

Hasina: Fair polls

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and injuring many including her party candidate in the area, Sheikh Helal.

She told the meetings that the BNP had forged an alliance with the razakars and killers of Bangabandhu following a so-called report by the intelligence agencies that such a unity would ensure their victory. "But the BNP has become desperate learning about the latest intelligence report that says the Awami League is surely going to win. That's why, the gang of vote thieves, killers and razakars are out to subvert the election."

Hasina further alleged that the BNP candidates were approaching the voters with bundles of money. "They are seasonal birds and investing money buy votes. Such candidates will definitely try to get their money back multiplied and for that purpose they will engage in corrupt practices," she said asking the people to vote for AL nominees who always have stood by them.

In some constituencies in Comilla, the AL leader said, the BNP and Jamaat candidates are hiring armed goons from outside their areas. "These thugs are attacking

our workers and threatening the voters," she said, warning that people would not tolerate any conspiracy against the polls.

She repeatedly asked the local administration to maintain neutrality and act against those who were obstructing the process for peaceful holding of the coming election.

In all the election meetings, the former prime minister highlighted her government's achievements in various sectors and listed her election pledges. "Vote for boat, we will ensure your economic emancipation. If we are re-elected, we will build a poverty-free, prosperous Bangladesh."

Hasina introduced the AL candidates in all the constituencies she visited -- Mohammad Mohiuddin in Munshiganj-4, Hasan Jamil Sattar in Comilla-2, Prof. Ali Ashraf in Comilla-6, Abdul Matin Khasru in Comilla-5, AHM Mostafa Kamal in Comilla-9, Mujibul Haq in Comilla-12, Joynal Abedin Bhuiyan in Comilla-11, M Tajul Islam in Comilla-10, Abdul Hakim in Comilla-7 and ATM Shamsul Haq in Comilla-8 constituency.

Khaleda urges people

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hand of the AL. This is why people of Bangladesh will vote for sheaf of paddy (BNP's election symbol)," she told the meeting organised to seek support for BNP candidate for the Brahmanbaria-4 seat, Moshfiqur Rahman.

She alleged that the AL was targeting popular BNP candidates at places like Sirajganj, Bogra and Mohammodpur in Dhaka and trying to kill them.

Referring to mass killing at Brahmanbaria on February 6 this year, she called upon people to take avenge the deaths of innocent people through the ballot.

She also demanded immediate cancellation of arms license given to several thousands of AL cadres when it was in power. "The Awami League government gave licence to

identified terrorists, party leaders and activists as well as to their domestic hands."

The BNP chairperson also addressed election meetings at Devidar organised in support for Munzurul Ahsan Munshi for Comilla-4 and at Burichang for Principal Mohammad Yunus for Comilla-5 seat.

Khaleda, who concluded her three-day electioneering in greater Sylhet and Comilla yesterday, left for Bholalate last night after addressing an election meeting at Dholakhal in support of Sadek Hossain Khoka.

During her two-day tour, she will address election meetings at Hizla, Mehdiganj, Bhola, Doulatkhan, Borhanuddin, Lalmoni, Dhulia, Bakherganj and Patuakhali.

AL: Minority voters

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the day of election.

Earlier, the commission asked the parties and candidates concerned to submit a list of the polling agents along with two copies of photographs of each proposed agent to the presiding officers by September 25 to provide them with training before the election. But the BNP at a meeting on September 23 with the CEC opposed the idea.

Following the meetings with the two major political parties, the Election Commission finally decided that the polling agents would be appointed by the candidates concerned on the election day or the day before.

The commission also postponed the polling agents-oriented training programmes.

About the appointment of the polling agents, the AL leader said the EC's proposal for submitting the list of election agents to the returning officers five days before the polls was unrealistic and contradictory to the electoral rules.

The AL delegation focused on some other issues - appointment of presiding officers and polling agents, law and order situation, deployment of members of the armed forces and the Sunday bomb blast in Bagerhat that left eight

people killed.

