



TALE OF 2 FORMER LAWMAKERS IN SATKHIRA BNP, Jamaat contestants charge-sheeted accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira district BNP president who went into hiding soon after declaration of emergency to avoid arrest and Jamaat-e-Islami central leader, arrested by joint forces earlier, are in the race for two Jatiya Sangsad seats in the district. Both are former lawmakers.

The two are charge-sheeted accused, one in a murder case and the other for ill-gotten wealth.

BNP leader Habibul Islam Habib and Jamaat leader Gazi Nazrul Islam submitted nomination papers from Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) from Satkhira-5 (Shyamnagar upazila) and eight unions in Kaliganj upazila respectively. They were also elected from the constituencies in 2001 election.

Police on January 13 press charges against Habib for his involvement in the murder of Tala upazila BNP president A B M Altaf Hossain. He was killed when miscreants threw bombs on him at Patkelghata bazaar in Tala on the night of May 4, 2004. Another BNP worker, Habibur Rahman, was also killed in the attack.



Habibul Islam Habib Gazi Nazrul Islam

Habib came to Satkhira after getting bail granted by the High Court on November 14.

The submitted charge sheet pressing charges against former Jamaat lawmaker

Gazi Nazrul Islam faces Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) charge sheet, filed on December 2, for amassing wealth worth Tk 40,05,551 beyond his legal sources of income and concealing wealth information.

Nazrul was detained by joint forces on March 9 last year and released on bail on February 4.

On contact, both Habib and Nazrul claimed that the cases filed against them are false.

Six seats that still elude AL in Ctg

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Leaders, activists and supporters of Awami League (AL) here hope to have the last laugh this time in two of the six constituencies in Chittagong where victory eluded them in last three parliamentary elections.

The six out of previous 15 seats never won by AL are: Chittagong-4 (Hathazari), Chittagong-5 (earlier), Chittagong-9 (Double-mooring, Chittagong-8 earlier), Chittagong-7 (Boalkhali-Chandgaon, Chittagong-10 earlier), Chittagong-11 (Patiya, also Chittagong-11 earlier), Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish, also Chittagong-13 earlier) and Chittagong-14 (Satkania, also Chittagong-14 earlier).

Former BNP whip Syed Wahidul Alam won the last three elections from Hathazari (Chittagong-4) and is looking forward to clinch the fourth win in a row. In 2001, he got 84,063 votes and defeated AL candidate advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul (73,938 votes).

This time, Jatiya Party leader Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud is contesting from the seat as a grand alliance candidate with 'plough' symbol.

But local AL leaders and supporters are frustrated for



Anisul Islam Shamsul Alam Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmad Abdullah Al Noman Dr Afsarul Amin

not getting nomination for MA Salam, general secretary of Chittagong north district AL.

Sources said the sentiment of Hathazari AL leaders, activists and supporters are by and large not favourable for Anis as they are visibly away from campaign for him.

The battle in Chittagong-9 (Doublemooring-Pahartali) will be interesting as four heavyweights are there. They are BNP's big shot but new face there Abdullah Al Noman, city AL's joint secretary and old candidate Dr Afsarul Amin, JP's new face Morshed Murad Ibrahim and ward councillor and influential independent M Monzur Alam.

Earlier, BNP leader and former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, who is now contesting from Chittagong-10 (Bandar-Patenga) seat, won the seat in last two polls in 1996 and 2001. BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia won the seat in 1991 election.

Sources said the constituency is known as a stronghold

of both Amir Khosru and Dr Afsarul. BNP candidate and former minister Noman is an 'outsider' in Chittagong-9; and AL leaders and supporters are hoping to cash in on that point. Despite defeat twice, Dr Afsarul always maintained a close link with the people of the constituency.

AL supporters believe that voters this time may change their stance in favour of AL candidate by remembering the acute water-logging problem and lack of development in the past in the area.

There are mixed views whether JSD central leader and freedom fighter Moinuddin Khan Badal, who is vying with poll symbol 'boat' as a grand alliance candidate, would be able to make any dent in Chittagong-7. Some AL leaders are confident that voters would reject 4-party alliance candidate Md Ershadullah this time in Chittagong-7 (Boalkhali-Chandgaon) seat.

