



Delwar loyalists working as renegades in Manikganj-2

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj

Followers of BNP secretary general Khondaker Delwar Hossain are working for independent candidate in Manikganj-2 Engineer Mainul Islam Khan Shanta instead of party nominee Afroza Khan Rita, party sources claimed.

Senior district and upazila BNP leaders, who are known as Delwar loyalists, are conducting the election of independent candidate Shanta, party sources said. They are however doing it covertly, by holding secret meetings with grass roots party workers and through mobilephones.

Earlier, supporters of Shanta had locked the party office in Singair on nomination filling day and hoisted black flag atop the party office demanding party ticket to Engineer Mainul Islam Khan



Afroza Khan Rita Shanta.

Afroza Khan Rita, daughter of Haruner Rashid Khan Monno, got party nomination. Failing to get party nomination, former BNP MP and president of Singair upazila BNP Engineer Mainul Islam Khan Shanta, submitted his nomination paper as independent candidate. He is son of late minister Samsul Islam Khan Noya Mia.



Mainul Islam Khan Shanta

into two groups. One group is led by BNP secretary general Khondaker Delwar Hossain and the other by industrialist Haruner Rashid Khan Monno.

When contacted, some front ranking leaders said Begum Khaleda Zia's decision nominating Rita is wrong.

There are three constituencies in Manikganj now against four earlier following

delimitation.

Manikganj-2 (Manikganj-4 earlier) now comprise Singair upazila and three unions of Manikganj Sadar upazila. Shanta was elected from this constituency (Manikganj-4 earlier) in a by-election in April, 2005 after death of his father former industries Samsul Islam Khan Noya Mia.

Afroza Khan Rita, managing director of Monno group of industries and daughter of former BNP MP and industrialist Haruner Rashid Khan Monno, got 4-party nomination in January, 2006 planned election (which was not held) from Manikganj-2.

Shanta will face Awami League candidate Dewan Shaful Arefin Tutul, who ran second in 2001 polls with 60,445 votes.

Former national footballer Tutul is AL central youth and sports affairs secretary.

BNP, Jamaat at loggerheads in Bogra-1, 4, 5

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Displeased with BNP policymakers' decision to nominate convicted Md Shokrana as four-party alliance candidate for Bogra-1 (Shariakandi-Sonotola) and ignoring their proposal for nominating 'prospective' Jamaat candidates for Bogra-4 (Khalu-Nandigram) and Bogra-5 (Sherpur-Dhanut), Jamaat leaders and activists have started campaign against BNP candidates.

"Jamaat and its supporters including women are working round the clock in favour of their party candidate Nazir Ahmed to defeat BNP candidate Mostafa Ali Mukul in Bogra-4 constituency," Jamaat Bogra district Ameer Shahab Uddin told this correspondent over cell phone on Thursday evening.

Admitting the matter, alliance candidate BNP leader Mostafa Ali Mukul said, "Jamaat leaders and workers in Bogra district are canvassing in favour of Jamaat candidate Nazir Ahmed in Bogra-4. Jamaat men are also working for their candidate in Bogra-5, which may harm alliance position in the district."

BNP nominated alliance candidate for Bogra-5, Jane-e-Alam Khoka, however, told The Daily Star yesterday morning that a discussion has started with Jamaat candidate Principal Rostom Ali and local Jamaat leaders for a 'settlement'.



Faridpur district Mahila Dal holds a daylong protest meeting at Faridpur Press Club yesterday demanding nomination of BNP leader Kamal Yusuf instead of Jamaat's Mojahid for Faridpur-3.

Protests continue to throw Mojahid out of poll race

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

BNP and its front organisations continued protests yesterday against four-party alliance nomination to Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid in Faridpur-3 (Sadar) instead of BNP leader Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

The protesters also bitterly criticised Mojahid's showdown on Wednesday. As part of protest against Mojahid, Faridpur district Mahila dal, woman's front of BNP, yesterday held day-long rallies in front of Faridpur Press Club.

Speakers at the rally demanded cancellation of Mojahid's nomination and urged people not to vote for him in the upcoming national election.

