

# Seven women contesting for JS seats in Khulna division

BSS, Khulna

Seven women including former prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia are running for the October 1 Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections from eight constituencies of Khulna division.

Of them, four are being considered as "prospective candidates" as they are the main contenders in their respective seats, sources close to the candidates said.

The prospective candidates are Sheikh Hasina and Begum Sultana Tarun of Awami League, Begum Khaleda Zia of BNP and Syeda Razia Fazey of Jatiya Party (Ershad).

Tahera Begum Jali of the 11-party alliance is in the election race in Jhenidah-2 seat while Parveen Talukder in Jhenidah-3 and Selina Khatun in Magura-2 are contesting as independent candidates.

Dhirendra Nath Shaha, former MP and Mufti Shahidul Islam of BNP-led four-party alliance candidates are regarded as the main contenders of Sheikh Hasina in Narail-1 and Narail-2 constituency respectively.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is contesting from Khulna-2 (city area) facing elderly Awami League leader Advocate Manjurul Islam as her main contender.

In Satkhira-2 constituency central leader of Jatiya Party (Ershad) Syeda Razia Fazey is being considered as a prospective candidate against Awami League nominee M Nazrul Islam and four-party alliance candidate A Khalek Mondal of Jamaat.

# Most clinics in Kishoreganj involved in illegal abortion

UNB, Kishoreganj

A good number of unregistered private clinics have been running without minimum facilities to render services to the patients.

Most of the clinics are involved in illegal abortion in the name of MR endangering the lives of many women, they further alleged.

A section of government physicians who have been serving at different hospitals and health complexes have set up most of the clinics violating the government rules.

According to the government rules, each surgical clinic should have at least three qualified physicians, including an anesthetist, three nurses, one pharmacist, one midwife and one sweeper.

Besides, the clinic should have a capacity of minimum 10 beds and a modern operation theatre with

Begum Sultana Tarun of Awami League is the main contender of BNP nominee Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumy in Kushtia-4 (Kumarkhali-Khoksha) constituency.

Meanwhile, brisk preparations are afoot in Faridpur by the concerned officials to hold the coming election in a peaceful manner.

Election campaign is gaining momentum gradually in Faridpur, but yet to get peak. A total of 29 candidates are contesting for five Jatiya Sangsad seats in the district. Six candidates are vying for Faridpur-1 comprising Alfordanga, Boalmari and Madhukhali upazillas, five candidates, are vying for Faridpur-2 comprising Nagarkanda upazilla, eight candidates are on the fray for Faridpur-3 consisting of Sadar upazilla. Four candidates are contesting in Faridpur-4 consisting of Sadarpur and Char-Bhadrashan upazilla and six candidates are vying for Faridpur-5 consisting of Bhanga upazilla.

According to an official source, there are 10,17,159 voters in the district in comparison to 8,25,373 voters in 1996 election showing an increase of 2,47,786 voters. Of the total voters, 5,43,077 are males and 5,30,082 are females.

According to the source, 483 polling stations will be set up for five constituencies. In 1996, there were 432 polling stations. There will be 2104 polling booths for 483 polling stations. Meanwhile, arrangements are underway to appoint all categories of polling officials.

## People didn't forget our successful period: Ershad

BSS, Lalmonirhat

Former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said people of the country did not forget the nine years of good governance of Jatiya Party (JP) and they will cast their vote in favour of JP (E) in the upcoming general election.

He said this on Monday while he was doing mass-contact in different areas of Boda and Devigonj in Thakurgaon and Panchagar districts and Lalmonirhat as part of his election campaign.

"People want to beautify the country again, so 'Langol' (Plough), the election symbol of JP (E), has arisen as the symbol of welfare of the people," Ershad added.

Among others, Gulam Mohammad Quader, Mujibur Rahman, Joynal Abedin, Shafiqul Alam Prodhan, and many other local leaders also spoke.

## Pre-poll violence in Munshiganj: 25 hurt

UNB, Munshiganj

At least 25 people were injured, five by bullets, when BNP supporters allegedly attacked on Awami League dominated Charshilmandi village here Monday.

Villagers said around 200 terrorists, some of them identified ones, launched the attack at about 4pm and opened fire leaving at least 25 people injured, five by bullets. They also ransacked 15 houses and five shops.

During the attack, panic-stricken people ran helter-skelter, but scores of them failed to save themselves.

The injured people were admitted to local hospitals and clinics or sent to Dhaka. Of the injured, condition of bullet-ridden Jewel, Noor Mohammad, Abul and Arafat was stated to be critical.

