

Delimitation dents BNP vote in B'baria-2, 5, AL's in 1, 6

THE CHANGE OF AREAS IN CONSTITUENCIES HAS MADE A DENT IN BNP VOTE BANKS IN BRAHMANBARIA-2 AND 5 CONSTITUENCIES WHILE AWAMI LEAGUE (AL) HAS BECOME LOSER IN BRAHMANBARIA-1 AND 6.

After the delimitation, Brahmanbaria comprises all unions of Nabinagar upazila, Chandura, Budhuni and Haraspur unions of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, Brahmanbaria-2 comprises all unions of Sarail upazila, all unions of Ashuganj upazila and Mazlishpur, Talshahar and Budhal unions of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, Brahmanbaria-3 comprises the rest 15 unions and pourasabha area of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

Akhaura and Kasba upazilas belong to Brahmanbaria-4 (unchanged), Brahmanbaria-5 comprises 18 unions of Nabinagar upazila and Brahmanbaria-6 consists of all unions of Banchharampur upazila and Borikandi and Salimganj unions of Nabinagar upazila.

Due to this delimitation, most of the vote banks of BNP candidates have been transferred from one seat to another, making AL candidates hopeful of win. On the other hand, some BNP aspirants are happy to get the new pocket votes of BNP in the constituency.

According to district election office, there are 2,12,666 voters in Brahmanbaria. Of them, 51,549 voters of Chandura, Budhuni and Haraspur unions of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila have been newly



Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan



Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini

added. The three unions are considered as vote banks of BNP. Obviously BNP nomination aspirant Sayed AK Ekramuzzaman is hopeful of success in Brahmanbaria now although AL leader advocate Saydul Haque won this seat by defeating BNP candidate Ahsanul Haque in 2001.

In Brahmanbaria-2, there are 289,876 voters. Of them, 90,994 voters of all seven unions of Ashuganj upazila have come from previous Brahmanbaria-3 and of Haraspur union of Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila from previous Brahmanbaria-3.

As most of the voters of Ashuganj upazila were supporters of AL, it means a great loss for AL candidate from Brahmanbaria-3 but gain for the AL candidate of Brahmanbaria-2. Moin Uddin Ahmed Moin, vice-president of central Swachhchasebok League and Kamal Ahmed, president of

Dhanmondi Awami League (AL) are two potential AL candidates from Brahmanbaria-2.

Both Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan and Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, who are working as aspirants of nomination from BNP-led alliance, said this time they will have to work hard to win.

In Brahmanbaria-3 (Sadar), there are 3,43,087 voters. Earlier 90,994 more voters of all seven unions of Ashuganj upazila, which in now with Brahmanbaria-2, were with previous Brahmanbaria-3. Most of the votes of Ashuganj upazila went for AL but BNP candidate also got a good number of votes from this area. BNP candidate advocate Haroon AL Rashid, who won in Brahmanbaria-3 five times, have also lost important vote bank Haraspur union.

Advocate Lutful Hye Satchu and RAM Obaidul Muktaadir are potential AL candidates from this constituency.

Delimitation of Brahmanbaria-3 has left the candidates of both AL and BNP in anxiety.

Brahmanbaria-4 (Akhaura and Kasba upazilas) with 2,37,998 voters has remained unchanged. AL candidate advocate Shah Alam and BNP candidates former law-makers Mushfiqur Rahman and Mia Abdulla Wazed are working for party tickets in the coming election.

In Brahmanbaria-5, there are 2,33,771 voters in 18 unions of Nabinagar upazila. Barikandi and Salimganj unions of Nabinagar upazila have been shifted to Brahmanbaria-6 from previous Brahmanbaria-5. These two unions were vote banks of BNP candidate from previous Brahmanbaria-5 where BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Kazi Anwar Hossain won in 2001.

AL candidates -- barrister Jakir Hossain and MA Halim, secretary of Nabinagar upazila AL, are trying to get party ticket with hope to get easy win.

In Brahmanbaria-6, there are 1,78,149 voters -- 1,59,298 in Banchharampur upazila and 18,851 in Barikandi and Salimganj unions of Nabinagar upazila. The two unions of Nabinagar upazila, which was the vote bank of BNP, have been shifted from previous Brahmanbaria-5. And so, BNP candidate former lawmaker MA Khaleque is hopeful of an easy win again.

Captain (retired) ABM Tajul Islam, a former lawmaker of AL and freedom fighter affairs secretary of central AL, has to work hard for winning as AL candidate this time, party workers said.

EU team in Khulna to visit shrimp farms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A two-member European Union (EU) team yesterday visited the Fish Inspection and Quality Control office as part of their three-day tour here to have an idea about present condition of shrimp industry in Khulna-Bagerhat zone.

Headed by Dr Stefan Honic, the other member of the team is Dr John Macboy.

They were accompanied by the deputy secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries, Md Imran Hossain, principal scientific officer of the Directorate of Fisheries, Mohiuddin Ahmed and quality control officer of the Fisheries Directorate Md Rafiqul Islam.