They also blamed district BNP president Zahurul Haque Sahzada Mia and secretary Modarres Ali Isa for the ticket to Mojahid. They claimed that a section of BNP leaders misled Khaleda Zia and convinced her to give alliance ticket to Mojahid instead of Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

It is the result of a Jamaat conspiracy, with a section of party leaders in the district,



Mojahid Kamal Yusuf

which will be harmful for the party, they said. Jamaat is eating up BNP, they said.

Mojahid also violated the polls code by staging a showdown in the name of visiting his mother's grave, the speakers said.

Denied ticket this time, Kamal Ibne Yusuf submitted nomination paper as an independent candidate.

The speakers included district BNP joint convener Bilkis Islam, Mohila Dal convener Nasrin Alam, Jubo Dal leader Golam Kibria Swapan and Tarun Biswas, district Krishak Dal secretary Afzal Hossain Khan Palash and Chhatra Dal leader Selim Mia Selim. District Mohila Dal president Shanaz Sultana presided.



Altaf Howlader

VIPs fight for Patuakhali-1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

District unit BNP President former minister Air Vice Marshal (rtd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Jatiya Party Secretary General former minister ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader are on the fight for Patuakhali-1 (Sadar, Mirzaganj and Dumki upazilas) constituency in the upcoming election.

Altaf Hossain, who was elected lawmaker from the constituency in 2001, submitted his nomination paper as candidate of BNP-led four-party alliance on Sunday, the last date for submitting nomination paper. Ruhul Amin Howlader's nomination papers were also submitted the same day.

However, Ruhul Amin's ticket from AL-led alliance is yet to be confirmed as district AL President Md Shahjahan Mia, who was elected lawmaker in 1996 but lost to Altaf in 2001, has also submitted nomination paper as an aspirant for grand alliance ticket.

Most local AL men are opposed to Ruhul Amin Howlader and AL units in all three upazilas in the constituency sent letters to party hi-ups requesting them not to nominate him as grand alliance candidate for the constituency.

Ruhul Amin Howlader, a minister during the tenure of former president HM Ershad, contested for the seat in 1996 and lost his deposit as he got only 4,500 votes.

Altaf Hossain has to face party rivalry also due to opposition from district BNP Secretary Snehasu Sarker Kuti who has been conducting party programme separately for over three years.



Rowshan Gini

Rowshan, Gini both hopeful in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Two women candidates, one of Jatiya Party (JP) and the other of Awami League (AL) have expressed their optimism to win the polls race.

They are JP presidium member Begum Rowshan Ershad and AL member Mahub Ara Gini. Rowshan is contesting in Gaibandha-5 constituency where candidature of former state minister and AL nominee Advocate Fazley Rabbi was cancelled on charge of loan defaulting.

However, Rowshan will have to fight Four-party Alliance candidate industrialist Hasan Ali in this seat.

Gini is contesting in Gaibandha-2 constituency as a nominee of grand alliance against JP leader Abdur Rashid Sarker and four-party alliance candidate Commodore (rtd) Shafiqur Rahman.

Nine aspirants face 43 cases in Khulna dist

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

As many as 43 cases, mostly pending for trial in courts, were filed against nine nomination aspirants from six constituencies in Khulna city and district.

