

ELECTION fever

Khagrachhari: No BNP man to vie for mayor post

Five people are now in the race for mayoral post in Khagrachhari municipality. No BNP man will contest for the post of mayor as one local Awami League (AL) leader, one Khagrachhari Nagorik Committee (KNC) backed leader, one United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) backed leader and two independent candidates remain in the race, reports a correspondent.

The mayor aspirants are Nurun Nabi Chowdhury, acting chief advisor of Khagrachhari district AL, Rafiqul Alam of KNC and Dhiman Khisha of UPDF. The rest two are independent candidates advocate Nazrul Islam and Md Maktar Meza.

Contacted, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, convener of district BNP said, no BNP man is interested to contest for the post of mayor as the "ruling party men threaten the party aspirants."

"We have a strong organisational base in the municipality and that's why there is no BNP candidate," said Rana Bikrom Tripura, vice president of district AL.

District Election Office sources said, besides 5 mayor aspirants, 44 will vie for councillor posts and 14 for the reserved seats in the Khagrachhari municipality election.

In Matiranga municipality, eight people are contesting for the mayoral post.

Patuakhali: 3 supporters fined for poll code violation

Three supporters of a mayoral candidate in Patuakhali municipality has been fined for violation of code of conduct on Wednesday noon, reports our correspondent.

A mobile court conducted by Md Saiful Islam, executive magistrate, fined each Tk 500, in default, to suffer three days' imprisonment as the three were hanging banners in front of circuit house.

Convict Monir Hossain, 25, Mosharef Hossain, 28, and Mostafa, 26, all residing in Patuakhali town, are supporters of Dr Shafiqul Islam, ruling Awami League backed mayoral candidate.

Lalmonirhat: Poll campaign gaining momentum

Election campaign is gaining momentum in two municipalities of the district.

Candidates and their workers are conducting door-to-door campaign, reports our correspondent.

Besides visiting the voters, miking, postering and public meetings by the candidates and their workers have given the whole area a festive look.

Defying bitter cold they are carrying on their electioneering.

So far 10 mayoral candidates are in poll race in two municipalities.

They are Reazul Islam Rintu (AL), Hafizur Rahman Babla (BNP) and independent candidates Mosharof Hossain Rana, FF Abdur Rashid, advocate Chitto Ranjon Roy for Lalmonirhat municipality and Anisur Rahman Babu (AL), Salauzzaman Opel (BNP), and independent candidates Shamsur Ali, Morshed Alam

