

UZ chairman candidate abducted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati district Awami League (AL) and its front organisations brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting abduction of their leader and Rangamati upazila chairman candidate Santosh Kumar Chakma.

The AL unit also urged the district administration to take necessary measures to rescue its leader and postpone today's election in the upazila.

Santosh Kumar Chakma, joint secretary of district AL, was kidnapped by unidentified criminals from Kukichhara under Barkal upazila on Tuesday.

A gang of criminals swooped on Santosh Chakma while he was returning home, concluding election campaign. They picked up Santosh at gunpoint and took him to deep forest.

Later, the criminals demanded Tk 50 lakh as ran-



som for release of the AL leader, local and police sources said.

Hriday Chakma, nephew of Santosh Chakma, yesterday filed a case with Barkal Police Station accusing Koruna Mohan Chakma, who is also a candidate for the post of upazila chairman in the same upazila, and some other unknown persons of their involvement in the abduction, police said.

Jubo League, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Swachchasebak League, front organisations of the ruling AL, took out the procession and then held a rally on the premises of Rangamati Deputy Commissioner's office.

District AL leader Kerol Chakma, Jubo League leader Mithu Marna, BCL district unit president Akbar Hossain, secretary Asish Kumar Chakma, and Mujibur Rahman addressed the rally.

They gave a 12-hour ultimatum to the district administration to rescue their abducted leader. Otherwise, they said a tougher agitation programme will be announced in the district.

Joint forces, divided into several groups, have launched operations in different areas of the district to rescue Santosh Chakma.

JP hopeful in most UZ seats in greater Rangpur

Multiple candidacy puts AL in difficulty

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Upazila chairman candidates with political background have emerged as the main competitors in today's polls in all 35 upazilas under Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari districts.

Election observers said the major competition will be between the leaders of Jatiya Party and Awami League in most of the upazilas in Rangpur region while candidates from BNP would compete with candidates from either JP or AL in a few upazilas.

Party internal feud in regard to several candidates has created difficulty for Awami League leaders in at least 10 upazilas in the region, they said.

"Voters would have to choose candidates with political background in the region because non-political persons could not show up their fitness as public figures," said Dr Rezau Hoque, former principal of Rangpur Carmichael

College. Prof Mozammel Hoque, former principal of the same college, observed that non-political persons who have qualities, patriotism and honesty have hardly taken part in the upazila polls.

In Badeganj upazila under Rangpur district two AL leaders -- Duke Choudhury and Bishawnath Bitu, in Bishawnath Bitu, in Mithapukur AL leaders Motahar Hosen Mowla and Zakir Hosen, in Rangpur Sadar AL leaders Mochaddeque Hosen Bablu and Aaur Zaman Babu are in the race for chairmanship.

In Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila two AL leaders -- former secretary of the district unit Bhola Patwari and incumbent secretary Motiar Rahman -- are in the race for chairmanship.

In Kurigram Sadar, AL leaders Abdul Karim Modhu and Monju Mondol, in Nageshawi AL leaders Aslam Saodagor, Birbal Hosen and Mozammel Hoque Pradhani, in Rajarhat upazila AL leaders Jahid Sarwardi Bappi, Abu

Noor and Yunus Ali and in Fulbari upazila AL leaders Golam Rabbani and Sahadat Hosen are in the race for chairmanship.

District unit committees of the party issued letters of warning in a bid to prevent a few AL leaders from contesting the polls but no one withdrew their candidature.

An AL central committee leader preferring anonymity said he thinks hardly 10 to 12 chairman candidates from AL might win the chairman posts in the region.

He said as the AL supporters were divided, candidates from JP would take lead in today's polls in 15 to 20 upazilas in Rangpur region.

JP Presidium Member Karim Uddin Varosha expressed hope that candidates from JP would win in at least 30 upazilas in the five districts.

"People will elect Jatiya Party leaders because upazila parishad system was introduced during the rule of party chairman Ershad," he said.



Ballot boxes being sent to a polling centre, left, and an official instructing Ansar-VDP men about their duty in Poba upazila in Rajshahi yesterday as the country prepares for upazila elections today.