'Boalkhali AL leaders, activists and supporters are united for grand alliance

candidate Badal who is a well known national leader, progressive and well-educated person," said Moslemuddin Ahmad, general secretary of south Chittagong district AL.

In absence of convicted former minister M Morshed Khan, BNP chose young leader Ershadullah this time. But he is facing 'strong opposition' from within the party. Besides, BNP-backed independent candidate and Morshed loyalist ward councillor Mahbulul Alam is also in the race there.

Sources said Morshed Khan wanted to see his elder sister Lutfunnessa in the race for the seat with BNP ticket. Failing to get that, he is backing Mahbulul Alam, some sources claimed. AL leaders hope this disadvantage for Ershadullah may be an advantage for Badal eventually.

BNP candidate Gazi Shahjahan Jewel won from Chittagong-11 (Patiya) in 2001 and 1996. Late BNP leader Shahnewaj Chowdhury won it in 1991. AL candidate Shamsul

Haq Chowdhury may try to exploit the large number of minority voters and the all-out support from all other parties including JP in the constituency. Besides, Shamsul always maintains close links with people and area, locals said.

The electoral fight in Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish) and Chittagong-14 (Satkania-Lohagra) will be tripartite and chances in these two constituencies for AL candidates are 50-50, believes AL leader Moslem.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Chief Col (ret) Oli Ahmad, AL leader Engineer Afsaruddin Ahmed and BNP leader Mizanul Hoque Chowdhury are battling in Chittagong-13.

Contestants in Chittagong-14 are Col Oli, AL's advocate AKM Sirajul Islam and Chittagong city Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer ANM Shamsul Islam.

LDP chief Col (ret) Oli Ahmad won the seat in 2001, 1996 and 1991 with BNP tickets earlier. He also won once in Chittagong-14 seat.

AL leaders hoped that Engineer Afsar, who lost to Col Oli by a margin of over 12,000 votes in 2001, has a very good chance this time because of the split in BNP voters. A large section of BNP leaders and supporters are supporting Oli, they claimed.

No pledge is better than false pledge

Grand alliance's Mojibar proves it six times in Lalmonirhat-2

ABDUR ROB SUJON, Lalmonirhat

Grand alliance candidate in Lalmonirhat-2 constituency (Aditmari-Kaliganj) Jatiya party presidium member Mojibar Rahman never gives any pledge to his electorate yet he has been elected MP six times consecutively since 1979.

Mojibar does not either have any big achievement to his credit. Jatiya Party does not have any committee based strong organization in the constituency but he hopes to win again as a grand alliance candidate.

A spot visit to the constituency on December 12 and talks with him revealed the secret behind his victory. A schoolteacher and freedom fighter of Aditmari upazila Abdul Mannan Sarker Badu said, "People elect him time and again as there is no better candidate available. Awami League's internal feud in

Aditmari and Kaliganj upazilas is another cause of his win."

Mannan Sarker Badu said, as he did make no pledge to the people, he has no accountability to them either. This kind of candidates are political opportunists.

Asked whether he would vote Mojibar this time Mannan Sarker said, "I will tell people to vote him as a candidate of pro-liberation Grand Alliance. Here the Grand Alliance and national interest will get preference over individual candidate."

Another schoolteacher and freedom fighter of Aditmari Kamrini Kumar Roy said, "It will not be right to vote for a candidate who does not have any electoral manifesto or pledges." Explaining the secret behind Mojibar's winning six consecutive terms he said, "Mojibar does not have any achievement but he does not harm anybody."

He also said, "This time we want to cast vote for him as he

is the candidate of Grand Alliance."

A businessman of Aditmari Waliul Alam Pulu said, Mojibar Rahman MP is the beneficiary of 30-year long political failure of major parties and their internal feud.

Mojibar Rahman said, "Due to my popularity and reputation Awami League and BNP have repeatedly offered me to join their respective parties."

