



## 'No vote' campaign against anti-liberation elements

### Family members of Kaliganj massacre victims decide at meeting

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Family members of Kaliganj massacre victims during Liberation War in Jaldhaka have decided to launch a campaign for casting 'no-vote' in Nilphamari-3 (Jaldhaka and part of Kishoreganj) constituency, protesting nomination of anti-liberation persons by the two alliances in the upcoming Jatiyo Sangsad (JS) election.

On April 27, 1971, the then Pakistani occupation army massacred 300 innocent people at Kaliganj village in Jaldhaka when they were crossing the border.

The BNP-led four-party alliance has nominated Jamaat-e-Islami leader Azizul Islam in the constituency. Local Jamaat formed Razakar and Albadr militias during the war, who killed freedom fighters, innocent people and raped girls, families of the victims said.

Awami League-led grand alliance has also nominated Jatiyo Party (JP) leader Kazi Faruque Kader, son of Kazi Abdul Kader, declared a war criminal by the Sector Commanders Forum.

Kazi Kader was a leader of



KAZI FARUQUE KADER



AZIZUL ISLAM

the then Pakistan Convention Muslim League and a central minister.

The victims' families said Kazi Faruque Kader was the mastermind behind the Kaliganj massacre.

Both Jamaat leader Azizul Islam and JP leader Kazi Faruque Kader have submitted nomination papers.

Sources said their nominations have been okayed by the two alliances.

The victims' families and local elite held a meeting at Kaliganj on December 5, which decided to campaign for 'no vote' in the constituency, meeting sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Hemanta Shil, 54, son of Kaliganj massacre victim Bhuban Shil, said, "It is not

possible to vote for Kazi Faruque Kader as he is the son of Kaliganj massacre mastermind Kazi Abdul Kader.

"For the same reason, we can not vote for Azizul Islam of Jamaat because his party was involved in killing and rape during the Liberation War. So, we should campaign for no-vote", he said.

Kaliganj High School teacher Amornath, 58, lost his father Auswani Kumar in Kaliganj massacre.

"We have nowhere to go as both the candidates represent anti liberation forces".

Massacre victims Dileep Kumar, Kali Bhusan Adhikari, Mukta Begum and many others expressed their determination to cast 'no-

vote' in the election. By casting majority 'no-vote' we want to defeat Rajakars and killers, they added.

Freedom Fighter Asgar Ali said, "It is shameful that Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina accepted Kazi Faruque Kader as grand alliance candidate while Bangabandhu had cancelled citizenship of his father Kazi Kader".

Shahriar Kabir, central convener of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, when contacted, said his organisation would support 'no-vote' campaign launched by martyrs' families and freedom fighters.

"Soon we will go to Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj to encourage people to reject anti-liberation forces by casting no vote", he told this correspondent over phone.

Jaldhaka Awami League president Ansarul Islam Mintu also expressed his resentment at the nomination of Kazi Faruque. In a faxed message to party chief Sheikh Hasina, he said local party leaders and activist are reluctant to work for a war criminal's son in the election.

## Khulna-3,6 Field Gaffar and Modhu or face protest, say JP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna district and city units of Jatiyo Party have demanded nomination of its central organising secretary Abdul Gaffar Biswas from Khulna-3 (Khalishpur-Daulatpur) and district unit general secretary Shafiqul Islam Madhu from Khulna-6 (Koira-Paigachha) constituencies as candidates of 14-party alliance in the upcoming parliamentary election.

Otherwise, all leaders and workers of Khulna district and city units of Jatiyo Party will resign on December 12, a day after expiry of the date for withdrawal of candidature.

The demand was made in a press conference at Khulna Press Club yesterday.

Jatiyo Party leaders Gaffar Biswas and Shafiqul Islam Madhu were also present at the press conference. They filed nomination papers from Khulna-3 and Khulna-4 and are now demanding their nomination as 14-party alliance candidates.

The 14-party alliance has fielded Hasina Banu Shirin as its candidate in Khulna-3 but local unit of Jatiyo Party declared her 'unwanted' in Khulna-3.

She has no moral right to contest from any Jatiyo Sangsad seat in Khulna district as she was isolated from politics and people for long 17 years, said JP central organising secretary Gaffar Biswas.

