

ELECTIONEERING IN COUNTRYSIDE

'Paddy sheaf' candidates face hurdle AL's Monir in field,

Pressure from ruling party men, internal feud mar their campaign efforts in Pabna; campaigns also face obstacles in Lalmonirhat, Netrakona

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Candidates from BNP and Jatiya Oikyafront in different constituencies of Pabna, Lalmonirhat and Netrakona are facing serious obstacles in polls campaign ahead of the December 30 parliament elections.

BNP and Jatiya Oikyafront candidates in five constituencies of Pabna have not been able to campaign widely due to pressure from the ruling party men along with internal problems, reports our correspondent.

With 'sheaf of paddy' symbol, BNP candidates are contesting in Pabna-2 (Sujanagar and part of Bera upazila), Pabna-3 (Chatmohar, Bhangura and Faridpur) and Pabna-4 (Ishwardi and Atghoria) constituencies, a Gonoforum candidate is running in Pabna-1 (Santhia and part of Bera) while a Jamaat leader is in the polls race in Pabna-5 (Sadar).

In Pabna-3, BNP candidate Anwarul Islam faces strong 'rebel' candidate Hasanul Islmal Raja, contesting as an independent candidate with 'lion' symbol.

Anwarul came under attack several times in the last couple of weeks. Hundreds of his supporters were sued after the attacks and they are on the run.

BNP central leader Habibur Rahman Habib got the party nomination for Pabna-4 constituency, but most of the upazila BNP leaders and a former BNP lawmaker are against him.

Ishwardi upazila and poura BNP, led by former BNP lawmaker Sirajul Islam Sardar, staged a rally on Saturday declaring Habib unwanted.

BNP nominated candidate Selim Reza Habib for Pabna-2 said he could not run his campaign well as most of his supporters have been sued in different cases.

In Pabna-1, former AL leader Prof Abu Sayeed is the Jatiya Oikyafront candidate from Gonoforum.

Sayeed said ruling party men attacked him 12 times in the last couple of weeks and he is unable to hold campaign rallies smoothly.

Sayeed had been doing anti-Jamaat politics for long, and so, the partner of BNP-led alliance seems reluctant to support him.

A son of executed Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami is an independent candidate in the seat.

In Pabna-5 constituency, Jamaat leader Moulana Iqbal Hossain is the candidate, but most of the BNP men are not with him.

"Most BNP leaders are upset as none from the party has been nominated for Pabna-5," said Johurul Islam, office secretary of district unit BNP.

Habibur Rahman Tota, secretary of district unit BNP, said BNP and alliance leaders have tried to persuade all factins to conduct campaign together.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: Three BNP candidates of as many constituencies in the district cannot conduct campaigns smoothly for fear of attacks and arrest. The candidates are Asadul Habib Dulu from

Lalmonirhat-3 (Sadar upazila), Rokon Uddin

Babul from Lalmonirhat-2 (Aditmari-Kaliganj) and Hasan Rajib Prodhan from Lalmonirhat-1 (Hatibandha-Patgram) constituencies. Dulu, also president of the district unit BNP, alleged

that Awami League men continued attacking his supporters during campaign since December 11. "Police have already arrested 33 BNP men. Our

supporters and even their family members cannot sleep peacefully in their homes fearing arrest," he said. Hasan Rajib Prodhan said his election posters

were torn off at different places and even his election campaign office was vandalised by AL activists. "I have submitted written complaint to the returning officer but to no effect," he said.

Rokon Uddin Babul said, "I cannot conduct campaign in the constituency due to attacks by AL men. My supporters continued receiving threats not to join my election campaign. There is no peaceful environment for polls."

Abdar Hossain, 48, of Kawamari village in

Patgram upazila said he has never seen such an election in his life as AL men are visiting their houses and threatening them not to go to polling centre unless they vote for boat symbol.

"We did not join any election campaign but suspecting us as BNP supporters, AL men threatened us to leave the village. Even police are disturbing us, entering our houses at night," said Delwar Hossain, 56, of Mahishkhocha village in Aditmari upazila.

