



## Nizami's most election pledges still unmet

Just laid a few foundations at fag end of tenure in Pabna-1

AHMED HUMAYUN TOPU,  
Pabna

Most of the election pledges of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami remained unmet in Santhia and Bera upazilas under Pabna-1 constituency during the past BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Quite a few voters and the conscious people of the constituency said Nizami, former lawmaker from Pabna-1 constituency, also an influential minister of the alliance government, did not work for the development of this constituency during his tenure.

Foundation stones of several development projects were laid at the fag end of the four-party government's tenure but work of those projects are yet to start.

Nizami laid the foundation stone of a 103-metre long

bridge on Ichhamoti River at village Haludgar in Santhia upazila on October 13, 2006. But construction work under the Tk 1.26 crore project is yet to start.

On August 1, 2006, he laid the foundation stone of a bridge on the irrigation canal of Gupinathpur-Satanirchar village in the upazila but the work is yet to start.

Over a dozen of such poll pledges have remained unmet in Santhia and Bera upazilas, sources said.

"Former minister Nizami had inaugurated the foundation stones of different projects just before the end of the four-party alliance government. But the works are yet to be complete," Md Robiul Karim Hiru, a businessman in Santhia upazila, said.

"Nizami failed to develop the area although making roads, culverts and educational institutions in the area were among his election



pledges," Md Abdul Gofur, chairman of Khetupara union parishad in Santhia upazila, said yesterday.

"As the Jamaat men were involved in widespread corruption during his tenure, especially in case of development work in the area, the UP chairmen boycotted Nizami," he said.

During the past four-party government, there was not any noticeable development work in the upazila, except Santhia upazila auditorium,

Santhia municipality mayor Md Mirajul Islam said.

Several voters and a few local leaders in Bera and Santhia upazilas said Jamaat men were busy to serve their own interest during the four-party alliance government.

Local Jamaat leaders, however, refuted the allegations against Nizami and Jamaat men.

"Jamaat Ameer Nizami did not make any election pledge. He always told people that he would try to do good to people if he gets the chance.

"So the question of unfulfilled polls pledge does not arise at all. Nizami did development works including building roads, culverts and educational institutions in his constituency," Abdul Malek, a top Jamaat leader in Santhia, said.

He termed the corruption allegations against Jamaat leaders as 'false'.



Villagers using a bamboo bridge to cross Ichhamoti River at Haludgar in Pabna-1 constituency as the Tk 1.26 crore bridge project there saw no progress after Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami laid the foundation at the fag end of last four-party government's tenure.



PHOTO: STAR

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Elected or not, they will work for people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Five candidates in Khulna-2 (Sadar-Sonadanga) constituency yesterday vowed to work together whatever the polls results are.

They made the vow at a citizens' rally held at Shahid Haidi Park in the city.

Shushashaner Jannyo Nagorik (Sujon), Shacheton Nagorik Committee, Durniti Protirodh Committee and Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee jointly organised the rally.

Runners Mizanur Rahman Mizan of 14-party alliance, Nazrul Islam Manju of four-party, advocate Nurul Alam of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Fazlur Rahman of NAP (Muzaffar) and Sheikh Sirajul Islam of Muslim League were present on the dais.

They said, if elected, they will take steps for pipeline gas supply, reopening of closed mills and factories, revitalising Mongla port and resolving the severe power crisis in the region.

Training of 30 thousand Ctg poll officials nearing end

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Training of over 30,000 election officials recruited for conducting the December 29 election in 16 constituencies in Chittagong district is nearing end.

A total of 1814 presiding officers have been recruited for the same number of polling centres including 548 in the city and 1,266 in 14 upazilas.

There are 9400 assistant presiding officers and 18,800 polling officers for 9400 polling booths.

Their training began on December 17 and will end on December 27, sources said.

The returning officer, assistant returning officers, thana election officers and upazila election officers are conducting the training.

## Withdraw AL candidates from Gaibandha-4, 5

Ershad urges Hasina again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Jatiya Party sacrificed a lot to remain in the grand alliance but Awami League 'betrayed' JP in eleven out of 49 constituencies by fielding candidates violating electoral understanding, JP chairman H M Ershad has said.

Addressing a public meeting at Gobindaganj High School ground Monday evening, Ershad claimed that the grand alliance will have a landslide victory in the upcoming national election.

People have already expressed their spontaneous support to the grand alliance, which is proved by their massive participation in its meetings, he said. The meeting was organised by local Jatiya Party.

