

Electioneering reaches its peak in 3 municipalities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Campaigning by the candidates for different posts in three municipalities of Gaibandha district has reached its peak as only two days are left until the election.

The candidates are going door to door and seeking votes. Women campaigners of the candidates are going from house to house, wooing women voters and distributing leaflets.

In Gaibandha municipality, seven candidates are contesting for the post of mayor, 21 for women councillor and 71 for ward councillor. The total number of voters in the municipality is 46,381.

In Sundarganj municipality, eight candidates are contesting for the post of mayor, 13 for women councillor and 30 for ward councillor. Total number of voters in this municipality stands at 12,504.

In Gobindaganj municipality, four candidates are contesting for the post of mayor, 16 for women councillor and 37 for ward coun-

cilior. The number of voters in the municipality is 27,644.

On Saturday evening, BNP's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addressed a roadside meeting at Pashchim crossroad point in Gobindaganj municipality and sought votes for the BNP nominated mayoral

aspirant.

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said the Election Commission has failed to create a level playing field for holding municipal polls. He said over 6,000 BNP leaders and activists are now under arrest all over the country and the party workers could not campaign freely in favour of their candidates.

Freedom fighters of Gaibandha municipality are seeking votes for boat. They are contacting people in different wards.

This time, adequate number of magistrates and law enforcers will be deployed to hold the municipal polls peacefully, said Abdus Samad, deputy commissioner of Gaibandha.



Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of BNP, addresses an election rally of the party nominated mayoral candidate at Pashchim crossroad point in Gaibandha municipality on Saturday evening.

JALDHAKA IN NILPHAMARI

BNP, Jamaat rivalry revives over municipal polls

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Local rivalry between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in Jaldhaka upazila under the district has resurfaced as candidates from both the parties are running for the post of mayor in Jaldhaka municipality.

However, the Jamaat candidate is contesting as an independent candidate due to legal embargo against contesting from the party platform.

Jaldhaka is a stronghold of Jamaat and its former upazila unit ameer late Mizanur Rahman won the parliamentary seat there in three consecutive terms while former upazila BNP president, also a freedom

fighter, late Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury snatched the mayor post four times, despite Jamaat's opposition.

Amid the situation, BNP and its national political alliance partner Jamaat locked in an open rivalry since 2004.

The conflict became latent as Awami League (AL) was voted to power after the national elections of December 28 in 2008 but it surfaced again over the municipality poll as late Kabir's son Fahmid Faisal Comet is contesting for the mayor post from BNP.

To discuss the matters related to the election, the local administration yesterday held a meeting in the upazila parishad auditorium with Deputy

Commissioner Zakir Hossain as the chief guest.

In the meeting, Mokbul Hossain, Amir of Jaldhaka municipality unit of Jamaat, who is running for the mayor post as independent candidate (electoral symbol - jug) with full support of the party, alleged that BNP activists drove his 40-50 activists away from Paschim Bogulari village in ward No-3 yesterday morning.

BNP supporters also handled Jamaat's female workers in ward No-4 during the latter's election campaign on Saturday noon, he said.

BNP mayoral candidate Fahmid Faisal Comet (symbol - sheaf of paddy) denied the allegations and brought counter charge that Mokbul was doing election cam-

paign with 40-50 people although electoral rule allows a candidate to take only four or five people for door to door campaign.

The BNP candidate alleged that the Jamaat supported candidate is speaking ill of his party and openly asking people not to cast vote for him, which is also a violation of code.

Talking to this correspondent, Comet expressed fear that Jamaat might take a 'suicidal step' by casting vote for AL's rebel candidate Ilias Hossain Bablu to make both AL and BNP candidates defeated in Jaldhaka.

"I will take action as per rule if there is any written complaint," Sekandar Ali, upazila election officer, said in yesterday's meeting.

KURIGRAM SCHOOLBOY ALIF'S BODY FOUND IN SEPTIC TANK

Townspeople demand capital punishment of killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Townspeople formed a human chain near Kurigram Central Shaheed Minar and brought out a procession yesterday, demanding capital punishment to the killers of school student Alif Ahmed Swapan.

