



Jamal Uddin Smriti Parishad brings out a procession in Chittagong yesterday demanding capital punishment of Sarwar Jamal Nizam, an accused in BNP leader Jamal Uddin murder case. Sarwar is a four-party candidate from Chittagong-12.

Reject 'killer' candidate, urges slain Jamal Uddin's family

Procession, rally against 4-party runner in Ctg-12

CU CORRESPONDENT

Family members of slain BNP leader businessman Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday urged voters in Chittagong-12 (Anwara) constituency not to vote for alleged killer and 4-party candidate Sarwar Jamal Nizam in the upcoming election.

They made the appeal at a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club held under the banner of Jamal Uddin Chowdhury Smriti Sangsad.

Earlier, over 200 members of the Sangsad brought out a procession demanding trial of Jamal Uddin's killers and chanted slogan. They also formed a human chain in front of the Press Club.

Jamal's second son Chowdhury Arfan Reza read out a written statement. His (Jamal) wife Nazma Akhter Khanam, sons Chowdhury Forman Reza and Chowdhury Forkan Reza were present at the press conference.

They alleged that Sarwar Jamal and Maruf Jamal had planned to kill Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury as they considered him to an obstacle to their of business and politics.

Nazma Akhter urged the

government and the army chief to bring the killers to book. She also called upon voters in the constituency not to allow a killer to win in the December 29 election.

Businessman Jamal Uddin was abducted on July 24 in 2003 while returning to his Chandgaon residence in the city from his business office at Chawk Bazar.

His skeleton was found at a remote village in Fatikhkhari upazila after two years.

4 POs relieved of duty for partisan role

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barguna district returning officer (RO) yesterday relieved four presiding officers (PO) from election duty in Barguna-2 constituency for their partisan role in favour of a candidate.

They are Mojibur Rahman, principal of Patharghata Haji Jalaluddin Mohilla College; Khalilur Rahman, principal of Patharghata Degree College; Mahbulul Alam Manik, headmaster of Patharghata K M School; and Khalilur Rahman Badsha, headmaster of Patharghata Keramatpur Rahmania School.

Safayet Hossain, deputy commissioner and returning officer of Barguna, said the action was taken after Khondokar Mahub Hossain, BNP candidate in Barguna-2, complained that the presiding officers participated in an election meeting of Awami League candidate Golam Sabur Tulu at Keramatpur Rahmania School ground in the constituency on Tuesday. The allegation was proved during investigation, he said.

New faces pose challenge to veterans in Ctg-2,3

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

New faces are challenging veteran candidates of opponent electoral alliances in Chittagong-2 and Chittagong-3 constituencies.

Chittagong-2 comprising Fatikhkhari, an upazila mostly covered with hills and forests, is considered as a stronghold of Awami League (AL) that won the seat in 1991, 1996 and 2001.

AL-led grand alliance has fielded AL new face and former upazila (Sadar) chairman ATM Peyarul Islam here since Rafiqul Anwar, who won the seat for AL in 1996 and 2001, is convicted in an EPR case.

The BNP-led four-party alliance nominated BNP stalwart Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to contest for this constituency.

SQ Chowdhury is also contesting from Chittagong-6 (Rangunia).

As increase of minority voters due to delimitation clouds his prospect in Rangunia, SQ Chowdhury has focused his attention mainly on Fatikhkhari.

Md Liakat Ali Chowdhury of Gono Forum is the other candidate in this constituency.

A tough contest is likely between grand alliance candidate ABM Abul Kashem Master of AL and four-party alliance candidate Mohammad Aslam Chowdhury of BNP in Chittagong-3 (Sitakunda and CCC Wards No 9 and 10), a coastal area buzzing with industrial activities along the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

In 2001, former BNP minister LK Siddiqui defeated former AL lawmaker ABM Abul

Kashem by 21,476 votes.

But the then AL rebel Md Nurul Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury (16,424 votes) and Islami Jatiya Oikya Front candidate Md Didarul Kabir (4,971 votes), who together bagged 21,395 votes contributing to AL's defeat, have joined hands with grand alliance candidate ABM Abul Kashem this time.

Besides, inclusion of two CCC wards with 81,589 voters is likely to benefit AL to some extent.

Although a new face in politics, highly educated BNP candidate Md Aslam Chowdhury enjoys a good reputation for his association with different social welfare activities in the area, said locals.

A hard contest is likely between BNP new face Aslam and veteran AL candidate Kashem.

