



Supporter of a mayoral candidate in Lalmonirhat municipality comes out of his house every night and woos votes by singing songs in different areas of the town, right, law enforcers seize over 100 unauthorised motorbikes ahead of the municipal election in Patuakhali town.



PHOTO: STAR

## ELECTION fever

### Pabna: 37 mayor candidates in seven municipalities

Thirty-seven mayoral candidates are contesting the elections to seven municipalities of the district scheduled for January 12.

In Pabna municipality, six candidates are contesting for the mayoral post. Of them two from Awami League, two from BNP and one each from JP and Jamaat, reports our correspondent.

Awami League nominated Abu Ishaque Shamim, joint secretary of the district unit, as its mayoral candidate for Pabna municipality. His rival Rajib Hassan Tipu, Jubo League district unit secretary, is still in the race.

Though BNP nominated Siddiqur Rahman as its mayoral candidate, incumbent mayor and former organising secretary of its district unit Kamrul Hassan Mintu is contesting the polls as civil society candidate.

In Ishwardi municipality, two candidates from BNP and one from AL are contesting for the mayoral post. Zakaria Pintu of BNP is contesting against the party nominated candidate Mokhlesur Rahman Bablu.

Five candidates from AL and two from BNP are contesting for the mayor post of Sujanagar municipality. AL nominated upazila unit president Abul Kashem, but his rivals Tofazzal Hossain Tofa, secretary of upazila Jubo League, and Jubo League leaders Raja Hassan and Jahangir Alam are still in the race. Two BNP men-- Azam Biswas and kamal Hossain Biswas--are vying for the mayoral post.

In Chatmohar upazila, two candidates from BNP and one from AL are contesting for the mayoral post. Incumbent mayor Prof Abdul Mannan is still in the race against the BNP nominated candidate H Islam Hira. AL nominated Mirza Rejaul Karim Dulal as its candidate.

In Vangura upazila, two candidates from BNP and two from AL are contesting for the mayoral post. Local AL leader Osman Gani is contesting the polls against party nominated candidate Lokman Hossain. Advocate Mojibar Rahman and Nur Mojahid Swapan are contesting for the mayoral post from BNP.

Two mayoral candidates from AL and three from BNP are still in the race in Faridpur municipality. Those contesting from BNP are Abul Hossain Master, incumbent mayor, Raihanul Islam Bablu and Enamul Haque.

In Santhia municipality, two each from AL and BNP are contesting the mayoral polls. AL nominated Mirazul Islam, but its local leader Mozammel Master is contesting the polls as an independent candidate. Though BNP nominated Siddiquil Islam, its rebel candidate Saiful Islam is still in the race.

### Satkhira: Rebel candidates of AL, BNP still in race

Rebel mayor candidates of both Awami League (AL) and BNP are still in the election race in Kalaroa municipality of the district, reports our correspondent.

AL Kalaroa municipal unit at a meeting on December 15 nominated upazila AL convener Moznu Chowdhury as mayor candidate. But four other local leaders submitted their nomination papers to vie for the post, defying the selection.

The rebel AL candidates are district AL working committee member and upazila AL joint convener Arafat Hossain, local AL leaders Kazi Abdul Wahab, Rafiqul Islam and Sheikh Amjad Hossain.

Moznu Chowdhury are contesting the election with symbol 'spectacles' while rebel candidates Arafat Hossain, Kazi Abdul Wahab, Rafiqul Islam and Sheikh Amjad Hossain are in the race with election symbols "television", "lock", "pineapple" and "wall clock".

BNP nominated Kalaroa upazila unit general secretary Sheikh Sharifuzzaman Tuhi as mayor candidate. His election symbol is "mike".

Rebel BNP candidate Gazi Mohamamd Akhtarul Islam, president of Kalaroa upazila Chhatra Dal, is in the race with election symbol "pen and ink-pot".

Both AL and BNP have not yet taken any disciplinary actions against the rebels.

The other mayor aspirant in Kalaroa municipality are local Jamaat leader Kazi Maniruzzaman Moznu.

### Woman burned to death, 10 houses gutted

UNB, Jhalakati

An elderly woman was burned to death while at least 10 dwelling houses were gutted in fire that broke out in an Asrayan project at Char Indrapasha in Rajapur upazila Monday noon.

Fire service sources said, the fire broke out at a house of no 2 barrack of Char Indrapasha Asrayan project at about 3:00 pm and soon engulfed adjacent nine houses.

On information, fire fighters from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and doused the flame after one hour of hectic efforts.

A resident at the site Sokhina Begum, 90, who sustained burn injuries, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

It is suspected that the fire originated from a stove.

The extent of loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 25 lakh.

## Factional clashes on BCL founding day

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 14 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in factional clashes over holding programmes on the 63rd founding anniversary of the AL-backed student body in Rajshahi and Barisal yesterday.