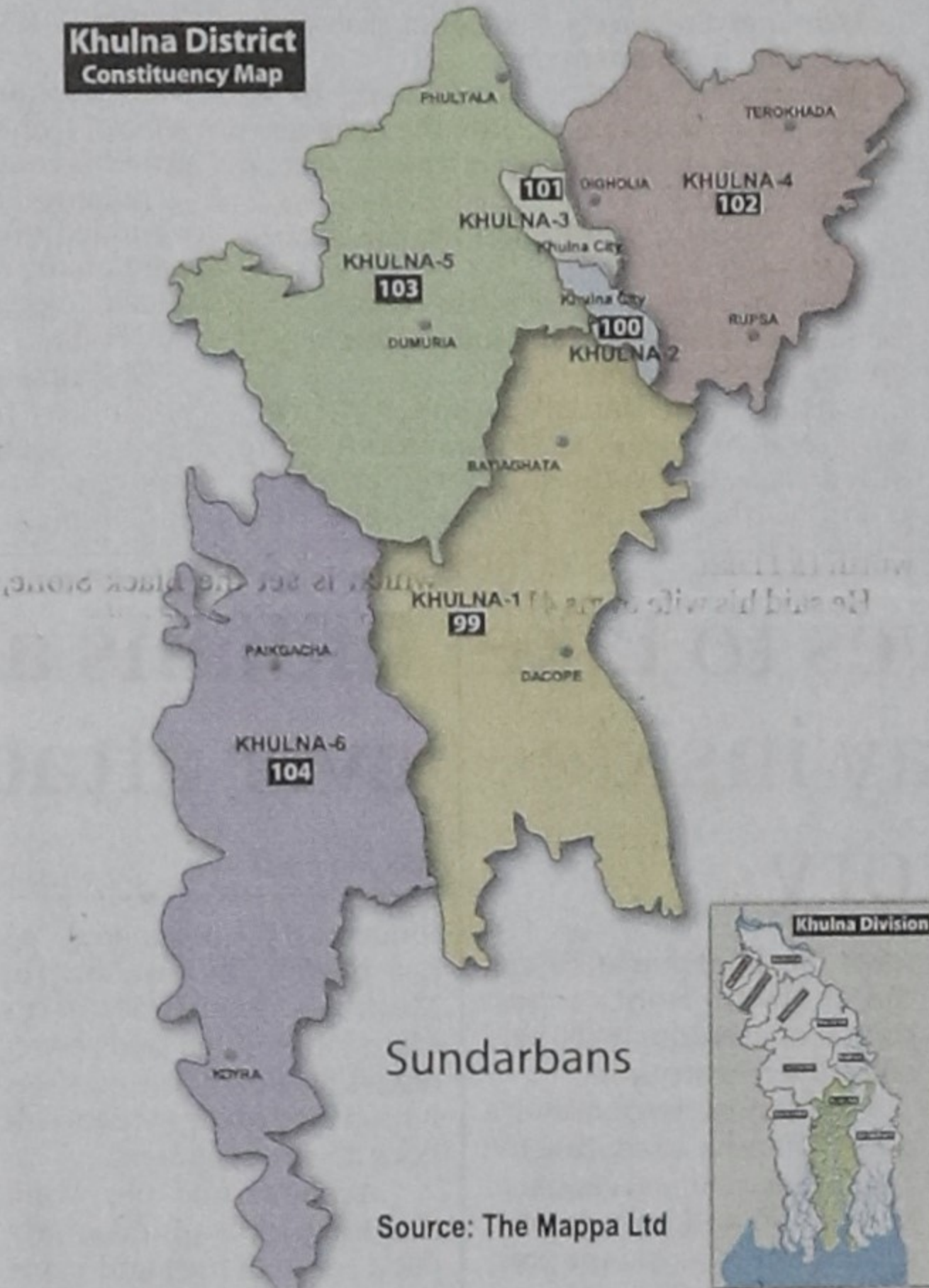
However, five of them including Kazi Faruque Ahmed, chairman of Proshika and president of newly floated United Citizens Movement, who faces 23 cases, have got nomination papers cancelled during scrutiny by the election officials for different reasons including loan default.

According to the affidavit submitted by the nomination aspirants, former lawmaker Babu Panchanon Biswas and Sheikh Asaduzzaman Jalal (nomination seeker in Khulna-1), Proshika chief Kazi Faruque Ahmed, ex-KCC mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman's wife Laila Rahman and Asaduzzaman Jalal (Khulna-2), former JP lawmaker and now independent candidate Abdul Gaffar Biswas (Khulna-3), JP leader Mokhtar Hossain and IOJ leader SM Sakhawat Hossain (Khulna-4), Kazi Faruque Ahmed of United Citizens Movement and Shabakash Chandra Mandol (Khulna-5) and former Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Nurul Huq (Khulna-6) are accused in the cases.