PHOTO: STAR

UPAZILA ELECTION

670 centres 'risky' in Noakhali, Munshiganj, Narayanganj

STAR REPORT

As many as 670 polling centres have been marked "risky" in Noakhali, Munshiganj and Narayanganj districts as country goes to upazila election today. Of them, 330 centres are in Noakhali, 210 in Munshiganj and the rest in Narayanganj. Noakhali district election commissioner Nazrul Islam Khan said 330 polling centres out of 623 in nine upazilas of the district are risky, reports our correspondent.

Of the risky centres, 47 are in Chatkhil, 22 in Sonaimuri, 61 in Begunang, 43 in Senbagh, 50 in Sudharam, 24 in Kabirhat, 23 in Hatia, 47 in Companyganj and eight in Submacharupazila.

In Munshiganj, 210 polling centres out of 386 in six upazilas of the district have been marked risky.

Of them, 34 centres are in Gazaria upazila, 36 in Sadar upazila, 51 in Tongbari upazila,

Police superintendent Khandker Lutful Kabir said three-tier security measures have been taken to maintain peaceful atmosphere during the election.

A total of 161 people are contesting the election for the posts of chairman, vice chairman and woman vice chairmen in the nine upazilas.

District election office has completed all preparations for holding the elections in nine upazilas.

In Narayanganj, 210 polling centres out of 386 in six upazilas of the district have been marked risky.

Of them, 34 centres are in Gazaria upazila, 36 in Sadar upazila, 51 in Tongbari upazila,

29 in Louhajang upazila, 35 in Sreenagar upazila, and 25 in Sirajdikhan upazila.

A total of 2,422 transparent ballot boxes will be used for voting in the polling centers of the upazilas where the number of voters is 8,75,614.

Police, Ansar, Rab and army personnel have been deployed in the six upazilas to maintain law and order during the polling.

District Returning Officer Bijoy Bhushan Paul said all preparations have been completed for holding the upazila elections peacefully.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reported that police administration has marked 130 out of 544 polling centres in five upazilas "risky".

2 fishermen freed on ransom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two among 40 fishermen kidnapped on last Friday bought their freedom for Tk 50,000 each early Tuesday.

The two fishermen released from captivity of pirates of notorious Kalu Bahini were identified as Leju Sarder and Babul Sheikh hailing from Tushkhali village under Mathbaria upazila in Projpur district.

After receiving the ransom, Jabor Molla and Selim Sheikh who are armed cadres of Kalu Bahini, let off the two fishermen near Gharmunpara canal adjacent to the Sundarbans.

The ransom was paid by relatives of the two victims, said a reliable source of Bagerhat Fishermen's Cooperative Society.

"We were tied up with a tree in the deep forest and tortured mercilessly," the victims said, adding that Jabor Molla and Selim Sheikh also gunned down Syed Ali, a fisherman from trawler 'FB Padma' on Saturday morning in a bid to force others to pay ransom.

Killed Syed Ali was also among 40 fishermen kidnapped at arms point from the sea.

When contacted, Chhatra League president Taimur Faruk alleged that the provost had misbehaved with them. He also denied to allot 'legal' seats to them.

The provost gave shelter to non-student JCD activists at the hall, he alleged further.

Provost Prof Saiful Islam Faruki told newsmen that unruly students had been demanding seats at the hall illegally. He also claimed no outsiders are residents of the hall.

MEGHNA TRAWLER CAPSIZE TRAGEDY

22 bodies buried in Chatmohar upazila

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

As bodies of 22 people, killed in trawler capsizing in Meghna river on Monday night, reached the village in the early morning yesterday, a pall of gloom descended at Chaikula and adjoining villages of Chatmohar upazila in Pabna district.

Several thousands of people including public representatives, upazila election candidates, political leaders rushed to Chaikula village where sorrows and paths overwhelmed the upazila election fever that grips the whole country.

After namaj-e-janaja, the

villagers buried the bodies yesterday.

The 22 victims of trawler capsizing in Meghna river in Doshain area under Motleb upazila are residents of Chaikula and adjoining villages in Chatmohar upazila.

The deceased are Masud, Akkas, Mukul, Alaf, Amirul, Arif, Ashraf, Joyal, Alaj, Farid, Liton, Mizanur, Rabiul, Monir, Noor Mohammad, Nayeb, Alauddin, Zahirul, Atahar, Nabir, Ripon and Shah Alam.

