



ELECTIONEERING IN COUNTRYSIDE



Jatiya Party leader Ahsan Adelur Rahman, contesting in Nilphamari-4 constituency with 'plough' symbol as a candidate from the Awami League-led grand alliance, conducts an election campaign in Saidpur. Right, BNP's Md Amzad Hossain Sarker, contesting with 'paddy sheaf' symbol as a candidate from Jatiya Oikyafront, addresses a meeting in the same municipality.

PHOTO: STAR

Urdu speaking voters to play vital role in Nilphamari-4

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Urdu speaking voters, locally known as Biharis, in Nilphamari-4 constituency comprising Saidpur and Kishoreganj upazilas, are likely to play a decisive role in the December 30 elections.

Veteran politician and former chairman of Nilphamari Municipality Bakhtiar Kabir said, following the emergence of two independent countries India and Pakistan in 1947, a large number of Urdu speaking people, mostly Muslims, fled India in the face of a bloody communal violence there and took refuge in the then East Pakistan.

Most of the refugees took shelter at different government makeshift camps and houses in Saidpur, Bakhtiar said, adding that, as Saidpur had the largest railway workshop of the sub-continent then, many Urdu speaking officers and employees from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and

others areas were posted there.

Since then, Urdu speaking people formed a large linguistic minority community in densely populated Saidpur municipality area.

They cast their votes together in favour of those candidates who they consider look after their interests, he said.

According to the District Election Office, there are 3.72 lakh voters in the constituency of which around 85 thousand are in Saidpur municipality.

Of the municipality voters, nearly 70 percent come from Urdu speaking families.

Kishoreganj upazila Press Club President Fazal Kadir said all the candidates, no matter whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition, making the outmost effort to woo the Urdu speaking voters.

During a visit to the municipality area yesterday, this correspondent heard election campaign in Urdu and also saw leaflets, printed in Urdu, being distributed among

the Urdu speaking voters.

Zikrul Haque, 62, one of the Urdu speaking residents and organising secretary of Saidpur upazila unit BNP, said usually his community people prefer 'paddy sheaf' as they felt it convenient.

On the other hand, another Urdu speaking resident Dil Nawaz Khan, 38, also convener of the upazila unit Jubo League, said new generation voters of his community are now inclining towards pro-liberation ideology as they are unlikely to make the same mistakes their ancestors made during the Liberation War.

According to District Returning Officer's Office, four candidates are vying for the MP post from Nilphamari-4 constituency.

They are Jatiya Party-backed grand alliance candidate Ahsan Adelur Rahman, Jatiya Oikyafront nominated BNP's Amzad Hossain, Shahidul Islam of Islami Andolon Bangladesh and and Abdul Hye Sarker of National People's Party.

MYMENSINGH-4

BNP's Wahab, JP's Raushan main contestants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

BNP and Jatiya Party (Ershad) candidates from Mymensingh-4 (Sadar upazila) constituency are conducting their election campaigns in festive mood as the national election is knocking at the door.

Begum Raushan Ershad, also opposition leader in the parliament, is in the election race from this constituency as grand alliance candidate while BNP fielded Abu Wahab Akanda Wahid as their fresh candidate. Wahab is also the general secretary of the district unit (South) of the party.

In last four general elections, except 10th parliament election, the competition was between BNP and Awami League (AL). BNP's Fazlul Haque and Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu won in 1991 and 2001 respectively while Raushan in 1996 and principal Motiur Rahman of AL won in 2008. Raushan also won the race from this seat in 2014 uncontested.

Heavyweight Raushan has recently started her campaign in the town and its outskirts while Wahab and his supporters continued conducting their campaign since December 11.

In many areas of the constituency, especially in char areas, BNP is conducting their campaign soon after their candidate was finalised. But campaign of JP candidate was late here, said voters.

Locals said as people loyal to BNP were deprived of casting their votes in last general election, they are very active this time to win the race.

As the organisational capacity of JP is not strong in the area, BNP is hopeful of winning the race.

At a recent meeting of grand alliance in the town, Raushan sought all-out cooperation from

AL for winning the election.

The young voters have different opinions regarding the two candidates. Talking to this correspondent, some young voters of char areas said the young voters' choice could be 'factor votes' for any candidate.

If the candidates can draw the attention of the young voters with pledges they can fulfill, they can get their votes. The general voters also see a tough fight between Raushan and Wahab.

They also said the election violence is less in the area so far and the candidates are running their campaign almost freely. But they want a safe and secure environment to cast their votes for their candidates.