Among them, nomination papers of Sheikh Asaduzzaman Jalal, Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Laila Rahman, Shabakash Chandra Mandol and Sheikh Nurul Huq have been cancelled.

Kazi Faruque mentioned in his affidavit that 23 cases against him are pending for trial in Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. But he has not mentioned in the affidavit details of the cases.

Panchanon Biswas is



facing two cases, now pending for trial. One of these cases was filed against him in 2006 under Explosive Substances Act.

Laila Rahman is an accused in a cheating case filed with Khulna CMM Court in May this year. Three cases, filed in connection with murder, narcotics and arms, are pending for trial against JP central Organising Secretary Abdul Gaffar Biswas.

Senior Vice President of Khulna district AL and former lawmaker advocate Sheikh Nurul Huq, who has filed nomination paper as an independent candidate from Khulna-6, is facing three cases which are now pending for trial in the court of a first class

magistrate in Sunamganj district, Khulna CMM Court and the Court of Khulna Judicial Magistrate.

According to Khulna returning officer, Proshika Chairman Kazi Faruque Ahmed is yet to repay Tk one crore 6 lakh and 46 thousand taken as loan on December 1 in 2005 from the Motijheel branch of Krishi Bank in Dhaka. Krishi Bank Principal Officer Md Abdul Wadud gave this information through an official letter to Khulna returning officer.

When asked, Kazi Faruque said he would appeal against the decision of cancelling his nomination paper as the loan was taken for greater interest of farmers, not for his personal interest.

JP gets only 2 in Sylhet division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jatiya Party bargained for 8 out of 19 Jatiya Sangsad seats in Sylhet division but now they are to remain satisfied with only two. These are Sunamganj-4 (Sunamganj Sadar and Biswambharpur) and Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura and part of Komolganj).

Nomination of three other JP leaders were cancelled during scrutiny. These are of Party chief HM Ershad Habiganj-3, central JP organising secretary Abdullah Siddiqui in Sylhet-2, Syed Shahab Uddin in Moulvibazar-3.

Jayita party candidate Momtaz Iqbal has been given the grand alliance's green signal for Sunamganj-4 (Sunamganj sadar and Biswambharpur). Momtaz, widow of JP minister Maj (rtd) Iqbal during Ershad's rule, also fought in 2001 polls and lost to BNP's Fazlul Haque Aspia. She ran third with 30,160 votes. This time also, she is to face former whip Fazlul Haque Aspia.

If Momtaz gets total support of AL, she may have a good chance this time, some JP leaders in Sunamganj claimed.

The other seat given to JP by grand alliance JP is Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura and part of Komolganj) where the party has former lawmaker Nabab Ali Abbas. The decision came after Awami League's US chapter leader Aatur Rahman Shamim's nomination was cancelled due to loan default.

However, JP's bargain with Awami League is still on for Sylhet-3 (Dakshin Surma and Fenchuganj), they said.

AL still hopeful about A K Khandaker's nomination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Cancellation of nomination of Awami League (AL) candidate in Pabna-2 (Sujamagar-Bera) constituency Air Vice Marshal (rtd) AK Khandaker, also chief of Sector Commanders Forum, has frustrated party leader and activists in Sujaganur upazila.

Khandaker's nomination was cancelled on Thursday due to loan defaulting. AL leaders are still hopeful that Khandaker's nomination would be valid after an appeal decision.

Meanwhile, LDP leader Ismat Jerin Khan submitted her nomination paper in this constituency. LDP men believe AL men will support Jerin if Khandaker's candidature remains invalid.

However, AL leaders said support to any candidate other than their own party would depend on decision of central leaders.

Former lawmaker and BNP leader Selim Reza Habib submitted nomination with BNP ticket and LDP leader Ismat Jerin Khan filed nomination with LDP ticket.

Ctg AL's Mohiuddin, Nurul Islam have happy ending

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Burying their differences over nomination in Chittagong-8 constituency, Chittagong Mayor and city unit Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Vice President Nurul Islam had a cordial meeting on Wednesday night, much to the relief of party supporters just 25 days ahead of the parliamentary election.

