat

A youth, who came to be recruited in Bangladesh Army, has been sent to Bagerhat jail hajat for producing fake Dakhil certificate.

Recruiting team of Bangladesh Army was selecting eligible persons for recruitment at the local stadium on Wednesday morning.

Alamin, 20, of Kachikata village in Morelganj upazila appeared in the test showing a Dakhil-pass certificate, which was proved forged to the Army officials. Later, the youth was handed over to police.

Transport workers barricade highway

UNB, Pabna

Arrest of a transport leader triggered violent protest by the fellow workers in Pabna district Friday afternoon disrupting traffic movement for two and a half hours.

Police said the transport workers went on rampage and barricaded the Pabna-Rajshahi Highway after police arrested Babu Mridha, organising secretary of Pabna Truck Workers Union. Mridha was accused in a dacoity case. Later, traffic movement resumed at about 5:30 pm after police assured of releasing the leader.

Embankment work goes on

UNB, Munshiganj

Revetment work on 585-metre town protection embankment in Munshiganj is progressing fast at a cost of about Tk 4 crore.

Water Development Board is implementing the programme. Revetment work on 125-metre embankment has already been completed involving Tk 1.20 crore while the rest of the work is expected to be completed by 2002. After completion, various important establishments, including Sadar upazila complex and police station, would be protected from erosion by the River Dhaleshwari. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak visited the Munshiganj Town Protection work site Friday. Senior officials of Water Development Board accompanied the minister.

Deep tubewells installation programme

UNB, Rangamati

In order to ensure smooth supply of drinking water Rangamati municipality authorities have taken up a programme to install 100 deep tubewells in the town.

Besides, the authorities have also undertaken initiatives to repair and re-sink the disordered tubewells in the municipality areas. Under the supervision of the municipal authorities local NGOs will implement the programme. Municipal authorities said they would undertake programme for sanitation of the town dwellers in phases.

Two Jubo League leaders injured

UNB, Luxmipur

Two Jubo League leaders of Charshahi union in Luxmipur were injured by terrorist bullet late Sunday night.

Residents and police said terrorists shot, stabbed and cut the tendon of Noor Alam, 32, Jubo League president of Ward No 3 of the union. He was rushed to Luxmipur sadar hospital at dead of night with grave injuries. Farhad, 35, an Awami League activist, was injured by bullet during the same time. The reason of the attack on the ruling party activists was not yet known. The terrorists later looted five shops in Purbocharshahi bazar. Local Awami League leaders held BNP activists responsible for the armed attack and looting of shops.

Good production of litchi in Jamalpur

MUHAMMAD ALI, Jamalpur

Farmers have good production of litchi, the delicious summer fruit, in Jamalpur district this year.

Golapi, Badana, Bombai, Maraji, Kathali, Sitamati varieties of the fruit have grown this season abundantly in the district.

The harvesting has already begun and newly harvested litchi has started arriving in the markets. "We have a good harvest this year but the size of litchi is small this season due to severe drought during the budding period", said Omar Ali of Sreerampur under Sadar upazila.

Different kinds of litchi including hybrid and Bombai varieties have appeared in the local markets. At present, litchi is being sold at Tk 70 to Tk 100 per one hundred pieces in local markets.

Sources with the local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said litchi was cultivated on about 5,000 hectares of land in seven upazilas of the district and there will good harvest if storms do not damage the fruits.

Official sources said some 10,000 tons of quality litchis will be produced in Jamalpur this season. But unofficial sources said the production will be two to three times higher than the official estimate. The production was estimated at 5,000 tons last year.

Local farmers said this year's weather has been favourable for litchi production, but high temperature and less rainfall just before the harvest have marred the prospect of bumper production.



PHOTO: STAR

A girl plucks litchis from a tree at Mollahpara under Sadar upazila in Jamalpur. Farmers in the district expect good production of the delicious summer fruit this year. Newly harvested litchi has started arriving in the markets. Now the fruit sells at Tk 70 to Tk 100 per one hundred pieces in local markets.