



FOUR KHULNA-3 CANDIDATES

They vow to resolve woes to woo jute workers

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Four candidates from Khulna-3 (Khalishpur-Daulatpur) constituency have made commitment to stand by the jute mill workers in their movement to realise all legitimate demands including payment of arrears.

Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim of four-party alliance, Mannujan Sufian of Awami League, Abdul Gaffar Biswas of Jatiya Party and Moulana Gazi Noor Ahmed of Islami Andolan Bangladesh made the commitment as thousands of jute mill workers at a rally on Friday threatened to boycott the December 29 election.

Jute and Jute Industry Protection Committee

(JJIPC) organised the rally at Peoples Jute Mills ground.

Khulna-3 seat has been kept open for AL and JP candidates as the two key partners of grand alliance failed to reach a consensus.

The four candidates said they would extend their active support to jute mill workers' movement in realising their legitimate rights.

Referring to the vital role of workers in Khulna industrial belt in previous movements, the candidates vowed to express their solidarity with their ongoing movement and try wholeheartedly to resolve the crisis if elected lawmaker from Khulna-3 constituency where there are eight state-owned and private jute mills.

In response to the call made by JJIPC, the candidates also vowed to resign from parliament in case of failure to fulfil demands of jute mill workers.

Leaders of JJIPC at the rally said jute mill workers would launch movement not only to press home their demands but also to press for resignation of the elected lawmaker for failure to implement the election pledge to resolve crisis in Khulna industrial belt.

CBA leaders of state-owned jute mills and JJIPC leaders addressed the rally presided over by prominent civil society leader advocate Feroze Ahmed.

JJIPC leaders also warned

of movement against the next elected government if in case of failure to implement polls pledges mentioned in the manifesto.

The workers' demands include payment of all arrears by December 28, reopening of all closed jute mills, Khulna Newsprint Mill and Khulna Textile Mills, establishment of new industries to create job opportunities, non-privatisation of state-owned jute mills, abolition of BJMC, formation of a Jute Committee, rejection of prescriptions given by World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank and removal of corrupt officials from state-owned jute mills.



Road dividers and electricity poles are being used to hang election posters at Gourahanga Railgate in Rajshahi city as polls rule bars setting those on walls this time.

Tuku's prospect bright as Nizami's rival in Pabna-1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three hundred BNP-Jamaat activists joined Awami League (AL) at an election campaign held on Wednesday at Kashinathpur in Santhia upazila under Pabna-1 constituency which consists of Santhia and party of Bera upazila.

AL leaders have claimed that prospect of their party candidate Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku is bright in the constituency where Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami is his rival. This time people want a change there as no development work was done during immediate past 4-party alliance rule, they said.

"People in the constituency are not happy with Nizami due to lack of development work during BNP-led alliance rule," said Santhia Poursabha Mayor Mirajul Islam.

He, however, said AL leader's victory would not be easy here because Nizami is a strong candidate there.

Most of AL leaders said there is no internal feud in the party over nomination. All are now working unitedly for party-nominated candidate, said Bera upazila AL president SM Ameer Ali on Thursday.

Correction

The news item headlined 'Barisal-5: Rebel BNP, AL men pull out for party nominees' that was published on this page yesterday wrongly mentioned that BCC Mayor Majibar Rahman Sarwar was present at a meeting at a temporary office of Awami League. In fact BCC Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron was present there. We regret the inadvertent mistake.

NO EASY SAIL THIS TIME IN HABIGANJ

Fiedling of grand alliance men dims AL prospects

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Although Awami League (AL) bagged all the four seats in Habiganj district in 2001, this time it may not be possible to retain all of them due to fielding of candidates from the grand alliance, observe many people.

BNP did not get any seat in the district in last three elections, but

the BNP-led four-party alliance is trying their best this time to end the AL dominance in the district.

In Habiganj-1 (Nabiganj and Bahubal), Dewan Farid Gazi, a member of AL advisory body and former state

minister, is a strong candidate who won the seat for three consecutive terms, while the four-party alliance has nominated Sheikh Sujat Miah.

In Habiganj-2, AL has nominated Advocate Abdul Mazid Khan in place of former lawmaker Nazmul Hasan Zahed.

Although AL claims Mazid as grand alliance candidate, Abid Ali Chowdhury of JP did not withdraw his candidature. Earlier, Abid was given the grand alliance ticket.

This is why local supporters of AL and JP are in a little trouble.

Dr Shakhawat Hossain Jibon, a new face in the area, is

the candidate of BNP-led four-party alliance.

In Habiganj-3 (Sadar and Lakhai), four-party alliance has nominated Abu Lais Mobin Chowdhury while the AL has fielded Advocate Abu Zahir.

