

Sunamganj-2 by-election tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Last-minute electioneering for Sunamganj-4 bypolls yesterday marked hectic campaign by leaders of both rural camps.

The candidates preferred rural people to townfolk and made house-to-house contacts to woo the voters for the by-election scheduled for tomorrow.

The campaign was set to end yesterday midnight.

The Returning Officer told The Daily Star yesterday that all necessary steps were taken for peaceful holding of election. Eighteen teams, all headed by magistrates, will be there while three teams of law enforcers under his guidance will be on duty on the polling day. The number of polling centres in the constituency is 105, he added.

Till yesterday, there was no report of any untoward inci-

dent anywhere in the constituency.

Campaigning for three days for former JS Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia, BNP's Brigadier Hannan Shah (retired) left Sunamganj yesterday while none of the central AL men came to join campaign for the grand alliance candidate.

AL-backed grand alliance nominee Md Matiur Rahman who is also the acting district AL chief, joined a number of rallies in Sunamganj and in Doarabazar.

The contest is expected to be limited between the AL and BNP runners, as Krishak Mohammad Sadeque is the other candidate, a number of voters said yesterday.

They stabbed Swapn and Ismail for their link with BCL RU unit.

Following the case, Mother police arrested Sirajus Salekin, former president of Shibir Binodpur unit, from Binodpur Bazar area.

25 Shibir men sued for attack on RU BCL activists

RU CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed with Motihar police station on Thursday against 25 Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres in connection with stabbing of two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Rajshahi University unit on the campus on Wednesday night.

Injured Mizanur Rahman Swapn and Ismail Hossain are undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The case filed by RU BCL activist Mehedi Hassan stated that a group of 25 Shibir cadres led by Sirajus Salekin carrying sharp weapons, firearms, hand bombs and iron rods surrounded BCL activists Swapn and Ismail near the university.

They stabbed Swapn and Ismail for their link with BCL RU unit.

Aggrieved BNP leaders and activists yesterday staged agitation in Chapainawabganj, Pataukhali, Tangail and Pabna districts demanding cancellation of the new convening committee declared by the central body on Tuesday.

Internal feud in different district units of the party surfaced anew after declaration of the new convening committees.

In Chapainawabganj, a faction of the district unit brought out a procession in the town demanding cancellation of the new convening committee, according to our correspondent.

Led by former lawmaker Harunur Rashid, the processionists paraded the main streets of the town and then burnt the effigies of Rizvi Ahmed, office secretary of the central committee, and Shahjahan Mia, convenor of the new convening committee, in front of the local press club.

Addressing a rally on the club premises, the BNP men alleged that Rizvi made former lawmaker Shahjahan Mia convenor of the new committee, taking bribe from him.

They demanded immediate removal of Shahjahan Mia from the post of district convenor.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that a section of BNP leaders and activists burnt the effigy of Advocate Ahmed Azam Khan, a lawyer of party Chief Khaleeda Zia and joint convenor of the newly formed district convening committee.

They brought out a procession in the town and then held a rally on Shaheed Minar premises. At the rally, the aggrieved party men declared Ahmed Azam Khan 'unwanted' in the district and demanded cancellation of the new convening committee.

They urged the party chief to form the district convening committee after consultation with grassroots leaders and activists.

Tangail district BNP former joint secretary advocate Arif Ali Mollah, Jubo Dal leader Ataur Rahman Jinnah, district BNP leaders Abul Kashem and Selim Reza, Sadar, city BNP leaders Mirza Rony Ahmed Rinku and Shamsul Haque Shamsu addressed the rally.

Our, Patuakhali correspondent adds: Former minister and immediate past president of the BNP district unit Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and convenor of the new convening committee Abdur Rashid Chunnu Mia were yesterday declared 'unwanted' in the district by a faction of local BNP.

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According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials, about 22,300 hectares were marked as mango orchard in five upazilas in the district. DAE fixed a target of 1.5 lakh tonnes of mangoes this year, which is 53,000 tonnes less than the previous year.

However, the mango traders informed that the production was much less than the DAE target.

Taking advantage of this the importers went for huge quantity of mango from India, they said.

Nazrul Islam, president of district mango traders association admitted that the mango orchard owners and traders are making financial loss due to the import of Indian mangoes.

"To save our industry we had requested the authorities not to allow mango import at least for three months from May to July every year," he said.

About 8 kilometres of the 40-kilometre embankment around the island were com-

pletely destroyed and the rest partially damaged by cyclones Sidr, Remsha and Aila.

Chairman, and vice chairman of Kutubdia Upazila Parishad and UP chairman at a press conference in Cox's Bazar town yesterday demanded repair of the damaged embankment and construction of at least 100 cyclone shelters on emergency basis.

They also demanded creation of mangrove forest to protect the embankment, rehabilitation of those who have taken shelter on the embankment after being displaced by the cyclones and repair of abandoned cyclone shelters.

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Upazila Parishad Chairman ATM Nurul Bashir Chowdhury said the cyclones completely destroyed 8 km of the embankment. Salt water from the Bay is entering the island through the breaches, affecting about 40,000 people of 20 villages.

Upazila Parishad Vice-Chairman Md Idris Khondker said about 1,000 houses have been washed away by Cyclone Aila. At least 5,000 people, who have lost their houses, are now living on the embankment amid serious risk.

Train link with Lalmonirhat

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