



### MOMTAZ, ALTAF LOSE HOPE IN BOGRA-6, 7

## Khaleda cause of worries for grand alliance men

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Grand alliance candidates in Bogra-6 and 7 constituencies have almost given up hope of winning the upcoming elections following candidature of BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in the seats.

Awami League Bogra District president Md Momtaz Uddin is the grand alliance candidate in Bogra-6 (Sadar) constituency while in Bogra-7 (Gabtoli) constituency, Jatya Party (JP) leader Altaf Hossain is contesting as the grand alliance nominee.

In the last general election, Khaleda Zia defeated her nearest rival AL's Md Mahubul-Ul-Alam by over 22,350 votes in Bogra-6 constituency.

Four party sources said they hope the party chairperson would secure at least 2,75,000 votes out of a total of 3,12,428 votes in Bogra-6 seat. While talking to this corre-



Khaleda Zia

Momtaz Uddin

Altaf Hossain

spondent over cell phone, AL's Momtaz Uddin said he expects to bag about 1 lakh votes.

When contacted grand alliance candidate JP's Altaf Hossain in Bogra-7 (Gabtoli) seat, said, 'I hope to secure honourable number of votes in the upcoming election.'

A total of 3,71,382 people have been enrolled as voters in this constituency, said sources in Bogra Election Office.

However, in Bogra-1 (Shariakandi-Sonatola) and Bogra-5 (Sherpur-Dhunat) constituencies, it will be difficult for the four-party alliance candidates to win the election due to internal feud in BNP,

factions in Bogra-5 constituency due to nomination of controversial candidate Jan-e-Alam Khoka of BNP.

Former BNP lawmaker of the constituency Golam Mohammed Siraj and other party leaders including its Sherpur town president Mahbubur Rahman Haras and Shafiuzzaman Kakon did not lend support to Khoka.

Meanwhile, AL leaders and activists are now working together in favour of the grand alliance candidate AL leader Habibur Rahman Habib.

Because of fielding of weak candidates by grand alliance in rest three constituencies-Bogra-2, 3 and 4, BNP leaders and activists heaved a sigh of relief.

Grand alliance nominated AL leader Golam Mowla will contest in Bogra-4, Jatya Party (JP) leader Shariful Islam Jinnah in Bogra-2 and JSD leader Rezaul Karim Tansen in Bogra-3 constituency.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia introducing four-party candidate Mohammad Shokrana at Altafunnesa playground in Bogra town on Wednesday. Shokrana, contesting from Bogra-1, was earlier convicted in cases for murder, keeping arms and illegal wealth.

### RPO VIOLATION Tipu Munshi lodges case against Karim Bharsha

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Awami League candidate in Rangpur-4 constituency Tipu Munshi lodged a case with the District Election Enquiry Committee against Jatya Party nominee Karim Uddin Bharsha about violation of Representation of the People Order.

Awami League candidate Tipu Munshi complained that Jatya Party candidate Karim Bharsha violated the RPO 1972 used posters identifying him as grand alliance candidate in Rangpur-4 constituency.

The AL candidate also complained that Karim Bharsha also used photo of grand alliance candidate AL president Sheikh Hasina in his posters.

Tipu in the complaint letter said, Karim Bharsha is the candidate of Jatya Party, not of the grand alliance.

So, he said, identifying himself as a grand alliance candidate and using photo of AL chief Sheikh Hasina by Karim Bharsha is a complete violation of electoral laws.

The probe committee comprising of two joint district judges- Enamul Hoque and Abu Taleb accepted the case and asked the complainant to appear before the committee for hearing.

### Rebeka expects easy win in Netrakona-4

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Awami League-led grand alliance is expecting an easy win in Netrakona-4 (Madan, Mohanganj and Khaliajuri upazilas), where the alliance has filed Rebeka Momin, the wife of late Abdul Momin, a former AL lawmaker from the seat.

She is also the only woman contestant in Netrakona district for the upcoming parliamentary election.

Lt Col (retd) Sayed Ataul Huq is the candidate from BNP-led four-party alliance in the constituency. A 'new face' in politics, he got nomination in absence of former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar.

