

BNP feasts on AL failures

FROM PAGE 11
graft and Suranjit
Sengupta's in the Rail Gate
scam were brought to the
fore.

Voters had little doubt
that the Padma bridge
project was a victim of
corruption and that the
prime minister did her
best to save the former
communications minister
Abul Hossain.

In Suranjit's case, voters
were also baffled by the
prime minister's decision
to take him away from the
rail ministry but retain his
position as a minister.

"How can anybody
explain the actions of the
prime minister regarding
Abul and Suranjit? How
can we explain why they
still fly flags on their cars?"
quipped a Khulna AL
leader, asking not to be
named.

All these things created
a situation for the AL that
made the party look cor-
rupt, autocratic and
unsympathetic.

Fazle Hossain Badsha,
convener of the AL-backed
c a n d i d a t e A H M
Khairuzzaman Liton's
polls conduct committee,
said they had thought the
polls results would be
determined on the basis of
the area's development.

"But we could not either
understand or give impor-
tance to the opposition
campaign based on reli-
gion and national issues,"
said Badsha, also a
Workers Party MP elected
from the AL-led alliance.

"The opposition carried
out a massive campaign
against our candidates on
some nationally burning
issues like the share mar-
ket crash, Padma bridge
and Hall-Mark scam. But
we did not have any sub-
stantial arguments to
counter the criticisms,"
said a Sylhet city AL leader,
on condition of anonymity.

But the AL also lost the
support of its main elec-
toral ally Jatiya Party. And,
on the other hand, the
Jamaat worked in full force
for its ally BNP.

In Khulna, the Jatiya
Party came up with its own
candidate. Although the
candidate did not get that
many votes, this division
made the AL look weak
and isolated.

In Rajshahi, Sylhet and
Barisal, the JP was not
actively behind the AL
candidates.

On top of these, the
other factor that promi-
nently decided the
outcome of the elections was
the use of religion and the
"atheist issue".

The tide of the
Gonjagor Mancha that
campaigned non-stop for a
month to demand capital
punishment for war crimi-
nals was successfully
turned around by the BNP
and Jamaat, which labeled
it as a platform of "athe-
ists".

The government's direct
patronisation of the
Mancha, which started as a
non-political protest plat-
form, backfired as the BNP
could portray the govern-
ment as a supporter of
"atheists".

"This made a big dent in
the election results of
the four city corporations
are an ominous sign for us.
We need to take corrective
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Local AL leaders also
blame the organisational
weakness of the party in
the four city areas.

AL leaders in Khulna say
party councils have not
been held for long to elect
new leaders for thana-level
committees. Associate and
front organisations, including
Chhatra League, Jubo League
and Swebchhasebok League,
have not had committees
in the city for quite some
time, let alone their com-
mittees at the ward level.

Thus, in the end, a mix-
ture of all this led to the
disastrous outcome of the
AL losing in all the four
cities.

But the story does not
end there. AL leaders fear-
fully recall what had hap-
pened at the 2008 city
elections when the party
won in all the cities and
then the subsequent
national polls by a land-
slide.

This time the BNP has
won the city polls.

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What went wrong for them?

Badar Uddin

FROM PAGE 16
The immediate past mayor
and AL-backed candidate
Kamran did not do any-
thing in this regard despite
repeated appeals from the
Manipuri people, he added.

He claimed that the
community had around
8,000 votes in the city
corporation areas.

Several members of the
Hindu community also
made similar allegations
against Kamran.

A leader of Bangladesh
Hindu Boudhha Christian
Oikya Parishad said the
people did not forget the
incident of land grabbing at
Gopal Tila Temple by ruling
party men in 2011.

Besides, Hindus, who
hailed from Sunamganj's
Dera and Shulla, and later
settled in Korer Para,
Akhali, and some other
parts in the city, had angst
over the killing of a Hindu
youth, Jagatjyoti, around a
month ago.

A Bangladesh Chhatra
League (BCL) man was
arrested in connection with
the killing.

Although they thought
that Kamran would come
forward in their security-
related crises, they got
little response from him,
alleged many of them.

Asit Bhattacharya,
Sylhet district unit general
secretary of Bangladesh
Hindu Boudhha Christian
Oikya Parishad, said they
had around 45,000 votes.

Expressing his gratitude
to the Hindu community,
mayor-elect Ariful Haque
Chowdhury yesterday
morning said, "I promised
the central leaders while
receiving the nomination
that I would earn votes from
all communities, and I have
done this. I thank the mem-
bers of the Hindu commu-
nity."

The city dwellers also
alleged that Kamran did
not take effective measures
in solving waterlogging
and traffic jam, which had
been longstanding prob-
lems in the city.

They said the quality of
Kamran's development
works was substandard as
his aides did not care for
rules and regulations.

Kamran, however,
claimed that he had spent
over Tk 500 crore in devel-
opment work during his
tenure.

Talking to more than 50
people in Barisal, The
Daily Star has learnt that
the most significant rea-
son for his defeat is the
level of seriousness of the
main opposition. The BNP
took the mayoral polls as a
battle against the ruling
Awami League and the

AHM Khairuzzaman

FROM PAGE 16
BNP leader.

Many BNP leaders and
workers had not even
expected such a victory
against one of the best per-
forming mayors in the coun-
try.

Coming out of the coun-
try's traditional political
culture, Liton tried to work
with all parties by taking a
neutral look on every issue,
right from awarding tenders
for development works and
maintaining a congenial
atmosphere at the educa-
tional institutes.

Unfortunately, that too
boomeranged against him.

Party leaders and work-
ers, who had high expecta-
tion of getting benefits from
Nagar Bhaban, were dis-
heartened.

