



Forgery costs nomination of top Dimla Jamaat, IOJ men

6 others out of race for various reasons

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Nomination of Dimla Upazila Jamaat Ameer Moulana Ishaque Ali and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) leader Moulana Monjurul Islam were cancelled yesterday for signature forgery. Both parties are components of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

They filed nomination papers from Nilphamari-1 (Damar-Dimla) constituency as independent candidates.

The four-party alliance

candidate in the constituency is Dr Rafiqul Islam, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's brother-in-law and father of ex-MP Shahrin Islam Tuhin, who is not eligible to run in the election race as he has been convicted for 20 years in two cases.

The Jamaat Ameer and the IOJ leader are among eight persons whose candidature were cancelled for various reasons.

Moulana Ishaque Ali and IOJ central assistant secretary Moulana Monjurul Islam separately submitted signatures of one per cent voters in

the constituency in support of their candidature as independent candidates, required by new polls laws framed by the Election Commission.

Nilphamari returning officer Rashidul Hasan said, after investigation, it was found that signatures of a number of voters in their lists were forged.

On the first day of scrutiny yesterday, nomination papers of eight candidates were cancelled in the district. Nomination papers of Aminul Islam (also from Nilphamari-1) and

Dipendra Nath Roy (Nilphamari-3) were cancelled for forging signatures of voters.

Nomination paper of Gano Forum central leader Abdur Rouf (Nilphamari-1) was cancelled for bank loan default.

Jatiya Party candidate NK Alam's (Nilphamari-1) candidature was rejected for not having party chairman's signature.

Candidacy of Haider Ali (Nilphamari-2) and Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury (Nilphamari-3) were cancelled for errors.

FARIDPUR-2 Uncle-niece fight puts BNP in dilemma

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Two tickets for upcoming parliamentary election were given from BNP high command to uncle and niece of the same family in Faridpur-2 (Nagarkanda, Saltha and Krishnapur union of Sadarpur) throwing the grassroots BNP in dilemma.

The nominees are KM Jahangir and Shama Obayed Rinku who are uncle and niece in relationship from the same family. Both are campaigning showing their nomination letters issued by BNP secretary general Khandker Delwar Hossain and party chairperson Khaleda Zia respectively.

Both are serious and hopeful to win over the constituency, which keeps the grassroots BNP frustrated in Faridpur-2.

In a view exchange meeting on Tuesday night KM Jahangir, brother of late former lawmaker KM Obayedur Rahman expressed that he is hopeful and will strongly face the rival as he got the nomination letter signed by Khandker Delwar. "December 11 will solve the confusion and I am sure of my candidature," he mentioned.

Earlier, in a press conference at Faridpur press club Shama Obayed, daughter of late Obayedur Rahman claimed validity of her candidature showing the nomination letter signed by Khaleda Zia. "I am confident and will bring victory for the BNP," she said confidently.

TANGAIL Khaleda Habib lone woman candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Khaleda Habib, daughter of prominent educationist and litterateur late Principal Ibrahim Kha, will contest from Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur) constituency in the upcoming national election.

She has submitted her nomination paper for the constituency as a candidate of Kader Siddiqui-led Krishak Sramik Janata League.

Although female voters are dominating the voter lists in all 12 upazilas under eight constituencies in the district but Khaleda Habib is the only female among the 62 candidates who submitted nomination papers in the district.

Khaleda Habib told journalists that she is contesting this election to establish people's rights as well as women rights and ensuring overall development of the constituency.

Bogra BNP leader's nomination suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Nomination paper of 4-party Alliance candidate and BNP leader Engineer Mostofa Ali Mukul of Bogra-4 (Khaloo-Nandigram) constituency has been suspended till today due to bank loan default.

However, Mukul claimed to have paid the loan and promised to show the documents on time.

Meanwhile, nomination papers of former minister for relief and rehabilitation and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury was also suspended in the same constituency due to same reason.

