

Electioneering starts in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI, RAJSHAHI

With the Jatiya Sangsad elections drawing nearer, potential candidates from major parties have geared up their electioneering in all the five constituencies in Rajshahi city.

Some of the candidates have started campaigning at villages while some are holding press conferences to express their willingness to join the political fray and others are greeting people pasting posters on the city walls.

Most of the possible candidates started campaigning during Ramadan and they intensified their daily activities of meeting people taking opportunity of the two major festivals -- Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja.

The electioneering shows that Awami League-led 14-party combine is in the lead position though it has been facing intra-party rivalry to some extent while BNP-led four-party alliance is yet to be prepared without any leader or office to guide them.

Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha has started meeting people expressing his desire to participate in the polls from Rajshahi-2 (Paba upazila and Rajshahi City). Party men here

signalled that his nomination from the alliance is almost confirmed.

Rajshahi Nagorik Committee that played a vital role in electioneering in favour of AHM Khairuzaman Liton in the August 4 RCC election had promised to work for Badsha to get a ticket for the parliamentary election if he resigns from the RCC fray.

Four-party men said Badsha may fight the fray with former BNP lawmaker (Rajshahi-5) Kabir Hossain, although any formal announcement is yet to come from Kabir.

Former Rajshahi mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu who was also the former BNP lawmaker from Rajshahi-2 used to control the party politics here.

As he is still in the jail and have little hopes for his release before the elections following conviction in an extortion case, the local BNP could not decide the candidature for the polls.

Kabir's desire for contesting from this seat might create division in the party, they added.

District AL General Secretary Omar Faruk Chowdhury is campaigning for Rajshahi-1 constituency (Tanore and Godagari upazilas). Former post and telecommunications minister barrister

Aminul Haque who won the seat in the last polls is now evading arrest as he was convicted in a militancy-abetting case.

Former lawmaker and Jamaat-e-Islam's central Assistant Secretary General Mujibur Rahman is likely to join the fray, said party insiders.

Former minister Sardar Amjad Hossain is passing busy hours holding press conferences and meetings as a 14-party nominee in Rajshahi-3 (Bagmara and Mohonpur upazilas).

But he is witnessing desires of businessman Enamul Haque and central Vice President of Sechchhasebak League Dr PM Shafiqul Islam, also associate professor of Bangla department at Rajshahi University.

Enamul exchanged greetings with people pasting posters and attending social gatherings while Shafiqul in a press conference yesterday announced that he would stand in the election.

Jatiya Party's Abu Taleb is also campaigning for the same seat.

BNP's Abu Hena is still absent in the areas and the party men believe Hena would join the election.

District AL President Tajul Islam M Faruk is likely to vie for Rajshahi-

4 (Puthia and Durgapur upazilas) constituency and is enjoying an advance position gathering maximum number of AL leaders and activists at his meetings.

Nadim Mostafa, former BNP lawmaker from the same seat, is evading arrest following his conviction in a terrorism case, but his family members are electioneering for him.

Local people said new faces like Nazrul Islam and Mollah Abdul Wahed would come up in absence of Nadim.

Maximum number of probable candidates is electioneering in Rajshahi-5 constituency (Bagha and Charghat upazilas). Charghat AL General Secretary Raihanul Haque, Bagha AL General Secretary Akkas Ali, AL leaders Layeb Uddin Lavlu and Abdus Samad and industrialists Shahrier Alam and Bazlur Rahman are also hopeful to get a ticket.

District BNP President Azizur Rahman told newsmen that he would vie for the parliamentary seat while former Charghat BNP president Abu Sayeed Chand and former Bagha BNP president Zahangir Hossain, among several BNP leaders, expressed their desires for the fray.



Bangladesh Children Theatre Federation organises a programme on the Shishu Academy premises in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Children Day. The Federation arranged painting competition, street drama and a colourful rally.



Director General of Youth Development Directorate Fakhruul Islam, left, and Secretary General of Development Association for Youth Md Rezaul Karim Babu exchange documents after signing a Memorandum of Understanding at Jubo Bhawan in the city yesterday. Rezaul Karim signed the MoU on behalf of Hope Technical Training Centre. Under the MoU, Youth Development Directorate and the training centre will jointly conduct training courses for the unemployed youths willing to go abroad for jobs.

Rickshaw van puller hacked to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw van puller was hacked to death by a gang of unidentified criminals last night in the city's South Dania under newly established Kadomtoli Police Station.

The deceased identified as Nazir Rahman alias Manju, 24, was a resident of Paterbagh at Jurain under Shyampur Police Station.

Police said he was killed on the way his home after attending a function at the residence of a relative at South Dania at about 9:00pm.

Local people said the criminals left the body of Manju on a roadside at South Dania after killing him.

Outlaw dies in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A member of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was killed yesterday in a shootout between his cohorts and police at Bisoykhali bazar in Jhenidah.

The dead was identified as Mohidul Islam, 30, son of Montaz Ali of Kanchan Nagar village.