Alleged corruption, occupying of water bodies and criminal activities of Babar and his men weakened the position of four-party alliance in the constituency.

Of the 2,34,083 voters in the constituency, around 25 per cent belong to the minority community. As they are considered as the 'vote bank' of AL in the area, Rebeka is looking forward to cashing in from it.

## AL, BNP to lock horns in 11 out of 16 Ctg seats

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

Eleven of the 16 constituencies in Chittagong district are going to see the main contest between nominees from BNP and Awami League while candidates from BNP and grand alliance partners are major contenders in two seats.

AL candidates will face major fight with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in one seat and with four-party alliance partner Jamaat in another seat in the district while a triangular fight is likely in one city seat.

Major fight between four-party alliance candidates from BNP and grand alliance candidates from Awami League would take place in six constituencies, out of seven, in Chittagong (North) area.

The seats are Chittagong-1 (Mirer Sarai), Chittagong-2 (Fatikhchhari), Chittagong-3 (Sitakunda and CCC ward No 9 and 10) Chittagong-5 (Raozan), Chittagong-6 and Chittagong-16 (Sandwip).

BNP candidates in these seats are 'new face' Prof Md Kamal Uddin Chowdhury (Chittagong-1), Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (Chittagong-2 and 6), 'new face' Md Aslam Chowdhury (Chittagong-3) Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury (Chittagong-5) and Mostafa Kamal Pasha (Chittagong-16).

Their rivals from Awami League in these seats are engineer Mosharraf Hossain (Chittagong-1), 'new face' ATM Peyarul Islam (Chittagong-2), ABM Abul Kashem (Chittagong-3), ABM Fazole Karim Chowdhury (Chittagong-5), 'new face' Dr Hasan Mahmud (Chittagong-6) and Dr Jamal Uddin Chowdhury (Chittagong-16).

In Chittagong-4 (Hathazarian and CCC wards 1 and 2) under Chittagong (North), main fight will take place between grand alliance candidate from Jatya Party (JP-Ershad) barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud and former BNP whip Syed Wahidul Alam.

With the creation of Chittagong-10 (Bandar-Patenga) following the redemarcation, the number of seats in the city rose to four from previous three Chittagong-7 (Chandgaon-Boalkhali), Chittagong-8 (Kotwali), Chittagong-9 (Double Mooring Paharali).

BNP is likely to face major contest with Awami League candidate in Chittagong-8 and Chittagong-10 and with grand alliance candidate from Jatya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) in Chittagong-7.

BNP candidates for these seats are 'new face' Shamsul Alam, former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud and 'new face' Ershad Ullah while their rivals are AL leaders Nurul Islam, AL new face MA Latif and JSD Executive President Mainuddin Khan Badal respectively.

In the other city seat Chittagong-9, a tough fight is likely to take place among BNP stalwart Abdullah AJ Noman, AL candidate Dr Afsarul Amin, strong independent candidate and immediate past acting CCC mayor M Manjur Alam and 'new face' Morshed Murad Ibrahim, the grand alliance candidate from JP (Ershad).

Major fight between AL and BNP candidates would take place in three seats, out of five, in Chittagong (South) area.

BNP former lawmakers Gazi Md Shahjahan Jewel, Sarwar Jamal Nizam and Jafrul Islam Chowdhury will face grand alliance candidates from AL Shamsul Islam Chowdhury, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu) and Sultanul Kabir Chowdhury in major contest in Chittagong-11 (Patiya), Chittagong-12 (Anowara) and Chittagong-15 (Banshkhali) respectively.

AL nominated grand alliance candidates Afsar Uddin Ahmad and 'new face' advocate AKM Sirajul Islam will be engaged in major fight with LDP Chairman Col (retd) Oli Alam and four-party alliance candidate Jamaat leader Moulana Shamsul Islam in Chittagong-13 (Chandanais-Satkania) and Chittagong-14 (Lohagara-Satkania) respectively.

## Amini still faces five cases Criminal cases against 7 candidates in B'baria

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

Seven candidates in Brahmanbaria faced criminal cases, filed with courts in Brahmanbaria and Dhaka.

Of them, 4-party runner Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, a leader of Islami Oikya Jote (IO), still faces five cases, filed in Dhaka, which are yet to be disposed of.