In Habiganj-4 (Madhabpur and Chunarughat), Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid is contesting with AL ticket. He has a good base and he is in the contest for the 4th consecutive term. But this time he would have a tough fight from Syed Mohammad Faisal, a candidate of 4-party alliance and a former state minister.



A banner in Dinajpur town (in Dinajpur-3) seeks vote for grand alliance candidate Iqbalur Rahim.

HASINA TELLS TELECONFERENCE

Time to take firm stance against graft, terrorism

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Awami League (AL) president Sheikh Hasina at a teleconference yesterday evening at Ghona Bazar, a remote area in Tala upazila urged the people to vote for 'boat' for peace, prosperity and development in the country.

She also pledged to take measures to solve the waterlogging problem faced by the local people for long through dredging the silted river Kabadak.

"If we are voted to power, we shall take projects for the good of the poor people", she said.

Urging people to vote for honest candidates in the coming election, the AL chief said now it is time to take firm stance against corruption and terrorism.

She said if her grand alliance was voted to power, the government would take effective steps to supply fertilisers free of cost to farmers and give subsidy to agricultural inputs to grow

more food.

Sheikh Hasina reiterated her election pledges which include lowering essentials' price, curbing terrorism and militancy, making education free for all up to degree level, generating new jobs and ensuring uninterrupted powersupply.

"You choose whether you want anarchy and terrorism or peace and stability, food security and food sufficiency and cast your vote for AL-led grand alliance candidates", Hasinasaid.

She urged the people to vote for grand alliance candidate Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of AL who is contesting from Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) constituency in the coming election for development in the area.

Local Awami League (AL) organized the telephonic conference and Sheikh Hasina addressed the people from her Sudha Sadan residence.

Hundreds of local people attended the teleconference.

Candidates, voters face-to-face in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A total of five candidates for upcoming general election in Gaibandha-2 constituency yesterday faced voters in a question-answer session held on the local Shaheed Minar premises.

The candidates are grand alliance nominee Mahub Ara Gini of AL, four-party alliance nominee Commodore (ret'd) Shafi-ur-Rahman of BNP, AKM Bin Kashem Chowdhury of Bangladesh Khelefat Andolon, Khandaker Monjurul Karim of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Monjur Alam Mithu of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal.

The candidates committed themselves not to involve in any corruption and misuse if voted to power.

They gave assurance that they will try their best to change the fate of erosion-affected people of the district.

When asked, four-party alliance candidate Shafiur-Rahman told the audience that if voted to power, the four-party government will continue its development work in

backward areas with special priority to stop wide spread erosion of the river Brahmaputra.

In reply to a question, grand alliance candidate Mahabub Ara Gini committed that if voted to power, her government will establish a full fledged agriculture college in Gaibandha converting the existing agriculture training institute.

She said previous AL government enhanced facilities for freedom fighters including 30 percent quota in government jobs and national honour for them.

In future dependents of freedom fighter will get more facilities, she added.

Later, the audiences vowed not to vote for corrupt and dishonest candidates.

They also committed to vote for those candidates who are honest will work for establishing democracy, good governance and local development.

Organised by Sujana (citizens for good governance), the session was presided over by its Gaibandha unit President Mozharul Mannan.

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Anti-Mojahid campaign in Faridpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Projonmo Ekattur, an organization of the children of Liberation War martyrs, yesterday conducted a campaign in the town urging people not to vote for any war criminal.

They distributed leaflets and posters among the people, urging them not to vote for 'patent rajakar' Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, four-party alliance candidate in Faridpur-3 (Sadar).

"War criminals should be brought under trial. We should not vote for Mojahid as he is a well-known rajakar and war criminal," Projonmo Ekattur Secretary Rafikul Alam Mukul said.

Attack on poll campaign in Boalkhali: 10 AL men hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

At least 10 supporters of Awami League (AL) were injured when rival BNP supporters attacked their election procession at Kharandwip union under Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong-6 constituency on Friday afternoon.

Boalkhali Police Station has confirmed the incident.

Sub-Inspector Maksud said supporters of BNP and AL were involved in the clash when two processions came face to face at Kerani Bazar area under Kharandwip union at around 5:30pm.

Police immediately rushed to the spot and took control of the area, he added.

When contacted, AL candidate for the seat Dr Hasan Mahmud alleged that a number of BNP supporters led by local UP Chairman and BNP leader Azizul Hoque Chowdhury attacked the procession brought out in support of him.

Ten of his supporters were injured during the attack, he said, adding that police have arrested some of his supporters.

Police were in the area as of filing this report at around 9:30pm.