Earlier on Saturday, around 15 people were injured in an attack at the same village.

In another incident, 10 people were injured when a BNP procession at Chandantala in Mirkandi came under attack allegedly by AL men Monday afternoon.

Of them, condition of Khalilur Rahman was critical.

Besides, an AL election camp was torched in Panhata of Sadar upazila midnight Sunday. AL blamed BNP for the incident.

Although candidates of major political parties in six constituencies of the district are blaming each other for violating electoral code of conduct, the electoral inquiry committee is not taking them into cognizance.

An official of the committee, on condition of anonymity, said these allegations are brought only to harass the opponents.

According to local election office, some 32 candidates are vying for October 1 fray in the district, but the main competition would take place among 13 candidates.

These candidates filled up the city walls with coloured posters defying the ban on printing such

## Erosion in Chandpur

# WDB's temporary steps spark public resentment

UNB, Chandpur

Local Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a temporary project involving Tk 1.20 crore to check devastating erosion by the river Meghna and save important places.

Local people expressed their resentment for taking such temporary measures instead of permanent steps.

WDB took the project of dumping concrete blocks on Sunday after engulfing major portion of main railway station, launch and steamer ghat and fish ghat areas of the town.

But ignoring the advice, local WDB officials floated a tender to check the erosion by filling blocks.

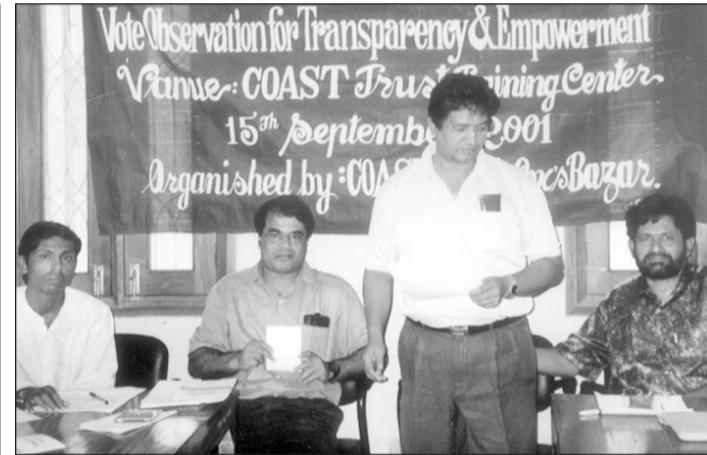


PHOTO: STAR

Vote Observation for Transparency and Empowerment (VOTE) arranged a press conference recently at the COAST Trust Training Centre in Cox's Bazar town.

## Violation of poll code of conduct Allegations only to harass opponents

UNB, Khulna

Costly posters. Incidents of pasting posters of one candidate over another were also often occurred.

Besides, there are allegations of setting up camps on the footpaths obstructing the movement of the pedestrians and using more than one loud speakers and motorcade for election campaign.

During the last few days, section 144 has been imposed in Khulna-4 constituency to avert political confrontation between the supporters of two big parties.

Despite the allegations, no measure was taken to lodge any formal complaint before the electoral inquiry committee.

## BNP activist allegedly killed by AL workers

UNB, Bogra

Another report from Patuakhali adds: Twelve people were injured in separate clashes between AL and BNP activists at Andua Kolagachhia and Bouddhaphasha village in Miraganj on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Joynal Abedin, 28, son of late Altaf Hossain of Tazurpara village of Hat Sherpur union of the upazila.

Police said an AL activist hit Joynal Abedin with a stick leaving him seriously injured. Joynal was admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital where he succumbed later.

His younger brother Suman, 22, and mother Zohura, 40, were also

## NEWS SNAPS

### 2 youths with obscene posters arrested

UNB, Habiganj

Police arrested two youths with a good number of posters carrying obscene pictures of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.

They were: Saidur Rahman, 23 of Jatraborobari of Sadar and Samsuddin, 22 of Shaphur village of Baniachong upazila. On information, police raided the bus stand of the town and arrested the youths with the posters. Meanwhile, nine independent candidates from the district's two constituencies remained totally absent from the electioneering. They are: Abu Hasnat Mohammad Shahid Badal, AKM Fazlul Haq, Mohammad Kamal Hossain, Foyez Ahmed Kadir, Nurul Amin Maksud, Akteruzzaman Milon, Sombhu Hasan, Sababuddin Ahmed and Samsul Salehin. These candidates filed nominations from Narayanganj-4 and 5 constituencies but they were not yet seen to seek votes in favour of them.