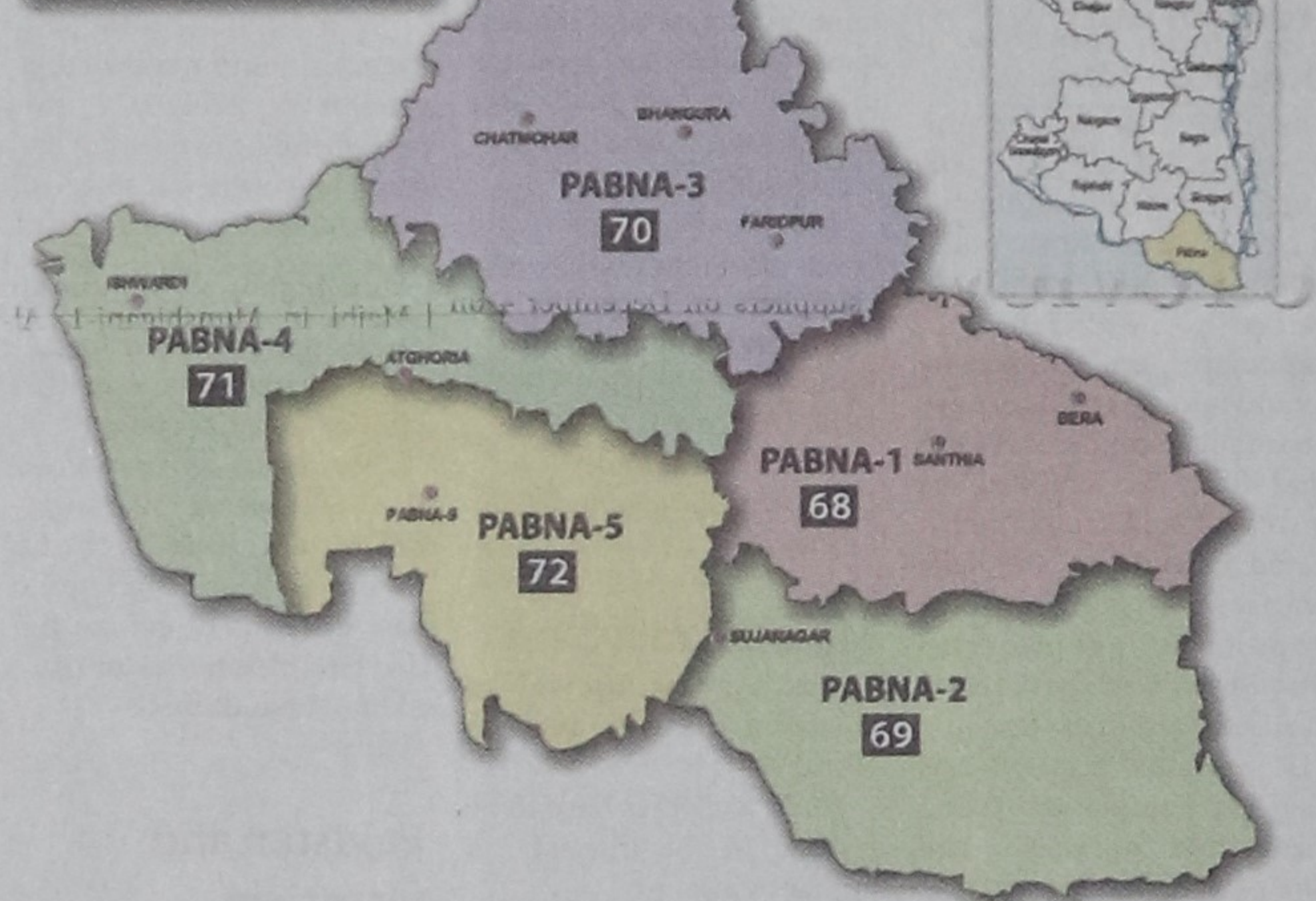
Gaffar Biswas said the JP chairman has taken a suicidal decision by fielding Hasina Banu Shirin in Khulna-3 with recommendation of AL-led 14-party alliance.

"We want to know why JP Chairman favoured a politically isolated woman who will suffer a crushing defeat in polls from Khulna-3", Gaffar Biswas said. When asked, Gaffar Biswas said he would surely win if nominated from this seat.

Hasina Banu Shirin, central JP vice-chairman, was elected lawmaker on JP ticket in 1986 national elections.