He also did not favour
grassroots activists while
providing benefits as he
wanted to stay away from
politicisation, one of his
election pledges.

All such moves went
against him and he was
deserted by many.

From beginning to end,
there was a half-hearted
campaign for Liton against
an aggressive electioneering
campaign for Bulbul by an
allied force of BNP-Jamaat-
Shibir and other religion-
based parties.

AL-Chhatra League-Jubo
League and some leftist
.....

.....

parties started campaigning
for Liton only a week before
the poll. But it never
acquired momentum due to
lack of sincerity among
them.

The Daily Star talked to
dozens of voters, political
leaders and analysts since
Saturday and got the
impression that there was
no question about Liton's
performance.

The religious campaign,
launched since the flushing
out of the Hefajat men from
Motijheel on the night of
May 5, played a crucial role
in the election as it por-
trayed the AL government to
be anti-Islamic and anti-
Quran-Sunnah, they
believe.

"We can see the develop-
ment activities of Liton...But
.....

all went futile due to the
influence of national politi-
cal issues," said a voter of
Kadirganj.

Prof Abul Kashem of
Rajshahi University said, "It
is a total rejection of the
government for a number of
issues, including share
market scandal, BDR car-
nage and of course the issue
of religion."

Explaining the defeat, an
AL lawmaker, who was
involved in Liton's election
campaign, said, "There was
no serious campaigning for
Liton. There were not even
party people at many poll-
ing centres to seek votes for
him."

In terms of spending
money, Liton was far behind
Bulbul, he added.

migrated from Barisal,
Bagerhat, greater Faridpur
[Gopalganj, Shariatpur,
Madaripur, Rajbari])
and other districts. Many of these voters and
the minority community
did not vote for
Khaleque.

Khaleque lost the battle
in some minority-majority
areas like Tuptara
Gachhota Temple. Insiders
observe that the govern-
ment's failure to ensure
protection of the minority
communities during the
attacks by religious fanatics
a couple of months ago
might be a reason for that.

Khaleque's inaction
against the move to
acquire land at Rampal
[from that constituency he
was elected a lawmaker]
for establishing a coal-
fired power plant was also

worked against Hiron by
telling voters if they did
not want to vote for him,
they should not vote for
Hiron either.

Many believe Mamun
had control over several
thousand "pro-Islamist"
votes as he donates in
mosques and other reli-
gious institutions. But
they cast their ballots for
Kamal.

Hiron deployed some
controversial persons,
including his brother
Mamun, to spearhead his
campaign, only to irk
voters. His brother
Mamun set fire to three
campaign offices of the
BNP in Nuria High School
area where Hiron had cast
his vote.

Bangladesh Chhatra

League of Barisal Medical
College Hospital unit
forced around 2,000 stu-
dents to join the campaign
for Hiron. The students
just threw around the
leaflets and did not vote for
Hiron.

Finally, whipping up
people's religious senti-
ments, the BNP portrayed
Hiron and his men as
"drunkards".

Supporters of the
Qawmi madrasa-based
organisation Hefajat-e
Islam as well as radical
Islamist figures like the Pir
of Charmonai, the Pir of
Sharshina and Quayes Pir
led campaigns from differ-
ent city mosques, saying
Hiron neither went to
mosques nor paid dona-
tions.

UN awards

FROM PAGE 1
the incidence of hunger
and the number of ultra-
poor in the target year 2015
from that in the base year
1990.

Bangladesh along with
19 other countries received
the FAO award at the UN
body's 38th conference
held at its headquarters in
Rome with participants
from 194 countries.

Food Minister
Mohammad Abdur
Razzaque received the
award from FAO Director
General Jose Graziano da
Silva, said an official
release issued in Dhaka
yesterday.

During the period from
1990 to 2012, Bangladesh's
population below the pov-
erty line dropped to 29
percent from over 58 per-
cent and the percentage of
ultra-poor dropped to a
little over 16 from 37.

The number of ultra-
poor in Bangladesh was
3.72 crore in 1990 and it
dropped to 2.53 crore in
2012, the release added.

Earlier, in a press release
issued from Rome on June
12, FAO declared that 38
countries have met interna-
tionally-established targets
in the fight against hunger,
achieving successes ahead
of the deadline 2015.

Bangladesh is among the
20 countries which have
reached MDG-1, it said.

Eighteen other countries
were congratulated for
reaching both MDG-1 and
the 1996 World Food
Summit (WFS) goal, having
reduced by half the absolute
number of undernour-
ished people between
1990-92 and 2010-2012.

VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for
the following position with "Improving Kiln Efficiency in the Brick Making Industry
(IKEBMI), GREEN Brick Project".

1. Research Assistant

(Service Contract, SB-2 Level)

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis
upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply for the above position, please visit
our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than on
Monday, 01 July, 2013.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are encouraged to apply.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

Invitation for Bid for Procurement of Crop Seeds

Credit No. 4507 – BD, Project ID No. UTF / BGD / 040 / BGD, Bid Package No.3G36.C

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007
Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the
Procurement of 5 different types of Crop Seeds. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites
sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 155,631.25 Kgs (23,475 bags) of various Crop seeds under Procurement
Package No. 3G36.C. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items are only
encouraged to participate. The delivery period is 8 (eight) weeks from the date of issuance of the Notification of the Award.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines:
Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the
guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRRP office of
FAO Representation in Bangladesh (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9/A, Apt. # A-1, Dhamondi R/A, Dhaka – 1209, Telephone 8130758/104)

during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 hours. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested
bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk.
2,000.00. The method of payment for the tender document will be in cash against a written receipt.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount of Tk. 400,000.00 (Four Hundred thousand) only.

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on **10 July 2013**. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in
the presence of bidders' representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh

House # 37, Road # 8