

Fear of more political killings in Feni

UNB, Feni

As the polling date is drawing nearer, rumour of more political murders is running high in the rural areas of Feni.

BNP leader VP Joyнал told this correspondent that he had been under threat of murder by the class committee of Awami League candidate Hazari.

"If the attempt to kill me fails, Hazari plans to foil the polls even by killing one of the dummy candidates of his party and implicating me in the killing."

None of the candidates in this constituency is safe, added the BNP leader and sought adequate security measures for all the candidates.

Independent candidate Akram Hossain also expressed similar apprehension. "Certain quarter may

resort to murdering one of the candidates to thwart the polls," said Akram, a freedom fighter and industrialist.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Feni A F M Solaiman Chowdhury, also a Returning Officer, said that he had heard about the rumour, which is rife in the district. "Many of the candidates have come to me and to the police. They have asked for ensuring security of their lives," said the DC.

Reliable sources said intelligence agencies are fully aware of the rumour and they have already reported it to the highest authority.

Meanwhile, at least 25 people had been killed all over Feni in clashes between Awami League and BNP activists since July this year.

Fifteen candidates including

former MP Joyнал Hazari of Awami League, are contesting in Feni-2 constituency comprising 16 unions, eight each in Feni sadar and Dagonbhuiyan upazilas.

Other contestants are: VP Joyнал (BNP) of 4-party alliance, Kazi Noor Nabi (JSD), Tajul Islam Patwary (JP-E), Haradhan Chakraborty (11-party), Alhaj Maulana Masum Faruqi (Islami Front), three Independents Akram Hossain Humayun, ASM Yasin, Golam Farooq and Mainuddin including three dissidents of Awami League and two of BNP who are called 'dummy candidates.'

Joyнал Hazari, facing 11 cases including five murder cases went into hiding to escape arrest since August 16. He will contest the polls from the hideout.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Sylhet unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad (an organisation struggling for the empowerment of women) arranged a human chain at the Central Shahid Minar (a mausoleum in memory of martyrs of the great language movement of 1952) in Sylhet town demanding a congenial atmosphere for holding the forthcoming election in a free and fair manner.



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) A group of women in Sachar union of Kachua upazila in Chandpur district are engaged in campaigning in favour of a candidate of the four-party alliance while (right) an Awami League nominee in Sylhet is seen addressing a gathering of women at a community centre in the divisional town recently. Female voters are increasingly getting enthusiastic about the forthcoming parliamentary elections. As the election day is coming nearer they are becoming more and more interested to take part in the polls scheduled to be held on October 1.

5,000 lay siege to DC office in Chapainawabganj

Protection of vast land from river erosion demanded

UNB, Chapainawabganj

People of the erosion-hit areas in Sadar and Shibganj upazilas Monday laid siege to the DC office demanding protection of a vast tract of land from river erosion.

Nearly 5,000 people under the banner of 'Padma Erosion Prevention Council' laid siege to the DC office and staged sit-in demonstration for two hours from 11 am and submitted a memorandum containing their demands.

During the sit-in, the council also held a rally, presided over by its president and Ranihati UP chair-

man M M Mohsin Ali.

Candidates of Awami League, four-party alliance and 11-party from Chapainawabganj-1 and 3 constituencies also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers demanded construction of the Padma embankment, rehabilitation of the families affected by erosion and financial assistance for re-construction of the damaged educational institutions.

Construction work on Tk 75-crore Paka-Narayanpur embankment remained suspended due to rise of water level in the river.

BSS from Kurigram reports: The

district administration has so far distributed 15 kilogram of rice per family as relief and allocated Tk 10,000 in cash for the 32 affected, by the river erosion of Dharla, families in Mogalbasa union parishad in Sadar upazila.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer said the district administration has sent a demand for allocation of 2,000 tins of biscuits, Tk 5 lakh for house building relief, Tk one lakh for general relief, 3,000 pieces of sarees and lungis for the river eroded people.

