

## AL men besiege RO's office in Kalihati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Angry AL men yesterday besieged the office of the returning officer (RO) at Kalihati for two hours following an untoward incident allegedly occurred by army men on Saturday night, sources said.

In the incident, seven Awami League (AL) workers were allegedly beaten by the army men, resulting in injuries to them. The injured were admitted to the Kalihati Upazila Health Complex.

The injured AL workers were the supporters of mayoral candidate of Kalihati municipality Ansar Ali, B.Com.

The election agent of AL mayor candidate, Ansar Ali has already lodged a written complaint with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

In his complaint, Ansar Ali alleged that members of the army patrol team entered the house of AL mayoral candidate and picked up four supporters from there. They were Mukul Chandra Pal, Masud Ali, Zoad Ali and Uzzal Hossain. Later, the same team picked up three more workers of the mayor candidate named Mosharaf, Mamun and Mangol Sutradhar and beat them up at Kalihati college Intersection.

The next morning, hundreds of supporters of AL mayor candidate besieged the office of the returning officer for two hours.

Later, senior army officers of Shaheed Salahuddin Cantonment, Ghatail, held a meeting with Kalihati upazila chairman Hasan Imam Khan, upazila nirbahi officer Mamun-ul-Hasan and local AL leaders. The meeting decided to withdraw the army officer responsible for the incident and give responsibility to another army officer, sources said.

Earlier, Election Commission (EC) decided to deploy army personnel in two (Kalihati and Tangail) out of nine centers during municipal poll.

Meanwhile, election to nine municipalities of Tangail district will be held today.

## Robbers loot valuables

UNB, Narayanganj

Robbers looted gold ornaments, cash and other valuables from a Saudi expatriate's house at Talarchar village in Arahazar upazila early Saturday.

Police quoting local people said a gang of armed robbers numbering 15/20 entered the house of Main Uddin at about 2:00am by breaking open the door and looted 5 tolas of gold ornaments, cash Tk 90,000 and other valuables worth Tk 4 lakh keeping the family members hostage at gunpoint.

The gang beat up his parents indiscriminately when they tried to resist them.

## Bombs, arms found in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered eight bombs, two Indian shutter guns, one locally made pipe gun and three bullets from Baribathan area of the district town on Saturday night.

Rab commander of Jhenidah Rezaul Karim said, on a secret information they launched a



PHOTO: STAR

Repair work is going on at joint No 5 of Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge over the Jamuna River yesterday. A fault that developed in the joint on Saturday caused serious disturbance to vehicular movement on the country's largest road-cum-railway bridge.

# Polls in 9 municipalities of Ctg district tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

All preparations are complete for holding the municipal elections in Chittagong and Sylhet division tomorrow.

In nine municipalities under Chittagong district, 44 candidates are contesting for mayoral posts, 352 for 81 general councillor posts and 85 others for 27 reserved seats of female councillors.

Quite a few 'rebel' candidates are in the mayoral race as the two major parties -- ruling Awami League (AL) and opposition BNP have failed to present single mayoral candidates in several municipalities.

Authorities have taken special measures including deployment of army and navy along with police, Rapid Action Battalion, Border Guard of Bangladesh, and Ansar and VDP as 70 of the 105 centres in the nine municipalities under Chittagong district have been marked as 'most vulnerable'.

The number of mayoral contestants is nine in



Mirsarai, six each in Baroarhat and Raozan, four each in Sandwip, Banskhali, Satkania and Chandanaish, five in Patiya and three in Rangunia municipality.

Number of voters is 9444 in Mirsarai, 6629 in Baroarhat, 40458 in Raozan, 25500 in Sandwip, 29230 in Patiya, 22064 in Chandanaish, 27840 in Satkania, 20866 in Banskhali and 19676 in Rangunia.

In Raozan, Mirsarai, Baroarhat, Patiya, Sandwip and Banskhali municipalities, several pro-Awami League (AL) candidates are contesting. In Sandwip, Mirsarai and Baroarhat municipalities, more than one pro-BNP candidates are contesting. Jamaat-e-Islami backed mayoral candidates are contesting in Mirsarai

and Baroarhat. In Raozan, the lone candidate from BNP Abdullah Al Hasan, also the president of Raozan municipality unit of BNP, is enjoying a good position as five pro-AL mayoral candidates are contesting there.

AL Raozan upazila unit President and incumbent Mayor Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury and AL North district unit Environment Affairs Secretary and former mayor Debashis Palit are two potential candidates from the party, said party sources. Joint convener of Raozan municipality unit of AL Anwarul Islam and AL leaders Abu Baker Siddique and Mohammad Musa are also in the race.

In Patiya, BNP fixed Nurul Islam as its lone mayoral candidate while AL has two rival candidates including

Chowdhury as mayoral candidate his rival Mohammad Akhter Hossain is contesting as independent candidate. Two persons from AL and two others from BNP are contesting for the mayoral post in Sandwip.

Both the AL and BNP could set single mayoral candidates in Rangunia, Chandanaish and Satkania municipalities. In Rangunia, Khalilur Rahman of AL, Emdadul Islam of BNP and independent candidate Bijoy Ketan Barua are contesting. Contestants in Chandanaish municipality are Shiekh Tipu Chowdhury of AL, Nurul Anwar of BNP, Mohammad Ayub of LDP and Alamgir Islam Boidi of Islamic Front.

In Satkania, BNP backed lone candidate and former mayor Mohammadur Rahman is in quite uncomfortable condition to fight AL-backed lone candidate Mohammad Zobaer as Jamaat-backed Jafar Sadek is contesting there. Rafik Ahmad is in the race as independent candidate.