Nomination papers of Bangladesh Kalyan Party candidate AKM Sayful Islam and Pragotishil Gonotantrik Party (PDP) candidate ATM Sahidullah both of Bogra-1 (Shariakandi-Sonatala) constituency have been cancelled for the reason of bank loan defaulting. District Election Office (DEO) sources said.

DEO received list of loan defaulters who included Bikolpodhara candidate for Bogra-5 (SherpurDhanut) constituency Mahub Ali and Awami League (AL) nominated candidate Habibur Rahman Habib, a retired superintendent of police (SP).



Scrutiny of nomination papers began yesterday across the country. The photo shows officials at work at Barisal returning officer's conference room.

Four Siddiqui brothers to run in Tangail-3,4,5,8

Kader Siddiqui from 3 seats, others one each

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Four brothers of a family in Tangail will contest in the upcoming national parliament election of December 29.

They are Awami League (AL) central leader Abdul Latif Siddiqui, his younger brother Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) president Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam and their younger brothers and Tangail district KSJL joint

conveners Murad Siddiqui and Azad Siddiqui. This time, Kader Siddiqui has submitted his nomination papers for three constituencies--Tangail-3 (Ghatail), Tangail-4 (Kalihati) and Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail)--as KSJL candidate.

In 2001 election, Kader Siddiqui contested from five constituencies--Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail), Tangail-1 (Modhupur-Dhanbari), Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur), Tangail-3 (Ghatail), and Tangail-4 (Kalihati)--out of the eight constituencies under the district.

He, however, won only from his home constituency Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) while his deposits were confiscated in the rest four seats.

In Tangail-4 (Kalihati), AL candidate Latif Siddiqui lost the 2001 election to BNP-led four-party alliance candidate with a margin of 5,138 votes while Kader Siddiqui sliced away 13,747 votes as a KSJL candidate.

Besides Latif and Kader, their youngest brother Azad Siddiqui has also submitted his nomination paper for Tangail-4 (Kalihati) constituency as a KSJL candidate in the upcoming election.

Another brother of the family Murad Siddiqui has submitted his nomination paper for Tangail-5 (Sadar) constituency as a KSJL candidate in the upcoming election.

Murad contested from the constituency in 2001 election as a KSJL candidate and secured third position getting 68,167 votes.

Army-led joint forces arrested Murad and Azad after 1/11. They were later freed on bail after spending over 20 months in jail.



Clockwise: Abdul Kader Siddiqui, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Murad Siddiqui and Azad Siddiqui

Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Sarwar's candidacy challenged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Objections have been raised against candidacy of Jatiya Party (Ershad) secretary general ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader and former Barisal mayor Mojibur Rahman Sarwar for the upcoming December 29 national election.

Scrutiny of the thirty nomination papers submitted for Barisal-2, 5 and 6 constituencies have been completed yesterday at the office of the district returning officer.

Mushiq Ahmed Shamim, district returning officer and deputy Commissioner of Barisal, after hearing the objections and replies, told The Daily Star that final decision about these objections would be given today.

During the scrutiny of the nomination papers for Barisal-6 constituency, Grand alliance nominee AL's Major General (ret) Abdul Hafiz Malik raised objection against his rival ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, secretary general of Jatiya Party (Ershad).

Gen. Malik alleged that Howlader submitted false and contradictory information and concealed truths about his educational qualification, wealth and so, Malik argued that Amin's nomination paper could not be accepted.

Besides Ruhul Amin submitted one nomination paper on November 20, 2008 giving information about possessing only 30 decimal land and two firearms. He did not mention the criminal cases lodged against him.

However, Amin submitting another nomination paper on November 30 claimed that he



Ruhul Amin Hawlader Mojibur Rahman Sarwar

possessed 2.90 acres land, 5 firearms and was acquitted in 7 out of 8 criminal cases.

AL nominated grand alliance candidate for Barisal-5 Col. (ret) Zahid Faruk Shamim, raised objection against his rival four party nominee BNP's Advocate Mojibur Rahman Sarwar.

Col. Faruk alleged that Sarwar performed duties as Mayor of Barisal, a post of benefit, so he could not contest in election within three years from the end of his tenure as Mayor as per election rule.