Kurigram-4 may see triangular fight

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

As none of the candidates of Grand Alliance partner Awami League and the Jatiya Party withdrew from the race in Kurigram-4 (Chilmari-Raumari-Rajibpur) constituency, a triangular fight is expected there with another main contestant being BNP-led four party alliance candidate - a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami.

AL and JP candidates are contesting with their respec-

Rebel AL veteran cause of grand alliance's concern

SAIDUR RAHMAN, Naogaon

The presence of veteran Awami League leader Imajuddin Pramanik in the election race as an independent candidate after failing to get party ticket would cause trouble for Grand Alliance candidate SM Abdul Latif in Naogaon-4 seat.

The number of contestants in six parliamentary seats in Naogaon district after the deadline for withdrawal of nomination papers expired stood at 21.

Of them 20 candidates are participating in the election on different party tickets. Naogaon district Awami League vice president Imajuddin Pramanik who failed to get party nomination is running from Naogaon-4 (Manda) seat as an independent candidate.

Local Communist Party leader Moinul Haque Mukul and another NAP leader on condition of anonymity said, Imajuddin Pramanik won four times in national and provincial parliaments from 1970 to 1986 with the symbol 'boat' and earned reputation as an

Naogaon-4



Imajuddin Pramanik

expert parliamentarian. As he is now contesting the polls as an independent candidate and the leaders and workers of Manda upazila AL has got divided over the issue the victory of the four party alliance nominee in the seat became uncertain.

Imajuddin Pramanik's name was at the top of the short list the upazila AL sent to the centre for final nomination but it was ignored.

Awami League has nominated Manda upazila AL vice president SM Abdul Latif in

Naogaon-4 constituency. Grand alliance's fresh face would have to fight BNP's former lawmaker Shamsul Alam Pramanik. Shamul Alam Pramanik won three times in the seat.

AL rebel Imajuddin Pramanik said the party parliamentary board did not let him know why he was denied party nomination. He said, "If the election is free and fair I will win."

A faction of the leaders and workers of Manda upazila AL locked the upazila AL office Thursday over the issue.

Local people said the supporters of Imajuddin Pramanik held an election show down from his election office Thursday morning with over 100 motorcycles. Witnesses said most of the upazila AL leaders were present at Pramanik's meeting.

AL parliamentary board nominee SM Abdul Latif claimed, except some individual rebels most of the leaders and workers of upazila Awami League are working for him. He however, admitted that Imajuddin Pramanik's remaining in the race would go against him.

Ctg-10 a 'dream seat' for all 10 contestants

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong

Having most of the commercial activities of the port city and around it, Chittagong 10 (Bandar-Patenga) is a dream constituency for the highest number of 10 runners in the district.

The constituency, comprising 10 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) wards 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41, has the highest number of 4,33,942 voters among all the 16 parliamentary constituencies in Chittagong.

Ten candidates contesting for the seat include seven from two alliances, five from other parties and three independent candidates.

However, a direct fight will take place between grand alliance candidate from Awami League (AL) MA Latif and 4-party alliance candidate and former BNP minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

Khosru won the seat (the then Chittagong-8) for consecutive three terms in 1991, 1996 and 2001.

However, his rare presence in the locality has created resentment among the voters.

While talking to The Daily Star on Friday, Khosru defended himself saying that



Four-party alliance candidate Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury conducts poll campaign at Gosaidanga in Chittagong-10 yesterday.

he had to discharge his responsibilities as a minister, rather than confining himself to his own constituency only.

"However, I always laid a great emphasis on the development of drainage system, local roads and infrastructure required for industrialisation and commercial activities of the port city," he added.

Latif, also the newly elected president of Chittagong chamber, is a new face.

Latif, who was earlier regarded as a BNP-minded person, got the AL nomination

replacing AL leader Khorshed Alam Sujana, an incident that has disappointed local AL leaders and activists, said a grassroots leader preferring anonymity.

So Latif may not have spontaneous support of local AL leaders and activists, he observed. Besides, the presence of AL-backed CCC Ward Councillor Mohammad Jahangir Alam in the electoral race as an independent candidate in this seat may curtail some votes from Latif, said party insiders.

upazila on the western side. Of Chilmari voters, there are about 20,000 living in Astomir Char and Nayarhat unions that are on the eastern side of Brahmaputra River.

In the last two terms the lawmakers elected for the constituency were from Chilmari upazila. This time, Golam Habib Dulal (JP) and Md. Nur Alam Mukul (Jamaat-e-Islami) are from Chilmari upazila (proper) while Md. Jakir Hossain (AL) is an inhabitant of Raumari upazila.