Being the 'one bread earners' for their families, they had gone to Chandpur to earn as daylabourers.

Four brothers Nur Mohammed, Alauddin, Alhaj Uddin and Shah Alam -- all

from village Chaikula were among the victims of the trawler capsizing tragedy.

Their mother, wives, children and other relatives became speechless to see the bodies.

"I have nothing to run my family. Just an incomplete tinshed room is our only asset," said Fulmoti, wife of Nobir who left behind four daughters.

Similar pathetic scene was seen at houses of other victim families.

Local upazila administration has sanctioned 20 kg rice for each victim family while lawmaker from Pabna-3 constituency Md Mokbul Hossain have urged the locals to come forward with helping hands to the bereaved families.



Locals have a last glimpse of Meghna tragedy victims after namaj-e-janaja in Chatmohar upazila, left, and relatives of a deceased wail.

PHOTO: STAR

MURDER CASE

UZ chairman candidate Anar escapes arrest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Joint forces yesterday launched a failed drive to arrest upazila chairman candidate Kaliganj upazila AL General Secretary Anwarul Azim Anar.

Anar is accused in nine cases including those for murder, extortion, arms and gold smuggling and an interpollister criminal.

Being deprived from parliamentary polls Anar again submitted nomination paper for upazila chairman post. And he is in the top favourite in his electoral areas.

At 2:00pm yesterday, Rab and joint forces encircled his house at Katal Bagan and continued their operation till 4:30pm. But they failed to nab Anar and recover anything illegal.

Sources said shortly before the drive two persons in civil dress informed Anar to leave the area to evade arrest.

On July 24 last year, Kaliganj police arrested Anar for breaking emergency rules but his cohorts attacked policemen and snatched him away.

One of the cases filed against Anar is for killing Darshana Poura BNP General Secretary Saiful Islam on May 1, 2007.

Contacted, Jhenidah Superintendent of Police Jahangir Hossain Matabbar said police will continue their operation to arrest Anar.

ভোটার এলাকা এবং ক্রমিক নম্বর সম্পর্কিত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

আসন্ন উপজেলা পরিষদ নির্বাচনে ভোটার এলাকা এবং ভোটার ক্রমিক নম্বর সংক্রান্ত তথ্য প্রাপ্তিতে সমস্যা হলে নিম্নলিখিত নম্বরে যোগাযোগের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। উল্লেখ্য নিম্নলিখিত নম্বরে ২২ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ৯:০০ থেকে ৫:০০ পর্যন্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

ঢাকা ও রাজবাড়ী	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩৪
নারায়নগঞ্জ ও মুন্সিগঞ্জ	০১৭৩০০২০৫৫৪
গাজীপুর ও গোপালগঞ্জ	০১৭৩০০২০৬২৯
মানিকগঞ্জ ও নরসিংদী	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩৬
ময়মনসিংহ ও মাদারীপুর	০১৭৩০০২০৫৭০
কিশোরগঞ্জ ও নেত্রকোনা	০১৭৩০০২০৫৮৮
জামালপুর, শেরপুর ও শরিয়তপুর	০১৭৩০০২০৫০৮
ফরিদপুর ও টাঙ্গাইল	০১৭৩০০২০৬৪৩
সিলেট ও মৌলভীবাজার	০১৭৩০০২০৫০৭
হবিগঞ্জ ও সুনামগঞ্জ	০১৭৩০০২০৫১২
রাজশাহী বিভাগের জেলা সমূহ	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩৭
	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩৮
	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩৯
চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগের জেলা সমূহ	০১৭৩০০২০৬২৭
	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩০
	০১৭৩০০২০৬৩১
খুলনা বিভাগের জেলা সমূহ	০১৭৩০০২০৫১০
	০১৭৩০০২০৫১১
	০১৭৩০০২০৫১২
বরিশাল বিভাগের জেলা সমূহ	০১৭৩০০২০৫১৪
	০১৭৩০০২০৬২৬
	০১৭৩০০২০৬৪৫

হবিগঞ্জ ভোটার তালিকা প্রনয়ন ও জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র প্রদানে সহায়তা প্রদান প্রকল্প

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