The team will inspect the shrimp processing factories, hatcheries, fish landing centres and shrimp enclosures during their three-day tour.

Humayun Kabir, managing director of Amam Sea Foods and director of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association (BFFEA) told this correspondent the purpose of their visit is to sort out various shortcomings in fish processing system and violation of EU guidelines in shrimp export trade.

The team will also hold meetings with shrimp exporters to make them clear that any further instance of exporting condemned frozen shrimps will create an adverse impact on future of this foreign-exchange earning sector, Kabir said.

2 women Hijbut activists held in Patuakhali Jihadi books, CDs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two women activists of Hijbut Tawhid were sent to jail after police produced them before a court following their arrest with books, CDs and leaflets.

The arrestees are Jeunnahar alias-Poli, 28, an assistant teacher of Kalkapur-Saleha Khatun Girls High School in Mirzaganj upazila, and her sister Meherunnisa Mili, 39.

At about 11:00am Poli and Mili went to Munccepara in Patuakhali town to distribute books named 'Dazzal Christian Ehdul Sabhyata' written by Mohammad Bayezid Khan Ponnai, police and locals said.

As they entered the house of Shahidul Islam and tried to give them the books and CDs, the inmates informed Patuakhali Police Station. Then police rushed to the spot and arrested them.

Family sources said both Poli and Mili were divorced by their husbands for their alleged involvement with militancy.

Police sent them to the local court under Section 54 then the court sent them to jail. On January 19 this year, a Daily Star report titled 'Militants preaching jihad in Patuakhali' said Islamist militants were organising again in Patuakhali under the banner of Hizbut Tawhid, an Islamist organisation that is still operating legally in the country while propagating jihad through distributing books and leaflets among villagers including school children.

Two months ago, local police arrested Habibur Rahman of Patuakhali and four others from Chandpur when they were distributing jihadi books and leaflets, locals said.

During April 4 to 7 last year, over 1,500 people including about 700 women activists of Hizbut Tawhid took part in a four-day training course on militancy on board a launch under the guise of a boat journey from Dhaha to Kuakata, said a participant in the course.

'Male participants took training in bomb making and other weapons operation separately while women participants took training in recruiting techniques,' she said adding, 'Party leaders prefer women members as they can easily motivate the local people, especially the local women.'

'Irregularities' by 2 PSTU VCs being probed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A 3-member probe team formed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) started investigation of various allegations against two vice chancellors (VCs) of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU).

The investigation was started on Tuesday against acting VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid and former VC Prof Abdul Latif Masum.

Acting VC Prof Harun allegedly gave appointment and promotion to teachers illegally while Prof Latif was appointed VC of the university through violation of existing rules, campus sources said. He was removed from the university on May 20.

The probe team is being headed by Amena Begum while its two other members are Fredous Zaman and Dr Abdul Hakim.

When contacted, acting VC Dr Harun refuted the allegations brought against him saying he had appointed two auditors only as per the UGC directives.

45 fall sick taking sweets at mosque

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 45 people including 30 children fell sick after taking home-prepared sweetmeat at a village mosque at Rampur in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday.

The sweetmeat was prepared by boiling rice and milk with sugar.

Victims and hospital sources said, after Jumma prayer, villager Khalil arranged a Milad Mahafil at the mosque, which followed distribution of the sweetmeat.

They all fell sick after taking it and were rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, where 35 of them were admitted. The rest were released after treatment.

Resident Medical Officer Dr. Sultan Alam said food samples were sent to Mohakhali in Dhaka for test.

Badsha claims he is sure to get Rajshahi-2 ticket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Workers' Party Politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha yesterday hoped he would get nomination from Awami League-led alliance from Rajshahi-2 (Rajshahi City Corporation) constituency in the upcoming parliamentary election.

'Politics should be the job of politicians, not of other professionals. My nomination is almost confirmed', he said at a press conference held in the city.

Talking on recent opposition by local Awami League to his nomination, Badsha said, 'Anything unfair does not sustain. People will reject unethical politics', he said.

'Fundamentalists and communal forcers do not want me to win as they fear me', he said. Badsha sacrificed his candidacy in



Fazle Hossain Badsha

August 4 Rajshahi City Corporation election to make way for Awami League leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, who was elected mayor.

Local Awami League and Rajshahi Nagorik Committee promised Badsha that Rajshahi-2 would be left for him in the national election.

Villagers swindled of Tk 20 lakh by fake NGO in Zaintapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Officials of a fake NGO are on the run after swindling poor depositors of about Tk 20 lakh in Zaintapur.

At least 300 people, most of them women, have been cheated, said police who closed the NGO office Thursday.

Talking to this correspondent, a number of victims said seven people opened the office of Bhai Bhai Manab Kalyan Sangstha at a rented building owned by Khondaker Rafiqul Islam at Nijpat Toashihati at the upazila headquarters months ago, promising

Tk 10,000 Tk 50,000 and Tk one lakh loans after deposits of Tk 1,100, 5, 100, and Tk 10,000 respectively.