Md Yousuf Alam of NPP and Md Mousol Dulla of Bangladesh Communist Party are also contesting for the constituency.

Chittagong (North) district AL General Secretary MA Salam finds a bright prospect for AL in Chittagong-3 (Sitakunda) while expecting a win in Chittagong-2 as well.

"Although ATM Peyarul is a new face he enjoys popularity and support in the locality. Former lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar is also working to help Peyarul retain the seat for AL," MA Salam told The Daily Star.

BNP Chittagong (North) district unit leader M Nazim Uddin also expressed optimism for four-party alliance victory in Chittagong-2 and 3 constituencies.

Elect grand alliance to fulfill Bangabandhu's dreams

Says Ershad at poll rallies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad yesterday called upon the people to cast vote for grand alliance to fulfill the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

He said, "We formed the grand alliance to from the next government so that we can root out

militancy, violence and remove poverty from the country"

He was addressing a number of election rallies in Gangachara under Rangpur district and Kishorgonj, Sayedpur, Nilphamari, Domar, Demla and Joldhaka under Nilphamari district.

Ershad identified himself as Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's elder brother and said they have united to

remove corruption and ensure good governance after obtaining people's mandate.

Ershad for the first time addressed an Awami League-organised rally in Nilphamari-2 seeking vote for grand alliance candidate in the constituency.

Earlier, he spoke at meetings organised by Jatiya Party for grand alliance candidates in Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat districts.

Rickshaw-puller candidate

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Rickshaw-puller Md Hasmat Ali, running for December 29 parliamentary election from Jamalpur-3 (Melandah-Madarganj) constituency with Krishak Sramik Janata League ticket, said he is a representative of the poor.

Grand alliance candidate Mirza Azam, also Jubo League Secretary, and four-party candidate Mustafizur Rahman Babul, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, are also contesting from the constituency.

Hasmat Ali, hailing from village Gobindapur Garuwanpara in Melandah, said he is getting help from his fellow rickshaw-pullers in his election campaign.

"My leader Bangabir Kader Siddiquee chose me as a representative of the poor people from Jamalpur-3



although a few millionaires from Melandah and Madarganj upazilas sought nomination from Krishak Sramik Janata League. It is a respect for a neglected community (rickshaw-pullers)," said Hasmat.

"More than 80 percent people living in the two upazilas are poor and my participation in the election will be a test case whether the poor choose a poor

man as their representative," he told this correspondent during the latter's visit to his election office on High School Road in Melandah upazila headquarters.

"There are some 10,000 rickshaw-pullers in Melandah upazila and about 200 rickshaw-pullers are conducting campaign for me. I did not get any financial support from the party and so, I do not spend money for campaign," he said, adding, "I have temporarily refrained from pulling rickshaw but my leader has suggested me to continue my profession."

"My participation in the election has drawn a sort of sympathy from the poor people like me who are struggling down to dusk to earn their bread," Hasmat Ali said.

"I have been encouraged by candidates of both the alliances," he said spreading a smile on his face.

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11 JP men held for distributing forged letters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police yesterday arrested 11 activists of Jatiya Party (JP) from Boirati in Mithapukur on charge of distributing controversial leaflets and letters with forged signature of Awami League (AL) acting General Secretary Sayed Ashraf Islam.

Several JP activists were distributing letters with so-called 'signature' of Sayed Ashraf Islam, asking HN Ashiqur Rahman, the AL candidate for Rangpur-5 constituency, to stop his campaign and work for 'grand alliance candidate' SM Fakhar-uz-Zaman, said sources at Mithapukur Police Station.

Police said the letter was forged as Sayed Ashraf Islam did not issue such instruction for HN Ashiqur Rahman.

JP candidate Fakhar-uz-Zaman and AL candidate HN Ashiqur Rahman are contesting for Rangpur-5 constituency as the two parties failed to settle grand alliance candidature for the seat.

When contacted, Fakhar-uz-Zaman said, "The arrestees are not activists of Jatiya Party and none of the party in Mithapukur has any connection with the leaflets and letters that police seized."

AL candidate HN Ashiqur Rahman said, "The fake letters and leaflets were published and distributed to deceive the voters."



Army men conducting a thorough search in and around Laidighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday as Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address an election rally there today.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN BARISAL-2

Santu spends double the amount disclosed to EC

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

BNP-led four-party alliance candidate in Barisal-2 (Uzirpur) Constituency have already spent about Tk 16 lakh in his election campaign which is double the amount he told the Election Commission as his estimated polls expense.

