

## ELECTION 2008

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2008



# Rangamati may witness a triangular fight

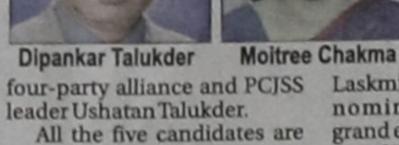
SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

With Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) participating in the parliamentary election in Chittagong Hill Tracts for the first time, Rangamati constituency may see a triangular

fight, political analysts said. In the past, support from the PCJSS, a regional organisation of the indigenous people in CHT, helped Awami League to win in the seat but this time PCISS leaders Ushatan Talukder in Rangamati and KS Moung in Bandarban are vying as independent candidates for the upcoming election.

Five persons are contesting in Rangamati but the contest will be mainly limited to three candidates -- Dipankar Talukder from Awami League and Moitree Chakma from the





now busy in door-to-door visits to woo 3,31,812 voters in the constituency. In 1996, Rangamati AL chief

Dipankar Talukder as party nominee was elected lawmaker from the constituency. Dipankar, however, failed

to get party nomination for January 2007 parliament election (later cancelled) and filed nomination as an independent candidate.

That time PCJSS top leader Swapan in 2001 election.



Laskmi Prasad Chakma got nomination from AL-led grand electoral alliance. PCJSS assumes greater

importance for the contenders before national elections. During the AL government from 1996 to 2001, disagreement arose between Dipankar and PCJSS chief Santu Larma cen-

peace accord and Dipankar became unpopular to PCJSS. Consequently, Dipankar was defeated to four-party alliance candidate Moni

tion instead of Delwar Hossain

tring implementation of CHT

PCJSS contestant Ushatan Talukder has pledged to establish lasting peace through full implementation of CHT peace deal, bridging gap between indigenous and Bangali people through ensuring communal harmony and overall socio-economic development of the hill people.

Still hopeful of win, Dipankar Talukder has pledged setting up a science and technology university and a medical college and work for infrastructure development in the hill district.

Four-party alliance candidate Moitree Chakma, the lone indigenous woman candidate in CHT, is also conducting campaign in full swing. She has pledged ensuring balanced development and communal harmony in the region and empowerment of women.

344 Dinajpur

vulnerable

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Dinajpur

upazilas.

polling centres

Three hundred forty-four

polling centres have been

identified as risky in 13

and 16 in Kaharol of Dinajpur-1

constituency, 26 in Biral, 21 in

Bochaganj upazila in

Dinajpur-2, 42 in Dinajpur

Sadar (Dinajpur-3), 19 in

Khanshama and 26 in

Chirirbandar of Dinajpur-4, 37

in Parbatipur and 32 in

Phulbari of Dinajpur-5, 27 in

Nawabganj, 31 in Birganj, 14 in

Hakimpur and 23 in Ghoraghat

of Dinajpur-6 constituency,

said sources in District Special

maintain law and order in all the

of police (SP) Kalam Siddiquee.



Four candidates of Chandpur-3 (Sadar and Haimchar) constituency at 'Face the Voters' programme yesterday promised to work for stopping river erosion and uprooting corruption. They are from left: Advocate Selim Akbar of Gano Forum, Hafiz Masud Akhter of Gano Front, Shahjahan Talukder of BSD and Dr Dip Moni of grand alliance.

## FACE THE VOTERS' PROGRAMME IN CHANDPUR-3 Stopping river erosion will be 'first task,' all 4 say

ALAM PALASH, Chandpur

Four candidates in Chandpur-3 constituency in a "Face the Voters" programme Wednesday pledged that if elected their first task would be to check river erosion using all government allocation for The centres are 30 in Birganj the purpose and there will be

no corruption regarding this. The candidates who made the pledge are Grand Alliance candidate and Awami League central women affairs secretary Dr Dipu Moni, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) nominee Md Shahjahan Talukder, Gano Forum's Advocate Selim Akbar and Gano Front candia date Squadron Leader (retd) Hafiz Masud Akhter.

Four organizations including Transparency secretary Dr Badiul Alam

Hafiz Masud Akhter said he Majumder moderated it. Prof Mohammad Hossain Khan presided. More than 2,000 of corruption. At the last phase of the voters-both men and womenfrom different professions

attended the programme. Replying to a question Dr Dipu Moni said, "If I am elected I will work for implementing the party pledges. Besides, have more plans to solve problems faced specially by women. will implement my plans taking people with me."

Advocate Selim Akbar said he would take steps to stop harassment of the fishermen in the name of anti-jatka destruction drives.

said he would work to protect people's rights and to bring down the prices of essentials.

would work for freeing politics

programme Shujon member and veteran journalist Kamaruzzaman Chowdhury gave oath to the candidates. The candidates placed their hands on their breasts pledged they would not indulge in corruption.

Four party alliance candidate district BNP senior vice president GM Fazlul Haque, Bangladesh Torikat Federation nominee Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish's Md Hossain Akhand and Islami Md Shahjahan Talukder Andolon Bangladesh candidate Md Nurul Amin, though invited, did not attend the programme.

SIRAJGANJ-2

### Fight between in-laws puts relatives in dilemma

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Former minister and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Matin) President Dr M A Matin is contesting against his brother-in-law and a former BNP state minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku's wife Romana Mahmud in Sirajganj-2 constituency (Sirajganj sadar).

As a result, relatives and supporters of the two candidates are in dilemma over selecting the right candi-

Both the contestants have already started campaigning including processions, meetings, rallies and mass contact in their electoral areas.

