

## BY-POLLS IN SUNAMGANJ-3 CONSTITUENCY

# Aspiring candidates begin mass contact programme

**IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet**

Aspiring candidates have begun their mass contact programmes for contesting the next by-election in Sunamganj-3 constituency although the polls schedule is yet to be announced officially.

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) constituency fell vacant following death of Awami League (AL) leader Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad over a week ago.

There is a constitutional provision for holding by-election in the vacant seat within 90 days of the vacancy.

Probable candidates are lobbying to ensure their candidature. Their supporters also started wall writings in different areas of the constituency.

People are discussing among themselves about the probable candidates.

However, common people are yet to recover from the shock from death of the senior leader.

The Four-party Alliance candidate who fought against Samad Azad in the constituency in the last parliamentary election in 2001 was Moulana Shahinur Pasha Chowdhury, an advocate and a young leader of Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-

Islam. He returned to the country after a visit to the USA a week ahead of the death of Samad Azad. He lost to the AL leader by 5,636 votes. He has been lobbying hard for confirmation of his ticket.

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), an alliance partner also held several meetings in the capital to select their candidate. Shahinur Pasha is confident of getting a nomination in the by-election.

But recent developments inside IOJ made things critical when a new candidate is trying to come to the scene with blessings from the Khelafat Majlish chief Shaikhul Hadis. Khelafat leaders are no more interested to run with Sahinur Pasha, party sources claimed. Majlishmen have been lobbying for the general secretary of the UK unit of IOJ, Moulana Foyez Ahmed. He is expected to reach Sylhet from UK on May 9.

The ruling alliance is also assessing the probability of fielding a former leader of Ganotantri Party, who had joined BNP in 1991 named Gulzar Ahmed. He became an MP in the February 15 election.

Other aspirants are Lt Colonel (Retd) Syed Ali Ahmed and BNP leader Maleque Khan.

Another source hinted that the ruling party might field Faruque Rashid Chowdhury, the younger brother of former Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury during the AL regime. A state minister during Ershad's rule and an ex-MP Faruque Rashid joined BNP a few years ago.

Meanwhile, Samad Azad's eldest son, Azizus Samad Don is also taking preparation to contest in the by-election. He had been seen in several social gatherings and other programmes in Sylhet and in his upazila.

The latest programme where Don joined was at the concluding programme of the weeklong mourning programme organised in honour of his father. The programmes were organised by Awami League in Jagannathpur upazila and his village home on Wednesday.

In reply to a query from this correspondent, Don told that time is yet to come to tell about his candidature in the by-polls. 'The party chief will select the candidate', he further told. Don will attend at another mourning programme in Sunamganj to be organised by Awami League on May 11 where the central leaders are likely to attend.

Other aspirants from the Awami League camp are vice president of the Sunamganj district AL, Siddique Ahmed and former Sylhet district leader of Awami Jubo League Syed Nazrul Islam.

## 2 killers to die, 2 others get life term imprisonment

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona**

Two killers were sentenced to death while two others awarded life term imprisonment by a court in Kishoreganj on Wednesday.

The condemned convicts are Angur Mia and Dhanu Mia. Kajal Mia and Fazlu got life term imprisonment.

However, Kajal has been absconding. All the convicts hailed from village Maizpara in Kuliarchor upazila, Kishoreganj.

The convicts killed their rival Mujibor of the same village by beheading him with sharp weapons over previous enmity on January 26, 2000. The head was kept hidden inside the toilet of Angur.

The next day, police recovered the head from the toilet of the Angur. Kishoreganj District and Sessions Judge Bhabani Proshad Singh pronounced the verdict.

## Tk 40 cr RCC water supply project inaugurated

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

Work on the Tk 40 crore Second Pure Water Supply Project of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) was inaugurated on Thursday.

RCC Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu MP inaugurated the project work.

Following its inauguration, a discussion was held at the RCC conference room. RCC Mayor was present as chief guest.

On completion of the project, pure water will be supplied in Hetamkha and Satbaria areas. Several hundreds of families will have an access to pure water.

An engineer of the project told this correspondent that they will harness water from the Padma and supply the same in the RCC areas.

The discussion was participated, among others, by RCC water committee chairman Tariqul Alam, electronic committee chairman Sazzad Hossain, ward commissioner Bellal Hossain, pure water project chairman Afzal Hossain, engineers Kharul Alam and Parvej Mahmud.

## Financial aid for the blind

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

Eleven blind persons on Tuesday received financial aid amounting to Tk 25,000 from Bangladesh National Foundation for the Disabled, an NGO here.

Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner (DC) Prasanta Bhushan Barua distributed the money at a function held in his conference room.