She has been fielded in Khulna-3 by dropping prominent Awami League leader Begum Mannujan Sufian and JP leader Abdul Gaffar Biswas.

## Pabna District Constituency Map



## 5 non-graduates among 20 candidates in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

Five candidates in five constituencies in the district, including the presidents of district Awami League and BNP, are non-graduates.

The list also includes a class four-passed person, according to affidavits submitted with the candidates' nomination papers.

However, five lawyers and a few master degree holders are also in the election race in the constituencies.

According to the affidavit, President of Pabna district unit AL and also the AL nominee in Pabna-4 (Ishwardi-Atghoria) Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu passed matriculation while BNP nominee Pabna district BNP President Sirajul Islam Sardar passed the HSC. Krishak Sramik Janata League nominated candidate in the constituency, Md Ataul Hassan is

also an HSC, says the affidavit.

In Pabna-3 (Chatmohar-Vangura-Faridpur) constituency, AL nominee Md Mokbul Hossain mentioned his educational qualification as SSC. Islami Andolon nominated candidate in Pabna-1 (Santhia and Bera) Md Abdul Motin passed class four, says his affidavit.

Motiur Rahman Nizami, ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and four-party alliance nominee in Pabna-1, mentioned MM Kamil, AL nominee advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku mentioned M Com LLB, NPP nominee advocate Rejaul Karim mentioned LLB as their educational qualification.

The BNP nominee in Pabna-2, AKM Salim Reza Habib mentioned MA, LLB while LDP nominee for the constituency Ismat Jerin Khan mentioned MA, MIPP.

The BNP nominee in Pabna-3 constituency, Saiful Azam is an aeronautical engineer, Gonotoni party candidate Md Khairul Alam a BSC, Jatiyo party candidate Abdus Sattar an LLB, Jaker Party candidate Asad-uz-Zaman a BA (Pass) and BJP candidate Mir Nadim Mohammed Dablu a graduate (Pass), say their affidavits.

In Pabna-5 (Sadar), all the five persons on the election race are graduates or above, sources said. AL nominee Golam Faruk Khondoker Prince mentioned MSS, four-party alliance nominee Jamaat leader Md Abdus Sobhan mentioned Kamil, Jatiyo Party nominee advocate Abdul Motin mentioned M.Com LLB, Islami Andolon candidate Arif Billah mentioned M.Com and JSD nominee Md Sahadat Hossain mentioned BA (Pass) as their educational qualification in the affidavit attached with their nomination papers.

nominee for Chittagong-8 (Kotwali) constituency. Eminent scientist Prof Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam urged the politicians to keep in mind their pledges after being elected.

Parishad President Mohammad Kalimullah chaired the dialogue where civil society representative Dr Jinobodhi, Jatiyo Party leaders Mazharul Hoque Shah, women leader Nilufar Momen, panel mayor Rekha Alam Chowdhury and sports personality Didarul Alam Chowdhury spoke, among others.

## Ctg candidates pledge to develop port city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Candidates from different political parties have pledged to work for development of the port city as commercial capital of the country in true sense if they win the upcoming parliamentary election.

They were addressing a dialogue organised by Chittagong Division Development Parishad at Chittagong Press Club on Saturday when Parishad leaders placed 45-point demand including development of the port city as commercial capital, establishment of World Trade Centre

and renovation of Chaktai canal to solve waterlogging.

Speakers at the dialogue urged effective coordination among different vital government organizations like Chittagong City Corporation, Chittagong Development Authority, Water and Sewerage Authority and Power Development Board.

BNP candidate Abdullah Al Noman of Chittagong-9 (Double Mooring) said Chittagong was declared as commercial capital of the country during the tenure of BNP government.

All the reasonable demands

would be met if his party is voted to power again, the former minister said.

Awami League (AL) candidate Abdus Salam said if elected, his party would do everything necessary for real development of Chittagong.

"If elected, I will take special plans for developing Chittagong as real commercial capital. A riverside city would be developed near the Karnaphuli, where all facilities for civic life including education, health and recreation will be available," said industrialist Shamsul Alam, BNP

nominee for Chittagong-8 (Kotwali) constituency.

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## The poorest and the richest candidates in Khulna

AMANULLAH, Khulna

Grand Alliance candidate and prominent Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Sohrab Ali Sana who is contesting in Khulna-6 (Koira-Paigachha) constituency is the poorest candidate among 38 candidates in six constituencies here.