Refuting the allegations of attacks on BNP men, AL candidate from Lalmonirhat-1 constituency Motahar Hossain said no BNP men are seen in conducting election campaign in the area. Our Mymensingh Correspondent adds: The

ency (Kalmakanda and Durgapur upazilas) is yet to get fair chance to run his election campaign freely ahead of the December 30 general elections. Local BNP men alleged that Awami League (AL) candidate Manu Majumder has been running his cam-

paign vibrantly, but BNP nominated Kayser Kamal had come under several attacks and obstructions. Arrest and filing of cases against BNP men started

since the start of the election campaign, Kayser alleged. "Attacks, obstructions and tearing off posters by

the ruling party men are a common scene here. My supporters came under attack at three spots in . Kalmakanda upazila on Saturday. When we reached near Ambari Bazar, some AL men waylaid us and asked us to leave the area," he said.

quarters, Chhatra League and Jubo League men : another," he added.

(independent), Mamunur Rashid (Islami Andolon Party of Bangladesh) -- are running campaigns in the constituency.

BNP's Tuku in prison

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Although Awami League (AL) candidate for Tangail-2 constituency (Bhuapur and Gopalpur upazilas) Tanvir Hasan Chhoto Monir has been running his election campaign in full swing, BNP nominated Sultan Salahuddin Tuku is in jail.

Former AL lawmaker of Tangail-2 Khandakar Asaduzzaman, who was elected in the 2014 election defeating Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) nominated Azizur Rahman Tarafder, is not taking part in the upcoming elections due to old age.

Asaduzzaman was also elected lawmaker from the constituency in 1996 and 2008 polls while BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu was elected lawmaker from the constituency in 1991 and 2001 elections defeating AL candidate Hatem Ali Talukder and Khandakar Asaduzzaman respectively.

AL nominated Tanvir Hasan Chhoto Monir, science and technology affairs secretary of AL district unit this

time, while BNP is backing BNP-backed candidate for Netrakona-1 constitu- : Pintu's younger brother Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, also general secretary of Jubo Dal central unit. During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw

> vince the voters. They also held some large rallies in different areas of the

Chhoto Monir and his men

going door to door to con-

two upazilas, locals said. Chhoto Monir's elder

active in the campaign.

Tanvir Hasan Sultan Salahuddin **Chhoto Monir** Tuku brother Golam Kibria Boro Monir and a number of influential AL men were also seen

On the other hand, Saima Parvin, wife of Tuku, who has been in prison for the last "On our way back to Kalmakanda upazila head- · three months, has been holding campaigns on behalf of her husband.

Tuku's elder brother and BNP district unit President Shamsul Alam Tofa could not attacked us, vandalised eight motorbikes and torched : hold any large gathering in support of his brother, fearing arrest.

Sources said BNP men are not staying in their homes as several cases were filed Three more candidates -- Mustaque Ahmed Ruhi against them in the two upazilas.

The other major candidates are Jahid Hossain Khan (Communist Party of Bangladesh) and Alkash Uddin Mir (Communist : Bangladesh), Enamul Haque (Jaker Party), SM Samsur Rahman (Islami Andolon Bangladesh) and Monirul Islam (Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh).

Uncle, nephew contenders from Sherpur-3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Voters of Sherpur-3 (Jhenaigati-Sreebordi) are waiting for a tough fight in the upcoming parliamentary elections between an uncle and his nephew as both have strong hold in the area.

Uncle z of Awami League (AL) and his nephew Mahmudul Haque Rubel of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are in the election race.

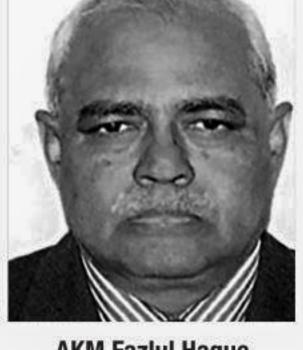
Rubel was elected from this constituency in the 1995 by-election as an independent candidate after

the death of his father Dr Md Sherajul Haque, who was elected in 1991.

Rubel also won in 1996 and 2001 as BNP candidate. Chand, younger

brother of Rubel's father, won the race in 2008 and 2014. Rubel alleged that

he and his party men are facing serious from AL men every day since campaign-



AKM Fazlul Haque

Chand ing started. "I have never seen such a situation during election period where attacks and obstruc-

added. Thirty cases have been lodged accusing around 500 party men since December 12, 50 of whom have been arrested. Some election

tion by the AL are regular incidents," Rubel

camps have been ransacked and torched, alleged Rubel. He alleged that he and his workers came under

attack by AL men at Tinani Bazar area in Jhenaigati upazila on Saturday.

"I started my political career in my youth but I never faced such an 'unexpected' and 'odd' situation," lamented Rubel. "Is it a general election when the candidate and men of the ruling party are campaigning freely but we are attacked by AL men or

arrested," Rubel

He also alleged that detectives are also visiting the voters' houses and threatening them to cast vote for 'boat.'

