



ELECTIONEERING IN COUNTRYSIDE

FACE TO FACE WITH PEOPLE IN LALMONIRHAT-3

Three MP aspirants vow to fight crime, corruption

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Three Member of Parliament (MP) candidates out of four vying for Lalmonirhat-3 constituency (Sadar upazila) have pledged to the voters that they will work for checking crime and enhance development work for the welfare of the local people, if elected.

All the three aspirants from different parties also made written commitments to resist corruption and make a corruption free society during a 'face to face with people' programme at District Council Auditorium Hall Room in Station Road of the town.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform working for good governance, organised the views exchange meeting, presided by Sujan's district unit President SM Shafiqul Islam, on Tuesday. Its Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarker was also present at the programme.

Though three candidates--BNP's Asadul Habib Dulu, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) leader Azmol Haque Patwary Putul and Islami Andolon Bangladesh's Moksedul Islam--were present, Jatiya Party (JP) candidate and Co-Chairman of the party GM Quader didn't attend the programme.

BNP candidate and former dep-

uty minister Asadul Habib Dulu said he will take initiative to develop internal infrastructure like roads, canals and bridges to mitigate sufferings of the townspeople, if elected as the MP.

Expressing concern over 'level playing field' he said his party men are passing a tense time fearing arrests.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal-backed candidate Azmol Haque said he will reform the local government organisations by introducing transparency in the sector and continue to work for women empowerment.

"If elected, I will increase work opportunity for labourers as well as the distressed ones," Azmol said.

Islami Andolon Bangladesh candidate Moksedul Islam said, "If people elect me I will work for uprooting social crimes, especially drug abuse."

Speaking on different issues, voters in Sadar upazila urged the candidates to be honest and remain friendly with people, if they are elected.



Three MP aspirants for Lalmonirhat-3 constituency promise to fight against crime and corruption during a 'Face to Face with People' programme, organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) at Lalmonirhat Zila Parishad Auditorium on Tuesday.



Delwar Hossen conducts his election campaign at Gabar More of Ulipur Bazar in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram.

KURIGRAM-3

Shop employee in polls race with people's love

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Shopkeeper Delwar Hossain, 59, who is running for parliament in Kurigram-3, campaigns by himself with just a megaphone and finances his bid for seat in parliament with whatever people donate.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) nominee is the president of Ulipur upazila Khetmajur Samity (farm labourers' cooperative) and is an employee of Sathi Biz Bhandar, an agro-seed shop at Ulipur Bazar.

With the megaphone, the resident of Ulipur's Dharnibari union asks people to vote for him at important places and markets. This correspondent found him in Gabar More area of Ulipur when he was electioneering.

"Kurigram is the poorest region of the country. Kurigram Textile Mills has been

kept shut for a long time. Why has it been done?" Delwar said.

At one stage of his speech, he said, "I am an employee of a seed shop and I have only 2.25 decimals of land. I have been involved in Khetmajur Samity since 1980. Please donate Tk 5 or Tk 10 so that I can print posters and run my campaign. My labourer friends have given me Tk 52,000 for electoral expenditure, including the cost of filing nomination."

People were seen donating small amounts for his campaign.

"Some MPs loot money of the poor. I think this man is good and he talks about the poor people. That's why I donated," said Abul Kashem, 52.

Delwar has eight rivals, two of them industrialists, in Kurigram-3 with 3,03,180 voters.

Sajeda, Shama heavyweight candidates in Faridpur-2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury of Awami League and Shama Obayed Islam of BNP are two prominent candidates in Faridpur-2 (Saltha, Nagarkanda and portion of Sadar upazilas) constituency.

KM Sarwar of Islami Andolon Bangladesh and Md Zainul Abedin alias Bokul Mia of Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan are also vying for the MP post in the constituency where electoral campaign is going on in full swing ahead of December 30 national elections.

Sajeda is running her electoral campaign with her two sons -- Shahdab Akbor and Sazid Akbor.

She was elected MP from the constituency in the last two general elections in 2008 and 2014.



Sajeda Chowdhury



Shama Obayed

Shahdab Akborsaid, "Local people want to elect my mother as MP as they realise that no development will happen in the area without her."

Shama Obayed, daughter of late Obaydur Rahman, former secretary general of BNP, is contesting with AL stalwart Sajeda for the second time.

Shama alleged that police arrested quite a few supporters of her and law enforcers often raid their houses at night.

"I personally requested the returning officer to take steps for creating a smooth environment for the polls. If a congenial and peaceful election environment is ensured, I am hopeful of success," she added.

Nimai Sarkar, councillor of Nagarkanda municipality, said they expect a tough contest between the two candidates in the constituency.

