

NEWS SNAPS

AL activist killed by BNP workers

UNB, Jessore
Two people were killed in post-poll political violence in greater Jessore district Thursday. The deceased were identified as Awami League activist Mozahar Ali, 65, of Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district while another one as 25-year-old unidentified man in Kotwali thana. Police said BNP activists beat AL activist Mozahar Ali of village Mugura and injured critically as he cast vote for Awami League candidate in the 8th parliamentary election. He was admitted to Jessore General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries midnight Thursday. After postmortem Mozahar's body was handed over to his relatives.

Housewife commits suicide

UNB, Naogaon
A housewife who allegedly had taken insecticide in a bid to commit suicide at village Champur died at sadar hospital on Sunday. Hospital and family sources said Farida, 23, the second wife of Yunus Ali of the village, took pesticide on Saturday following a quarrel with Ali's first wife. She was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition where she died a day after her admission. A UD case was filed.

Old man killed by fellow-villagers

UNB, Bogra
An old man was killed in an attack allegedly by one of his fellow-villagers at Khottpara in sadar upazila on Saturday. Witnesses said Hatem Ali, 55, died on the spot when the co-villager hit him over a minor dispute in the afternoon. Police recovered body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

BCL activists beaten by JCD supporters

UNB, Savar
Supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) allegedly beat up seven pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) activists in Jahangirnagar University on Saturday. Campus sources said JCD workers also drove away 10 other BCL workers when they came to the JU campus.

AL candidate wants cancellation of result

UNB, Tangail
Awami League (AL) candidate from Tangail-6 constituency Khondker Abdul Baten has demanded cancellation of election results there alleging irregularities in the Oct 1 election.

Addressing a press conference at the local press club on Saturday, he alleged that vote rigging took place in 25 out of 55 polling centres in his seat for which he was defeated. He also complained that his polling agents were not allowed in many centres of the constituency.

AL supporters compelled to leave houses

UNB, Comilla
M Shahjahan Sarkar, Chairman of Dhamoti (South) Union Parishad Saturday alleged that AL supporters and the minority people in some villages of his union are being compelled to leave their houses.

In a press conference he alleged that a gang of terrorists damaged the houses of AL supporters Harun Sarkar, Ramizuddin and Harun at Tulagaan village in Debidwar upazila and looted valuables on Wednesday. Minority people and Awami League supporters were being tortured for casting votes in favour of Awami League, he added. He said the terrorists also stormed the houses of Rafiqul Islam and beat his wife and ransacked the houses of Karim Sarkar, Abdul Haque, Rashraj, Chandi Das and Monomohon Das. Besides, the hoodlums ransacked a temple at Tulagaan when some Hindu people were re-constructing it, he said.

Comilla AL candidate sued

UNB, Comilla
A case has been filed against the Awami League candidate of Comilla-8 constituency for assaulting a presiding officer on the October-1 parliament election. Presiding officer and principal of Bimanbandar Munshi Farouk Ahmed College Mohammad Mahmud Hossain in his complaint alleged that AL candidate ATM Shamsul Huq along with his men assaulted him while he was performing election duty at Comilla Zila School centre. The case was filed with the police on Oct 2 under Section 4 of 1972 People's Representation Ordinance.

BNP candidate loses security money

UNB, Faridpur
When BNP and allies became victorious in the just concluded national election, a BNP nominated candidate in a constituency in Faridpur made record in getting the lowest votes among all the BNP candidates in the country.

He also made a record as the lone BNP candidate in losing security deposit money in the country. Alhaj Zahirul Haq Shahajan Mia, BNP district president, as one of the four candidates, contested from Faridpur-4 (Charbhadrasan and Sadarpur upazila) constituency where the number of votes was 166,584. Shahajan Mia got only 3,867 votes out of the 67.75 per cent votes polled. In the constituency AL candidate Abdur Razzaque won the election by polling 56,231 votes while BNP rebel candidate Chowdhury Akmal Ibne Yousaf bagged 53,586 votes.

