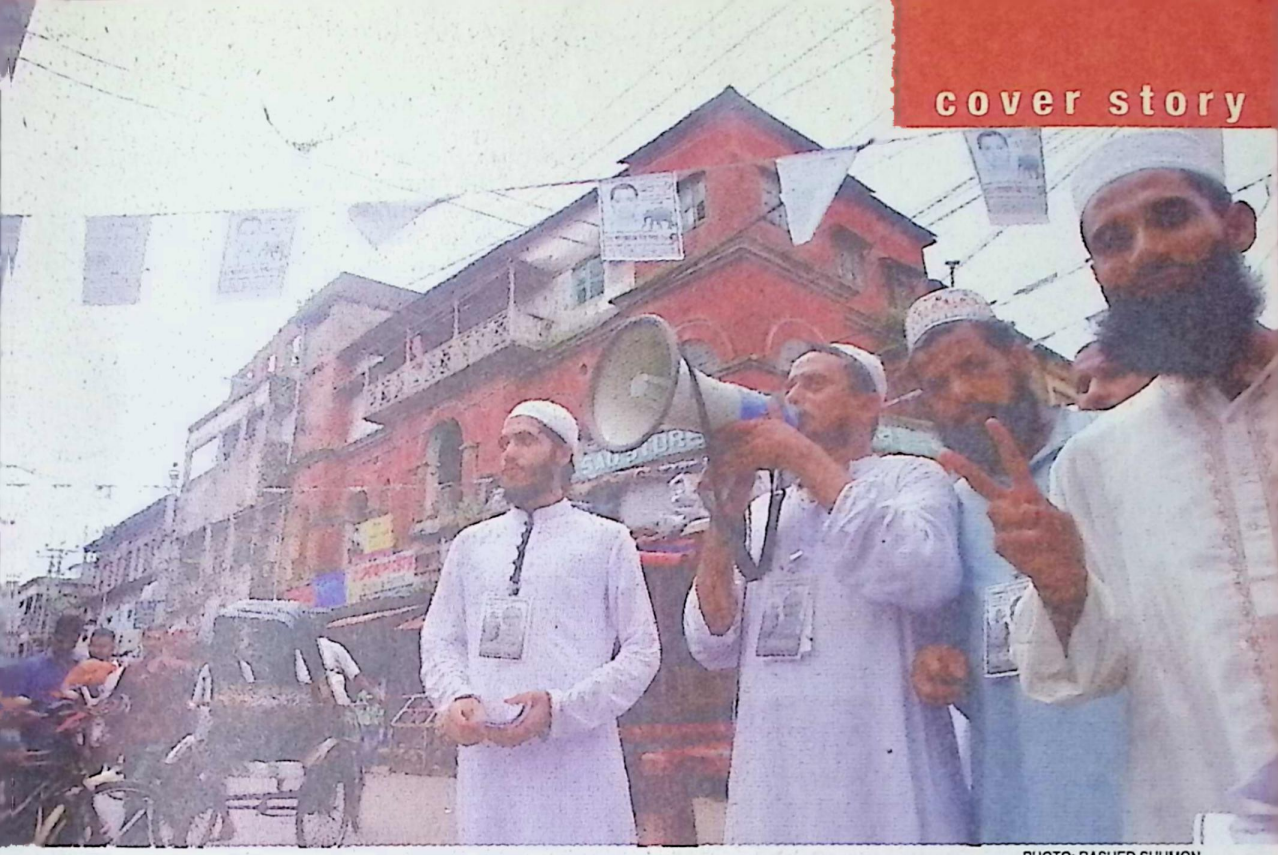


PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hefazat-e-Islam leaders campaigning for the BNP backed candidates during the Khulna city corporation election.

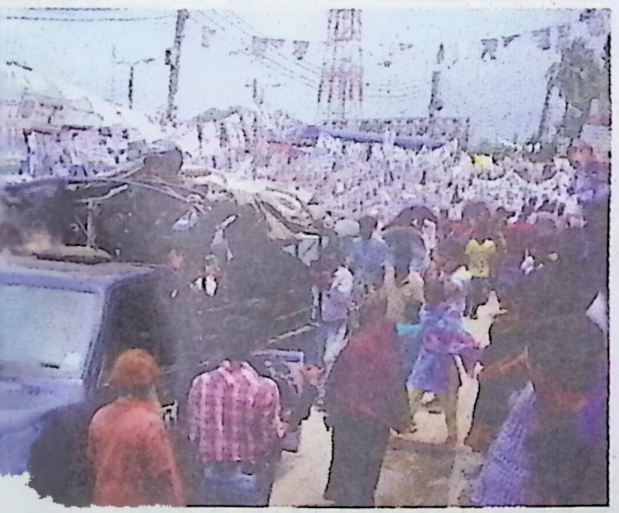


PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

crowd and see that School and Madrassa going students campaign for the AL-backed candidate, requesting people to be aware of Jamaat-Shibir and their dirty propaganda. A strange sight it has been for the AL-backed candidate in using religion to fight the political use of religion.

However, the Awami script has gone haywire and Mannan has clinched a resounding victory by a margin of 1.06 lakh votes in Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) election.

Even before the GCC election began, political use of religion gripped the city as it was getting ready for its maiden city election. The main contenders for power were AL supported Azmat Ullah Khan and BNP supported aspirant MA Mannan, allegation surfaced that both the parties used religion as a stairway to climb to the throne.

According to the political analysts, Awami supported aspirant's script failed at the beginning, since they were not aware about what actually people really wanted. Dr Nehal Karim, professor of sociology at Dhaka University believes that both the parties used religion as an instrument to get votes but Mannan who has read people's pulse better has won the game. He also adds, "Living in a third world country our social construction of class division, deprivation from social rights always prompt people to vote for the opponent instead of the ruling party. So besides political use of religion, this factor has played a crucial role in the Gazipur election.'

When the election campaign began in Gazipur in the middle of June, the AL supported Azmat Ullah Khan alleged that the BNP and its allies were using "Hefazat issue" to drum up support for its Mayor candidate. On the other hand, Mannan claimed that 'the genocide' committed by the government in Shapla Chattar on May 5 had made a deep impression on the minds of local people. "The May 5 genocide at Hefazat-e-Islam programme had left a deep impression on the people's mind. We are all Muslims, so it is my duty to inform the people what Awami League-led atheist government did to the