



AL, BNP freshers face strong rivals in Tangail-2,3,4,6

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

The four new faces fielded by Awami League (AL) and BNP in four constituencies in Tangail will have to fight strong rivals and rebel party candidates in the upcoming national elections.

Besides strong BNP rivals, AL's two new faces in Tangail-3 (Ghtail) and Tangail-6 (Nagarpur-Delduar) will face rebel party colleagues who are in the race as independent candidates.

In Tangail-3 (Ghtail), AL nominated cardiologist Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury to contest 'strong' BNP candidate former state minister Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, who won the seat in 1991, 1996 and 2001 elections.

Beside Azad, Motiur will have to fight independent runner rebel party colleague Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan, president of Tangail district AL who lost last three elections to Azad.

Krishak Shramik Janata League (KSJL) president Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam will also contest from



Clockwise: Kader Siddiqui, Shamsur Rahman Khan Shajahan, Lutfar Rahman Azad, Goutam Chakrabarty, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Ashrafur Islam Titu, Latif Siddiqui and Matiur Rahman Chowdhury.

the constituency as a KSJL candidate.

In Tangail-6 (Nagarpur-Delduar), AL nominated Ahsanul Islam Titu to contest 'strong' BNP candidate former state minister Gautam Chakroborty, won from the seat in 1996 and 2001 elections.

Titu will also face party colleague and independent candidate Freedom Fighter Khandakar Abdul Baten who lost the last two elections as an AL candidate with narrow margins.

Although AL has good organisational strength in both the constituencies, the

party men have already been divided into two groups over candidature, party insiders said.

BNP has also fielded two new faces in Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur) and Tangail-4 (Kalihati), who will face 'strong' AL candidates who lost to BNP candidates with narrow margins 2001 election.

In Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhuapur), BNP nominated senior vice president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Sultan Salauddin Tuku in place of his elder brother former deputy minister Abdus Salam

Pintu, a charge-sheeted accused in the case for August 21 grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina's rally in the capital. Abdus Salam Pintu is in jail.

Tuku will fight 'strong' AL candidate Khandakar Asaduzzaman, who lost to Salam Pintu with a margin of 2274 votes in 2001 election.

The only woman candidate in the district, Khaleda Habib, daughter of prominent educationist late Principal Ibrahim Kha, will also contest from the constituency as a KSJL candidate.

In Tangail-4 (Kalihati), BNP nominated industrialist Lutfar Rahman Matin in place of former minister Shajahan Siraj, absconding after conviction in corruption cases under Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

New face Matin will fight AL candidate Abdul Latif Siddiqui, who lost to Shajahan Siraj with a margin of 5138 votes in 2001 election.

AL candidate Latif Siddiqui's younger brother Azad Siddiqui will also contest from the constituency as a KSJL candidate.

460 out of 706 polling centres risky in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police have identified 460 polling centres out of 706 in the district as risky.

They include 180 centres in Khulna-2 and Khulna-3 constituencies in the city and 280 in rest four constituencies in the district.

The rest four constituencies are outlaw infested Khulna-4 (Terokhed-Rupsha-Digholia), Khulna-5 (Dumuria-Phultala) and Khulna-6 (Koiria-Paigacha) constituencies.

Khulna-1 (Dakop-Batiaghata) has been categorised as normal.

Both KMP and district police gave top priority to ensuring foolproof security and maintaining law and order in all the polling centers during and after the December 29 parliamentary election.

"We are giving top priority to maintain law and order and ensure foolproof security in high risk centres in outlaw infested Khulna-4, Khulna-5 and Khulna-6 constituencies", said Khulna Police Superintendent Belalur Rahman.

All security measures have already been taken, he said.

Sirajganj-5 has no 4-party contestant

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sirajganj

Following cancellation of nomination papers of two BNP-led four-party alliance candidates including influential BNP leader former lawmaker Major (ret) Monzur Quader, Sirajganj-5 constituency (Belkuchi-Chowhal) is now without any contestant from the alliance.