On the other hand, Sharif Shah Kamal Taj, a newcomer in BNP politics who is contesting in Khulna-4 (Rupsha-Terokhedha-Digholia) constituency is the richest of all other candidates.

Sana's annual income is Tk 48,000 only from agricultural source and Tk 1,37,000 from his legal practice, according to his affidavit submitted to the returning officer.

He has a bank balance of Tk 642 only. Valuation of his immovable property has been shown at Tk 3,50,000 while the valuation of his wife's gold ornament is shown at Tk 1,80,000.

His wife also owns 12-bigha agricultural land and nine-katha non-agricultural land.

On the other hand, richest candidate Taj earns Tk 80 lakh 70,000 annually from his business and as director of Market Access Company.

He has a bank balance of Tk 11,05,427, immovable property of Tk 13,96,153, share of Tk 18,83,400, prize bond worth Tk 10 lakh, Tk 3,20,249 FDR, Tk 40,000 furniture and Tk 8,17,402 lakh in bank account of his wife who also owns 10-tola gold ornament and share of Tk four lakh, according to the affidavit.

Taj also owns a private car worth Tk 24 lakh but he does not own any movable property, the affidavit said.

## KUSHTIA-4 JP candidate 'unwanted' by 14-party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Leaders and activists of 14-party alliance at a press conference declared Jatiyo Party (JP-Ershad) nominee Abdul Awal Mia unwanted in Kushtia-4 (Khoksa-Kumarkhali) constituency.

JP on Friday announced its presidium member Abdul Awal as their candidate in the seat as a component of the grand alliance.

Earlier, Awami League (AL) nominated Sultana Tarun as their candidate in the seat.

The press conference was held at Kumarkhali upazila unit AL office on Saturday evening. Leaders of 14-parties including deprived AL nominee Sultana Tarun were present there.

Other leaders included Kumarkhali upazila AL general secretary Abdul Mannan, Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Kumarkhali upazila unit convener Abul Mansur Majnu, Communist Party of Bangladesh Kumarkhali upazila unit general secretary Nazrul Islam, Workers Party leader Abdul Haq, AL Kumarkhali vice-president Abdur Rahim Joarder, joint-secretary Naba Kumar Dutt, Kumarkhali Town AL secretary Abdur Razzak.

The 14-party alliance leaders urged not to give this seat to JP candidate as, according to them, he has no chance to win the seat. The 14-party alliance leaders declared that they would not work for JP leader Awal.

Sultana Tarun, wife of former AL lawmaker in the constituency Abdul Hossain Tarun contested in the seat in 2001 election and defeated BNP candidate Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi.

## JS CONTESTANTS IN RAJSHAHI 4 still face corruption, criminal charges

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The contestants in the ensuing Jatiya Sangsad election from Rajshahi constituencies include at least four who are still accused in different corruption and criminal cases.

The four are former BNP lawmakers Mizanur Rahman Minu and Kabir Hossain, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) nominees -- Mohammad Mohsin Pramanik at Rajshahi-4 and Abul Kalam Azad at Rajshahi-5.

The facts were revealed in the affidavits given by the candidates.

Minu, BNP aspirant from Rajshahi-2 constituency is now in jail and is likely to be freed any time.

In his affidavit Minu stated that he is still accused in five cases while he was acquitted in an extortion case in which he was sentenced to 13 years in jail. He also mentioned that he was cleared of charges in two cases including a murder case.

On Thursday, he was granted bail in two graft cases that are still under trial.

Of the five other cases Minu is still facing trail, one for graft and one for tax dodging have been stayed by the high court.



MIZANUR RAHMAN



KABIR HOSSAIN

Former BNP lawmaker Kabir Hossain is now vying from Rajshahi-3 constituency.

He stated that he was accused in a criminal case with Puthia thana filed in December 1998 under sections 143, 188, 353, 283, 506 and 114 of Penal Code. Trial against him in the case has been scheduled for January 1, 2009.

Mohammad Mohsin Pramanik is an accused in a murder case and the case is now under trial at high court.

Abul Kalam Azad is an accused in a case lodged under Explosives Act and the case has been stayed by the high court.



SAJEDA CHOWDHURY



SHAMA OBAID

## Shama poses challenge to AL stalwart Sajeda

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Contest between two women candidates from two major parties- Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and BNP nominee former lawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman's young daughter Shama Obaid in Faridpur -2 is getting heat day by day.