So far, 300 tins of biscuit have been distributed among the victim families in all nine upazilas.

Steps taken for security of voters in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban

People of this hill district are gradually becoming enthusiastic about the forthcoming parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on October 1.

The district administration has already taken all possible steps for the security of voters, said a government official.

As the polling day is coming nearer, an air of festivity is sweeping all over the seven upazilas of the district enhancing interests among the voters to take part in the 8th Jatiya Sangsad elections in a jubilant mood.

A total of eight candidates including five tribals are contesting in the district that represents the 300th seat of the Jatiya Sangsad. Local BSS correspondent while talking to

the voters of Thanchi and Ruma upazilas learnt that they would cast their votes for the candidates of their choices.

Some voters of Bogalek Pukurpara, an inaccessible area in Ruma upazila, said that they would go to the polling centres in groups to cast their votes by defying all obstructions of the Janasanghati Samity.

The five tribal candidates are Bir Bahadur (Awami League), Mamyaching (four-party alliance), Sachingprue (Ind), Thowaingchu Master (Ind) and Ranglaimrue (Ind). Bir Bhadur was elected and MP in 1991 and 1996 with Awami League ticket while Mayaching, president of the district unit of BNP was a woman MP during the BNP regime from 1991 to 1996.

Alhaj Md Ayub Chowdhury, Chairman of Bandarban Municipality and an Awami League leader, is contesting the election as an independent candidate. Kazi Nasirul Alam and Badrul Huq nominated by Jatiya Party (Manzu) and Jatiya Party (Ershad) respectively are the other two candidates.

A total of 1,73,865 voters 92,152 males and 81,713 females will exercise their franchise for the JS 300th seat on the poling day on October 1.

Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer Mia Mostaque Ahmed said special security measures have already been undertaken to help the candidates pursue their campaign and for safe vote casting.

Four women contesting from greater Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Four female candidates are contesting from four constituencies in the ensuing parliamentary election in greater Faridpur district.

Greater Faridpur district consists of Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur Rajbari and Gopalganj.

Of the four candidates, three are party nominees and the rest one is an independent candidate.

They are Awami League chief and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, former minister and Awami League Presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Firoza Chowdhury, Chairman of JP Mahila Party (Munjui) of Rajbari district unit and Helen Zerin Khan, an independent candidate.

Sheikh Hasina is contesting from Gopalganj-3 constituency against Hafez Mohammad Omar, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury is contesting from Faridpur-2 seat against the four party alliance nominee K M Obaidur Rahman, now in Dhaka Central Jail in connection with the sensational Jail Killing Case, Feroza Chowdhury from Rajbari-2 (Pangsha-Baliakandi) constituency against rival candidates from Awami League and four-party alliance. Mohammad Zillur Hakim and Nasirul Haque Sabu respectively while Helen Zerin Khan has been contesting from Madaripur-2 constituency as an independent candidate.

Bazaars of Narail in bad shape

A CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Most of the hats and bazaars in Narail sadar, Lohagora and Kalia upazilas are in a pitiable condition causing untold sufferings to both the buyers and sellers.

Lack of proper care and maintenance by the authorities concerned are the causes of gradual deterioration of condition of bazaars.

Rupganje hat, Tularampur hat, Maizpara hat, Nakoshi-Madrasha hat, Singasholpur hat, Lohagora hat, Methapur hat, Lahuria hat,

Manikganje bazaar, Amada hat, Digholia bazaar, Arenda hat, Chaliatolata bazaar, Phohordanga hat, Kalia hat, Bordia hat and Naragati hat are the main markets where people in the area carry out transaction everyday.

These markets were set up at the local initiatives when population of the respective areas were thin. But with the increase in population no proper extension has been made. Shortage of accommodation has been hampering the movement of buyers and sellers.



A three-day training course on shrimp farming concluded on Thursday at the training hall of Trinomul human development organisation at Kashinathpur in Pabna. The course was jointly organised by Trinomul and agro-based industries and technology development project-2 (ATDP).