Amini, also a candidate in Brahmanbaria2, claimed that all the cases would be dismissed as those are false. The cases include one filed under the Special Powers Act. BNP candidate Eqramuzzaman in Brahmanbarial was accused in a case filed last year with the CMM



Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini court, Dhaka, which was dismissed.

Awami league leader advocate Ziaul Haque of Brahmanbaria2 faced a case filed with a court in Brahmanbaria in 1999, which was withdrawn on orders from the home ministry.

The case against advocate Haroon Al Rashid of Brahmanbaria3, filed with a court in Brahmanbaria in 2006, is yet to be dismissed.

BNP candidate Musfiqur Rahman in Brahmanbaria 4 is accused in four cases filed with different police stations in Brahmanbaria. These are yet to be disposed of.

Former lawmaker and BNP candidate Kazi Md. Anwar Hossain of Brahmanbaria5 still faces a case filed with CMM court in Dhaka last year.

Awami leader Advocate Shah Jikru Amed of Brahmanbaria5 still faces a case filed with the CMM court in Dhaka in 2005.

### VOTERS IN MYMENSINGH-4 IN DILEMMA

## AL's Motiur emerges as rival to Rawshan

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Voters of grand alliance in Mymensingh-4 (Sadar) are in a dilemma as to who is the candidate for the alliance there.

Campaign of both Awami League nominee Principal Motiur Rahman and grand alliance candidate Rawshan Ershad is going on simultaneously in the district town.

After spreading news of Principal Motiur Rahman's getting back nomination, President of District AL, the election wave in Mymensingh-4 (Sadar) constituency has taken another shape. Veteran AL leader Motiur Rahman filed the nomination as AL candidate but Jatya Party Presidium member Rawshan Ershad was fielded as grand alliance candidate.

AL sources said that earlier Rawshan Ershad was fielded as grand alliance candidate in Mymensingh-4 following a letter signed by AL Chief Sheikh Hasina on December 11. But Motiur Rahman did not withdraw his candidature. Later in another letter on December 12 night from central AL, it was said that Principal Motiur Rahman is AL's candidate and the fax message sent earlier favouring Rawshan Ershad's candidature was served wrongly. AL sources said.

Following the letter of AL Chief, Motiur Rahman made an appeal with the Election Commission but failed to get his candidature. Later he filed a writ petition with the High Court on December 17 and the High Court declared his candidature valid.

On contact, Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer of Mymensingh Ziaur Rahman Khan told this correspondent that



Rawshan Ershad

Motiur Rahman

they have not received any direction from EC about the candidature of Principal Motiur Rahman or to allot election symbol for him till 6.15 pm Thursday.

AL men have come out with hectic election campaign from last night. Campaign is on with beating of drums and huge slogans have made election environment lively. The campaign of Rowshan Ershad as grand alliance is also on in the town. Through campaign using loud speakers she is being termed as grand alliance candidate seeking votes for "plough".

In last general election in 2001, BNP nominee Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu won bagging 102016 votes. His nearest rival AL's Principal Motiur Rahman secured 83380 votes.

Grass roots AL leaders and activists earlier urged the party high command to give nomination to Principal Motiur Rahman. They hoped that Motiur Rahman would be a fit candidate to regain the seat lost to BNP. BNP-led four party alliance has nominated former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain in the seat. He hails from adjacent Mymensingh-5 (Muktogacha) seat and considered as a "guest candidate".



As part of measures to stave off destructive activities ahead of election, law enforcers checking a car near Chittagong Stadium yesterday.

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### Triangular fight likely in Tangail-5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The voters in Tangail-5 (Sadar) constituency may witness a triangular fight among the candidates of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-led four-party alliance, Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance and Krishak Samik Janata League (KSJL) in the upcoming national election.

Tangail-5 constituency comprised of Tangail Sadar and Delduar upazilas before the new delimitation. As per fresh delimitation, Delduar upazila was excluded from Tangail-5 and it was added with Tangail-6 (Nagarapur) constituency.

BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hassan won the 2001 election securing 96,544 votes from the two upazilas--23, 474 in Delduar and 73,070 in Sadar, Election Commission sources said.