JAMALPUR-5

BNP alleges obstacles in campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

BNP candidate Shah Md Wares Ali Mamun from Jamalpur-5 (Sadar upazila) constituency cannot campaign due to obstruction by the supporters of Awami League candidate Mozaffor Hossain.

Mamun, also the secretary of the district unit of BNP, came up with the allegation at a press conference at his election campaign office in the town yesterday. He also brought a number of allegations against the supporters of the AL candidate.

The allegations include vandalism of election campaign offices and business establishments of BNP supporters, attack on BNP men and tearing off of posters.

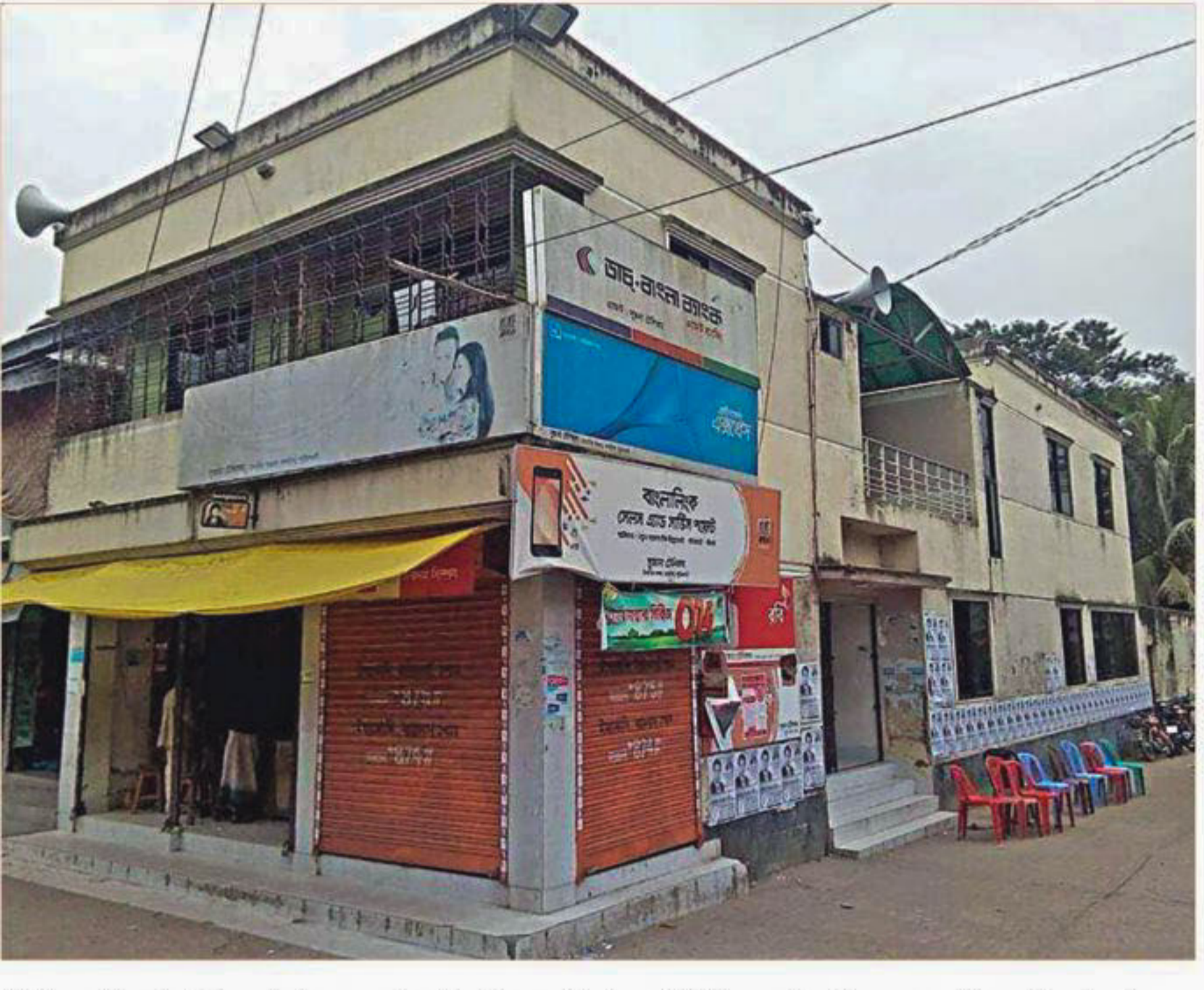
On Tuesday afternoon, AL men vandalised his election campaign office in Haatchandra Miabari Bazar area while a group of violent supporters of Mozaffor led by district Swachhasebok League President Tanvir Ahmed also attacked his campaign office in Ramnagar area the same day, said the BNP candidate.

"Besides, the AL men vandalised two medicine shops and a sawmill belonging to my supporters at Rashidpur Chourasta Mor under Rashidpur union and vandalised the house of Ashraf Hossain, president of Diggait union unit of Jubo Dal around 10:00pm on Tuesday," said Mamun.