BNP candidate Abu Wahab Akanda alleged of attacks on party men in several areas including Bhabakhali union on Saturday and obstruction in election campaign and arrest of party men.

If the voters can cast their votes in peaceful atmosphere, BNP will win the race as the party has strong hold in and outside the town, said Wahab.

Jahangir Hossain, president of Jatiya Party (JP) Mymensingh city unit, said they have been conducting election campaign in and outside the town in peaceful environment.

The other candidates in this constituency are Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Dr Md Nasir Uddin of Islami Andolon Bangladesh and Md Hamidul Islam of National Peoples Party (NPP). Except CPB candidate Millat, the two others are almost absent from the scene.

Millat said they are conducting their campaign in almost peaceful environment so far. He also mentioned some stray incidents that occurred,



Mahbub Ara Abdur Rashid

GAIBANDHA-2 AL, BNP in tough contest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Awami League (AL) candidate Whip Mahbub Ara Begum Gini is facing a tough contest in Gaibandha-2 (Sadar) constituency from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) candidate Abdur Rashid Sarker in the forthcoming Jatiya Sangsad election.

Gini captured the constituency in the last two elections.

Rashid, general secretary of Gaibandha district unit of Jatiya Party (JP), who was lawmaker for two terms during Ershad regime, recently joined BNP and is contesting as BNP candidate with 'paddy sheaf' symbol.

In the last election, Rashid filed nomination paper as a candidate of JP, but JP Chairman HM Ershad asked him to withdraw his candidature. Accordingly, Rashid withdrew his candidature from the election, which led to an easy win for AL candidate Gini.

Voters of this constituency are seeing AL campaigning for election fully in the field, holding meetings and demonstrations and chanting the slogan "vote for boat." But campaigning by BNP is almost absent fearing attacks by AL activists and arrest. However, BNP leaders and activists are campaigning from door to door of voters.

BNP candidate Rashid alleged that police are arresting leaders and activists of BNP, so they cannot campaign for election freely.

Mihir Ghosh of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Al-Amin of Islami Andolan, Zia Zaman Khan of National People's Party and Jubayer Ahmed of Islami Oikya Front are also in the race for the parliamentary seat.

Plying of vehicles on Bangabandhu Bridge halts for two hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Vehicular movement on Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail was suspended for two hours yesterday due to a problem in its computerised online toll collection system.

The situation led to about 10-kilometre-long tailbacks that kept stranded hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the bridge, causing sufferings to the passengers and transport workers, said Mosharraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station.

The problem in the computerised online toll collection system



occurred at 10:00am, causing suspension of toll collection as well as vehicular movement on the bridge, said Ahsanul Kabir Pavel, assistant engineer of the Bangabandhu Bridge site office of Bangladesh

Bridge Authority (BBA).

The system, provided by Computer Network System (CNS) Limited, is operated by BBA, he said.

"Vehicular movement resumed on the bridge at 12:10pm after starting of the toll collection manually through providing tokens. Later, computerised online toll collection system was restored at 12:50pm," he said.

"Creation of such problem on the computerised online toll collection system is not an unlikely matter as around 15,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day," he added.

Leopard beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A leopard was beaten to death at Daulatpur village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh on Saturday evening in presence of police and forest officials.

Locals said a leopard appeared at around 11:30am at Bosuniapara village and took shelter in a ditch beside a water body covered with kalmi trees. Thousands of villagers gathered to encircle the leopard.

Locals believe the leopard entered the village from forests beyond Bangladesh territory.

Local police and civil administration and forest officials were informed about the matter.

Boda Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abu Haydar Md Ashrafuzzaman told this correspondent that thousands of villagers encircled the animal in the village.

After magrib prayers, the leopard came out from the ditch and ran towards the villagers.

Fearing attack by the animal, villagers beat it to death.

The OC said a team of police was deployed

there from afternoon. They asked the villagers to keep themselves at a safe distance.

The dead leopard was handed over to the local forest officer.

Dinajpur Divisional Forest Officer Abdur Rahman said they informed the expert for animal rescue of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department.

The leopard was 50 inches long, 28 inches high, with 29 inches chest and 19 inches neck, officials said.

Touhidul Bari Babu, district unit president of Paribesh Parishad, said the authorities concerned got enough time to rescue the animal but they failed.

According to Bangladesh Wildlife Protection Act 1974, a person could be imprisoned for six months to up to a year and penalised Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 for killing such animals.