AL Presidium Member Abdul Mannan became second bagging 83,458 votes from the two upazilas--22, 312 in Delduar and 61,146 in Sadar. KSJL candidate Murad Siddiqui finished third getting 68,167 votes--16, 093 in Delduar and 52,074 in Sadar upazila.

Jatya Party (Ershad) Presidium Member Mohammad Abul Kashem took fourth position with 50,266 votes from the two upazilas--21, 301 in Delduar and 28,965 in Sadar.

The four-party alliance has nominated Maj Gen (retd) Mahmudul Hasan for the constituency this time also. He has popularity among the people as he had done a lot of development works in the constituency, party insiders said.

This time, JP (Ershad) Presidium Member industrialist Mohammad Abul Kashem has got the AL-led grand alliance ticket.

To win the election, Abul Kashem will have to bag all AL votes apart from his own party votes, party insiders said.

Murad Siddiqui, younger brother of KSJL president Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam, is also in field as a KSJL candidate. Murad, joint convener of Tangail district unit KSJL, is trying to draw votes from the AL, party insiders said.

## Elections never change Harijans' fate

HIMANGSHU KUMAR SAHA, Rajbari

With the national election around the corner the value of the low class people in Rajbari, especially the Harijan community has gone up.

Their value only increases when votes approach. The candidates give them many pledges but forget those once the vote is over. Their problems pile up day by day. Sometimes their wage is also stopped on various excuses.

They live by the rail line at Binodpur in Rajbari town. Their colony comprises of about 80 families. The number of voters in the

Harijan community is about 500. The candidates are trying to woo the voters in their respective favour and giving various pledges.

President of Durga Mandir in the Colony Rabilal Das and general secretary of Radha Gobinda Mandir Basudev Mondal said, "They (the candidates) in the past appealed us while seeking vote. This time that strategy will not work. We will vote the candidate who can solve our unemployment problem, water crisis, lack of school, dilapidated condition of the quarters. We will vote him who pledges to solve these

problems."

Sunil and Hirshi Jamadar said, "We wanted water line for the Colony. They pledged but till now we have not got water connection. We suffer a lot for lack of water."

Milon Das and Uttam Das said, "Now many government offices are hiring people from other communities to the post of sweeper. As a result unemployment in our community is increasing. At present about 200 people are without job. Those who are on payroll get only Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 a month. How can a family meet the ends with this scanty amount?

In some months they do not get salary.

Milon and Uttam said, they would vote the candidate who would speak in the parliament for their employment and increase of salary.

Another requesting anonymity said, "During last election Chairman Ali Newaz Mahmud Khayyam said if he becomes an MP he would do a lot for us. But he did nothing for us."

Nareesh Chandra Das, Shohon Lal Dom, Shanik Lal and several others said, "Nobody considers us as human beings. Our salaries get stuck up as we rear pigs."

## Grand alliance in great trouble AL man yet to quit race in Habiganj-2

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The grand alliance partners in Habiganj-2 (Baniachang and Ajmiriganj) are yet to end their crisis over selecting their candidate to face the BNP led four party alliance nominee.

Since the AL candidate did not quit the race yet although the seat had been given to the JP days ago, they would not keep the alliance active in the rest 3 seats in the district. The threat was made at a protest rally yesterday evening.

The JP leaders at a rally at the Natunbazar Waqf ground

at Baniachang upazila headquarters yesterday evening announced the 48 hour ultimatum to press the demand. Upazila JP president Maksud Uzzaman chaired it while district JP convener Advocate Azizul Bari Kamal and central committee member MA Munim Chowdhury Babu also spoke, among others.

The speakers said, in accordance with the decision taken at central level in presence of Sheikh Hasina and HM Ershad, JP's Advocate Abid Ali Chowdhury was finalised for the seat while the

AL's Advocate Abdul Mazid Khan was asked to quit the race days ago. But things are yet to be implemented causing resentment among the JP men.

Advocate Abdul Mazid Khan told the Daily Star last night, "Since I did not get any instruction or letter from the central committee or from the party chief about withdrawal, still I am the alliance candidate here." He said, "Even if the JP nominee stays in the race I will win the election. My contest will be with the 4-party alliance candidate, not with the JP man."