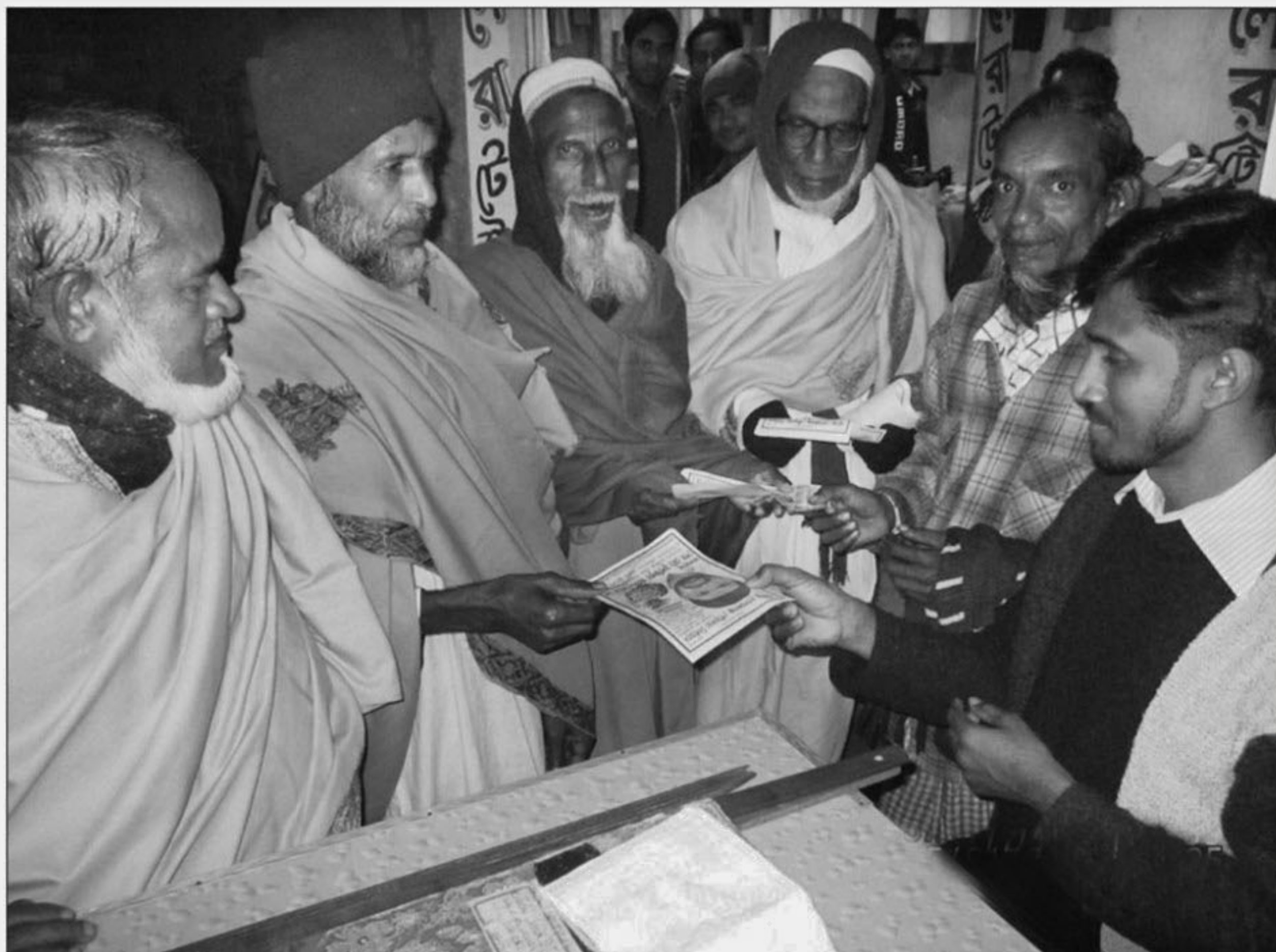


PHOTO: STAR

Defying the biting cold of winter evening, several elderly people move from shop to shop at Siddik Plaza in Gopalganj town asking people to cast their votes for their favourite candidates ahead of the January 17 polls in the municipality.

AL in Jhenidah, Pabna expels rebel candidates

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jhenidah and Pabna district Awami League have expelled six local leaders for contesting the upcoming municipal poll in violation of party decision.

Jhenidah district AL joint secretary Abdul Khalek and Shaikupa municipal AL president Kazi Ashraf Azam have been expelled from the ruling party for contesting election as rebel candidates, reports our correspondent.

A press release signed by AL district president and Shaikupa MP Abdul Hye and general secretary Azizur Rahman in this regard was sent to prime minister on January 1 for approval, party sources said.

Although the party nominated central Jubo League leader Saidul Karim Minto for Sadar municipality and Toyabur Rahman for Shaikupa municipality, the two AL rebel candidates were conducting their election

campaign, the sources said.

In Pabna, Sujanagar upazila unit AL on January 1 expelled four leaders of AL and Jubo League for being the rebel candidates, reports our correspondent.

The district unit AL at a press conference on January 2 also announced Abu Ishhaque Shamim, joint secretary of district unit AL as the Pabna municipality mayor candidate.

"As the AL central committee gave green signal and the grassroots opinion favours Abu Ishhaque Shamim, he was made party nominated mayor candidate in Pabna municipality," Saidul Haque Chunnun, senior vice president of Pabna district unit AL told the press conference.

Lawmaker of Pabna-5 constituency Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince was also present at the press conference. He said the party workers have to work for the party nominated candidate.

Among others, vice president of district AL Rezaur Rahim Lal and Abul Kalam Azad Babu spoke.

At the press conference, Shohel Hassan Shahin, secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila unit AL and Aminul Haque Tipu, vice president of Sadar upazila AL, both mayor candidates, withdrew from the race in favour of the party decision.