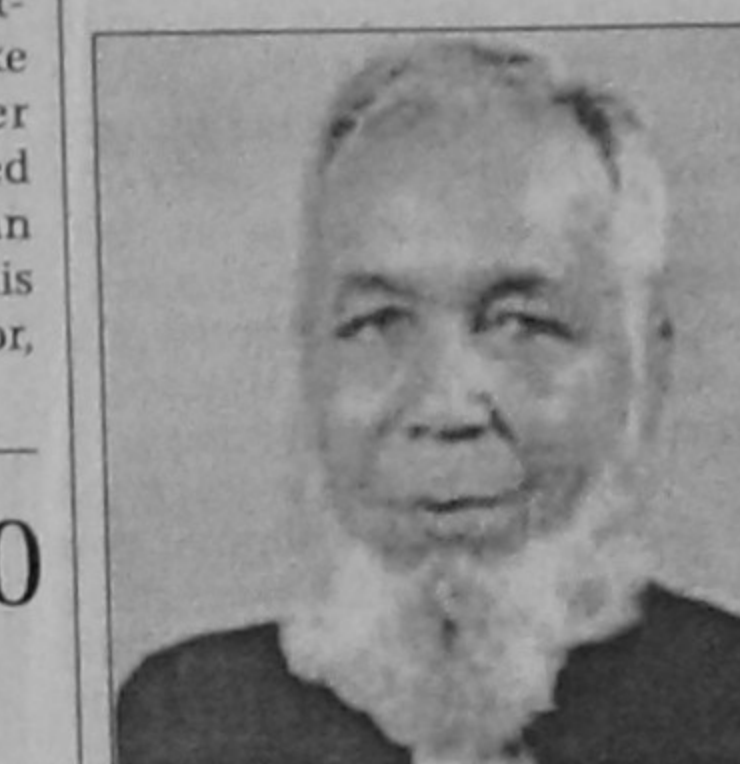
Convinced, the villagers weeks ago wanted to deposit the initial amounts, but the NGO officials did not receive the money, saying they would accept the deposits all at a time.

As announced, the NGO men took deposits ranging from Tk 1100 to Taka 10,000 from about over 300 people on Sunday and asked the depositors to take loans on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, depositors found none at the office till evening. They informed police. As none was found till Thursday evening, police locked the office.

Some of the victims filed GDS with Zaintapur police station.

Feud keeps AL losing in Tangail-3



Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan



Dr Kamrul Hassan Khan



Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Victory eludes Awami League (AL) in Tangail-3 (Ghatal) constituency as the party is divided into three factions.

This time also they could not close ranks in the area from where BNP's Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad was elected thircein 1991, 1996 and 2001 polls.

In 2001, veteran AL leader Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan lost to Azad due to factional feud, party sources said.

Besides Shajahan, two others are seeking AL ticket in the coming national election. They are Peshajibi Samonnay Parishad secretary general Dr Kamrul Hassan Khan and cardiologist Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury.

Talking to this correspondent, sources close to Shajahan

claimed that there was no alternative to him (Shajahan) if AL wants to regain the seat.

Shajahan, was elected a member of erstwhile Pakistan National Assembly (MNA) from the constituency in 1970. After independence, he was elected twice in 1973 and 1986.

Followers of Dr Kamrul Hassan Khan claimed that he has contact with grassroots party men as well as people of the area.

Cardiologist Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, personal physician AL chief Sheikh Hasina, is also in the field, telling party men and people that he will get nomination.

Talking to this correspondent, some grassroots AL leaders said there is no alternative to unity if AL wants to regain the seat.

This correspondent also talked

to BNP leaders and activists. They claimed that they do not cash in on intra-party feud in AL.

AL in Rajshahi-3 wants Zinatun Nesa Talukder

RU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Mohanpur upazila Awami League (AL) at a press conference here yesterday demanded nomination of former state minister Zinatun Nesa Talukder as party candidate in Rajshahi-3 (Mahanpur-Poba) constituency in the upcoming parliamentary election.

Mohanpur Upazila AL president Abdus Salam read out a written statement at the press conference held at Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club.

He said grassroots party leaders and activists of Mohanpur took the decision at a party meeting.

IFIC BANK LIMITED. Notice for engagement of Architectural Consulting Firm for interior decoration of the proposed "IFIC Bank Tower" at 61, Purana Paltan, Dhaka. 1. IFIC Bank Ltd invites applications from the bona fide Bangladeshi Architectural firms/ companies for engagement of Architectural Consulting Firm for interior decoration work of "IFIC Bank Tower" at 61, Purana Paltan, Dhaka having 10 floors from level 01 to 10 of total 75000 sq ft. Application from any Consortium of firms/ Group of companies is not allowed. The IFIC Bank's enlisted architectural consulting firms can also apply for the same work.

North South University. Undergraduate Admission SPRING 2009. Admission Test: November 22, 2008, Time: 9:00 AM. Application Deadline: November 19, 2008. NSU Features: Academic collaboration maintained with many reputable foreign universities. Credits completed at NSU are transferable to reputable foreign universities.