



# ELECTION 2008

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2008



## A PIROJPUR-3 RUNNER'S AFFIDAVIT Farazi spends more than he earns

ARIF MOSTOFA, Pirojpur

The annual income of independent candidate in Pirojpur-3 (Mathbaria and Telikhali union of Bhandaria) Rustam Ali Farazi is Tk 67,519 but his expenditure is Tk 1,20,000.

It was found in his wealth and annual income-expenditure statement. Farazi has planned to spend Tk 7.5 lakh on election. Of the amount Tk two lakh will come from his own fund.

BNP reform Rustam Ali Farazi was denied party ticket. In the affidavit submitted with the nomination paper Farazi mentioned that eight cases were filed against him at different times. However, he has been acquitted in some of the cases. He mentioned private

medicine practice as his profession.

When contacted over phone Rustam Ali Farazi said for the last one and half years he had to be on the feet. As a result his expenditure was more than his income. He said he would use Tk 2.5 lakh earned from agriculture, medical practice and honourarium he got as a lawmaker. Besides his close friend Dr Khalilur Rahman has contributed Tk two lakh to his election fund and his wife's friend Lutfun Nahar Mita gave Tk three lakh.

General secretary of Mathbaria BNP told this correspondent over phone that Farazi is a corrupt person. He said local people's representatives protested against his corruption while he was an MP.



Candidates' posters flood Rajshahi city areas as polls campaign gains momentum. PHOTO: AZHAR UDDIN

## Jamaat men's eye camp for freedom fighters!

'Election tactics' in Rajshahi-2 sparks protest

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The authorities of Rajshahi Islami Bank Medical College Hospital (IBMCH) dominated by Jamaat people has organised a free eye camp for freedom fighters on the Victory Day today to fool freedom fighters as well as deceive voters.

About 200 freedom fighters at a meeting held at Miapara General Library auditorium here Sunday strongly condemned the move saying it was aimed at humiliating freedom fighters.

Badiuzzaman Tunu, Bir Protik, chaired the meeting.

Speakers said the killers and collaborators of 1971 organised the eye camp with an ulterior motive to create confusion among freedom fighters ahead of general elections.

They called upon the voters to vote for Grand Alliance candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha in Rajshahi-2 constituency and its other candidates in other constituencies to thwart the evil design of anti-liberation forces.

Among others, Fazle Hossain Badsha, eminent freedom fighters Dr Emdadul

Haque, Shafikur Rahman, Motahar Hossain, Hamidul Haque and Malek Chowdhury addressed.

Interestingly, the IBMCH advertisement was first published at the highest circulated local Bengali daily Sonali Sangbad owned by Grand Alliance candidate Badsha Later, the advertisement was published on other local newspapers.

In the advertisement, IBMCH wished a happy Eid to freedom fighters asking them to enrol themselves for free eye operation at the camp to be held at the hospital.

Islami Bank Foundation is financing the camp for welfare of freedom fighters, the advertisement said.

'The eye camp is nothing but an election tactic to distract voters who feel proud of Liberation War', said Mahtab Uddin, a prominent freedom fighter here.

'Jamaat men are fully aware that their existence is at stake', he said. 'So, they have adopted the deceptive tactic to allure voters', he said.

Those who killed freedom fighters during Liberation War are now showing sympathy to

them,' Rajshahi Muktiyudho Pathagar general secretary Dr Sayed Shafikul Alam said.

However, the IBMCH authorities said the eye camp has nothing to do with election.

Dr Muhammad Jahangir of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) Pharmacology Department is conducting the camp, IBMCH sources said. He is also superintendent of IBMCH and is funding election expense of Jamaat candidate Aatur Rahman in Rajshahi-3 constituency.

However, Dr Jahangir could not be reached over phone although this correspondent tried in vain to contact him several times. Talking to The Daily Star, IBMCH administrative officer ASM Mamun Shahin said the camp is in no way related to election.

Jamaat is supporting BNP nominees in five constituencies here although the party fielded its own candidate besides the BNP candidate at one seat here.

When asked about publication of the advertisement on his own newspaper, Badsha said he would inquire into the matter.

## TWO FORMER JP MPs OF GAIBANDHA Failing to get ticket, they now to contest UZ poll

K M REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Failing to get grand alliance ticket for the December 29 parliament election, two former lawmakers of Jatiya Party have filed nomination papers for upazilla chairman.

JP high command earlier nominated party Joint Secretary General former lawmaker Wahiduzzaman Sarker and JP Gaibandha district president former lawmaker Abdur Rashid Sarker for Gaibandha-1 (Sunderganj) and Gaibandha-2 (Sadar) constituencies to contest for the parliament election.

Wahiduzzaman became lawmaker in 1996 polls as JP nominee from Gaibandha-1, but run second in 2001 general election being defeated by four-party alliance candidate Jamaat leader Moulana Abdul Aziz.

Abdur Rashid Sarker won Gaibandha-2 seat for two terms as JP nominee. In 2001 national election AL candidate Lutfar Rahman defeated Abdur Rashid by narrow margin of 1,079 votes. Earlier, Lutfar Rahman won the seat three terms.

On the date of election symbol disbursement, JP high ups asked district returning officer of Gaibandha not to issue 'plough' symbol to anyone who was contesting as JP candidate from Gaibandha-2.

Prior to filing nomination papers for the parliament election JP high ups nominated two candidates from Gaibandha-1 constituency -- former lawmaker Wahiduzzaman Sarker and 'new face' Col (rttd) Abdul Kader Khan.

JP high command later withdrew Wahiduzzaman from the polls race.

TANGAIL -4

## Latif's withdrawal to better Azad's chance

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The withdrawal of nomination paper by Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) candidate Shamim-al-Monsur Azad Siddiqui in Tangail-4 (Kalihati) constituency has brightened the prospect of Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance candidate in the upcoming national election.

The grand alliance has nominated AL's central leader Abdul Latif Siddiqui for the constituency, and he (Latif) will now fight BNP-led four-party candidate industrialist Lutfar Rahman Maun.

In 2001 election, Latif Siddiqui lost to BNP candidate Shajahan Siraj with a margin of 5138 votes as his younger brother KSJL President Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam sliced away 13,747 votes as KSJL candidate.

This time also, Kader Siddiqui and his younger brother Azad Siddiqui, joint convener of Tangail district unit of KSJL, submitted their nomination papers for the constituency as KSJL candidates.

But during the scrutiny, the Election Commission did not accept the nomination paper of Kader Siddiqui as his (Kader) name was in the second position in the serial of the party nominations.

Azad Siddiqui withdrew his nomination paper on the last day for withdrawal.



Latif

Azad

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