Sujanagar upazila unit AL in an urgent meeting on January 1 expelled AKM Bande Ali, senior vice president of the upazila unit AL, Raja Hassan, vice president of upazila unit Jubo League, Tofazzal Hossain Tofa, secretary of upazila unit Jubo League and Azizul Haque Babu, publication secretary of upazila unit Jubo League.

Of them, Raja Hassan and Tofazzal Hossain Tofa are contesting as the Sujanagar municipality mayor candidate though the upazila unit AL selected Abul Kashem for the post.

Robbers kill trader

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Robbers shot dead a trader in Habiganj and looted passengers of seven buses in Sherpur yesterday.

Trader Tipu Sultan, 38 was stabbed to death by robbers at Kashimnagar village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj district early yesterday, reports our staff correspondent in Sylhet.

Police quoting locals said a gang of robbers numbering 10/12 entered the house of Tipu Sultan at about 3:30am. As Tipu tried to resist them the gang stabbed him indiscriminately leaving him dead on the spot.

In Sherpur, robbers looted valuables from passengers of seven buses at Alinapara on Sherpur-Dhaka highway in Sadar upazila early yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, putting logs, a gang of robbers numbering 40-50 blocked the highway at about 4am and looted gold ornaments, cash, mobile phone sets and other valuables from the passengers at gunpoint.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Man killed in tiger attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A tiger killed a middle-aged man at about 9 am on Friday at Helatala Baushi Canal near the Sundarbans under Koira upazila of Khulna district. The victim was identified as Rahmat Ali, 50, son of late Mohor Ali of Kshuhodanga village under the same upazila. The victim went to the Sundarbans with permission from forest department on December 21 for collecting golpata, a kind of big tree leaves. A tiger attacked and killed Rahmat when he woke up and went to take bath in the canal. Others who went to the area with him recovered his body from the forest at 4 pm on Friday.

Ex-UP member shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A former union parishad (UP) member was shot dead in Lalpur upazila on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Akbar Ali, 70, of Bilmaria union Parishad of the upazila. Officer-in-charge Tariqul Islam of Lalpur police station said, two armed criminals stormed the house of Akbar at Mohorkoya village at about 8:00 pm and sprayed bullets on him. He was first taken to Lalpur upazila health complex and later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died at about 10:00 pm. Police suspect rivals might have killed him over land dispute.

Kidnappers demand ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khustia

Abductors of a village doctor yesterday demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom for his release at Jhouldia in Sadar upazila. Police said criminals called Pabitra Prasad, 35, son of Durga Prasad out of his home on Thursday at about 7:30pm. The gang picked up Pabitra at gunpoint. Hearing the news, police and villagers and a team from Rab-12 rushed to the spot but failed to trace out the victim. On Friday night, an unknown caller using Pabitra's mobile phone contacted his family members and demanded Tk 10 lakh for his release.

Five bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Five hand bombs were recovered by Narail police at around 4.00 pm yesterday from a house owned by Omar Ali at village Jurulia in Shahabad union under Sadar upazila. Police said, acting on secret information, a team went to the place and recovered a packet of five fresh bombs. SI Shankor of Narail said that all the bombs were wrapped with polythene. None was arrested as those were found in an abandoned condition, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Warm clothes being distributed by Prothom Alo men among the cold-stricken at an old home at Nabapalli village in Gopalganj yesterday. The home was built with the help of the daily after cyclone Sidr hit the area in 2007.

Two outlaws held, one freed on bail: Arms recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police arrested two outlaws in Kushtia and Pabna on Wednesday and Thursday.

Another outlaw was released on bail from Khulna jail on Tuesday.

In Kushtia, police arrested a 'regional leader' of outlawed Gano Bahini and recovered firearms, ammunitions and bombs on Thursday.

The outlaw was identified as Panjer Ali, 45, son of late Afzal Hossain of Ahmedpur village in Mirpur upazila.

Police said, a plainclothe joint team of detective branch (DB) and Mirpur police raided the house of Panjer at Ahmedpur village at about 5:00pm on Thursday, about half an hour after he reached his house getting bail from Kushtia jail, reports our correspondent.

Chokdar Abdul Halim, assistant police superintendent of Kushtia, said during interrogation, Panjer gave them information about his hidden firearms and ammunition.