12 in C'nawabganj lose security money

UNB, Chapainawabganj
Twelve candidates out of 21 in three constituencies of the district have lost their security money in October 1 national elections.

According to official sources they are Adv Nazrul Islam, Syed Ahmad Biswas, Alauddin Tipu, Ittehad Towhidul Idrisi in C'nawabganj-1, Adv Abdus Samad, Bazlur Rahman, Prof Sadiqul Islam and Dr Salahuddin in C'nawabganj-2. Adv Alhaj Abdus Samad, Kamaluddin, Rafiqul Islam and Aminur Rahman Kalu in C'nawabganj-3. BNP-led four party alliance won all the three seats in the district.

New Laxmipur MP's call for restraint

UNB, Laxmipur
The newly elected MP of Laxmipur-3 constituency M Shahiuddin Chowdhury Anny in a statement Saturday urged all including party activists to refrain from any illegal activities. He said there are reports of grabbing land toll collection, capturing of bus/truck terminals and kidnapping by the anti-social elements in the district. He also urged the district administration to take stringent action against the violators of law. Apart from this, district BNP secretary Advocate Syed Shamsul Alam requested the district and police administration to arrest those who in the name of BNP or its front organisations engage themselves in terrorist activities.

Shanties damaged by hoodlums

UNB, Barisal
Armed hoodlums attacked two slums in the town within a gap of one hour and damaged shanties injuring four people on Friday.

Witnesses said the hooligans captured the Hatkhola and Polashpur slums in the two injuring four people by chopping with sharp weapons. The slum dwellers brought out a procession in the town protesting the attack. Meanwhile, armed men captured the room of district president of Chhatra Moltri at Fazlul Haq Hall of BM College Thursday night. Sujon blamed the JCD cadres for the attack.

Erosion renders 40 families homeless

UNB, Magura
Erosion by the Madhumoti river has taken a serious turn leaving some 40 families in four villages of Mohammadpur upazila homeless.

Villagers said vast stretches of croplands in the villages Char Selamatpur, Raypur, Ronagar and Madhabpur have already gone into the gorge of the river. Meanwhile, the erosion-hit people have taken shelter on flood control embankments and nearby school buildings and were passing their days in miseries for lack of emergency assistance.

Water logging hampers cultivation

UNB, Sylhet
Some 56,000 acres of land in Jakiganj and Kanaighat upazilas of the district are going to be fallow due to constant water logging, hampering overall farming.

Nine UPs in Jakiganj and three in Kanaighat, once famous in the region for crop production, got water logged because haors, beels and canals have been silted up. Locals said many canals including Senapatir, Rahimpuri, Moksunda and Talikhil canals of Jakiganj had links with Kushiya river while Babur, Sarai, Chhaglir and Junair canals with Surma river. But, the then government in 1965 in order to control the unregulated canal waters, had undertaken a plan to construct a number of sluice gates for water extraction and preservation. Locals said the flow of canal waters had been controlled, but the sluice gates could not be constructed, causing longstanding water logging in the area.

Internal rift main reason for AL's debacle in two dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Internal rift is the main reason for Awami League's (AL) debacle in Satkhira and Sirajganj districts in the just concluded parliamentary elections.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Internal rift of Awami League was the main reason of the party's defeat, observers said.

The party secured 3 seats out of 5 seats in the 7th parliament. On the other hand, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat had one seat each. The BNP failed to get a single seat in the 1996 elections.

In the last election, held on October 1, the Awami League failed to get a single seat in the district where there were three seats.

However, the BNP's lone candidate of the 4-party alliance Habibul Islam in Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) won a landslide victory against his rival joint convener of Satkhira district Awami League Engineer Sk Mujibur Rahman by a margin of over 31,000 votes.

Maulana Abdul Khaleque (Jamaat) the Four-party alliance candidate defeated his Awami League rival Md Nazrul Islam in Satkhira-2 (Sadar) constituency by a margin of over 54,000 votes.