Santu in his affidavit to the EC said his election budget is Tk 8 lakh. As per the Election Rule of Conduct a candidate in Barisal-2 constituency can spend highest Tk 11.27 lakh on election through operating bank accounts, deputy commissioner (DC) and returning officer for Barisal Mushfiq Ahmad Shamim told The Daily Star.

Sardar Sharfuddin Ahmed Santu, former divisional coordinator of PDP recently joined BNP.

According to the Election Commission sources Santu is one of the richest candidate in

Barisal division. He lost Barisal city mayoral race for 588 votes.

Santu has setup 26 election offices or camps in each of the two upazilas and one Pourashava including 9 wards. To maintain each of this camp he has to spend at least Tk 1,000 per day and more than Tk 2 lakh for campaign through each of these 26 camps.

Santu has also engaged least 20 publicity teams in every camp, sources said.

Santu will spend at least Tk 12 lakh for printing and hoisting posters, banners, placards, bringing out processions and arranging publicity meetings till the election.

On the election day, the expense of each candidate would be at least Tk 2.85 lakh for different purposes.

Manirul Islam, deputy election commissioner told The Daily Star that after election is over the authorities

would check whether a candidate has spent more than his estimated cost given in his affidavit and violated the Election Code of Conduct. He said action would be taken against the violators of the Rules.

"It is impossible to say how much money has already been spent but I will not spend money violating the election law, Santu told The Daily Star.

"Grassroots leaders and activists are helping me but I am not receiving any donation from them," he added.

Sharfuddin Santu in his affidavit said that he has no profession, but owned properties worth Tk 1.64 core with yearly income of Tk 3.99 lakh and expenditure of Tk 3.6 lakh.

Santu passed SSC. His personal and family wealth including movable and immovable assets were valued at Tk 3.79 core.

Candidates vow to curb violence against woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Candidates and political leaders at a 'citizens dialogue' held at Barisal BNDN auditorium yesterday pledged to take steps to reduce violence against women.

They also said the Jatiya Sangsad should be made effective and vibrant to resolve national and local issues and promised to support any move in this regard.

Awami League candidate Col (ret'd) Zahid Faruk Shamim and Zaker Party candidate Mizanur Rahman Bachchu in Barisal-5 constituency, Barisal city AL president advocate Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal, advocate Abdul Hye Mahub of JSD, Hiron Kumar Das Mithu of Gano Forum, AK Azad of CPB took part in the programme.

NGO leaders and representatives of International Republican Institute (IRI) also attended the programme.

Sushashoner Jonnya Nagorik (Shujan), Durbar Network and Action Aid jointly organised the programme.



Salma Shahadat, wife of four-party nominee Mizanur Rahman Minu, conducts an election campaign at Shashitala in Rajshahi city, left, and spouses of Rajshahi Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton and grand alliance nominee Fazle Hossain Badsha approach voters at Dasmari yesterday as the two candidates are contesting from Rajshahi-2.



PHOTO STAR

BNP, Jamaat in Rajshahi-3 locked in internal feuds

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

In Rajshahi-3 (Paba-Mohonpur) constituency, grand alliance candidate Miraj Uddin Mollah is in a better position than the candidates of four-party alliance belonging to BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami who are locked in internal feuds.

Former BNP lawmaker Kabir Hossain is fighting here with the symbol of paddy sheaf against Rajshahi city Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman with scale symbol.

Voters said Miraj has intensified his campaign as his chances of winning the seat has become brighter amid fighting between Kabir and Ataur.

While addressing several election meetings, supporters of Kabir, also liberation war affairs secretary of central BNP, have called for resisting Jamaat candidate at any cost.

On the other hand, Jamaat leaders at their election meetings are criticising Kabir as 'unfit' candidate as he is physically ill with parts of his

body are already paralysed.

Kabir, a senior politician of local BNP, is a 'victim of Jamaat politics' to capture the BNP stronghold of Rajshahi, said a follower of Kabir who had been winning Rajshahi-2 (Sadar) constituency since 1991 election.

But during 2001 election when BNP formed an alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, the then Rajshahi mayor and pro-Jamaat BNP leader Mizanur Rahman Minu snatched away the BNP nomination for Rajshahi-2 constituency.

As a result Kabir had to contest from Rajshahi-5 (Bagha-Charghat) seat and won the election.

Kabir's followers who have a vote bank in Rajshahi-2 constituency blamed Minu for his role in Ataur's candidacy against Kabir in Rajshahi-3 and they are remaining absent from Minu's campaign in the city.