Later police, along with Panjer, conducted a raid at Kalabaria GK (Ganges-Kabodak) canal around 4.30am on Friday and recovered one light gun, five bullets and five bombs from under the soil.



PHOTO: STAR

Police arrested Panjer Ali, 'regional leader' of outlawed Gano Bahini and recovered arms, ammunition and bombs from his possession in Kushtia on Thursday.

accused in about a dozen cases including three for murder.

He was first arrested February 12, 2009. But he got bail on Thursday from a local court.

In Pabna, police arrested an outlaw with firearm from Shatgasa village of Atghoria upazila on Wednesday afternoon.

The arrestee is Md. Korban Ali, 35, son of Gafur Shikdar of the village. Korban is a hardened operative of outlawed PBCP Janajudhha faction, police said, reports our correspondent.

Sub-inspector of Atghoria police station Md. Rawshan Ali said, following a tip-off, a police team raided a school at the village at about 3pm on Wednesday where the criminals were

holding a meeting. Police arrested Korban from the spot while the rest of the criminals managed to flee the scene.

Police recovered a foreign made revolver and three bullets from his possession, the SI said.

Earlier Ataikula police arrested three more outlawed operatives of PBCP Lal Pataka faction on Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the detained founder of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) Gazi Kamrul, 52, was released on bail from Khulna district jail on Tuesday evening, reports our staff correspondent.

The most notorious outlaw of the south-western region of the country, Gazi Kamrul, showed V sign while coming out of

jail, said some security guards of the jail.

According to Jailor Md Rafiqul Islam of Khulna district Jail, joint forces arrested the top outlaw during Operation Clean Heart on August 10 in 2003 from his four-storied house named White House at Daulatpur of Khulna city in connection with 15 cases including six for murders in the district.

He has got bail in all the cases, the jailor said. Gazi Kamrul, who began his career as a lightman at Daulatpur Minakshi Cinema at the age of 20, later became a rich man through illegal arms trade and extortion, sources said.

He formed Biplobi Communist Party in 1998 defecting from Janajudhha faction of outlawed PBCP.

For refusing to bring dowry money

UNB, Narayanganj

A woman and her baby girl sustained burn injuries allegedly as her in-laws poured hot milk on her body for refusing to bring dowry money in Soeyalbari ghat area of Bandar upazila Friday.

The injured were identified as Moushumi, 21, wife of Shawkat Ali and her two-year-old daughter Lamia.

Police said Moushumi, daughter of Azizul Haque of the area was married to Shawkat, son of Joynal Abedin, two years ago.

After the marriage Shawkat along with his family members used to torture Moushumi for dowry.

On Friday morning they picked up a quarrel with her as Moushumi refused to bring from parents Tk 2 lakh dowry demanded by Shawkat.

They beat up Moushumi mercilessly and at one stage poured hot milk on her body, leaving her critically injured at around 8 am. Her minor daughter also received injuries as she was on her lap.

Local people rescued her and took them to Narayanganj 200-bed Hospital.

Police arrested Shawkat and his sister Shilpi in this connection.

4 women activists of Hizb-ut Towhid held

Books, CDs, leaflets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Four women activists of controversial Hizb-ut Towhid were held on Friday evening at Chhatadap village under Atwary upazila in Panchagarh while they were distributing Islamist books and leaflets.

The arrestees are Momotaz Begum, 40, Momtasina, 25, Firoza Begum, 28, and Mehnab Begum, 21.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of

Atwary police station Moznu Rahaman told this correspondent over cell phone that, acting on a tip-off, a police team led by sub-inspector of the PS Ruhul Amin arrested the four women from the village while they were trying to convince the villagers.

Police also seized seven books, six CDs and 70 leaflets relating to their organisation from their possession.

Of the arrestees, two are

inhabitants of Panchagarh and the other two are from Dhaka.

Police sent them to jail detaining under Section-54 as the police are yet to confirm whether the organisation is legal or illegal, SI Ruhul Amin said.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Md Shahabuddin said investigation is on. Steps will be taken after confirming their involvement with the organisation, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi city Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton drives a rickshaw to lead a procession in the city yesterday as part of awareness campaign marking the National Sanitation Month.