In Rajshahi, the clash erupted at Puthia upazila headquarters at around 11:00am when the BCL groups of local AL lawmaker Abdul Wadud Dara and district AL President Tajul Islam M Faruk tried to bring out separate processions, reports our staff correspondent.

Both sides equipped with sticks chased each other and threw brickbats on Rajshahi-Dhaka highway, leaving at least ten people from both sides injured.

The clashing groups also vandalised a passenger bus and several roadside shops. Movement of vehicles remained halted on the highway for one and a half hours from 11:30am.

District BCL President GM Hira Bachchu and Puthia upazila BCL President Kamal Hossain

were leading the Faruk group and upazila BCL General Secretary Mokbul Hossain was leading the Dara group during the clash.

Meanwhile, three activists of BCL Rajshahi Medical College unit were seriously injured as their rival partymen hit them with sharp weapons on Monday.

The injured--Anup Sarker Apu, Abdur Rahim Russel and Rakibuzzaman Jony -- were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Police quoted witnesses as saying that a group of armed BCL men swooped on the three at a tea stall near RMC gate at around 9:00pm.

Campus sources said the attack was a sequel to Sunday's attack on Mamun group by Sampad group that left one BCL worker injured.

Shahidul Haq, officer-in-charge of Rajpara Police Station, said a case was filed against 12 BCL men in connection with the incident.

In Barisal, two BCL factions yesterday clashed in the city over holding programmes on the occasion of the 63rd

founding anniversary of the student body, according to a correspondent.

Four BCL men were injured and a vehicle of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and a tea stall were damaged during the clash in front of AL office at BCC

annex building.

Witnesses said a BCL activist belonging to Bappy group beat up Abdur Razzak of Barisal Polytechnic Institute unit after a BCL rally held in front of the BCC office at around 1:00 pm.

Hearing the news, sup-

porters of Razzak equipped with lethal weapons went to the spot and locked in a clash with their rivals.

Police and Rab personnel dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control at around 1:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Stick wielding activists of a faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Puthia upazila unit in Rajshahi district chase their rival partymen yesterday.

### FRIDAY'S MATIRANGA INCIDENT

## Jubo League leader sued for killing Sramik Dal leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A Jubo League leader was sued on Sunday in connection with the murder of Matiranga upazila unit Sramik Dal president Sirajul Islam.

Sirajul was killed in an attack by Jubo League and Chhatra League (BCL) men in local market area of Matiranga on Friday night.

Mohammad Abu Yusuf, son of the victim, filed the case accusing Matiranga

upazila Jubo League unit member Mohammad Belal Hossain.

Officer-in-charge of Matiranga police station Mohammad Mizanur Rahman said they have already raided several places to arrest Belal.

"As per police advice I have filed the case, said Abu Yusuf. My family members are also threatened by ruling party cadres," he said.

Witnesses said, a group of 10-15 members of Jubo League and BCL men led by

Belal attacked the Sramik Dal president following an altercation between them over a trifling matter at Matiranga bazar on Friday evening.

Seriously injured Sirajul was first admitted to Matiranga upazila health complex at night and later referred to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

However, Sirajul died at Manikchhari on the way to CMCH at around 12:30 am Saturday.



PHOTO: STAR

A blanket of fog covers Chittagong city till noon yesterday while people have started experiencing a biting cold there. The photo was taken from CRB point.

## Cold spell, dense fog make life difficult

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Cold spell coupled with thick fog in the last few days has paralysed life and disrupted road and river communication in several districts.

Ferry service on Mawa-Kawrakandi route remained suspended for around seven hours yesterday leaving over 400 vehicles stranded at Mawa and Kawrakandi ferry terminals, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

Ferry movement came to a halt at 2:00am while six ferries were forced to anchor in the middle of the River Padma due to dense fog.

Several hundred passengers on both sides of the ferry ghats suffered a lot for shortage of food and drinking water.

Besides, at least 10 launches had to stop in the middle of the rivers Dhaleshwari, Meghna and Padma due to thick fog, BIWTA sources said.

In the northern districts, the on-going cold spell may continue for at least seven more days.

The poor people in the monga-hit Lalmonirhat district are suffering most for lack of jobs due to adverse weather condition, reports our correspondent.

Day-labourer Roich Uddin, 35, Kamal, 40, Manowar, 48, and others at north Saptana village in Lalmonirhat municipality said they are without job as they can not go out because of heavy fog and cold.

An old man, identified as Santos Roy, 45, son of late Rajendro Nath at Saptana village died from severe cold yesterday.

Besides, over a hundred people, mostly children, are suffering from cold related diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia, hospital sources said.

Our Correspondent in Barisal reports: The people in southern region of the country are suffering a lot for disruption of road and river communication because of the thick fog and cold spell.

Road and water transports get stranded for 6-8 hours at different points of their routes. The sun becomes visible after 10:30 am in the city.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation and Launch Owners Association sources said ferry services remained suspended for at least 6-10 hours as water transports reached their final destinations 6-8 hours after their scheduled time yesterday.

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