BNP's young face Shama Obayed, daughter of former lawmaker late KM Obayedur Rahman is putting up a formidable challenge to Awami League presidium member elderly Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

This is for the first time two women are on the race from the constituency comprising Nagarkanda, Saltha and Krishnapur union of Sadarpur. Sajeda Chowdhury has the long colourful political career and personal image to her credit while Shama is going door-to-door and appealing for votes capitalising on the image of his late father.

Sajeda is not wasting time as her young challenger will bag huge number of sympathy votes.

Sajeda Chowdhury competed with KM Obayedur Rahman for the parliamentary election three times but came out victorious once.

## Khagrachhari AL, BNP reject party nominees

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Leaders and activists of Awami League and BNP in Khagrachhari are unhappy as both the parties have fielded new faces in the constituency in the upcoming national election.

Nominees of both the parties are facing adverse situations as district committees declared them 'unwanted' and have decided to support rebel candidates.

AL nominated Zatindra Lal Tripura while BNP fielded former chairman of Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Samiron Dewan in the hill district constituency.

Though Zatindra Lal Tripura is president of district AL, he was declared 'unwanted' after the nomination was announced.

District AL secretary Mohammad Zahedul Alam, who submitted nomination papers as an independent candidate, enjoys support of majority of party leaders and activists, party sources said.

Expressing frustration, district AL press secretary Prof Samir Datta Chakma said the grand alliance may lose the seat because of feud in the party, fuelled by nomination to Zatindra. Zahedul Alam would not have submitted nomination had the party central leaders taken into consideration opinion of majority party men, he said.

Likewise, BNP high command has also chosen Samiron Dewan ignoring grassroots leaders suggestion. The grassroots leaders favoured former lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan, or his nephew district Jubo Dal

vice-president Md. Daudul Islam Bhuiyan. The suggestion was made at a party meeting held on November 28.

Wadud Bhuiyan's nomination paper was cancelled as he is convicted to 20 years' imprisonment for amassing illegal wealth.

Criticizing BNP decision, Wadud Bhuiyan's nephew Daudul Islam Bhuiyan said Samiron Dewan was nominated ignoring suggestion of grassroots leaders. "He (Samiron) is not even a member of district BNP nor of any of its front organizations", Daud said.

Terminating nomination of Samiron a conspiracy, Daud express his determination to contest in the polls as an independent candidate, making BNP's hope to retain the seat uncertain.



SAMIRON DEWAN



DAUDUL ISLAM



ZAHEDUL ALAM



ZATINDRA LAL

## ELECTION EXPENSES

## 5 RU teachers, 2 RMCH docs back Jamaat candidate

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Five Rajshahi University (RU) teachers and two Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) physicians are voluntarily bearing election expenditure of Jamaat-e-Islami candidate Ataur Rahman who is contesting in Rajshahi-2 and 3 constituencies.

In his affidavit, Rajshahi city Jamaat Amir Ataur Rahman, also assistant headmaster of Rajshahi Lohkath High School, stated that his election expenditure is Tk 8.95 lakh.

Of the amount, Rahman will spend Tk 25,000 from his own income as teacher and agriculturist.

RU Science Faculty dean Dr Abul Hashem and Prof M Nazrul Islam will donate him Tk 1.50 lakh each, he said.



ATAUR RAHMAN

RU Commerce Faculty dean Dr M Umar Ali of Binodhpur Bazar will donate him Tk 1 lakh while RU teachers -- Dr Nazrul Islam and M Nurul Islam will donate Tk 50,000 each, he said.

RMCH physicians Dr Fatema Siddika of Gynecology Department and Dr M Zahangir of

Pharmacology Department will donate Tk 70,000 and Tk 50,000 respectively,

the Jamaat leaders said. Besides his employment at RMCH, Dr M Zahangir also serves as superintendent of Islami Bank Medical College and Hospital (IBMCH) which is the source of income of many Jamaat donors. Dr M Umar Ali and Nazrul Islam are also holding honorary posts at the private hospital.

Ataur's son-in-law Emaj Uddin Mondol, also city Jamaat publicity secretary and administrative officer of IBMCH will provide him Tk 30,000, according to the affidavit.

The Jamaat leader further said his brother Aminul Islam will give him Tk 70,000 and he will get Tk 1.50 lakh from his party.