Ershad called Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina as his younger sister and urged her to withdraw AL candidates from Gaibandha-4 (Gobindaganj) and Gaibandha-5 (Shaghata-Fulchhari) constituencies as the seats are vote banks of JP.

"If they do not comply with the request, JP will prove it by defeating AL candidates there", Ershad said.

The JP chief said past governments did not take steps to reduce price hike of essen-

tials. If voted, the first task of the grand alliance government will be to reduce the price level to keep it within the purchasing power of poor people, he said.

Ershad introduced JP candidate Ali Mahbub Talukder at the meeting and called upon the people to vote for 'plough' symbol in the election to change their fate.

He claimed that the Jatiya Party government had initiated a process of development in Gaibandha, which was faltered during the BNP-Jamaat rule. The development process will begin again if the alliance is voted, he said.

On way to Rangpur after the meeting, Ershad addressed another public meeting at Palashbari.

He told the meeting that if the grand alliance is voted, an administrative division will be created comprising districts under greater Rangpur and the country will be divided into seven provinces.

At Polashbari, Ershad introduced grand alliance candidate JP leader TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury and urged people to vote for him.

The forer president told the meeting that the upcoming election will decide their fate and so they should cast their vote judiciously.

5 candidates vow to keep communal harmony in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Five candidates of different political parties yesterday vowed to help maintain communal harmony between indigenous and Bengali people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Four-party alliance candidate Samiron Dewan, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) candidate Jahed Ahmed, Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Praggaveer Chakma, Zaker Party candidate Pradeep Kumar Mutsuddi and independent candidate Jahidul Alam took the vow at a "Face to Face Voters" programme held at Khagrachhari town hall.

Shusasoner Janno Nagorik (Shujan) and District Anti Corruption Committee jointly organized the programme.

They also promised that whoever wins the polls race, others candidate will accept the result and work unitedly with the winner for development in the area.

The candidates also vowed to work for establishing mills, factories, small industries, especially for women to ensure equal development in CHT.

All 3 runners violate RPO in C'nawabganj-3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

All the three candidates of Chapainawabganj-3 (sadar) constituency have violated the election code of conduct.

Talking to this correspondent, Md Mahmud Hasan, electoral enquiry committee officer and assistant judge of Chapainawabganj, said the violators are AL candidate Abdul Wadud, BNP candidate Harunur Rashid and Jamaat candidate Latifur Rahman.

He said the committee had received five complaints about the violation of representation of people order (RPO), and after investigation they found the validity of two complaints.

Besides, the committee itself identified two incidents of violation which included setting up of two election campaign offices in one municipal ward.

The committee has sent its report in this regard to Election Commission Secretariat in Dhaka.

Demonstration to cancel polling centre

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Hundreds of people yesterday demonstrated for cancellation of the Kalatali government primary school polling centre in Karimganj upazila in Kishoreganj-3 (Karimganj-Tarail) constituency.

They staged the demonstration in front of the Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO).

Atikur Rahman, UNO of Karimganj upazila said Ruhul Amin, an office clerk is responsible for the fault. He was missing while the demonstration was being staged, the UNO said.



## Kader Siddiqui's party eyes Tangail-8, 5

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Krishak Shramik Janata League (KSJL) led by Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam have good prospects to bag at least two out of the eight Jatiya Sangsad (JS) seats in Tangail district in the upcoming national election, party sources claimed.

In the rest six constituencies, party candidates will do better than in the last election, Abu Mohammad Enayet Karim, vice-president of central KSJL and convener of its district committee told The Daily Star yesterday.

In 2001 election, four KSJL candidates contested from eight constituencies in the district. Party president Kader Siddiqui contested from five constituencies--Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail), Tangail-1 (Modhupur-Dhanbari), Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur), Tangail-3 (Ghatail), and Tangail-4 (Kalihati) but won his home constituency Tangail-8. His security money was forfeited in the rest three constituencies. This time, he is in race in



Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam

Tangail-8 and Tangail-3.

In Tangail-8, Kader Siddiqui will fight Awami League-led grand alliance candidate Shawkat Momen Shajahan and BNP-led four-party alliance candidate Ahmed Azam Khan.

He will fight four-party candidate former minister Lutfor Rahman Khan Azad and grand alliance candidate Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury in Tangail-3.