Six persons submitted nomination papers in Sirajganj-5 constituency, Election Commission office sources said.

They are former lawmaker Major (ret) Monzur Quader and local BNP leader Golam Mowla Bablu as four-party alliance candidate, former lawmaker and AL leader Abdul Latif Bishwas as grand alliance candidate, Abul Hasnat as Jatiya Party candidate, Abdul Mannan as Islami Andolon candidate and Dr Hassan Ali Talukder as Krishak Shramik Janata League candidate.

Nomination papers of BNP leaders Quader and Bablu have been cancelled due to their loan default while that of Dr Hassan Ali Talukder has been discarded as he submitted incomplete papers to the commission, official sources said.

Nomination papers of Abdul Latif Bishwas, Abul Hasnat and Abdul Mannan have been accepted as the officials concerned published the final result of scrutiny yesterday morning.

The leaders and activists of the four-party alliance have fallen in severe crisis in the seat due to lack of their candidate, party sources said.

While contacted, lawyers of Quader and Bablu said they will appeal to the Election Commission against the cancellation orders.

Saifur richest candidate in Moulvibazar-3

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,
Moulvibazar

Former finance and planning minister and BNP nominee in Moulvibazar-3 (Sadar and Rajnagar) constituency M Saifur Rahman is the richest candidate among 20 others in four constituencies in the district.

In the wealth statement he said his annual income is Tk 66 lakh 79 thousand 903. Of the total, he earns Tk 20 lakh 40 thousand and from agriculture sector and Tk 46 lakh 39 thousand 903 from non-agriculture and other sectors.

His moveable property is Tk 4 crore 29 lakh 92 thousand 143 in cash including his deposits in bank. He possesses a vehicle worth Tk 27 lakh 72 thousand 124 and



furniture worth Tk 12 lakh while his wife possesses gold ornament worth Tk 2 lakh 81 thousand 133.

Saifur owns agricultural land worth Tk 46 lakh 10 thousand and buildings, residential and commercial lands worth Tk 12 lakh.

It is because of him, Sylhet-Dhaka highway, a bridge over the Meghna at

Bhairab on Dhaka-Sylhet highway and Sylhet Veterinary Institute were constructed, Saifur said. Besides, work on promised Sylhet Agricultural University was also started, he said.

Saifur will contest from two seats, one from Moulvibazar-3 and another from Sylhet-1. He was elected a member of parliament (MP) from Moulvibazar-3 constituency in 1979. In 1996, he was elected from two seats, one from Moulvibazar-3 and another from Sylhet-4. He vacated Sylhet-4 seat.

In 2001 election, he was elected from three seats, one from Moulvibazar and two from Sylhet. He vacated Moulvibazar-3 and Sylhet-4 seats retaining Sylhet-1 seat.

SUNAMGANJ-1

AL nominee chased as he starts mass contact

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Agitated party men at the remote Jamalganj upazila yesterday afternoon swooped on Awami League nominee for Sunamganj-1 Moazzem Hossain Ratan and his companions when they went there for mass contact.

The locals also ransacked his private car and a motorbike. Police later seized the car.

Being chased by the party activists, Ratan took an engine boat and went to the house of district AL organising secretary Rezaul Karim Shamim at Sachnabazar.

Ratan reached the upazila headquarters to join an extended meeting of the AL. But a faction of the party organised an extended meeting at Sachnabazar yesterday. On the other hand, Jamalganj UP chairman Jamal Uddin Azad, Joint secretary of



Moazzem Hossain Ratan

upazila AL Dwijendra Lal and others numbering about 300 were waiting at the upazila headquarters to receive the party candidate.

Bypassing the major faction, Ratan and his men on a car and some motorbikes attempted to start for Sachnabazar meeting.

But, the party activists asked him to join the meeting at the upazila headquarters instead of going to the other faction's meet at Sachnabazar.

An exchange of heated

words ensued there and some of the young men swooped on him and his companions. They also ransacked the car and some motorbikes there.