Later, they submitted memoranda to the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police, Kurigram.

Son of Sultan Ahmed of Sardar Para in Kurigram town, Alif Ahmed Swapan, 14, was a Class VIII student of Kurigram Collectorate School and College.

Police recovered his decomposed body on Thursday evening from a septic tank in one Morsheda Begum's house at Hanagarh Para in the town. She is a senior staff nurse of Kurigram Sadar Hospital.

Police and locals said Alif and Rifat, son of Morsheda Begum and a student of Kurigram River View High School, were friends.

At around 10:00am on Monday, Alif told his mother that he was going to Rifat's house, and had been missing since then.

with Kurigram Sadar Police Station by Alif's parents on Tuesday, police interrogated Morsheda and Rifat at the police station on Wednesday and later released them.

Law enforcers suspected Morsheda and Rifat when they switched off their mobile phones. Police took them to the police station on Thursday. During interrogation, they confessed to killing Alif.

On their statements,

police recovered Alif's body at around 6:30pm from the septic tank.

According to their statements, Rifat's friend Akash wanted to buy a jacket but did not have any money. Rifat called Alif to his house so that he could collect money as ransom after abducting Alif.

Rifat and Akash tied Alif's hands and legs because he refused to ask his parents for money. They strangled him

with a muffler when he started screaming for help.

Masud Alam, assistant superintendent of police, said law enforcers are trying to arrest Akash and others involved in the killing.

Police on Friday produced Morsheda and Rifat in a Kurigram court that sent Morsheda to jail and Rifat to Juvenile Correction Centre in Pulerhat of Jessore. The court also fixed January 8, 2016 for hearing of the case.



Kurigram townspeople join a procession yesterday, demanding capital punishment of the killers of schoolboy Alif Ahmed Swapan. Alif's body was found in a septic tank at Hanagarh Para in the district town on December 24, three days after his missing.

Arms peddler held with pistols, bullets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged arms peddler with three pistols, 13 bullets and five magazines at Mobarakpur village in Shibganj upazila of the district on Saturday.

The arrestee is Palash Ali, 26, son of Abu Sayed of Chhoto Hadinagar village in the upazila.

On secret information, a team of Rab-5 raided a mango orchard at the village in the evening and arrested Palash with the firearms and bullets.

They also seized a motorcycle and two mobile sets from his possession, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Alok Biswas of Chapainawabganj Rab camp.

The arrestee was later handed over to Shibganj Police Station. A case was filed in this connection.

Fratricide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A man was killed allegedly by his elder brother at Charitabari village in Sundarganj upazila of the district on Saturday.

Police and locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Sarafat Ali and his younger brother Khoka Mia, 55, over erecting boundary of their homestead.

As a sequel to the conflict, an altercation took place between the two siblings over the issue yesterday afternoon.

At one stage, Sarafat Ali hit Khoka Mia with a stick, leaving him dead on the spot.

Khoka's sons Hafizur Rahman, 30, and Aminul Islam, 30, also sustained injuries when they tried to save their father.

Sarafat went into hiding soon after the incident, said Israil Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station.

Three girls return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and immigration police handed over three Bangladeshi teenage girls to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) through Benapole check post yesterday. They had spent two years in jail.

The returnees hail from Demra upazila in Dhaka district and Palash upazila in Narshingdi district.

They were taken to India by human traffickers two and a half years ago. Indian police arrested them from a house in Kolkata city. Later, an Indian court sent them to jail.

The girls were handed over to BGB after completion of all the formalities. Later, BGB handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station.



Furniture, documents and other valuables get badly damaged by a fire at St Mark Church in Fulchera village in Srimagal upazila under Moulvibazar district early yesterday.

Fire guts church in Srimangal

STAR REPORT

A fire broke out at St Mark Church in Fulchera village of Srimangal upazila under Moulvibazar district early yesterday, five days after in-charge of the church Father Subrata Bonifache received death threat via text message.

Police and local sources said, nobody was in the church when the incident took place.

Subash Daring, a Garo resident of Fulchera area, said around 2:00am, they woke up and found the church burning. Later they tried to douse the blaze.