Officer-in-Charge of Detective Branch of Police (DB) in Sherpur Md Nowjesh Ali Miah refuted the allegations.

Admitting the untoward incident at

Rubel Tinani Bazar, the AL candidate said he never supports such incidents.

Refuting the allegations of attacks on BNP men and obstruction in their campaign, Chand also · Dablu. made a counter allegation saying, "BNP men have torched our election symbol 'boat' at different places and tore off AL's posters."

Manikganj-1

Dablu gets 'paddy sheaf', deprived Jinnah sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Khondaker Abdul Hamid Dablu has been finally declared nominee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for Manikganj-1 constituency (Ghior, Daulatpur and Shibalaya upazilas) and got the symbol 'sheaf of paddy' for contesting in the December 30 parliament elections.

He is son of former BNP secretary general late Khandaker Delwar Hossain and vice president of district BNP, as well as a member of the party's national executive committee.

Dablu's nomination became valid after the court rejected the appeal of another BNP nominee SA Kabir Jinnah, district BNP's organising secretary and member of the party's national executive committee.

Earlier the district's returning officer considered Jinnah as a legitimate candidate and allocated him the 'sheaf of paddy' symbol.

But the High Court rejected the decision of the returning officer and declared Dablu as the legal candidate. The court · also ordered the Election Commission to allocate the symbol 'sheaf of paddy' to

Jinnah appealed against the order given by the High Court. High Court chamber judge passed the order of the High Court



Naimur Rahman Durjoy



Abdul Hamid Dablu



SA Kabir Jinnah

yesterday morning and the nomination of Durjoy is contesting in this constituency Dablu became valid.

Meanwhile, Jinnah was sent to jail after the judge of Manikganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court rejected his bail prayer bail in a sabotage case filed against him earlier.

Another BNP candidate was Tozammel Haque Toza, chairman of Daulatpur district BNP.

His nomination was rejected by the High Court as the chairman of upazila parishad cannot be elected as a member of the parliament.

Former cricketer AM Naimur Rahman

with 'boat' symbol. Former Awami League lawmaker Engineer ABM Anwarul Haque campaigned as an independent candidate but he withdrew in support of 'boat.'

Durjoy is the candidate of the grand alliance and advocate Dablu is the candidate from Jatiya Oikyafront.

Khorshed Alam of Bangladesh Islami Upazila Parishad and joint secretary of Andolon with 'hand fan' and Muslim League nominated candidate Faruk Hossain Assad with 'hurricane' are also

> contesting in the constituency. There area a total of 3 lakh 84 thousand and 591 voters in the constituency, elction office sources said.

12 cases filed in 12 days, over 8,000 BNP men sued in Bogura!

Mahmudul Haque

Allegations of attack, vandalism and looting of money from AL leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

In the last 12 days in Bogura election campaign, 12 cases were filed with five police stations in the district and over 8,000 BNP men were sued by police and AL alliance leaders on allegations of sabotage, vandalism, arson and explosion of

crude bombs. Among them, 721 are named and 7,347 are unnamed accused, and more than 50 BNP men were sent to jail in the last 12 days, police said.

BNP candidates Kazi Rafiqul Islam of Bogura-1, Mosharaf Hosain of Bogura-4, Golam Mohamad Siraj of Bogura-5, and Masuda Momin of Bogura-3 constituencies alleged that AL leaders are filing ghost cases against BNP men and police are going to the homes of BNP supporters and threatening them not to campaign for 'sheaf of paddy.'

"Over 100 BNP men have been arrested in the last 11 days. We informed the returning officer (RO) about everything, but have not got any reply," said district BNP President Saiful Islam. They made these allegations at a press confer-

ence in their district party office on Saturday. Twelve cases were filed with five police stations in the district from December 10 to

December 23. Seven of those cases were filed with Sonatala

PS, two with Sariakandi PS, and one each with Bogura Sadar PS, Nandigram PS and Dhunat PS. Clashes broke out at some places in Sonatala upazila on December 20 between

the BNP men, police and AL supporters during a rally of Kazi Rafiqul Islam, BNP candidate for the Bogura-1 seat.