OC of Jamalganj Police Station said, police brought the situation under control but the private car and some motorbikes were ransacked. The car had been taken to the PS, he added.

Moazzem Hossain Ratan had been given party ticket for Sunamganj-1 (Tahirpur, Jamalganj, and Dharmapasha) depriving former lawmakers Suranjit Sengupta and Syed Rafiqul Haque Sohail, causing a serious commotion among the partymen.

However, Sengupta had been given nomination in his home constituency Sunamganj-2 while Rafiqul filed independently, but that had been cancelled during the scrutiny.

BNP, Jamaat both stake claim to C'nawabganj-3

RABIUL HASAN, C'nawabganj

BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami are at loggerheads in Chapainawabganj-3 constituency as their are campaigning for party candidates with approval of their respective party high commands, sources said.

Former BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid and former Jamaat lawmaker Latifur Rahman earlier submitted nomination papers.

The face-off surfaced when Jamaat leaders started campaign, opposing BNP's candidature in the constituency.

Jamaat leaders earlier urged party high ups not to 'surrender' the seat to BNP, claiming that Harunur Rashid lost his image as he failed to fulfill his 2001 election pledges. Harunur Rashid, general secretary of district BNP, was elected from the constituency in last two elections.

On the other hand, Latifur Rahman, Ameer of district Jamaat and member of its



Harunur Rashid



Latifur Rahman

majlish-e-surah (central working committee) won the seat in 1986 and 1991 elections.

Harunur Rashid faces several cases for alleged corruption and abuse of power during the alliance government.

Allegations have it that he ignored BNP leaders and activists while in power.

"Many BNP leaders and activists have boycotted him (Harunur Rashid) and are working for me", said Jamaat candidate Latifur Rahman.

Harunur Rashid said he defeated Latifur Rahman in the last election with a margin of 21,000 votes.

Dipu Moni lone woman candidate in Chandpur

ALAM PALASH, Chandpur

Awami League-led Grand Alliance nominee Dr Dipu Moni is the lone woman candidate in the five parliamentary constituencies in Chandpur district. She is contesting in Chadpur-3 seat.

Dr Dipu Moni is the central women affairs secretary of Bangladesh Awami League.

The total number of voters in Chandpur-3 constituency that comprises 20 unions of Chandpur sadar and Haimchar upazilas and 15 wards of Chandpur municipality is 3,11,680.

Dr Dipu Moni's father late Mohammad Abdul Wadud took active part in 1952 language movement.

As an elected general secretary of the then East Pakistan Chhatra League he enjoyed closeness to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Husain Shahid Suhrawardy.

Besides being active in politics Dr Dipu Moni is a lawyer at Bangladesh Supreme Court and a public health expert.

Dr Dipu Moni, who easily mixes with people of all classes, has become the centre of talk in the constituency. She has been continuing mass contact from morning to night.

Awami League insiders say, Dr Dipu Moni's nomination has helped unite Chandpur Awami League.



6 Rajshahi constituencies draw varying faces

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The polls race in six constituencies in Rajshahi has drawn candidates ranging from unemployed persons to millionaire businessmen and from below secondary education to PhD degree holders.

They include some 15 businessmen, four of them millionaire, eight teachers and six lawyers.

AL candidate Prof Abdul Khaleque in Rajshahi-2 attached his PhD certificate in nomination papers while Masters degree holder SM Shafiqul Azam of Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) in Rajshahi-5 wrote 'unemployed' in the column for profession.

BNP candidate Azizur Rahman and Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal candidate Nurul Islam in Rajshahi-6 constituency attached their SSC certificates, but CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) nominee Enamul Haque in Rajshahi-2 said he studied up to class IX.

Among the four Awami League nominated millionaires, Omar Faruk Chowdhury in Rajshahi-1 stated his assets at Tk 4.19 crore while Enamul Haque in Rajshahi-4 mentioned his wealth to be worth about Tk 10.15 crore.

