

## KCC POLLS

## BNP's Moni concerned for losing Jamaat votes

Talukder of AL yet to get green signal from JP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Acting Mayor BNP leader Moniruzzaman Moni, who is seeking election to his post, is 'concerned' as he can not rely on his Jamaat vote bank in the coming Khulna City Corporation (KCC) election.

Local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami have informed him of their 'inability to work for him' in campaign as the party has decided to boycott local body elections.

There are over 16,000 voters belonging to Jamaat in the city, who largely contributed to victory of Sheikh Tayebur Rahman in last KCC election in 2002.

Jamaat worked actively in favour of Tayebur, which made him winner in the polls race against Awami League (AL) candidate advocate Enayet Ali, a top leader of the party told this correspondent.

Tayebur Rahman of BNP defeated Enayet Ali in 2002 KCC elections with support of Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir.

"But this time, the situation is quite different as we have stayed out of KCC polls because of the decision of four-party alliance", said Khulna city Jamaat Ameer Mian Golam Parwar.

Moni is facing a tough situation and feeling embarrassed due to silence of Jamaat, which is an important factor in election this time, he said.

Contacted, Moni said, "I hope that a surprise is waiting for me when four-party alliance will reconsider its decision and offi-



Moniruzzaman Moni



Talukder Abdul Khaleque

cially declare me its mayoral candidate. If it so happens, then I will defeat all my rivals in KCC polls."

On the other hand, city Jamaat Ameer Parwar said his party did never believe in political hypocrisy. "We adhere to the decision of the central body of four-party alliance to stay out of local body polls."

"So, our leaders, workers and also supporters have been asked not to go to polling centers", he said.

Parwar further said that Khulna Jamaat had at least 10 candidates who could win posts of councillors in the August 4 KCC elections. But they were asked not to file nomination papers as per a decision of four-party alliance, he said.

On the other hand, 14-party alliance mayoral candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque of Awami League is yet to get any cooperation from leaders and workers of Jatiya Party in his polls campaign.

When contacted, central organising secretary of Jatiya Party

Shafiqul Islam Madhu told this correspondent that he did not get any 'green signal' from the party's central committee either to vote for AL candidate or to stay out of the KCC polls.

"So, we are in dilemma regarding this matter", he said.

The JP leader said with regret that top leaders of Khulna Awami League refused to field more than three of our candidates to contest for posts of ward councillor. This has created a sharp reaction among local JP party leaders and activists, Madhu said.

When asked, Talukder Abdul Khaleque however claimed that he would get full support of Jatiya Party after its chairman HM Ershad returns from London on July 25.

Political analysts said Jatiya Party now seems to be a vote bank for Talukder Khaleque after workers party withdrew its support from AL candidates in local body elections.

## Websites seek vote in KCC polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mayoral candidates in the upcoming Khulna City Corporation (KCC) polls have launched websites and opened e-mail addresses as part of their election campaign.

They have chosen this technology to draw attention of voters and disseminate election-related information.

Awami League's Talukder Abdul Khaleque and CPB's Feroze Ahmed have launched their websites. Four others will follow them later, sources said.

Talukder Khaleque's website is www.choiceofkhulna.4t.com, which is being used to seek votes for his election symbol 'Chair'. His e-mail address is choiceofkhulna@yahoo.com. His website also contains daily programmes of polls campaign.

Website of Feroze Ahmed is www.voteferoze.webs.com and e-mail address is voteferoze@yahoo.com. His website narrates in detail the role he played in different movements for the city's development.

Both the candidates said use of information technology in seeking votes would be effective in their polls campaign.

The three other candidates—Moniruzzaman Moni of BNP, advocate Moslemuddin of Muslim League and independent candidate Taibur Rahman said that they would also open websites in two or three days.

But another, AL leader advocate Enayet Ali, said he has no plan to launch website as he prefers door-to-door visit to seek vote.

## 13yr boy gets 7 yrs' RI for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A tribunal for trial of juvenile criminals here sentenced a 13-year-old madrasa student to seven years imprisonment for killing another fellow student.

The convict, Zakir Hossain, was also fined Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer one month more imprisonment.

Zakir, a student of Fullori Madrasa in Agailjhara was doing mischief with another fellow student named Masud on the campus on September 9, 2005.

As Alamin, 11, another fellow student tried to refrain them from doing the mischief. But Zakir started an altercation with him. At one stage, he started beating Alamin indiscriminately causing his instantaneous death.

