

The 11th parliamentary election is just around the corner. Aspirant candidates started electioneering even before the announcement of the polls schedule. What is happening on the ground? In this division-wise series reports, The Daily Star looks into that. Today, we are running the first part, on Rajshahi Division.

ELECTIONEERING IN RAJSHAHI DIVISION

AL in full swing, BNP struggling

Under pressure, BNP men's activities limited

STAR REPORT

With about two weeks left before the announcement of national polls schedule, the Awami League's election campaign in Rajshahi division goes on in full swing but the picture is quite the opposite for the BNP. While the ruling AL absolutely dominates in all the eight districts of the division, the opposition party men conduct electioneering on a limited scale, mostly maintaining secrecy.

The campaigns of AL's aspirants are visible everywhere in the division's all 39 constituencies with billboards, posters and banners projecting the government's success stories as well as their eagerness to contest the polls. They are holding programmes at district, upazila and union levels to drum up public support and draw attention of the party high-ups to win nomination for the battle of ballots.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

'Unnamed accused' BNP's new worry

As election nears, over 4,000 cases filed against some 85,000 named, 3 lakh unnamed men in recent weeks

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

BNP data on police cases filed against its leaders and activists in about five weeks reveal a surprising number of unidentified accused, making the party extremely worried about its grass-roots ahead of the upcoming parliamentary polls.

The data show police filed 4,126 cases against 85,000 BNP men across the country between September 1 and October 8. Around three lakh unidentified people were also accused in those cases.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

OIKYAFRONT RALLY Security is a big concern, says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Jatiya Oikyafront's Sylhet rally was not cancelled but postponed due to security reasons.

"Suhrawardy Udyan has been opened for them. As the top leaders want to go to Sylhet, we will have to look into their security.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



People wade through water and move by a boat on a flooded road in Chattogram's Agrabad as higher tidal surge inundates the residential area at least 12 days a month centring full moon and new moon. Below, a boat kept in a car park.

FILE PHOTO

The area experiences waist-deep water and even more due to higher tidal surge at least 12 days a month centring full moon and new moon

Gradual disappearance of water retention bodies, shrinking of canals over the last seven years aggravate waterlogging in the area

Two mega projects involving TK 8,000cr now under implementation to resolve the waterlogging in the port city

The curse of Agrabad

Residential area in Ctg experiences waterlogging for decades during high tide; thousands of sufferers still wait for remedy

PINAKI ROY and MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Some locals now keep boats, not cars, in their garages.

Before going out to work, people here always check the tide schedules. During the high tide, businesses come to a grinding halt while students attend classes sitting on high benches as the ground floors of schools go under knee-deep water.

The residents have to readjust their daily life keeping that obvious phenomenon in mind.

This is Agrabad, the port city's oldest residential area, established by Chattogram Development Authority in the early 1960s as an abode for the affluent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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People pour in on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday to see Ayub Bachchu for one last time. The musician's body was kept there for a couple of hours for other artistes and fans to pay tributes. Bachchu will be buried next to his mother at their family graveyard in Chattogram today. Stories on page 3, 9.

PHOTO: STAR

Five killed as train hits bus

No gate at level crossing; 3 others die in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including two school-girls, were killed and 12 others injured in accidents in three districts yesterday.

Of them, five died as a train hit a three-wheeler at a level crossing in Rajbari around 12:30pm. Nine others were wounded, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Locals said the accident occurred since there was no gate at the level crossing.

An express train bound for Gopalganj's Bhatipara rammed the three-wheeler, locally known as Nosimon, while the vehicle was passing through Solakura level

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

5 held over kidnap, murder of 3yrs old



Jui Akhter

Bhulta police outpost, said the girl went missing on Thursday morning while playing in her house yard.

Her father Anwar filed a general diary with the police outpost in the afternoon.

The police official said some unknown people called them over the phone on Thursday night and said they abducted Jui. They demanded Tk 5 lakh in ransom and asked them to hand over the money to the kidnappers

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The body of a three-year-old girl was found yesterday, 24 hours after she was kidnapped in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila.

Police recovered the body of Jui Akhter, daughter of Anwar Hossain of Tekpara village, from a sack yesterday morning.

Police suspect that Jui was strangled.

Quoting the victim's family, Rafiqul Haq, inspector of



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