The two leaders met at the mayor's Chasma Hill residence for the first time since Nurul Islam, also a prominent industrialist, got party nod to contest the parliamentary election from Chittagong-8 (Kotwali), one of the four city seats, as a candidate of AL-led grand alliance.

As Nurul Islam got the party nomination in face of strong opposition from city Mayor Mohiuddin, a noticeable distance was created between the two top party leaders in Chittagong and Mohiuddin on two occasions refused to meet Islam, when the latter went to the mayor's Chasma Hill residence.

Nurul Islam accompanied by former minister and city AL President MA Mannan, former lawmaker Ishaque Miah and a few ward councillors went again to the mayor's residence to meet Mohiuddin at around 9:00pm on



Mohiuddin Chowdhury Nurul Islam

Wednesday, a day before the mayor's departure for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

The mayor this time greeted Islam warmly, wished his success in the poll in the vital seat and directed party leaders, activists and supporters to work together for Islam for Chittagong-8 and other candidates in city constituencies, sources said.

Later, the mayor formed a coordination committee for Chittagong-8 constituency with Mahtabuddin Chowdhury and advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul as its convener and member secretary.

The mayor, who left Chittagong early yesterday for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, is scheduled to return on December 12, party sources said.

First woman hoping to fly flag from CHT

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati



Shantimoy Chakma

For the first time in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), an indigenous woman is contesting from Rangamati constituency in the upcoming parliamentary election.

Moitree Chakma, wife of Retired district joint judge Dipen Dewan, is in the polls race as an independent candidate.

She, along with her husband, submitted her nomination paper on the last day set for this by the Election Commission.

Her husband submitted nomination from the constituency as a candidate of the 4-party alliance but it

was cancelled as he is yet to complete three years after retirement.

However, nomination paper of Moitree stands valid after scrutiny, the Returning Officer (RO) said.

Dipen Dewan went on voluntary retirement

in 2006. Sources said Moitree filed nomination paper least her husband's nomination paper is cancelled during scrutiny.

Party sources said she is now virtually a candidate of four-party alliance after cancellation of her husband's nomination paper.

"BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia nominated me from 4-party alliance alongside my husband", she said. "If voted to power, I will work to empower women by creating employment opportunities and income generating projects. And I will also try my best to stop violence against women," she said.

Big Two miss Moulvibazar-2 BNP rebel, JP man set to make hay

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

There is no candidate of Awami League and BNP in Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura and four union of Kamalganj) constituency in the coming national election.

Nomination paper of AL nominee Aatur Rahman Shamim has been cancelled due to loan default and that of BNP's Advocate Abed Raja for error. Their nomination papers were cancelled during scrutiny on Thursday.

Drama was being staged over party nomination in the seat by the two major parties from the beginning of process. Despite demand from local party men, AL did not give nomination to its central organising secretary

Party men vowed to remain with Shahin if he runs independent. Shahin filed his nomination paper as an independent candidate.

Amid such a drama, the Returning Officer cancelled nomination of AL nominee Aatur Rahman Shamim and BNP nominee Abed Raja. Now the two major parties do not have any candidate in the constituency.

Both Shamim and Abed Raja said, they would appeal against the decision of the returning officer.

However, sources said, after cancellation of nomination of AL nominee, JP (Ershad) nominee and former MP (1991) Nawab Ali Abbas Khan may get grand alliance ticket.

So AL men loyal to Sultan Monsur are happy and they are ready to work for JP leader and grand alliance nominee Nawab Ali Abbas Khan.

BNP rebel candidate Shahin is also in good position following cancellation of nomination of BNP nominee Abed Raja.

There are four candidates in the seat. They are Nawab Ali Abbas Khan (JP), MM Shahin (BNP rebel), Maolana Bodor Uddin (Khelaft Mojlish) and Askir Miah (Muslim League).



Clockwise: Aatur Rahman Shamim, Abed Raja, MM Shahin and Nawab Ali Abbas Khan