The AL delegation objected to the appointment of some Islami Bank officials as presiding officers.

"The Islami Bank is run by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami," the delegation chief alleged.

The AL delegation consisted of members of its election steering committee -- Ataur Rahman Kayser, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Advocate Syed Ahmed, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and AH Mahmood.

Later in the day, the AL at a press briefing at its election office informed reporters about the upshot of the meeting with the CEC.

AL leaders blamed the anti-liberation forces for masterminding the heinous incidents of bomb explosions in recent years in Jessor, Dhaka, Gopalganj and in other places under the patronage of Khaleda Zia.

They expressed frustration over the government's indifference to the attacks on people and properties belonging to the minorities.

The leaders also informed that Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, according to a reliable source, had a machination to launch attacks on the minorities at Rangunia, Rauzan, Pota and Boalkhali in Chittagong.

AL rebels defiant

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At a projection meeting in support of party candidate in a Nilphamari constituency last week, party chief Hasina sounded tough against a party rebel, Abdur Rouf, for being in the race as an independent candidate. She also announced that the rebels would have no association with the party.

At places, party candidates appear to be facing formidable challenge more from their party

colleagues (the rebels) than the other rival party candidates are, sources said. Actions against the rebels would bring much relief to the party candidates in their respective constituencies, they added.

Among all the AL rebels who remained in the race until recently, independent candidature of a party presidium member has put the party into an embarrassing position.

Dr. Mohammad Selim is campaigning as an independent candidate from all three constituencies, namely Sirajganj-1, 2 and 3, where his younger brother Mohammad Nasim, a former home minister and also the organising secretary of the AL, got AL tickets. However, Selim's last minute decision to withdraw from the fray came much to the relief of Nasim and his party.

Some other AL rebels who are still defying the party orders include Kosimuddin Ahmed (Dinajpur-2), Emdadul Islam Chowdhury (Dinajpur-4), Dr. Azizur Rahman (Dinajpur-6), Ferdous Zaman Mukul (Bogra-1 and 5), Abdus Samad (Rajshahi-5), Ahad Ali Sarkar (Natore-2), Sajidur Rahman (Sirajganj-5), Abdur Rouf (Kushthia-4), Atiar Rahman (Jessore-2), Ishaq

Ali (Jessore-4), Abdul Halim (Jessore-6), Abdul Barek Ali (Patuakhali-3), Anwarul Islam (Patuakhali-4), Shamsul Islam (Barisal-6), GM Khan Tareq (Tangail-6), Amir Ahmed Khan Ratan (Mymensingh-4), Soumendra Chowdhury (Mymensingh-8), Abdul Matin Bhuiyan (Mymensingh-9), Mohiuddin Ahmed (Mymensingh-11), Hemayetullah Aurora (Shariatpur-1), Khairul Majid (Narsinghdi-4), Shahriar Rumi (Faridpur-5), Haji Mujib (Moulvibazar-4), Sultan Mahmud Simon ((Shariatpur-2) and Baharuddin Bahar (Comilla-8).

Meanwhile, in a press release last night, AL joint-general secretary Muzaffar Hossain Paitu said that Ahad Ali Sarkar of Natore-2 stayed off the polls as far as his candidature is concerned and was now working in support of party nominee Hanif Ali Sheikh.

JU rapists

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the campus.

Meanwhile, the SURR-called indefinite strike stretched into the 28th day yesterday, marring academic activities. Administrative activities went on as usual, though.

On September 19, the High Court issued a rule nisi on the JU authorities asking them to explain within four weeks why the expulsion order on seven SURR leaders would not be considered "illegal".

Most of JU students left the campus, as the authorities postponed all examinations until October 4.

Samar Das

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He, popularly known as Samarda, stepped into the world of music at the age of 16 playing flute which was broadcast from All India Radio (Dhaka Centre) during the period of the undivided Bengal in 1945.