Kader Siddiqui's followers claimed their leader will have a massive victory in Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) this time also. Kader Siddiqui's younger

brother Murad Siddiqui, will fight four-party alliance candidate Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan and grand alliance candidate JP (Ershad) leader Mohammad Abul Kashem in Tangail-5 (Sadar) in the upcoming polls.

Murad ran in the constituency in 2001 election and was in third position bagging 68,167 votes.

KSJL candidate Khaleda Habib, the lone female candidate out of 39 in eight constituencies in the district, will contest from Tangail-2 (Bhuapur-Gopalpur).

Khaleda Habib, daughter of prominent educationist and litterateur Principal Ibrahim Kha, will fight grand alliance candidate Khandakar Asaduzzaman and four-party candidate Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.

KSJL has also fielded Shafiqur Rahman Sunny in Tangail-7 (Mirzapur), Anwarul Islam Ratan (Nagarpur-Delduar) and Habibur Rahman Talukder Khoka Bir Protik in Tangail-1 (Modhupur-Dhanbari).

## Say 'no' to war criminals

Sector commanders urge in Pabna, Human chain in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sector Commander Forum (SCF) leaders yesterday called upon the people to vote war criminals out of politics.

They urged voters to ensure victory of pro-liberation force in the upcoming parliamentary election.

They were addressing a public meeting held at Dhulauri High School ground in Santhia under Pabna-1 constituency.

With valiant Freedom Fighter Jamal Uddin in the chair, the meeting was addressed by among others, sector commanders KM Safiullah, CR Datta, Abu Usman Chowdhury and Harun-ur-Rashid.

Awami League nominee in Pabna-1 constituency Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku and local party leaders Panjab Ali Bishwas, Mozammel Haque Khan and Nizam Uddin also spoke.

They said war criminals have no right to go to parliament and people should not vote for

them in the upcoming parliamentary election.

Everybody knows the role played by war criminals during the liberation war. They killed freedom fighters and people and tortured women. They have no right to do politics in Bangladesh, the SCF leaders said.

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Hundreds of people including freedom fighters yesterday formed a human chain on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Gobindaganj urging voters to reject Razzakars and Al-Badr in the upcoming election.

Gobindaganj upazila unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised the human chain where people carrying festoons and placards with them took part.

Among others, freedom fighters Tajul Islam, Jibu Roy, Entezur Rahman and former student leader Tahedul Islam Shaheen addressed.

Earlier, another human chain was formed on Mohimaganj-Gobindaganj road on Monday.

## No woman runner though female voters higher

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

There is no female candidate in Sylhet district this time, although the number of female voters is a little higher than the male ones in five out of six constituencies.

The total number of voters in the district is 17,09,705, which is 2,07,064 more than those of 2001 polls contested by 52 candidates. This time 33 candidates are contesting for six seats although the number of voters has increased considerably.

With new delimitation, Sylhet-1 (sadar and city) has the highest 4, 23, 278 voters including 2,23,861 males and 1,99,417 females.

The lowest 2,14,063 voters are in Sylhet-3 (Dakshin Surma, Fenchuganj and part of

Sylhet district

Balaganj) that include 1,04,254 males and 1,09,809 females.

In Sylhet-2 (Biswanath and Balaganj), total number of voters is 2,49,777 including 1,23,012 males and 1,26,765 females.

In Sylhet-4 (Zaintapur, Gowainghat and Companiganj), there are 2,83,682 voters including 1,39,498 males and 1,44,184 females.

Sylhet-5 (Zakiganj and Kanaighat) has 2,44, 198 votes including 114, 706 males and 129,492 females.

There are 294,706 voters in Sylhet-6 constituency including 139,489 males and 1,55,217 females.

In the last three elections, seven females fought for five seats in the division but none of them was fielded by AL and BNP.

In 2001 polls, three female candidates contested but none came out successfully.

They were JP's Mumtaj Iqbal in Sunamganj-4, independent runner Azizunnesa in Sylhet-2 and Nazma Akhtar Chowdhury of JP (Manju) in Sylhet-5.

In 1996 election, three females fought in three constituencies. They were Shamima Akhtar of JSD (Inu), independent runner Ruhela Hossain Rina, and another independent candidate Nilufar zaman Nila Chowdhury.

In 1991 polls, only female candidate in the division was Minara Begum.



Baul artiste Abdul Quddus Boyati offers song at Rajbari in Godagari yesterday seeking vote for former IGP Dr Enamul Haque, four-party candidate for Rajshahi-1.

PHOTO: STAR