Sarwar was also accused in 13 criminal cases and acquitted in 6 cases. Trial of four cases was suspended and he got bail in 3 other cases. But he concealed facts about these cases, the rival alleged.

Objections have also been raised against the candidacy of Bikalpadhara central leader and Jukto Front nominee for Barisal-6 Principal Abdur Rashid Khan. AL leader and rebel candidate for Barisal-5 Mahubuddin Bir Bikram, and former BNP whip and rebel candidate for Barisal-2 Shahidul Huq Jamal on different grounds including loan default.

Two corruption suspects in Lalmonirhat polls race

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Corrupt suspects former BNP deputy minister Asadul Habib Dulu and former Jatiya Party lawmaker Moshir Raman Ranga are in the polls race in two constituencies in Lalmonirhat district.

Election officials yesterday said their nomination papers are valid after scrutiny. Bulu is president of Lalmonirhat district BNP.

Ranga submitted nomination paper for Lalmonirhat-1 (Pathgram, Hatibandha) constituency and Asadul Habib Dulu for Lalmonirhat-3 (Lalmonirhat Sadar).

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) pub-

lished the name Ranga and Dulu as corrupt suspects but are yet to lodge any case against them.

Ranga, President member of JP, was elected lawmaker from Rangpur-1 constituency in 2001 election.

Ranga was also secretary of Rangpur Motor Malik (owner) Samiti, which lodged two graft cases against him with Kotwali police station after 1/11. He is now on bail granted by the High Court.

Awami League leader Motahar Hosen was elected from Lalmonirhat-1 in 2001 election. Asked by this correspondent, Ranga said ACC published his name on the list of corruption suspects but could not yet find anything wrong done by him.

Dulu was elected from Lalmonirhat-3 in the 2001 election.

After 1/11, eight graft cases including one for misappropriation of relief CI sheet were lodged against Dulu with Lalmonirhat police. He is now on bail.

Asked, Dulu said ACC published his name as corrupt suspect. On ACC notice, he submitted his health statement but the commission did not find anything wrong in it, he claimed.



Asadul Habib Dulu Moshir Raman Ranga



Satkhira AL men threaten en masse resignation

Human chain, rally demanding fielding of party men in all four seats

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Awami League leaders at a press conference here yesterday reiterated their demand to field party candidates in all four constituencies in Satkhira and threatened of en masse resignation from party posts for non-compliance.

Earlier on the day, grassroots leaders and activists of Satkhira Sadar Upazila and Poura AL units formed a human chain and held a rally in front of the press club not to change candidature of district AL secretary Nazrul Islam in Satkhira-2.

AL's pressure for party nominees intensified the row between the party and Jatiya Party, two grand alliance partners.

The AL leaders urged AL chief Sheikh Hasina again not to field JP candidates in the name of alliance. Seat sharing among the grand alliance partners are yet to be finalised.

The press conference, held at Satkhira Press Club, was attended by leaders of Satkhira district, Sadar upazila and Satkhira Poursava AL and its front organisations.

Both AL and JP have nominated candidates in all the constituencies in the district.

These are Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kaloroa upazila), Satkhira-2 (Sadar), Satkhira-3 (Assassuni and Debhata upazila and four unions of Kaliganj upazila) and Satkhira-4 (Shyamnagar upazila and four unions of Kaliganj upazila).

AL leaders have submitted nomination in all the four constituencies. They are Satkhira district AL president Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Satkhira-1, district AL secretary Alhaj Nazrul Islam in Satkhira-2, Dr AFM Ruhul Haque in Satkhira-3 and Monsur Ahmed in Satkhira-4.

JP leaders Monsieer Ali, MA Jabbar, Advocate Salah Uddin and AHM Golam Reza submitted nomination papers in Satkhira-1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

In a written statement read out at the press conference, Sadar upazila AL resident SM Shawkat Hossain said they are not opposed to



Clockwise: Nazrul Islam, Monsur Ahmed, Abdul Jabbar and Golam Reza

grand alliance but it should select candidates considering their popularity, organizational strength and past records.