In Satkhira-3 (Assassuni) constituency ex-MP of Awami League Mokhlesur Rahman was defeated by Maulana Riasat Ali with a margin of over 17,000 votes. Jamaat's Riasat Ali contested as the four-party nominee.

Renowned physician Dr A F M Ruhul Haq of Awami League was defeated by the four-party alliance nominee Kazi Alauddin (JP, N-F) with a margin of over 30,000 votes in Satkhira-4 (Kaliganj-Debhata) constituency. Principal Abdul Haq of Awami League also tasted defeat. He was defeated by the four-party alliance nominee Jamaat candidate Gazi Nazrul Islam with a margin of over 28,000 votes.

Mentionable that only one ex-MP out of 3 ex-MPs of Awami League got party tickets to contest the October 1 polls. Dr S M Mokhlesur Rahman, the lone ex-MP of AL managed to get the party ticket for contesting the last election from Satkhira-3 constituency who tasted defeat in the election. Jamaat candidate Maulana Riasat Ali defeated him.

On the other hand, ex-MP Shahadat Hossain contested as JP nominee in 1996 polls and won the seat. This time he contested as an Independent candidate, but failed to retain the Satkhira-4 constituency. He also lost his security deposit money this time.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: Leaders of Sirajganj Awami League (AL) have identified seven reasons for the debacle of the party in six out of seven constituencies.

The reasons have been identified by the Awami League activists who remained neglected during the Awami League regime by the party high-ups. The reasons are intra-party conflict which led to murder of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Jewel. The murderer of Jewel had been saved without any trial.

Some relatives of former home minister Mohammad Nasim who happened to be the district leaders of Awami League allegedly sold many government trees while some leading figures of Awami League built new houses including multi-storied buildings and other property.

It is widely alleged that the wife, brother, nephew and cousin of former home minister took gratification illegally from local people and appointed them as police constable, S I of police and other jobs.

Some Awami League leaders preferring anonymity even disclosed that they cheated many job seekers also.

The district Awami League general secretary and organising secretary allegedly used to take percentage from contractors and others for all their contracts.

The Awami League leaders also harboured outlawed party leaders who had been engaged in all sorts of murder including murdering their partymen and political opponents.

Awami League leaders and activists also alleged that so-called Awami League cadres led by ex-home minister Mohammad Nasim's nephew kidnapped the union parishad chairmen earned at least Tk One crore illegally by controlling the paddy purchasing centres of the district.

31 candidates lose security money in M'bazar, Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A total of 31 out of 53 candidates in eight parliamentary constituencies of Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts lost their security deposit money.

According to the sources of district election offices in Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts, the candidates who lost the security money included former MP and independent candidates and other party nominees.

In Moulvibazar district, there are four seats where result has been declared in two seats whereas result remain postponed in other two seats.

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman of BNP and former whip of the 7th parliament Vice Principal Md Abdus Shahid of AL were elected this time from Moulvibazar-3 (Rajnagar-Sadar) and Moulvibazar-4 (Kamalgonj and Srimangal) respectively while reelection will take place on October 8 in one centre of Moulvibazar-1 (Baralekha) seat and 3 centres of Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura) seat.

Advocate Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of BNP and M M Shahi, an independent candidate are leading in Moulvibazar-1 and Moulvibazar-2 seats respectively.

However, candidates who have lost their security money in Moulvibazar district (four constituencies) are Md Mokhaddas Ali of Ershad-led Islami Oikya Front (6751 voter) in Moulvibazar-1, Sawkatul Islam of Islami Oikya Front (7,237 votes), Khandaker Lutfar Rahman of 11-party-CPB (573 votes), Advocate Rezaur Rahman Chowdhury of JSD (293 votes), ANM Yousuf-Independent (though he is the president of a faction of Bangladesh Muslim League-118 votes, Emdadul Islam-Independent (828 votes) and Abdus Subhan-Independent (819 votes) in Moulvibazar-2 constituency. Suleman Khan of Islami Oikya Front (4,011 votes), Mamunur Rashid Suhel of 11 party-BSD (485 votes) and Md Abdul Matin-Independent (371 votes) in Moulvibazar-2 constituency. Askir Miah of Islami Oikya Front (17,230 votes), and Hazi Eleman Kabir of JSD (289 votes).