Earlier on December 14, a group of AL activists equipped with sharp weapons attacked his supporters when he along

with them was seeking votes during an election campaign at Kendua Bazar. Two BNP men were injured, including Sadar Upazila Chhatra Dal Vice-President Bayezid, who is still undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said Mamun.

By creating obstacles, the supporters of the AL candidate are conveying a tough message to the common voters of the constituency so that polling centres can see a poor turnout on December 30 polls, he said, adding, "I have already lodged a number of complaints with the office of the returning officer (RO) hoping to get stern actions against those who were involved in violating electoral code of conduct, but the RO office is yet to take any step."



Golam Maula Rony's house, built allegedly in violation of rules on a khas land at Ulania Bazar in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali.

PERMANENT STRUCTURE ON KHAS LAND Ex-MP Rony, wife, parents get show cause notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The upazila land office in Galachipa recently issued a show cause notice to BNP candidate for Patuakhali-3 constituency (Galachipa and Dashmina upazilas) Golam Maula Rony and three of his family members for allegedly erecting permanent structure on government khas land, violating condition.

The notice also asked them to explain why allocation of the khas land to the four would not be cancelled permanently.

Galachipa Assistant Commissioner of Land (AC Land) Mohammad Sured Salehin issued the notice on December 17, asking the recipients to submit their reply within December 19.

All the four of the family were asked to attend a hearing at the land office in this regard today [December 20].

We served the notice following a complaint filed by the Athkhalia union assistant

land officer with the AC Land office a day before, Salehin said.

The other recipients are Rony's wife Kamrun Nahar Runu and parents Monowara Begum and Samsuddin Munshi. Of them, Samsuddin died in 2010.

According to the record at land office, the four received a total of two acres of government khas land, 50 decimals each, at Ulania Bazar in 2007-08 fiscal year for business purpose.

But violating the condition they built a permanent two-storey building there.

As per the condition, the recipient cannot build any permanent structure on the allocated khas land.

"I have already submitted a reply where I mentioned that my family has been living on the land since 1960," Rony said, adding that he built the two-storey building there in 2001.

"I will go to the High Court in this regard," Rony added.

Orange opens up avenue in Chapainawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

All eyes are now on orange cultivation as high quality orange has opened up an avenue of earning for the growers in the district, although the region is famous for its high quality mango.

One man, with his individual effort, has created a revolution with his orange cultivation at Barind region in Atahar area under Sadar upazila.

He is Motiur Rahman, a driver of the district Roads and Highways Department. He lives at Rehaichar in the town.

The Barind region has hard and dry soil, and cultivation in the almost barren soil is really a challenge even for the hardest working farmers.

"I cultivated malta five years ago. After getting success, I started cultivating orange," said Motiur.

The driver turned himself into a successful farmer. He leased 16 bighas of land from different people in 2006 and built up his Manamina Nursery. He planted mango, guava, malta and other fruits on the dry land at Atahar, 10 kilometres from the town. Now he has five orchards, covering a total of 62 bighas, at different places in Barind region.

In 2013, he planted 200 saplings of malta in his orchard and expanded his orchards. He harvested malta every year from then on.

After his success in malta cultivation, he collected 200 saplings of five species of orange from Jashore in 2015 at a cost of Tk 2 lakh and planted them on his land. The plants started bearing fruit this year and he got a bumper yield, Motiur said.

He harvested 800 kg of oranges



A farmer tends his orange orchard at Atahar in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila as the popular fruit sees successful cultivation in the Barind area.

this year, and expects to earn around Tk 2 lakh. He planted 500 more saplings in his other orchard at Amnura.

He said he is getting around 50 to 200 oranges, weighing 40 grams to 300 grams each, from each tree.

He also produced 1,000 saplings and sells each sapling for Tk 200, and has already sold 600 of them. He will produce 2,000 more saplings, he said.

He uses pheromone traps at the orchards to protect the fruit from insects.

Several farmers sought assistance from him after seeing bumper production of orange.

The trees flower during June-July and the harvesting period is November-December.

"Soil with good drainage facility, like that in the Barind region, is suitable for growing orange. With proper irrigation, it can provide high yield as the variety is less vulnerable to pests and disease," said horticulturist Johurul Islam.

The orange are sweeter than

imported oranges, Motiur said.

Dr Saifur Rahman, deputy director of Horticulture Centre in Chapainawabganj, said the soil in Barind region is favourable for orange cultivation.

The oranges grown at the Motiur's orchard are very sweet and the bright yellow colour and size are very attractive, he said.

He expects that cultivation area of the orange orchards will increase due to the quality and demand, adding that it has a good future in Barind region.