### Preparations on for smooth polling

UNB, Panchagarh

All preparations have been undertaken to hold the upcoming parliamentary elections in two constituencies of the district smoothly.

Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer Mohammad Aftab said 224 presiding officers, 943 assistant presiding officers and 1886 polling officers have been appointed to conduct the election. Upazila-wise daylong workshops have already been held in the district to aware the people and election officials about their responsibilities to hold the polls peacefully, he added. Besides, the Facilities Department completed the renovation work of 44 polling centres on emergency basis at a cost of Tk 16 lakh. Members of the army have already visited the risky polling centres including those situated along the border areas and Indian enclaves for assessing the pre-poll situation.

### Attack on poll projection meeting: 5 hurt

UNB, Sunamganj

At least five people were injured in an attack on an election projection meeting of four-party alliance at Shaharpara in Jagannathpur upazila last week.

Two of the injured identified as Amirul Islam and Moti Mia were sent to the hospital. Soon after the incident on Sept 18, the four-party alliance held a protest meeting and blamed Awami League activists for the attack. The alliance leaders at the meeting also demanded immediate arrest of the activists responsible for the attack.

### JP (E)-Jamaat clash leaves 5 injured

UNB, Sakiria

At least five people were injured critically in a clash between the activists Jamaat and Jatiya Party (E) at Shyamnagar upazila on Saturday.

Witnesses said following past enmity some activists of Jatiya Party attacked and beat up Ismail Hossain, office secretary of Shyamnagar Jamaat, while he was returning home in the morning. Later in the afternoon the two groups faced each other and locked in a violent clash leaving five people including Babu, Shahin and Tarique injured. Separate cases were filed in this connection.

### No electioneering by independents

UNB, Narayanganj

Nine independent candidates from the district's two constituencies remained totally absent from the electioneering.

They are: Abu Hasnat Mohammad Shahid Badal, AKM Fazlul Haq, Mohammad Kamal Hossain, Foyez Ahmed Kadir, Nurul Amin Maksud, Akteruzzaman Milon, Sombhu Hasan, Sababuddin Ahmed and Samsul Salehin. These candidates filed nominations from Narayanganj-4 and 5 constituencies, but they were not yet seen to seek votes in favour of them.

### Prices of rice up in Gopalganj

BSS, Gopalganj

The prices of rice have shot up in the local markets causing sufferings to the low-income group of people.

According to the market survey this week, per kg fine quality of rice is being sold at Tk 520 while moderate and low quality rice at Tk 500 and Tk 480 respectively. Prices of these types of rice were Tk 380, Tk 350 and Tk 320 respectively three to four weeks before. Abdul Kader Sikder, a trader, told that rice, which was available in the markets between Tk 9-10 per kg, is now being sold at Tk 12-13. Short supply was said to be the main reason behind the sudden price spiral. Besides, onion and garlic are being sold in high prices now in the markets. Onion is being sold at Tk 32 per kg against Tk 12 and garlic is being sold Tk 60 per kg against Tk 20.

### 250 centres in Madaripur vulnerable

UNB, Madaripur

Some 250 polling centres out of 327 in three constituencies of the district have been identified as vulnerable.

Of them, 176 centres were identified as most sensitive, of which some 76 centres are located in Madaripur-1, some 49 in Madaripur-2 and some 51 in Madaripur-3 constituencies. According to officials, the number of voters was up by over 2.26 lakh rising the total number to over 7.40 lakh in the district. Meanwhile, two election camps of a four-party alliance candidate and an independent candidate in Madaripur-3 constituency were damaged at dead of night on Saturday.

### Gathering for awareness among voters

BSS, Jamalpur

Abig gathering was held to make awareness among women voters to cast their votes in the ensuing election, at Jamalpur Public Hall on Thursday.

Organised by District Information office here, the meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Nasimul Haq as the chief guest while district information officer, Jamalpur AKM Azizul Huq presided over. The meeting was addressed by Advocate Shamim Ara, Advocate Shamsul Huq, Syeda Kader, district Women's Affairs officer, Dr Yasmin Akbari, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Mirza Sakhawatul Alam Moni, municipality Chairman, Additional Police Super M Abdur Rahim and Firoz Khan, district Additional Ansar and VDP, Jamalpur. The speakers dwelt on the women's right in society and family. As such women in our country, should participate in the national policy through franchise when women population is nearly half of male population.