Local Christian people use the semi-pucca tin-roofed church house for prayers only on Sunday and on other days they use it as

school for children.

The fire gutted all furniture and other valuables of the church, said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Srimangal Police Station.

Police are investigating the matter, said the OC. He claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 3 lakh.

Bishop Bejoy N. D' Cruze OMI, head of the Sylhet Diocese in the Sylhet Division, who also received death threat on December 22 along with father Subrata, said it could be done by the groups who threatened them.

Police said the fire seems to have originated from an electric short circuit of the solar panel.

But Bishop Cruze said,

around six hundred people in that area are using solar power and such accident never happened before.

"So I doubt it was an act of sabotage," he said.

On December 22 Bishop Bejoy and father Subrata of St Mark church received cell phone text message that they would be killed soon.

Meanwhile fear gripped the local community following fire incident in the church.

Milton Sangma, president of Garo Panchayat Committee, said, worship as well as Garo children's religious lessons are conducted in this Church.

Nirmal Rozario, secretary general of Bangladesh Christian Association, said they are very concerned about their security.

3 cops suspended as convict flees custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three policemen, including a sub-inspector (SI) and two constables, of Lalmonirhat town police camp were suspended yesterday as a convicted drug peddler escaped their custody on Friday night. The superintendent of police (SP) issued the suspension order after a departmental investigation, police said.

The suspended cops are SI Mansur Ali and constables Motaleb Hossain and Shamsul Haque.

The convict is Rony Islam, 30, alias Pressure Rony, son of late Sobhan Miah of Goshala Bazar in Lalmonirhat town.

Police said Rony was caught red-handed with hemp by police at City College ground of Goshala Bazar in the town on

Friday night.

He was produced before a mobile court the same night. ASM Kashem, executive magistrate of the mobile court, sentenced Rony to one year's imprisonment.

Rony escaped from custody of the three suspended cops from near the deputy commissioner's office while he was being taken to the police station.

SI Mansur Ali said the two constables were responsible for the convict's escape as he was busy preparing the papers and the two constables had custody of the criminal.

People of Goshala Bazar area and police said Rony is involved with all kinds of anti-social activities. He uses drugs and is involved in drug peddling in the area.

Housewife beaten to death for dowry in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband and in-laws over dowry at Sultanpur village in Sadar upazila of Jessore district on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Shabana Khatun, 25, wife of Sadar Uddin of the village.

The victim's father Muhit

Ali alleged that Sadar Uddin demanded Tk 50,000 from Shabana seven months ago.

Failing to get the money, Sadar Uddin and his family members tortured her.

On Saturday night, Sadar Uddin and his family members beat up Shabana mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot following an altercation over the issue.

Later, they hung the body

from the ceiling of her room in a bid to pass off the matter as suicide and informed her family members who went to the spot and immediately contacted police.

Sadar Uddin and his family members went into hiding soon after the incident. Sub-Inspector of Jessore Kotwali Model Police Station, Md Solaiman said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
"Establishment of Fire Service & Civil Defence Stations at 25 important Upazila Sadar/Places of the Country" Project.
Directorate of Fire Service & Civil Defence
Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.
www.fireservice.gov.bd

Memo No. FS&CD/Unna:Chha-03/2015-2016/12950 Date: 24/12/2015.

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

It is notified for all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made against Local Tender Notice Published vide memo No. FS&CD/Unn:Chha-03/2015-2016/11756 dated 24.11.2015 Published in The Bhorerkagag & The Daily Star dated 29.11.2015 & 30.11.2015 respectively for the Procurement of fire fighting & rescue equipments :

SL. No.	Item	Scheduled	Amended
01.	Tender document Selling date	Up to 03.01.2016	Up to 17.01.2016
02.	Tender Submission and Closing date and time	On or before 04.01.2016 at 12.00 hours	On or before 18.01.2016 at 12.00 hours
03.	Tender Opening date and time	04.01.2016 at 12.30 hours	18.01.2016 at 12.15 hours

The other terms and conditions of the tender notice will remain unchanged. This amendment notice will be the part of the Tender documents.

A.N.M. Bazlur Rahman
Joint Secretary & Project Director.

GD - 3983