Section 37 of Bangladesh Wildlife Protection Bill 2011 denotes killing of rare animals, like leopard, as a punishable offence. The killer can be imprisoned for three years or fined Tk 3 lakh, or both, for such a crime.

500 Faridpur BNP men join AL

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

About 500 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) Sadar upazila unit joined the Awami League (AL) on Saturday.

The BNP men joined AL under the leadership of BNP Sadar upazila unit President Rauf-un-Nabi, said engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, AL-backed candidate for Faridpur-3 constituency (Sadar upazila).

Following their joining, local AL leaders and activists welcomed the newcomers, at an election campaign rally of Mosharraf at Tulagram village under Kajjuri union in the upazila on Saturday night, as they would strengthen the party's election campaign.

On the occasion, Rauf handed over a bouquet of flowers to AL nominee Mosharraf.

"I had been a BNP activist for nearly 42 years, but I was inspired to join the AL considering the active role of the party in many development activities and welfare of the people," Rauf said.

Rauf said although BNP was in power for quite a long time, they did not conduct any development work in the district, adding that incumbent lawmaker Mosharraf has done many development works in Faridpur region in the last 10 years.

Contacted, Chowdhury Nazmul Hasan, general secretary of Sadar upazila unit BNP, said Rauf was expelled from his post at a party meeting about three months ago.

"Now it is proved that Rauf was never a genuine BNP man," Nazmul said.

Woman crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

An unidentified woman, aged about 25 years, met a tragic death when she was crushed under a moving train in Kalihati upazila under the district yesterday.

The woman, wearing a veil and scarf, was run over by Nilphamari-bound Nilsagar Express train coming from Dhaka while she was crossing the rail track on Joydevpur-Bangabandhu Bridge route in Jokarchar area at noon.

She died on the spot.

"We informed the Tangail outpost of Bangladesh Railway Police of the matter for taking necessary measures in this regard," said Mosharraf Hossain, officer in charge of Bangabandhu East Police Station.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Center, Sopura, Rajshahi

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

1	Ministry	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Sopura, Rajshahi.
4	Procuring entity district	Rajshahi
5	Invitation for	Goods
6	Invitation Ref. No.	Ref No: 49.01.8100.002.32.043.13.3630
7	Date	Date: 22-12-2018

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	International Development Association (World Bank).
11	Project/program code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/program name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP).
13	Tender package number	1. STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-04 2. STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-05
14	Tender package name	1. Supply of Training Materials & Equipment's for Different Trades. 2. Supply and Installation of Computer and IT Goods.
15	Tender last selling date and time	16-01-2019 up to 4:00pm.
16	Tender closing date and time	17-01-2019 at 12:00 noon.
17	Tender opening date and time	17-01-2019 at 12:30pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s)	Address Office of the Principal, Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Sopura, Rajshahi. Office of the Principal, Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Sopura, Rajshahi. Office of the Principal, Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Sopura, Rajshahi.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	09-01-2019, 11:00am; Place: Office of the Principal, Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Sopura, Rajshahi.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Qualification criteria	(a) The tenderer should be Manufacturers/Distributors/Sole Agents of similar goods and related services. (b) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 years overall and three years of specific experience in the supply of goods and related services. (c) The tenderer shall have experience of satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum for the package of STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-04 BDT 15.00 lac under single contract in the last 5 years & for the package of STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-05 BDT 20.00 lac under single contract in the last 5 years. (d) The tenderer should have liquid asset for the package of STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-04 BDT 15.00 lac & for the package of STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-05 BDT 20.00 lac within the period of IFT publication to last date of tender submission. (e) Others: as mentioned in the tender document.
21	Brief description of goods	Package: STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-04: Hair Dryer Machine, Hand Electric Spray Machine etc. Package: STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-05: UPS, Laptop, Desktop Computer, Laser Printer etc.
22	Price of tender document	BDT 1000.00 (one thousand) only (non-refundable).
23	Brief description of related service	Not applicable.
24	Package No.	Identification package Location Tender security Completion time
	STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-04	Supply of Training Materials & Equipment for Different Trades Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre, Rajshahi BDT 40,000.00 8 weeks (from the date of contract signing)
	STEP-RMTTC-AF-GD-05	Supply and Installation of Computer and IT Goods Rajshahi BDT 50,000.00

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Nazmul Haque.
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal
27	Address of official inviting tender	Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre.
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 0247860880, email: mtcc.ra@gmail.com
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md. Nazmul Haque
Principal
Rajshahi Mohila Technical Training Centre
Sopura, Rajshahi

GD-2891