Jhenidah Superintendent of police Jahangir Hossain Matabbar said the Detective Branch of police arrested Mohidul at Damodarpur village on Sunday afternoon.

On his confession, police took him to Bisoykhali village at about

2:30am to recover illegal arms.

When they reached a brickfield near Bisoykhali bazar, Mohidul's cohorts opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to retaliate.

Mohidul was killed in the shootout while his accomplices managed to escape.

Police also recovered two shutter guns, a light gun, two bombs and 10 rounds of bullet from the spot.

Mohidul was an accused in several cases on various charges including extortion and possessing illegal arms, police said.

Buet Alumni Assoc reunion Oct 17

METRO DESK

Buet Alumni Association will organise an Eid reunion for its members and reception to senior engineers (graduates of 1950 to 1958 inclusive) on October 17 at Buet auditorium, says a press release.

All graduates from 1950 to 1958 (inclusive) are requested to contact with Engr Serajul Majid Mamoon at 01912204466 for confirmation of participation by October 12.

Members of the association willing to participate in the reunion and other Buet graduates desirous of becoming members may contact Prof Dr Engr Aminul Haque (8611594, 01552338617) or Rafia (8824051 ext. 4020) or Md Jahangir Hossain (8624665, 0172444557) by October 12.

Doctor, college student held with 1,480 Yaba tablets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) arrested a doctor and a college student with 1,480 Yaba tablets from in front of Salahuddin Medical College at Gulshan in the city on Sunday night.

The Rab personnel also recovered Tk 2.47 lakh in cash and seven mobile phone sets from their possession.

The arrestees are Dr Syed Shakibul Hasan alias Shakib, 27, son of Engineer Shafiq Uddin Ahmed of Gulshan, and Titumir College student Abdus Salam alias Rajon, 22, son of

Abu Taleb Sarder of Pabna. Dr Shakib has passed MBBS examination from Dhaka Medical College recently.

According to Rab-1, they arrested Dr Shakib and Rajon with 80 tablets from in front of Sahabuddin Medical College while they were selling Yaba tablets.

Later, they also recovered 1,400 more tablets, Tk 2.47 lakh and seven mobile phone sets from a house at Banani in the city following their confessional statements.

Rab officials said the arrestees had been carrying out the illegal trade for long.

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\$1 lakh for Nepal flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has donated one lakh US dollar to Nepal for the welfare of the flood victims.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Imtiaz Ahmed handed over a cheque of the donation to Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) at Prime Minister's residence at Baluwatar in Kathmandu on Saturday, said a press release.

"This token contribution affirms the position of Bangladesh that the country stands by the side of Nepal in her difficult time and wants to give moral support, strength and courage to the Government of Nepal and her people to face the great challenges of rehabilitation, reconstruction and mitigating the sufferings of the flood affected people," the press release said.

Domestic help commits suicide, another dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help committed suicide and another died after falling from the rooftop of a six-storied building in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Farida Akhter, 16, and Sharifa Khatun, 40. Farida, who hailed from Kurigram, worked in a house at Elephant Road while Sharifa worked in a house at Uttara.

The police found the body of Farida hanging from a ceiling fan with a scarf at her employer's house at around 6:30am.

Sub-Inspector Mosaddek Hossain of New Market Police Station said Farida and two other domestic helps -- Halima, 14, and Habiba, 10, -- were alone in the

house as their employer Saifur Rahman Rana along with his family members went to Cox's Bazar after Eid.

He said the three were watching TV at the bedroom at night. At around 2:00am, Farida went to another room and closed the door from inside.

Receiving information, the police broke open the door only to find her hanging from the ceiling fan. Farida had been working in the house for over a year, the police said.

In another incident, Sharifa died after falling from the rooftop of the six-storied building at Uttara Sector No. 14 at around 9:00am.

Uttara police said she went to the rooftop to hang clothes on a line but accidentally fell from the roof.



Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman gives away 'Mofiz Trophy' to Squadron Leader AKM Nazmus Sadat of Bangladesh Air Force for his best performance in No. 39 BAF Flying Instructors' Course in Bogra yesterday.

Motivate students thru professionalism

Air chief tells BAF flying instructors

METRO DESK

Certificate award ceremony of No 39 Flying Instructors' Course of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) was held at its Flying Instructors' School (FIS) yesterday, says a press release.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman was present at the ceremony as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the student officers.

Nine officers from BAF and one officer from Sri Lanka Air Force took part in the course.

Squadron leader AKM Nazmus Sadat of BAF was adjudged the best all-round student officer and was awarded with the 'Mofiz Trophy'.

Speaking on the occasion, air

chief said flying instructors should motivate their students through attitude, professionalism and personal qualities.

Earlier, Officer Commanding of FIS Wing Commander Haider Abdullah gave a briefing on the course.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations and Training) Air Vice Marshal Md Enamul Bari, Bogra Area Commander and GOC of 11 Infantry Division Maj Gen Md Firdaus Mian, Air Officer Commanding of BAF Base Matiar Rahman Air Commodore Shahe Alam and minister of Sri Lanka high commission in Dhaka took part in the programme, among others.

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