with Sonatala PS against 478 named and over 7,000 unnamed BNP men. Pakulla union AL Vice-President Ataur Rahman Geda filed a case on December 21 with

the PS against 70 named and 2,000 to 3,000 unnamed BNP men on allegation of threats with firearms, vandalism and looting money from a union AL leader's house. District BNP Joint Secretary MR Islam Sadhin

and district Juba Dal President Sipar Al Baktiar, are listed as accused, said Inspector Zahid Hossain of the PS. Police arrested 29 BNP men in this case and

sent them to jail, said Inspector Zahid Hossain, also OC-investigation. Zorgachha union AL man Rafiqul Islam filed another case against 234 named and 1,200 unnamed BNP men with the same

police station on December 21 on allegation of vandalism of the Zorgachha union AL office on December 20 during the BNP candidate's election rally. Another case was filed by the Padmapara ward AL President Zillur Rahman with the same PS on December 22 against 66 named

and 900 unnamed BNP men on allegation of

vandalising the AL campaign office in the

village on December 20.

Another case was filed against 81 named and 1,200 unnamed BNP men with the PS on December 22 on allegation of exploding In this regard, seven cases have been filed so far cocktails at a fried rice factory in Huyakua village during the BNP campaign on December 20.

Charpara ward Awami League President Ziaul Haq filed another case against 27 BNP named and 800 unnamed men on allegation of attacking his house, vandalising his shop and looting money during BNP's election campaign in the upazila on December 20. More cases are being prepared to be filed in

connection with electoral violence, said Sonatala PS OC Shariful Islam. Eight separate cases were filed during the 12

days against BNP men with four other police stations in the district. "We are taking every complaint of the BNP

candidates seriously and sending those to the police. We are not discriminating against anyone. Please ask the SP about their allegations,' said Returning Officer Deputy Commissioner Foyez Ahmed. When asked about to many cases against

BNP men were filed during the last 12 days, Bogura Superintendent of Police Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan said, "BNP's allegation is baseless, they are not coming to us, they are going to the RO, who is giving their allegation to us and we are investigating each and every complaint by BNP." He said police are also taking cases against AL men.

BNP to back partners

Its President Dr Kamal Hossain addressed the crowd over phone and urged people to vote for Gonoforum candidate Mokabbir, who would run with the symbol of "Rising Sun" but represent the BNP-led Jatiya Oikyafront.

Following a writ petition by the ruling Awami League-supported JP candidate for Sylhet-2 Yayha Chowdhury, the HC on December 13 cancelled the candidacy of Tahsina Rusdir. The HC disqualified several upazila

chairmen as the government did not accept their resignation from the post. According to the Representation of the People Order, anyone holding "an office of profit", including that of an upazila chairman, cannot run for parliament. Then the cancelled nominees went to the

Appellate Division. The chamber judge of the division Justice Md Nuruzzaman upheld the HC orders that disqualified 11 candidates on different grounds. The apex court chamber judge yesterday stayed an HC order that directed the EC to

allow Amjad Hossain Sarker, chairman of Syedpur upazila in Nilphamari, to contest the election, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star. The BNP is now looking for independent

or other party candidates behind whom it can throw its weight.

In Jamalpur-4, there is one candidate each from the BNF and Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB).

In Joypurhat-1, there are one independent and two BSD and IAB candidates. In Jhenidah-2, there are two candidates

from BSD and IAB. In Rajshahi-5, there is a rebel BNP candi-

In Dhaka-1, there are one independent and two CPB and Biplobi Workers Party candidates.

candidates to choose from. In Nilphamari-4, there are two independent candidates.

In Chandpur-4, the BNP has two rebel

In Bogra-7, there are one independent

and three Bangladesh NAP, NPP and BSD candidates. In Bogra-3, there is one each from Biplobi Workers Party, IAB and BNF.

In Dinajpur-3, there is one each from IAB, CPB and Bangladesh Muslim League.

In Rangpur-5, there is one each from BSD and IAB.

Singer Dwijen FROM PAGE 16

exponent, who was honoured with the

Padmabhushan and Banga Bibhusan awards, also composed music for Bangla films. In 2010, he was awarded with the Bangabandhu Award by the Bangladesh government. The maestro had recently been suffering

from various age-related ailments. He was admitted to a government hospital in September with severe lung infection, and was later discharged when his condition had improved slightly. Mukhopadhyay, however, did not recover completely, according to Indian newspaper Business Standard. Expressing condolences for his death,

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it was a personal loss for her. She also said that the singer's last rites will be performed with full state honours. "I am at a loss for words. Dwijen da's

death marks the end of an era, a huge loss for the music industry. I shared a very cordial relationship with Dwijen da," Mamata added.

In Rajshahi-6, Brahmanbaria-4 and Dhaka-20, there are three IAB candidates.