Although AL nominated Sheikh Fakhrudin



## Moulvibazar: BNP demands deployment of army

Moulvibazar BNP leaders yesterday demanded deployment of army in the town to ensure a free and fair election to the municipality scheduled for January 18.

They raised the demand at a press conference in the district town in the afternoon. Sylhet BNP leaders Ilias Ali, Begum Khaleda Rabbani and BNP mayoral candidate Md Fayzul Karim Mayun spoke, reports our correspondent.

They said the workers of two AL mayoral candidates are preventing BNP men from campaigning for their mayoral candidate Md Fayzul Karim Mayun in different areas of the municipality. "We demand deployment of army as AL men may snatch away the people's verdict through rigging in polling stations," the BNP leaders feared.

Two AL mayor candidates-- Md Nahid Ahmed and Saifur Rahman Babul--are in the mayoral race. Nahid Ahmed is backed by district AL General Secretary Nesar Ahmed and former lawmaker Azizur Rahman, while Saifur Rahman Babul by AL lawmaker Syed Mohsin Ali.

Local units of the 14-party alliance have extended support to Saifur Rahman Babul. Though Fayzul Karim Mayun is the only mayoral candidate from BNP, it is reported that followers of Naser Rahman, former BNP lawmaker, is opposing him.

## Kishoreganj: Councillor candidate beaten up

A councillor candidate was beaten up by unidentified criminals at Hossainpur upazila on Saturday night.

Locals said the criminals called Fazlul Huq Badal, 35, a councillor

candidate in ward number 5 of Hossainpur municipality of his house at Dekia village on Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

Locals found Badal lying on a field at the village in an unconscious state yesterday morning. He was first admitted to Hossainpur upazila health complex and then shifted to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Contacted, Mir Abdus Sattar, officer-in-charge of Hossainpur Police Station said they are trying to arrest the criminal who attacked Badal.

## Munshiganj: 21 out of 28 polling centres 'risky'

As many as 12 mayor aspirants and 122 councillor candidates are contesting today's elections to two municipalities of the district.

Twenty-one out of 28 polling centres in the two municipalities-- Mirkadim and Munshiganj-- have been identified as vulnerable to violence, reports our correspondent.

In Munshiganj municipality, 15 out of 17 polling centres have been identified as risky. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Azizul Alam said army personnel have been deployed in the municipality to hold a free, fair and peaceful election.

He said all security measures have been taken to ensure fair voting in Mirkadim municipality.

Police Superintendent Mohammad Shariful Islam said police, Rab and Ansars will remain at the

# 22 mayoral candidates in 5 Dinajpur municipalities lose deposit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Twenty-two mayoral candidates in five municipalities of Dinajpur district lost their security deposit for failing to get the minimum percentage of total cast votes in Wednesday's mayoral election.

As per electoral law, a candidate has to get at least one-eighth of the total



votes to save his or her deposit money from confiscated.

Seven out of 10 candidates in Dinajpur municipality including incumbent Mayor Md Shafiqul Haque

candidate from Awami League) and Muztaba Akram Hossain.

Ten contenders lost their security deposit in Birganj municipality where Jamaat backed candidate Mawlana Hanif has been elected as the first mayor of the municipality.

Three mayoral contenders of Birampur municipality Anjuara Begum, Md Mostakim and Golam Toufiq

Azam lost their security deposit in the mayoral election.

Nahid Basar Chowdhury of Bochaganj municipality and Md Nuruzzaman of Phulbari municipality also lost their security deposit.

However, no mayoral candidate in Hakimpur municipality lost the security money.

## Clashes leave 19 hurt in Noakhali, Moulvibazar

STAR NATIONAL DESK



At least 19 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of mayoral candidates in Noakhali and Moulvibazar districts on Saturday.

In Noakhali, the supporters of two mayor candidates clashed at charlatia village under Hatiya municipality, leaving at least 15 people from both sides injured, reports our staff correspondent.

Of the injured, Mohammad Sayed, 22, Abdul Jalil, 36, Mohammad Raiz, 20, Moeen Uddin, 40, Mohammad Alamgir, 30, Salahuddin, 25, and Mohammad Noman, 32 were admitted to Hatiya Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid.

Police and local sources said the supporters of Awami League backed mayoral candidate advocate Saifuddin Ahammed clashed with the supporters of AL rebel candidate Yousuf Ali at a tea stall at around 11:30pm.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. No case was lodged with Hatiya Police Station as of filing of this report at 5:00pm

yesterday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that the workers of two mayoral candidates clashed in Srimongal municipality on Saturday noon, leaving four election campaigners from both sides injured.

Four workers election campaigners have been injured in a clash between two mayoral candidates of Srimongal municipality uncle on Saturday noon. Both of these mayor candidates are BNP leaders.

According to police and local people, the workers of mayor candidates Md Ahad Miah and Mohsin Miah Modhu attacked each other while campaigning for their respective candidates at Shyamoli residential area in Srimongal upazila town.

The injured are Safed Miah, Rohin Ahmed, Saikat Ahmed and Suhel Ahmed. They are undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

No case was filed with Sadar Police Station as of 6:00pm yesterday. Police have been deployed in the town to avert further clash.



PHOTO: STAR

Erfanuddin Ahmed, president and managing director of Bank Asia, and Rume A Hossain, director of the bank, are seen among others with meritorious students of Chatkhil (Noakhali) and Ramganj (Lakhipur) upazilas who received Bank Asia Higher Studies Scholarship 2011 at a function at Chatkhil Auditorium on Saturday.