Asked what type of preparation Jatiya Party has for making his success Mojibar Rahman said, "Now there is no committee of Jatiya Party in Aditmari and Kaliganj upazilas. Common people and general workers and supporters of the party will work for me spontaneously like in the past. As I am the candidate of the Grand Alliance the Awami League workers will work for me. I would have won even I ran as an independent candidate."



Posters of 4-party candidate Lt Gen (ret) Mahbubur Rahman and grand alliance candidate Khalid Mahmud being pasted in Biral bazaar in Dinjapur-2 yesterday, violating poll code.

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267 polling centers risky in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 267 out of 537 polling centers in all four constituencies in Satkhira district are 'risky', sources in intelligence agencies said.

The 'risky' centres have been identified by Special Branch of police, they said.

The matter has been communicated to higher authorities. According to the sources, 128 polling centers out of 231 are risky in Sadar upazila, 34 out of 66 in Kalaroa upazila, 32 out of 78 in Tala upazila, 49 out of 82 in Assasuni upazila, 11 out of 29 in Debhata upazila, 30 out of 68 in Kaliganj upazila and 8 out of 83 centers in Shyamnagar upazila have been identified as risky.

RANGPUR-6 Renegade Mondol to face Hasina again

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

BNP candidate in Rangpur-6 constituency and former JP MP Noor Mohammad Mondol possesses some agricultural lands, furniture, two refrigerators, one generator and a jeep, according to the statement he made in the affidavit submitted with his nomination paper.

Noor Mohammad Mondol was elected lawmaker in 1996 and 2001 from Rangpur-6 with Jatiya Party ticket.

In 2001, he defeated Awami League president Sheikh Hasina. He will face Hasina in the upcoming election also, now as a BNP nominee.

He showed in his affidavit that he earns Tk. 1,00,000 from agriculture and Tk.

80,000 annually from house rent.

Noor Mondol said, he borrowed two-lakh taka from his wife to meet his poll expenses.

According to the statement, his wife possesses assets worth about Tk 40 lakh and a fish farm covering 40 bighas of land.

Noor Mondol said, he did not have any commitment to the people of the constituency in previous elections.

He stated that he was accused in a case filed with Pirganj police station.

But locals in Pirganj said, Noor Mohammad had made commitments to people to construct the incomplete Katchdaha Bridge over Karatoa river but it was not fulfilled.

Samiron ready to do politics under Wadud

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Four-party Alliance nominee and BNP leader Samiron Dewan at a meeting held at Khagrachhari Town Hall yesterday announced his readiness to do politics under leadership of former lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan.

If voted to power, Samiron promised to remove all discriminations between Bengali and Indigenous people.

District BNP leader Mohammad Mofizur Rahman presided the meeting.

Samiron also promised to reform the Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) and to activate the CHT Land Commission to resolve the land disputes and settle all the landless people in the hill district.

Meanwhile, the 101-member district BNP committee was abolished and its members joined rebel candidate Daudul Islam Bhuiyan, also nephew of former lawmaker Wadud, who is contesting as an independent candidate.

AL FILES COMPLAINT IN NILPHAMARI-4 JP man's claim as grand alliance candidate false

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Local Awami League (AL) yesterday brought charge of code of conduct violation against Jatiyo Party (JP) candidate Sawkat Choudhury in Nilphamari-4 constituency.

In the complaint to the Returning Officer, AL leaders alleged that the JP candidate is cheating voters by saying that he is a grand alliance candidate, which is not true.

They said Nilphamari-4 (Saidpur and part of Kishoreganj upazila) is one of the three constituencies in the country kept open for JP and AL candidates separately.

Shariful Islam, convener of AL candidate Col. (Rtd) Maruf Saqlain's polls campaign committee, told this correspondent that he (Shariful) lodged a complaint against Sawkat.

Sawkat Chowdhury got



Sawkat Choudhury

'plough' symbol as a JP nominee.

Saqlain is campaigning with 'boat' symbol.

A total of five candidates are in the election race in the constituency. The three others are Amzad Hossain Sarkar of four-party alliance, Sadrul Islam of Islami Andolon and Monsura Rahman of NAP.