# 'Enact law to ensure right to edn of indigenous children'

## Memo submitted to PM thru' Godagari UNO

**ABU KALAM, back from Godagari (Rajshahi)**

Hundreds of indigenous people at a meeting held here recently have demanded enactment of law to ensure the right to education of their children and protection of their fundamental rights.

The demand was made at a joint meeting organised by Adivasi Unnyon Sangstha (AUS) and 15 other NGOs working for establishment of rights of indigenous people.

While addressing, the speakers revealed that indigenous children are being deprived of education in local schools and their fundamental rights are being violated fre-

quently by local Bangalees.

They demanded of the government to immediately form a special body to look into the issue.

Adivasi Unnyon Sangstha (AUS) executive director Bhavagat Tudu, president Ghan Chandra Mazi and its advocacy manager Ranjit Tapon addressed the meeting.

After the meeting a memorandum was submitted to the prime minister through the Godagari upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

Students and teachers of different schools and people from all walks of life attended the programme organised to mark the World Mass Resistance Day-2005.

The programme began with a

colorful procession.

The processionists paraded different roads of the upazila carrying various placards.

Following submission of memorandum to the UNO, indigenous people presented their traditional songs and dances through a programme titled 'Danta Dance' at Godagari High School playground.

AUS leader William Nablet, foreigners and journalists attended the cultural programme.

After receiving the memorandum the Godagari UNO gave an assurance to them to send the memorandum to the prime minister.

## SI sued for arresting 2 youths in false case

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona**

A sub-inspector (SI) of police was sued on Tuesday on charge of torturing two youths after entangling them in a false case.

The case was filed with Kishoreganj Magistrate's Court against SI Abdul Baset Mollah of Hossainpur Police Station (PS).

The court asked Hossainpur officer-in-charge (OC) for investigation of the case.

According to complaint, the SI fell in love with a woman at village Tansidia in Hossainpur upazila. Two youths, Al-Amin and Saiful who were neighbours of the woman tried to resist the police officer. Being infuriated, he arrested the youths and entangled them in false cases. At the intervention of local Union Parishad (UP) chairman, Saiful was freed but Al-Amin remained in jail.

Al-Amin's sister-in-law Helena Akter filed a case accusing the SI for arresting Al-Amin and Safal in a false case.

## Press Freedom Day observed in Patuakhali

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

A colourful procession was brought out here marking the World Press Freedom Day on Tuesday.

Patuakhali Press Club and Mass-line Media Centre (MMC), a local NGO jointly organised the procession.

It was followed by a discussion held at the Press Club auditorium. Club president Md Zakir Hossain presided over the discussion while Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Monjur Alam Bhuiyan was present as chief guest and Principal Nurul Islam of Government Women's College and social worker Zahangir Sikder were special guests.

Among others, Nirmal Kumar Raxit, Atul Chandra Das, HM Anwar Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Shamsun Nahar and Liton Bonik addressed on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Adivasi Unnyon Sangstha executive director Bhavagat Tudu speaks at a meeting held recently in front of the Godagari UNO office to mark the World Mass Resistance Day-2005. Indigenous people have demanded enactment of education rights of their children.

# Murderer executed in Barisal jail

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

The death sentence of a dowry-greedy husband was executed in Barisal Central Jail on Thursday midnight.

Kamal Hossain Howlader, 40, of Uzirpur upazila was hanged to death for killing his wife for dowry. He killed his sick wife Hanufa Begum by mixing poison with medicine on May 22 1998, two years after their marriage.

His death was confirmed by Senior Jail Superintendent and In-charge of Barisal Central Jail Muhammad Abdul Kader.

Tight security measures were taken inside and outside the jail during execution of the criminal.

A life term convict of Jessore jail executed the death sentence.

Magistrate Md Ibrahim, Barisal civil surgeon (CS) and other officials of Barisal district were present during the execution. Local PDB authorities ensured uninterrupted power supply inside the jail.

After the execution, the body of Kamal was hanged for some time. Afterwards, Barisal CS Dr Abdul Mallek declared him dead after

examining the body.

The body was handed over to his relatives after post-mortem in the morning.

This was the second execution of death sentence in Barisal jail after the independence of Bangladesh. Another criminal was executed here in 1983.

Forty-seven condemned convict including a female one are awaiting their turn in the condemned cell of Barisal jail, and waiting for final decision.

## Obituary

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Zarina Begum, wife of Md Fayeduddin of Char Gobindapur in Sadar upazila and mother of Aminul Islam, Mymensingh correspondent of The Daily Star died at her Mymensingh town residence on Thursday.

She was 55. She was under treatment at the PG hospital in Dhaka for a few months following brain haemorrhage. Physicians released her from the hospital only a few days ago.