Later, the killer boy was handed over to Agailjhara police.

Twelve witnesses and other evidences were examined before pronouncement of the verdict.

## 2 outlaws killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two outlaws were allegedly killed by party rivals at Sonakondar village in Santhia upazila on Sunday.

The dead were identified as Md Jahangir Hossain, 32, of Sonakondar village and Md Masud of Daharjani village in the same upazila. Jahangir was an alleged regional leader of the outlawed Nakshal Bahini, police said.

Internal feud might be the reason behind the murders, they said. Police said party rivals attacked Jahangir while he was playing cards with his accomplices at a shop at night. He died on the spot.

Party rivals chopped Masud to death following internal feud, police said.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday.

When contacted, Santhia Police Station sub-inspector Md Abdur Rashid, also investigation officer of the case, confirmed the incident saying the dead were accused in various criminal cases.

## Australian Dy HC visits Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Australian Deputy High Commissioner Kilmeny Beckering Vinckers paid a two-day visit to Rajshahi to monitor the situation here before the Rajshahi City Corporation election.

During her visit, she met Acting Rajshahi Mayor Rejaun Nabi Duda, also a mayoral candidate, at his office yesterday morning. She had talks with other mayoral candidates including City Awami League President Masudul Haque Dulu and General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton over cell phone.

Earlier, she met Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner M Ibrahim Khalil and Deputy Election Commissioner Sayed Muhammad Musa on Sunday.



Sangkritik Jote brings out a rally on Rajshahi University campus, left, and Pragatishil Chhatra Front forms a human chain on Chandpur College campus yesterday protesting Jamaat-Shibir men's assault of a freedom fighter in Dhaka recently.

## Ban Jamaat's fake FFs body, try war criminals

Rajshahi Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, B'baria FFs protest assault of freedom fighter

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protesters in Rajshahi and Brahmanbaria yesterday demanded immediate arrest of Jamaat-Shibir cadres who assaulted a freedom fighter in the capital on July 11 and trial of war criminals.

Our RU Correspondent reports: several hundred teachers, cultural activists and students of Rajshahi University under the banner of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) yesterday staged demonstrations on the campus demanding punishment of Jamaat-Shibir cadres who assaulted freedom fighter Sheikh Muhammad Aman Ali.

They brought out a protest procession covering their faces with black ribbon and paraded the campus, formed a human chain and held a rally in front of the Central Library. Activists of different student organisations also joined the programmes.

At the rally, speakers strongly protested the assault on freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali Aman and demanded punishment

of 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad' leaders for their derogatory comments about the principals of the Liberation War.

Demanding immediate ban on Jamaat-backed so-called freedom fighters' body, they said war criminals formed the organisation with fake freedom fighters only to divert the nation's attention from the demand for trial of war criminals.

Cultural activists demanded immediate trial of war criminals by constituting a special tribunal and ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics in the country.

They criticised the government for not arresting Jamaat-Shibir cadres several days after the July 11 incident.

The freedom fighters are the greatest sons of the soil, they said any body insulting them must be punished.

Cultural activist and freedom fighter Prof Moloy Kumar Bhowmik said the so-called freedom fighters who are loyal with Jamaat are enemies of the country.

He urged all freedom fighter and cultural activists in the country to

unite and launch a fresh movement against 'war criminals'.

SSJ RU unit president Novel urged all cultural organisations to unite and resist anti-liberation forces in every sphere of life.

Cultural activist Prof SM Abu Bakkar, RU Udichi general secretary Abu Sayem, SSJ secretary Amit and activists of Anushilan drama group, RU Drama Group, University Theater and others cultural bodies also addressed the rally.

Earlier, Pragatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ) brought out a protest procession and held a rally on the campus, demanding trial of war criminals in a special tribunal.

Our B'baria Correspondent reports:

Brahmanbaria Zilla Muktiyoddha Commander Forum at meeting here yesterday demanded ban on the so-called Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad, floated by Jamaat-e-Islami.

With Freedom Fighter Engineer Jahingir Khandaker in the chair, the rally was addressed by among others, freedom fighters Arman

Haque Chento, Md. Haroon-Ar-Rashid, Gazi Md. Ratan Mia, Md. Asaduzzaman Khan, SM Alam Hero, Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, Md. Majnu Mia, Md. Nazrul Islam, Md. Amir Hossain, Md. Billal Hossain, Md. Bashir Ahmed, Md. Zakaria, Md. Yeakub Khan and Kazal, son of a freedom fighter.