He, after moving to Calcutta for schooling at St. Paul's, had exclusive training in different branches of music from notable composers like Timir Barun and Vishnu Das Shiralee and received guidance and advice from late Kamal Dasgupta, Raichand Baral, Anupam Ghatak, Durga Sen and Pankaj Mullick.

He took lessons in Western notation in piano from late J D Newman and V Balsara for two years at HMV. He was appointed as a regular instrumentalist at HMV/EMI (India) recording company in Calcutta. The 'golden finger' became the heartthrob of the young generation in the early 50s throughout the Indo-Pak subcontinent.

He got himself attached to the Calcutta-based Bengali film production in 1950 as joint music director with late Kalipada Sen for the film "Lottery" and with late Saif Chowdhury for the film Jighangsha, to complete the unfinished background music. After the partition of Bengal, Samara Das returned to Dhaka and joined Radio Pakistan (Dhaka) as a music producer in 1961 and he built himself up as a full-fledged music composer and music director.

He contributed numerous dances, drama, ballet, compositions, and composed the music for more than 2000 songs consisting modern, folk, religious and others.

He was the music director of the first South Asian International Music Conference in Dhaka in 1954, music director of the films "Mukh-O Mukhosh", "Asiya, Nabarun". He also dedicated himself in the study and research for blending Western instrument and vocal tunes with Eastern music.

Das joined PIA Arts Academy as chief music director and created many in-flight music for PIA.

The composer of "Kando Bangalee Kando" -- one of the most favourite songs that hit the heart of millions of Bangladeshis against the Pakistani military rulers -- took the responsibility of chief music director of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the War of Liberation in 1971. He produced numerous patriotic songs which were sung by renowned artists from both Bangladesh and India to inspire the freedom fighters.

He directed the music of Long Play disk -- Bangladesher Hridoy Hote -- consisting of 26 patriotic songs dedicated to the martyrs of the Liberation War, released by HMV commemorating the Independence of Bangladesh.

He prepared and arranged the musical scoring of the national anthem of Bangladesh (from original tune of the Tagore's Amar Sonar Bangla) and composed the official song of the SAF Games in 1985 and 1995.

Besides the Swadhin Padak, he received Disha Padak, Bangabandhu Award, Zebunnesa and Mahbubul Award and also award from UNICEF for his contribution in the cultural background of Bangladesh. He was also honoured by several organisations on several occasions.

The founder president of Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad, Samar Das visited India, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, The Philippines, USA, and Indonesia.



PHOTO: STAR
JP Chairman H M Ershad addressing a public rally at Kurigram yesterday.

Clashes leave 296 injured

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Section 144 in the town for an indefinite period.

In Tarash upazila, at least 40 people were injured during a gunfight between the supporters of BNP and Awami League.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Tarash thana health complex. While the rest released after first aid.

The supporters of the two rival parties exchanged fire and exploded bombs and crackers during the clash that continued for about two hours.

The clash occurred when processions of AL and BNP confronted each other at Tarash Bazar in the evening.

A local office of GKS, a non-government organisation (NGO), house of BNP Tarash thana secretary Selim Jahangir and two studios were ransacked during the clash.

Police and Army resorted to baton charge and brought the situation under control. A case was filed with Tarash thana in this regard.

Our correspondent from Rajshahi writes: At least 30 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Mohorkhanda village under Lalpur upazila yesterday.

According to witnesses, the trouble began after tearing of posters of BNP candidate Fazlur Rahman Patil in Natore-1 constituency.

Both the warring groups used firearms and lethal weapons during the clash that continued for half an hour.

Motorcycle of BNP leader Shafed Ali was damaged during the clash.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, at least ten BNP men were injured when rival group attacked a cycle procession near Bagutia village under Saitalkupha yesterday.

Police and witnesses said Awami League activists attacked the procession where hundreds of BNP supporters brought out a bicycle procession at about 1:30 pm.

Sources said, just after the incident, BNP men damaged and looted some houses of Awami League activists.

Police arrested eight persons.

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