NEWS SNAPS

Tribal language on use in polls campaign

UNB, Bandarban

The contesting candidates for the 8th general election from the district are using local and tribal languages in their election campaign apart from Bengali.

Eight people, including five tribal candidates, are contesting from the district in the upcoming election. The candidates are distributing leaflets in Marma language among the local people as most of the people communicate with each other in Marma language. Out of the total population of 2.75 lakh in the district, some 90,000 are Marma. Seeking votes from the locals, the candidates also transcribed their symbols' name. In Marma language Lhawng means boat, Chab-Nhaing means sheaf of paddy, Aikkoing means Plough and Okh Thraigaik Nari means Wall clock.

2,54,462 voters up in Kurigram

BSS, Kurigram

A total of 2,54,462 voters has increased during the last five years in the district.

According to District Election Office (DEO) sources, the present number of voters in all nine upazilas of the district stands at 11,10,650 against 8,56,188 in 1995. The average increase is about 30 per cent. The number of voters in Kurigram-1 constituency (Nageswari and Bhurungamari) is 3,22,055 against 2,50,003 in 1995, in Kurigram-2 constituency (Sadar, Fulbari and Rajarhat) is 3,39,963 against 2,63,443, in Kurigram-3 constituency (Ulipur) is 2,36,496 against 1,80,766 and in Kurigram-4 constituency (Chilmari, Rowmari, Rajibpur) is 2,12,136 against 1,61,976 in the same period. At present, the number of total male voters in the district is 5,56,279 and females 5,54,371.

726 centres in Comilla vulnerable

UNB, Comilla

Some 726 polling centres, out of 913, in 12 constituencies of the district were identified as vulnerable in the upcoming election.

Of the total, some 39 centres were identified as sensitive in Comilla-1, 45 in Comilla-2, 94 in Comilla-3, 65 Comilla-4, 70 in Comilla-5 and 48 in Comilla-6. Besides, some 43 centres were identified as risky in Comilla-7, 53 in Comilla-8, 40 in Comilla-9, 63 in Comilla-10, 39 in Comilla-11 and 62 in Comilla-12.

AL-BNP clash leaves four injured

UNB, Khulna

A clash between the supporters of Awami League (AL) and BNP at Joysena village in Terokhada upazila on Sunday left four people injured.

Police and witnesses said the trouble erupted at about 5:30 pm when Awami League and BNP activists were locked in a clash over tearing off a poster in the village. Following the incident, Awami League supporters went on rampage and ransacked the office of BNP and a few shops at upazila headquarters. The injured Shahidul Islam, Mostafizur Rahman Kalu, Masum and Jahangir were the activists of Awami League. Of them, Kalu and Masum were admitted to the upazila health complex.

23 hurt in polls violence in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

Some 23 people were injured, two by bullets, in separate election violence in Fatulla and Sonargaon on Monday.

Of them, witnesses said, 13 people mostly, BNP workers, were injured, two by bullets, in clashes with Awami League supporters. The clash ensued when Awami League supporters allegedly attacked a procession of BNP candidate Mohammad Giasuddin in Aliganj area of Fatulla thana at about 12:30 pm. Agitated BNP workers ransacked two election offices of AL candidate Shamim Osman at Nandalalpur area and assaulted some AL supporters. With critical condition, the two bullet-hit BNP workers were sent to Dhaka.

Three BNPmen stabbed at Bagerhat

BSS, Bagerhat

Three BNP men, including president of the party's municipality unit, were stabbed by miscreants on Monday evening.

Witnesses and police said the incident took place in Nager Bazar area under the municipality at about 6 pm.

The injured are former commissioner and president of the BNP municipality unit Oliuzzaman Meju, 35, and party activist Zakir Hossain. The identity of another injured could not be know. After the incident, local people rushed them to the district general hospital. Local BNP alleged, Awami League activists are responsible for the incident but Awami League denied the allegation and said it is an intra-party clash of BNP.