Kazi Abdul Wadud Dara in Rajshahi-5 have assets worth Tk 90.62 lakh and Shahrar Alam Tk 3.75 crore.

Awami League led grand alliance candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha in Rajshahi-



2 showed he has 50 per cent share in the largest circulated local Bengali daily Sonali Sangbad.

BNP candidate M Enamul Haque in Rajshahi-1 is a former inspector general of police and a member of law commission. Former mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minu showed politics as his profession and agriculture his source of income. Former BNP lawmaker Kabir Hossain in Rajshahi-3 is a lawyer by profession.

The candidates include a journalist -- Bikalpa Dhara nominee and editor of internet based The Editor Maskawat Ahsan in Rajshahi-6.

Bangladesh Kollyan Party candidate Salahuddin Biswas in Rajshahi-1 mentioned three professions--business, ward councilor of

Godagari municipality and journalism. But he did not mention which media he works for.

Six candidates put their email address in their nomination papers.

Sayed Mahmud Ilyas in Rajshahi-2, who studied at madrasa mentioned that besides business, he is a Homeopathy doctor.

HSC pass Jatiya Party candidate Mostak Ahmed Labu in Rajshahi-3 showed business and social work as his professions while HSC pass Jamaat-e-Islami nominee Abdul Ahad stated that he is a teacher at Jatragachhi Fajil Madrasa.

Awami League nomination deprived independent candidate Sardar Amjad Hossain said he runs a homeopathy medicine shop--Barendra Oushadhalay.

No empty promise this time

Erosion victims in Rajbari-1 vow to vote 'the right man'

HIMANGSHU KUMAR SAHA, Rajbari

Farmer Abdul Kha of Dhunchi village said, "The River Padma has devoured all our homes and hearths. We have nothing now. We were searching for a small piece of land but did not get."

None enquired about our well beings. Now is the voting season and all are coming. We will vote the candidate who will work for preventing river erosion."

Abdul Kha of Dhunchi village under Mizanpur union of Rajbari Sadar upazila who lost everything to the river erosion over the last five years expressed his frustration in this way.

Rajbari-1 constituency comprises of Rajbari Sadar and Gualundo upazilas. The border of the constituency starts along the bank of the river Padma.

People here have to fight with flood, natural calamity and river erosion for survival.

Every year hundreds of people lose everything to flood and river erosion. No effective steps have yet been taken to prevent river erosion.

This correspondent visited Mizanpur and Borat unions under Rajbari sadar upazila on the banks of the river Padma on December 2 to know what people there are thinking about the ensuing national election.

Babul Kha said, "We will vote the candidate who will take action to prevent river erosion, will keep our area free of terror, and take action against thieves."

Brick kiln labourer Karim Mollah said, "We will vote the candidate who will come forward to do something pragmatic to prevent river erosion." He