Dr Matin took part as an independent candidate in 2001 election for Sirajganj-7 seat (Shahzadpur) after being failed to get ticket from four-party alliance, while Tuku took part in the race as BNP- led four-party alliance candidate for Sirajganj-2 constituency.

At that time, both the contestants won their seats.

Romana is contesting as the candidate of four-party alliance with Dhaner Shish (paddy sheaf) symbol, as her husband Tuku failed to get nomination following his conviction in a corruption

Romana is a new face in the political arena.

Matin is contesting with Kathal (Jackfruit) symbol under the banner of Bangladesh Jatiya Party.

When contacted, both the contestants said they are hopeful about their victory.

## Rawshan lone woman runner in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Jatiya Party presidium member Rawshan Ershad is the only woman in the district among 70 candidates running for December 29 parliamentary polls. In 1996 election, Jatiya

Party nominee Rawshan Ershad won Mymensingh-4 seat securing 72,130 votes against her nearest rival AL's Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan who got 61,831 votes. BNP candidate late AKM Fazlul Haque was in the third position securing 55,838 votes. This time she is contesting on Grand Alliance ticket.

In 2001 general election, BNP nominee Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu won the race bagging 1,02,016 votes defeating AL candidate Principal Motiur Rahman who secured 83,380 votes. Rawshan Ershad of Jatiya Party got 47,077 votes while Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan, an AL rebel

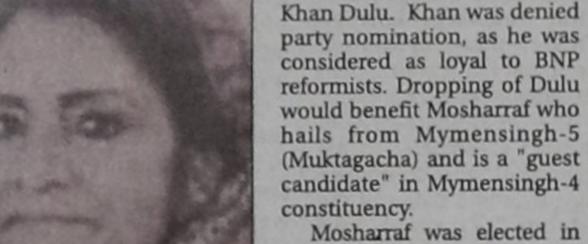


who ran the election as an independent candidate secured 28,893 votes.

This year the scenario is different than that of the past years. For new demarcation of Mymensingh Sadar constituency, five unions of the char areas were taken with Mymensingh-3 (Gouripur) constituency.

It is a big challenge for Rawshan to regain the seat fighting with the BNP candidate former State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain. Mosharraf got party nomina-

we are a second to



2001 and 1996 on BNP ticket from Mymensingh-5 seat. AL leaders and activists was

very hopeful about the nomination of District AL President Principal Motiur Rahman from Mymensingh-4 constituency but at the fag end of the nomination drama, the senior most AL leader was dropped and Rawshan was given grand alliance ticket.

Talking to this correspondent AL supporters said the chances of regaining the seat would be higher if Principal Motiur Rahman was nominated by the Grand Alliance.

### Branch (SB) of Police. Besides police force, patrol police and reserve force will also be deployed in the risky centres to ensure foolproof security and

International, Shujon and Committee for Resisting Corruption arranged the programme at Chandpur Bijoy Mela Mancha from 11 polling centres during election, said Dinajpur superintendent am to 1.30 pm. Shujon general

Work of Taltali Bridge on the Taltali River in Barisal still remains incomplete although three former

lawmakers promised several times to construct the bridge before elections.

## ইংরেজিতে ভিক্ষা

দাদু, আই অ্যাম হাংরি, প্রিজ গিভ মি টু টাকা। হলিক্রস কলেজের সামনে এক বুড়ো ভিক্ষুক বাংলা বাদ দিয়ে ইংরেজিতে ভিক্ষা করছিল মিষ্টি কথায় চিডা না ভিজলেও ইংরেজি কথায় ভালোই পকেট ভরছিল বেচারা। পথিকদের মধ্যে বিভিন্নজন বিভিন্ন মন্তব্য করছিল। একজন বলল, 'হায়রে! কী অবস্থা! ভিক্ষাতেও ইংরেজি, আমরা সবাই ইংরেজি निया अत्नक कालाकालि कित । जिक्क तिकाता की प्राप्त कतल? ইংরেজির গুণে দুটো টাকা বেশি পেলে ক্ষতি কী?

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## EMPTY PROMISES IN BARISAL

## How will they now bridge this gap?

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Construction of Taltali Bridge per cent of related road over the Taltali River has construction work remained incomplete remained unfinished. although the matter was included in the election party alliance government, pledges of three former fresh tender was called on

Rahman Biswas, his son mated cost of Tk 1.19 crore. Nasim Biswas and former Barisal city mayor Mojibor Department (RHD) execu-Rahman Sarwar, who were tive engineer stopped the elected lawmakers in three procedure by issuing a elections in the past, had letter on February 28, 2002. promised construction of Barisal city.

Rahman Biswas initiated a from Tk 1.8 crore to Tk 4.7 project and laid its founda- crore. But the process again tion on February 5, 1995.

order on April 8 in 1996 to bridge. finish its construction

within 15 months. 1.33 crore in October 1999 soon, he said.

when less than 35 per cent work of the bridge and 90 During the BNP-led four-

February 2 in 2002 to com-Former president Abdur plete the project at an esti-But Roads and Highways

Mojibor Rahman Sarwar, the bridge that would help the then BCC mayor and establish a direct road link former lawmaker, inaugufrom Muladi, Hizla and rated resumption of the Mehendiganj upazilas to construction of Taltali Bridge on October 16, 2006 by Former president Abdur extending the project cost

stopped in July this year. Quotation for construc- Executive Engineer of tion of the bridge was called RHD in Barisal said the on February 2 in 1996 at an authorities stopped the estimated cost of Tk 1.83 construction work after crore and Moitry faults were found in the International got work design and structure of the

After clearance from the technical department of But the firm left the RHD, construction work of project after collecting Tk Taltali Bridge will resume