They demanded punishment of Jamaat activists who assaulted freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali Aman and trial of war criminals.

They said Jamaat floated the fake FFs body only to mislead genuine freedom fighters and the people.

Demanding immediate ban on so-called Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad, they said war criminals formed the organisation with fake freedom fighters only to foil the demand for trial of war criminals.

They also declared a day long programme including formation of a human chain in Brahmanbaria town tomorrow to press the demand.

## Open budget session held at Satkhira union

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a different day for people of Noapara, a remote union in Debhata upazila.

About 800 villagers took part at an open budget session held at Noapara Union Parishad (UP) office yesterday. They discussed various aspects of the proposed budget of the UP for 2008-2009 fiscal.

The unique programme, first of its kind, was organised by ActionAid Bangladesh and Uttaran, two NGOs, to ensure transparency and accountability of the local government body.

UP chairman Rezaul Karim presided while the session was attended by Debhata upazila nirbahi officer Shohelur Rahman Chowdhury as chief guest and upazila fisheries officer Mosharraf Hossain, Debhata Police Station officer-in-charge Lokman Hakim and ActionAid official Mahbubur Rahman as special guests.

While presenting the Tk 49, 55, 382 budget, the chairman urged people to help implement various development programmes. He replied to various questions of villagers.

Among others, Akhtar Hossain, Alhaj Abdul Gani, Kamrunnahar Ahmed, Haridas Dhali and Golam Mortaza Rabbi addressed.

## Make govt offices graft-free ACC chief tells Panchagarh meet

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhudi Chowdhury yesterday called upon the government officials to check corruption at all levels of administration to relieve people from harassment.

Change of mentality is needed to check corruption as it cannot be prevented by filing cases, he said at a view exchange meeting on 'Taking institutional initiative to prevent corruption' at Panchagarh government college auditorium.

"It is not true that low salary is the main reason for corruption. Most of the people of our country are out of corruption. Only a section of government officials and some people involved with the government offices are involved in corruption."

A special campaign against corruption will be launched within a month to create awareness among the people and government officials, the ACC chief said, adding that those who will give information about corruption of government officials will be awarded.

Referring to report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), he said the picture of corruption is very shameful for the nation.

Uprooting the seed of graft is a long way. Now we have to make commitment to bring down corruption to a tolerable level.

The ACC will continue its work freely even after the state of emergency is withdrawn, he said.

Panchagarh Deputy



Commissioner M Hafizuddin, Commander 25 Rifles Battalion Major Sheikh Farid, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tahamidur Rahman, Deputy Director of District Youth Development Directorate Gonesh Chandra Ghosh, college teacher Hasnur Rahman Babu and schoolteacher Ferdous Ara Bokul spoke at the meeting.

After the meeting the ACC chairman met with Upazila Corruption Prevention Committee members at Panchagarh Circuit House and then talked to reporters of electronic and print media.

On way to Thakurgaon, he attended a meeting with Boda upazila officials and the members of upazila corruption prevention committee at Boda Upazila Auditorium.

In the evening, the ACC chairman met with the members of District And Upazila corruption prevention committees (CPC) at Thakurgaon Circuit House.



PHOTO: STAR

Sachetan Nagorik Committee of TIB and Chapainawabganj District Corruption Prevention Committee bring out an anti-graft rally in the town yesterday.

## Retain Satkhira-4 constituency All parties demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Local leaders of the major political parties at a press conference yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to retain Satkhira-4 (Kaliganj-Debhata upazilas) constituency as it was before.

The EC recently divided the former Satkhira-4 constituency delimiting the constituency as Satkhira-3 (Assassuni, Debhata upazilas and four unions of Kaliganj) and Satkhira-4 (Shyamnagar, four unions of Kaliganj) constituencies.

The EC's decision to divide the constituency shows a step-motherly attitude towards the people of Kaliganj and Debhata upazilas, speakers said at the press

conference organised under the banner of 'Nagorik Samaj', a platform comprising local leaders of all the major political parties.