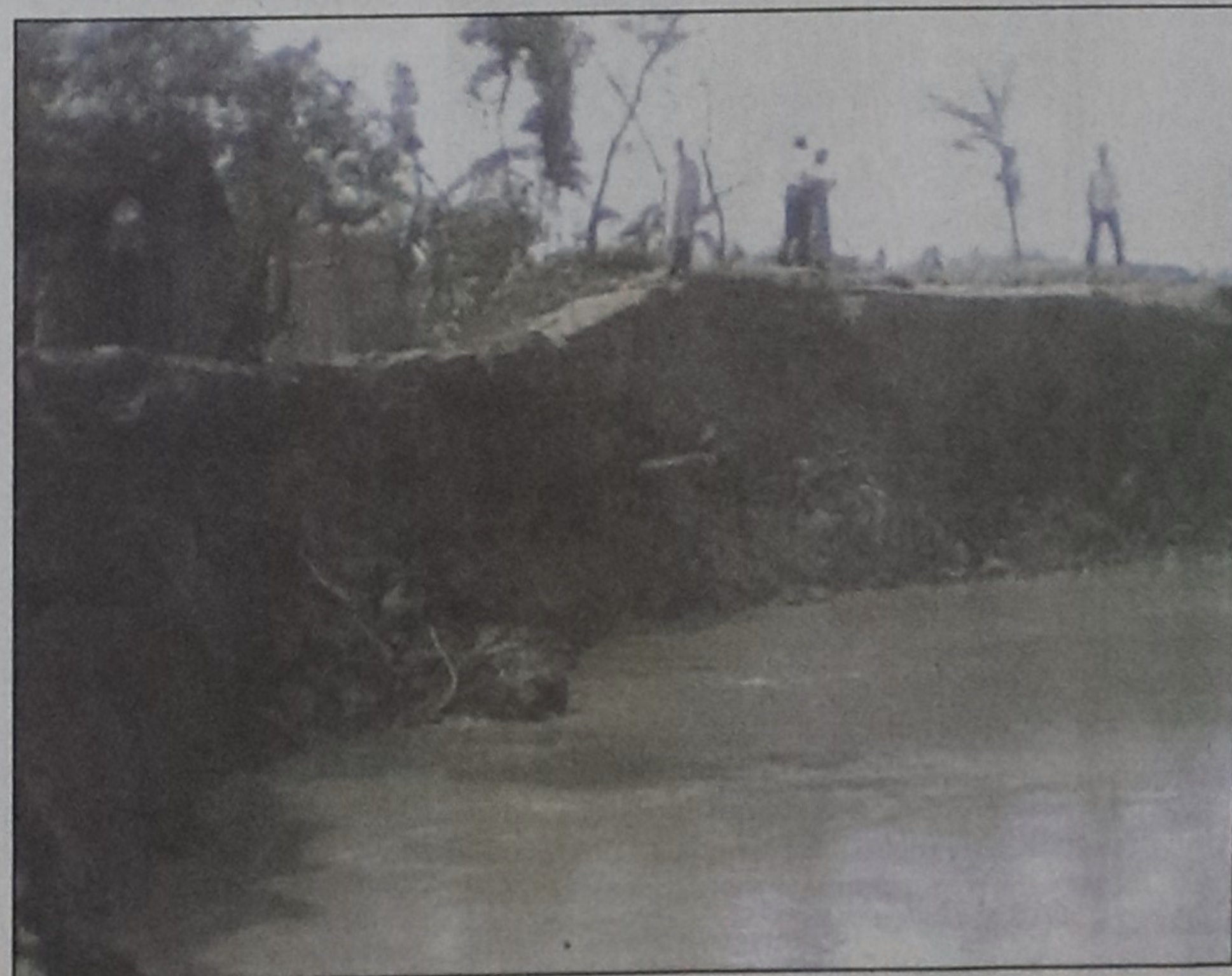
said, "We expect that the next government will give us a terror-free society."

Sujon Biswas of Char Dhunchi village said, "The river erosion victims of the area are unemployed. We will cast our ballots for the candidate who will take steps to create employment."

River erosion victim Aku Bepari who now works as a brick field worker said, "When the voting season comes the candidates give big assurances."

But once the vote is over they are not available in the area. This time we will think much before giving the vote."

Businessman Siddique Biswas said, "During the last election candidates begged our vote promising to construct the Padma Bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia. But it did not materialize. This time we will think twice before casting vote."



Erosion by Padma devours a village in Mizanpur union in Rajbari Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Chatmohor BNP men press for choosing UZ candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A meeting of Chatmohor upazila BNP, called for choosing a candidate for upazila election, ended amid chaos yesterday.

The meeting was held at the house of former MP KM Anwarul Islam. The BNP nominee in Pabna-3 constituency Saiful Azam Suja was present in the meeting. KM Anwarul Islam, also president of Chatmohor upazila BNP presided.

Internal feud erupted in the meeting as several leaders demanded nomination of their candidates.

The meeting ended with a decision that the upazila candidate would be chosen at another meeting later.