Former MP in 3rd parliament (1986) and chief of a faction of Muslim League ANM Yousuf has lost his security money from Moulvibazar-2 while all the candidates of Islami Oikya Front have lost their security money from all the 4 constituencies of Moulvibazar district though 2 JP candidates were elected from the district in the 5th parliament (1991).

However, direct fight took place between BNP and AL candidates in Moulvibazar-1 and Moulvibazar-3 constituencies while direct fight had taken place between AL and Independent candidates in Moulvibazar-2 and Moulvibazar-4 constituencies. AL and BNP nominees have been elected in one seat

each in declared two seats while BNP and Independent candidates are in leading position in postponed two seats where reelection will take place in October 8 next.

In Habiganj district, there are 4 parliamentary constituencies from where a total of 31 candidates contested. Of them, 18 candidates have lost their security money. Awami League candidates have been elected from all the 4 seats of Habiganj district.

They are Dewan Farid Gazi in Habiganj-1 (Nabiganj-Bahubal) who bagged 74,478 votes, Nazmul Hasan Jahed in Habiganj-2 (Baniachong-Azmirigonj) who bagged 50,361 votes, Shah AMS Kibria in Habiganj-3 (Sadar-Lakhai) who bagged 83,107 votes and Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid in Habiganj-4 (Madhabpur-Chunarughat) who bagged 1,07,376 votes. Of these elected 4 AL candidates, Nazmul Hasan Jahed (Habiganj-2) and Shah AMS Kibria (Habiganj-3) have been elected for the first time. Kibria was the finance minister of the erstwhile AL government.

However, 18 candidates of Habiganj district who have lost their security money are Junayed Ahmed of 11 party-BSD (470 votes), Shahid Miah of JSD (623 votes) and Yakub Ali-Independent (866 votes) in Habiganj-1 seat. Akl Chowdhury of JP (Monju) 197 votes, Delwar Hussain-11 party BSD (453 votes), Dr Sakhawat Hussain-Independent (453 votes) and Krishna Kanta Sarker-Independent (432 votes) in Habiganj-2 constituency. Shafiqul Islam Shafique of JP (Monju) 398 votes, Hirendra Datta of 11-party CPB (235 votes), Shahidul Islam of Islami Front (Candle symbol) 781 votes, Apel Mahmud Dulal of Krishak Shramik Mukti Andolone (828 votes) and Azizur Rahman Chowdhury-Independent (387 votes) and Syed Mujakkir-Independent (150 votes) in Habiganj-3 constituency. Ashraf Uddin Takfir of JP (Monju) 120 votes, Mujibur Rahman Farid of 11-party-BSD (326 votes), Ali Mohammed Chowdhury of Islami Front (Candle symbol) 2657 votes, Daulat Miah-Independent (488 votes) and Pandit Rabi Das-Independent (1067 votes).

According to the election result of Habiganj district, a triangular fight had taken place among AL, BNP and JP (E) candidates in Habiganj-1 and direct fight between AL and BNP candidates had taken place in the rest 3 seats.

It is very interesting that AL nominee Nazmul Hasan Jahed was elected from Habiganj-2 seats defeating his BNP rival Nurul Ameen Chowdhury by only 347 votes.

In each of the four constituencies of Habiganj district, AL candidates were elected and BNP and JP (E) candidates secured 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

Stone collection from river



PHOTOS: A K M MOHSIN

Jaflong area in Sylhet is famous for stones. Stones are carried here every year through the Pingung river of India in a natural manner. After collection the stones are transported to other parts of the country by trucks or some other vehicles. The stones are widely used in development works. Many people earn their living by collecting these stones and the country is being developed rapidly using this natural wealth.

