

## NEWS SNAPS

## AL activist hacked by BNP activist

UNB, Munshiganj An Awami League (AL) activist was hacked after being kidnapped from Char Kishoreganj Daroghat allegedly by BNP activist Monday night.

The victim, Amir Hossain, 42, was later rescued from Uttar Islampur and admitted to hospital. On the same night, nine Awami League activists were injured in an attack allegedly by BNP supporters at Dakkhin Charshumaria in Sadar upazila. Of the injured, Nur Bepari, 75, was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

## Pre-poll clash in Naogaon leaves 30 hurt

UNB, Naogaon Some 30 people were injured in separate pre-election clashes between the supporters of Awami League and 4-party alliance in Sadar and Manda upazilas Wednesday.

Witnesses said the clashes between the supporters of the two rival political parties took place at Himpur Bazaar in Sadar and Pamukhail village in Manda upazilas over the coming election. Nine of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital while four to Manda Health Complex and one to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, the four-party alliance held a rally at Himpur Bazaar Thursday protesting the violence.

## AL-BNP clash in Gazipur: 20 injured

UNB, Gazipur At least 20 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between Awami League (AL) and BNP activists at Maona in Sripur upazila Wednesday night.

According to a delayed report, the clash occurred when a group of unruly Awami League activists ransacked the local BNP office, some shops and passing vehicles. The OC of Sripur thana was among the injured. The cops were injured as they tried to disperse the mob. They picked up 13 people from the scene. In another incident, police in a raid on a house at Collegepara in Sripur upazila arrested four youths Mizanul, Jumman, Amir and Shaon while making bombs. They also recovered 11 bombs from the house. Meanwhile, local people alleged that the voters belonging to the minority community are being intimidated in some areas of Kalakoir upazila, including Boali, Chapair and Sutrapur.

## 15 wounded in Jessore pre-poll clash

UNB, Jessore A pre-election clash between the Awami League (AL) and BNP activists left some 15 people wounded at Kaira union of Sharsha upazila Tuesday night.

The clash ensued after BNP activists set fire on five election camps of Awami League while the AL men burnt down two camps of their rivals. Four of the injured were admitted to local hospital. Meanwhile, local BNP alleged that 25 women supporters of the party were injured in an attack by Awami League workers at Bahadurpur union in same upazila.

## Attack on motorcade of AL candidate

UNB, Gazipur Some 10 people were injured in an attack on the motorcade of Awami League (AL) candidate of Gazipur-4 Tanjim Ahmed Sohel at Kapasia Monday night.

Party sources said BNP supporters made the attack when they were returning home after election campaign. One of the injured was sent to Dhaka in a critical condition. Police, however, said that only two people were injured in the incident. A report from Gaibandha says: Twelve people were injured in a clash between Jamaat-Shibir and Jatiya Party (Ershad) workers at Sarbananda Adarsha Bazar here on Sunday.

## Six injured in Madaripur pre-poll clash

UNB, Madaripur Six people were injured in a pre-election clash between the supporters of Awami League (AL) and an independent candidate at Natun Tarky Bazaar in Kalkini upazila Thursday.

The injured Polash Bepari, 22, Bachchu Bepari, 30, Swapna Mollah, 30, Chhunu Fakir, 18, Shahid Bepari, 20, and Dulal Khan were admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition. Another report from Rangpur adds: Fifteen people were injured in an attack on the motorcade of an AL candidate allegedly by Jatiya Party (E) at Balban village in Sadar upazila Tuesday. Police said over a thousand JP activists attacked the motorcade of Sarfuddin Ali, an AL candidate from Rangpur-1, and dumped a microbus and a jeep into a nearby pond after damaging those. Among the injured was AL activist Manna, 45. He was admitted to a local hospital.

## AL out to regain seats lost to JP in Nilphamari in '96

E A M ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Awami League (AL) is out to regain three out of four seats which it had lost to Jatiya Party in Nilphamari in 1996.

AL usually captured all the four seats of the district from the period of 1970 to 1996. But in 1996 AL's supremacy shattered when three parliamentary seats had gone to Ershad led Jatiya Party (JP) and the remaining one went to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Nilphamari 1 constituency comprising Domar and Dimala has a total of 2,56,617 voters. A Rouf, former whip in Pre-'75 AL regime and former president of the then East Pakistan Students' League, revolting against party decision, is contesting as an independent candidate.

As a result AL nominee Dr Hamida Banu Shova, chairperson of Queen's University is in trouble.

JP (E) candidate NK Alam Chowdhury is likely to be the beneficiary out of this internal feud within AL. However, 4-party nominee Shahreen Islam Tuhin, who is also a nephew of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia may also put up a strong fight in this constituency.

Nilphamari 2 constituency comprising Nilphamari town has a total 220,149 enlisted voters. In 1996 polls, Ahsan Ahmed, who contested with JP ticket after being denied BNP nomination, won by a small margin of 439 votes against the then AL nominee Joinal Abedin. This year AL has nominated film cum popular TV actor turned politician Asaduzzaman Noor is its candidate. This has enraged Joynal who deserted AL and won the most coveted JP (E) ticket.

However, AL has a lucrative vote bank in this constituency. Moreover, due to his close connection and blessings of AL Chief Sheikh Hasina, Noor made remarkable development work in this area.

Four-party alliance nominee in this constituency is Advocate Abdul Latif of Jamaat.

Immediate past MP Ahsan is contesting this time with JP (Manju) ticket whose symbol is Bicycle.