He said JP has no grassroots committees to face Jamaat candidates of BNP-led four-party alliance candidates in the four constituencies.

MA Jabbar and Golam Reza resides in Dhaka and they have no contact with people and will not be able to compete with Jamaat candidates, Shawkat Hossain said.

They urged Hasina not to change party nominees Nazrul Islam and Monsur Ahmed in Satkhira-2 and Satkhira-4 as they are popular and will be able to regain the seats from Jamaat in the upcoming polls.

Replying to questions, the AL leaders said they have taken up a four-day agitation programme to press their demand.

They will form human chains, hold rallies and launch mass signature campaign. If their demand is not met by December 7, they will resign en masse from party posts, the AL leaders said.



Awami League (AL) workers formed a human chain in Satkhira town yesterday demanding candidature of Md Nazrul Islam in Satkhira-2 (Sadar) constituency.

Quazi Faruque out of race in Khulna

Nomination of four others cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed of United Citizens' Movement and four other candidates of different parties will not be able to contest the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections from Khulna-1, 2 and 3 constituencies following cancellation of their nomination papers on the first day of scrutiny yesterday.

The five are among 27 candidates who filed nomination papers from various constituencies here to run the elections.

Besides Quazi Faruque, other candidates are Asaduzzaman Jalal (Independent) of Khulna-1 constituency, independent candidates Laila Rahman, Asaduzzaman Jalal and Muslim League candidate Sheikh Surajul Islam of Khulna-2 constituency and independent candidate Sheikh Abdul Wahab of Khulna-3 constituency.

Nomination papers of Quazi Faruque and Sheikh Siraj were cancelled as they are loan defaulters.

The returning officer cancelled nomination papers of independent candidates Laila Rahman, wife of convicted ex-mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Asaduzzaman Jalal for not fulfilling the requisite terms and conditions.

Nomination paper of Sheikh Abdul Wahab was cancelled for not submitting an affidavit.

Dr Quazi Faruque also filed nomination paper from Khulna-5 constituency.

Meanwhile, scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates who intended to contest polls from Khulna-4, 5 and 6 constituencies will be held tomorrow.

INDIGENOUS VILLAGES IN C'NAWABGANJ They cast vote but never see any MP

RABIUL HASAN, C' Nawabganj

Unlike in other areas of the country, election fever hardly touches indigenous people in villages about 10 miles from Chapainawabganj district town.

Known as Kole community, the indigenous people in Billbailtha, Ashrayan, Chatrapukur, Ajirabailtha and Babudainng villages in Jhilm union of Sadar upazila do not have any interest in the upcoming election.

Talking to this correspondent some indigenous people said no member of parliament ever visited these villages. Campaign is going on in most areas of the district but no candidate visited their villages so far.

Moreover, they have little time to talk politics as they remain busy in earning livelihood.

"We can not ventilate our demands and problems as no MP or political

leader visited our villages in the past. None came to campaign for any candidate for the upcoming election also", said indigenous leader Laxman Kole.

These villages are known for hillocks and lucrative picnic spots but no newspaper reaches there and the locals have few televisions and radios at homes.

The light of education is yet to reach there as they are sidetracked by government development projects.

The poor villagers are virtually isolated from the rest of the district socially, and politically; and there has not been any effort by any political party to integrate them in the mainstream of development.

Yet, they go to polling centres on the polling day and cast votes in every election. Women wear new clothes on the days and go to the polling centres in groups and cast their votes in a festive mood.

Ashli Kole and Mangli Kole said political leaders do not give any importance to them as they do not visit the villages for election campaign.

Laxman Kole said they can not avail modern facilities because of bad communication system. Most of the children refrain from going to schools due to financial crisis.

"We have been suffering from many socio-economic problems but nobody pays any attention to our problems," he said.

The condition is almost the same in Dkhhinpara, Raipara and Jalaha villages in the same union where majority of the people are Santal.

Good communication system, sanitation and primary education facilities are absent in the villages, said indigenous leader Shyam Tudu. Most of the indigenous people live on government lands.