Kishoreganj Upazila Awami League secretary

Zakir Hossain said the JP candidate, in campaign through loud speakers and in meetings and processions, identify himself as grand alliance candidate. "He is not a grand alliance candidate. He is cheating voters", Zakir said.

Saidpur municipal AL secretary Mozammel Haque also alleged that claims himself to be grand alliance candidate during campaign.

But Kishoreganj Upazila Jatiyo Party president Rashidul Islam said there is no question of violation of code of conduct by Sawkat Chowdhury. "He is a grand alliance candidate and we have written papers in this regard", he added.

Contacted, district Election Officer Sakander Ali said proper action will be taken after investigation if any candidate violates code of conduct.

JHENIDAH-1 BNP candidate boycotted by party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

BNP nominee in Jhenidah-1 constituency Abdul Wahab is facing strong opposition from his party men, local BNP leaders said.

BNP is divided into two factions, one led by former lawmaker Abdul Wahab and the other by Shaikupa upazila BNP secretary Amjad Hossain.

Abdul Wahab was elected from Jhenidah-1 (Shaikupa) in 1996 election but lost to Awami League's Abdul Hye in 2001.

Shaikupa Pura BNP organising secretary Mizanur Rahman told this correspondent that party men are not with Wahab as he was detached from them after 1/11.

Alal Uddin, BNP leader and acting chairman No-6 Sarutia Union Parishad in Shaikupa said, they have not yet taken any decision to support Wahab.

Abul Hossain of Monoharpur UP and Abdul Bari Molla of Dhalahara UP also echoed the same sentiment.

Shaikupa upazila BNP secretary Amjad Hossain said party men in the area have already boycotted Wahab and will not vote for him.



If voted to power they all pledge to implement their poll manifestos and root out corruption. It happened when candidates of different parties gathered together on the same dais in Bogra-4 constituency yesterday. ACC officials, UNO and president of local corruption resistance committee joined them.

Flurry of poll pledges in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates in Rajshahi constituencies yesterday pledged that if elected they will work for more development of Rajshahi.

They also promised to free Rajshahi city of corruption, drug, terrorism and violence.

The candidates in Rajshahi constituencies said this at a daylong dialogue on "Rajshahi Unnayan: Chai Somonito Nagorik Uddog" at Nanking Darbar Hall yesterday.

"Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad" organised the dialogue.

After the inaugural session, an open discussion was held where the members of the civil society in Rajshahi criticised former lawmaker and candidates saying that they did not

speak on Rajshahi issues and people's demands in the Parliament.

They said earlier lawmakers several times pledged to the residents of Rajshahi to supply natural gas through pipeline but they did not fulfil the election pledge.

Grand alliance candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha in Rajshahi-2 constituency also gave importance on supply of natural gas through pipeline in Rajshahi and better communication between Dhaka and Rajshahi.

Four party alliance candidate Dr Enamul Haque in Rajshahi-1 constituency urged all section of people to work together for more development of Rajshahi.

Four party alliance candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu

in Rajshahi-2 seat said that if elected, he will take long-term project for development of Rajshahi and ensuring supply of natural gas through pipeline in the area.

Communist Party candidate Enamul Haque in Rajshahi-2 constituency said that if elected he will work for strengthening local government and take initiative against corruption.

Enamul said that he will also take measure to establish a corruption, terrorism and drug free Rajshahi city.

Bikalpo Dhara candidate Maskawath Ahsan in Rajshahi-6 constituency said that if elected, he will launch development-based politics, make Rajshahi an information and technology city and establish agro-

based industries.

Independent candidate Sarder Amzad Hossain in Rajshahi-4 constituency said that if elected he will increase Rajshahi district and city corporation area, establish fertilizer industry, ensure minority religious rights and establish corruption free society.

JSD (Rob) candidate Nurul Islam Master in Rajshahi-6 constituency said that if elected he will ensure poor people's rights.

Zamat Khan, convener of Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad presided over the dialogue.

Shah Azam Santonu presented the keynote paper while Dr Shamsul Alam Bir Protik moderated the programme.