On the other hand JP (E) candidate is considered as

a star of Nilphamari politics. Equipped with his own vote bank and accompanied by Ershad's popularity among the toiling masses together with quite a good number of followers of Chormoni Peer, JP 'Plough' symbol is in an advantageous position here.

Although Ahsan Ahmed of JP (M) is not considered to be a factor in the race, still he is likely to share some JP (E) votes. This may bring the four-party candidate Advocate Al Latif in the triangular race at the last minute.

Nilphamari 3 constituency comprising Jaldhaka and a portion of Kishoreganj has 250,726 voters.

In 1996, this seat went to Jamaat candidate Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, who is renominated this year by 4-party alliance. JP (E) has reposed its confidence on its last runner up candidate Rashidul Alam Chowdhury and renominated him. On the other hand, AL has given nomination to Deependra Nath Sarker, who is lagging far behind due to internal feud. AL General Secretary of Jaldhaka upazilla Golam Mustafa is inactive protesting his omission to become an AL contestant. So, the main fight in this constituency will centre round JP (E) and Jamaat.

Nilphamari 4 constituency comprising Saidpur upazilla and a portion of Kishoreganj has a total 221,819 voters. In last 1996 general election, this seat was won by Dr Asadur Rahman, brother-in-law of Ershad. This year too, Dr Asad has obtained JP (E) ticket. AL has nominated straightforward, honest and competent Col (Retd) Saklaan whereas 4-party alliance candidate is Amjad Hossain Sarker Voyaj, chairman of Saidpur Municipality. Here last year's AL nominee Mokhlesur Rahman, failing to get his party ticket, is contesting as an independent candidate.

Contestants are already changing their campaign tactics to defeat opponents.

Last minute mood of the voters will play the key role in determining the fate of these candidates.

## 3,737 female voters in Jhenidah still uncertain of casting votes

UNB, Jhenidah

years back.

Women have been refraining from casting votes during the long period, as a devastating cyclone lashed the area on the election day claiming lives of a number of women and a child. The locals believed the calamity occurred due to casting votes by females.

The field-level workers of various NGOs said it has now become a social barrier that who will first break the rule, although people understand that participation of female voters in the election has no relation with the incident that happened 50

years ago.

happens while putting ink during the polling.

Deputy Commissioner ABM Shahjahan told that they expect these voters would cast their votes in the October-1 election as various programmes were conducted to motivate them through social leaders, religious leaders (Imam) and village headmen.

He said they also formed a committee in each of the villages in Sadar upazila and set up three more polling centres to bring the women voters on the polling day.



Munajat being offered at the recently observed Urs mubarak of Hazrat Khaja Mainuddin Chisty (R) at Khaja Kutir, Bhatalia in Sylhet.

## BNP leader for deployment of army in 42 centres in B'baria

SK MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

Advocate Abdus Satter Buiyan, president of BNP district unit and joint convenor of BNP-led four-party alliance Brahmanbaria unit, alleged in a press conference here that some government employees were directly involved in election campaigning in favour of AL candidate Advocate Humayun Kabir (boat).

BNP candidate Advocate Haroon-al-Rashid (sheaf of paddy) demanded deployment of Army and BDR in 42 polling centres out of 132 centres in Brahmanbaria-3 constituency saying 42, out of 132 centres here were vulnerable.

They said that RAM Obaydul

Muktadir, who was the private secretary of the immediate past prime minister Sheikh Hasina and now a director of Bangladesh Krira Sangstha, campaigned in a public meeting for AL candidate Advocate Humayun Kabir (boat) at Sharifpur village in Lalpur union on September 7 and on another occasion at Basudeb High School field on September 1 as the chief guest.

On the other hand, Md Mizanur Rahman, who was the DC of Tangail and now OSD working for Humayun (boat) Mijan was also usually comes on weekend day and work for AL, the BNP leaders said.

There are 14,84,622 voters including 7,28,195 female voters in the district. Of them, there are 1,58,833 voters including 80,492 male voters and 78,341 female voters in Brahmanbaria-1, 2,46,991 voters including 1,25,902 male voters and 1,21,089 female voters in Brahmanbaria-2, 3,89,250 voters including 2,00,962 male voters and 1,88,288 female voters in

Brahmanbaria-3, 2,47,726 voters including 1,25,436 male voters and 1,22,290 female voters in Brahmanbaria-4, 2,65,102 voters including 1,34,408 male voters and 1,309,694 female voters in Brahmanbaria-5 and 90,027 male voters and 87,493 female voters in Brahmanbaria-6 constituency.

There are 66 polling centres in Brahmanbaria-1 constituency, 95 in Brahmanbaria-2, 132 in Brahmanbaria-3, 82 in Brahmanbaria-4, 101 in Brahmanbaria-5 and 73 in Brahmanbaria-6 constituency.

In a press conference BNP candidate Advocate Haroon-al-Rashid filed another application to Chief Election Commission (CEC) in order to informed about 42 sensitive polling centres of his constituency Brahmanbaria-3.

Of those, 12 polling centres were in Brahmanbaria Municipality and 30 other centres were unions of Brahmanbaria-3 constituency.

## Two killed in Comilla road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident at a place named Gazipur on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Monday, police and witness said.

According to witnesses, the accident took place when a bus collided head-on on a private car coming from the opposite direction.

Driver of the car died on the spot while another Giasuddin died on way to hospital.

Four of the injured persons including Mofizul Islam, a noted businessman of Noakhali have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police seized the bus. Driver of the bus, however, managed to escape.

It is learnt that the passengers of the car went to a village in Senbagh upazila for election campaign in favour of a BNP candidate.