Among others, Kaliganj Upazila Awami League President Sheikh Waheduzzaman, upazila BNP convenor Prof Khoda Baks, Upazila Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Moslem Uddin, upazila Bangladesh Jatiya Party convenor Sheikh Hussein Ahmed Golam, advocate Mozahar Hossain Kantu, union parishad chairmen advocate Abdus Samad, Nur Mohammad Biswas and Ebadul Islam, Prof Abdul Khaleque spoke at the meeting.

Kaliganj Press Club President Principal Tamij Uddin presided over the conference at Shaheed Suhrawardi Mancha.

## Candidates pledge crime-free Chuadanga municipality

Sujan holds Janatar Mukhomukhi programme

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Four mayoral and six councillor candidates in Chuadanga municipality yesterday pledged to work together with people to free the area from crime and corruption.

In a meeting titled 'Janatar Mukhomukhi' (face the people), they said they vowed to follow all electoral rules during the polls and devote themselves to implement the pledges selected.

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Sujan) organised the meeting for the candidates in local municipality polls scheduled for August 4. Channel i, Prothom Alo and the Daily Star were media partners of the programme held at Shrimanto town hall in the district.

Sujan General Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, who attended the programme as chief guest, moderated the programme.

"The country needs honest and competent leaders. We have to elect the right persons as our leaders, if we want sustainable development," Badiul Alam said.

Urging the people to choose right persons at the local government body for real development in their areas, he said a time has arrived to elect 'good leaders' and throw away the corrupt politicians who had snatched the voting rights

of people.

Four mayoral and nine councillor candidates from nine wards spoke at the meeting.

The four mayoral candidates are Riazul Islam Joardar Toton, leader of Jubo League, Abdul Zabbar Sona, Chuadanga district unit general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, also office secretary of district BNP, Anwar Hossain, journalist, and Faruk Ahmed, a businessman.

Toton said he would dedicate himself for building up the municipality as a model of development.

\* Abdul Zobbar Sona emphasized on development of drainage system of the town.

Anwar Hossain declared his war against drugs, while Faruk emphasized on development of roads and drainage systems.

They said they would work for stopping child marriage, improving the condition of vulnerable people and making the town clean.

Around two hundred people including teachers, students, lawyers, traders attended the programme presided over by Sujan's Chuadanga district chapter President Principal Siddique Rahman.

The candidates also answered questions from the participants.

## DELIMITATION OF JS SEATS PROTESTED

## Dhaka-Sylhet highway blocked in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

About 15,000 people of Budanti, Chandura and Harashpur unions in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway for one and a half hours by forming a human chain to protest delimitation of Brahmanbaria 2 and 3 constituencies.

They demanded of the Election Commission (EC) authorities to restore their previous constituencies. From morning, thousands of processionists led by chairmen and members of the three unions gathered on the highway at Shatbarga and Chandurapoints.

Later, they held a meeting at Chandura which turned into a grand rally. Titas Purbanchal Thana Bastobayon Committee convenor Md Kutub Uddin Salim chaired the grand rally addressed by local leaders including chairmen and members of the three unions.

Speakers said there are about 65,000 voters in the three unions. The area is near to the district headquarters. Ignoring people's hopes and aspirations, their Unions were included with Brahmanbaria 1 (Nasiragar upazila) and Brahmanbaria-2 (Sarail upazila including Badhumti and Chandura unions of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila) constituencies, far away from Sadar upazila.

They threatened that they will not cast their votes in the next election if the EC does not change the decision.

They also held a press conference at Brahmanbaria Press Club where they announced a tougher agitation programme to press home their demands.

People of the three unions are socially and geographically detached from Nasiragar upazila.

Each of them was fined Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer one year more imprisonment.

Joint Forces seized 54 bags of rice meant for FWP from a truck at Skarpur in the upazila on January 29, 2007.

Sub-inspector Parimol Chandra lodged a case with Uzipur Police Station. Uzipur officer-in-charge Shahbaz Ali investigated the case and submitted charge sheet against the five on May 31, 2007.

## Female UP chairman among 5 jailed for stealing FWP rice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal District and Sessions Judge Court yesterday sentenced five representatives of local government bodies including a female chairman to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for misappropriating 54 bags of rice meant for Food for Work Project (FWP).

The convicts are Zalla Union Parishad (UP) chairman Urmila Baroi, member Jharna Roy, now absconding, member Prodig Chandro Roy, member Humayun

Howlader and Sobahan Rari, member of Barail UP in Uzipur upazila.

Each of them was fined Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer one year more imprisonment.

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