Tough battle ahead for AL candidates in Ctg

3 independents get back candidacy

ARUN BIKASH DEY

With three independent candidates winning back their candidacy following appeals to the Election Commission, Awami League candidates are likely to face tough competition in three Chattogram constituencies in the upcoming polls.

AL leaders Gias Uddin, MA Motaleb, and Abdus Salam filed nomination papers as independent candidates Chattogram-1, from Chattogram-15, Chatttogram-8 respectively, and their nominations cancelled for finding fault in one percent of voters' signatures

Gias is a former chairman of Mirsarai UP and executive member of Chattogram north district unit AL, while Motaleb is the president of Satkania unit AL and a former upazila chairman. Salam is the treasurer of Chattogram city unit AL and a former CDA chairman.

In Chattogram-1, AL candidate is Mahbub Rahman Ruhel, son of AL presidium member Mosharraf Hossain. According to sources, Ruhel is new to

politics but his family has a strong vote bank due to his father being a seven-term lawmaker from this constituency.

In contrast, Gias is a tested AL leader. Sources said a good number of local AL leaders and activists will work for Gias.

Niaz Morshed Elite, a member of Juba League central committee, said being

a pro-people leader, Gias has popularity among voters. He has a good chance to win if the polls are fair, as his rival AL candidate is a new face in politics.

Jahangir president of Mirsarai upazila unit AL, said AL leaders and activists are united for Ruhel's victory. The vote bank for "boat" will be with Ruhel.

Chattogram-15, AL has nominated Abu Reza Muhammad Nezamuddin Nadvi, the incumbent lawmaker from the constituency.

Contacted, Humayun Kabir Russell, former general secretary of Lohagara upazila unit AL, said both Nadvi and independent candidate Motaleb are popular among the voters.

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Using zero-mesh net, a man catches fish in Dador canal of Sunamganj's Shantiganj upazila. Despite bans, many fishers in the area continue to use these current nets, further endangering fish population in local waterbodies.

Closed doors, confused locals

SUPREME PARTY HEADQUARTERS

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

As per the Election Commission data, the location of recently registered Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP) office is listed as 82 Shah Ali Bagh, Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216.

When this correspondent reached Shah Ali Bagh, he asked locals to help him find the "BSP office". But many didn't even know such a party existed in the first place, while some were surprised that its office was

At one point, a shopkeeper named Delowar Hossain pointed towards a building and said, "Check over there, it may be that one." He was right.

The office, however, appeared to be closed when this correspondent visited recently.

It's on the 4th floor of the building, locally known as "Khanka

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No matter how many times this correspondent asked around, most were seemingly oblivious to the existence of any political office inside the building.

most were seemingly oblivious to the existence of any political office inside the building, although the upcoming national polls are less than a month away, which BSP will be contesting in.

Upon calling out at the 4th-floor entrance to see if anyone was present, a security guard appeared, asking the correspondent who he was.

Then, he directed the correspondent to return to the ground floor and await further instructions. After a brief interval, a party activist approached, inquiring about the reporter's identity again. Finally, after a 10-minute wait, the activist gave clearance to the reporter to enter their office.

After a further 5-minute wait, Ibrahim, the office secretary, arrived and asked for the reporter's ID and visiting cards once again. Notably, apart from Ibrahim, the security guard, and the other activist, all of whom have kept asking for the correspondent's ID card, not a single party member was visible at the office. They claimed BSP Chairman Shahzada Syed Saifuddin Ahmed

Maizbhandari's office is on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building while the ground floor is used as a garage.

NATIONAL POLLS

Three new parties, little-known faces

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STAR REPORT

Most of the candidates of three newlyregistered political parties -- Trinamool BNP, Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), and Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP) -- are little known in their constituencies.

They do not have connection with the people while voters in some areas got to know their names only after announcement of their candidacies.

Some of their aspirants came from other political parties or organisations including Awami League, BNP and

Jatiya Hindu Mohajote. Trinamool BNP registered in February this year, while BNM and BSP in August.

Talking to more than 100 voters in 18 constituencies of seven districts, it was found that most of them do not know the candidates of these three newly registered political parties.

In Chattogram, nine candidates are contesting under the banner Trinamool BNP.

Uddin in Chattogram-5, Md Yahya Zia Chowdhury in Chattogram-6, Khorshed Alam in Chattogram-7, Santosh Sharma in Chattogram-8, Sujit Sarkar in Chattogram-9, Ferdaus Bashir in Chattogram-10, Deepak Kumar Palit in Chattogram-11, and Rajiv Chowdhury in Chattogram-12.

Besides, Yakub Ali is contesting under the banner of BNM in Chattogram-12.

Ironically, some of the Trinamool BNP candidates even do not know each other, despite contesting under the same party's

Md Nazim Uddin, who was the former vicepresident of Chittagong University Central Student Union, is the lone known face.

Asked, Nazim claimed that he does not know all the candidates of Trinamool BNP in other constituencies.

Deepak Kumar Palit, vice-chairperson of Trinamool BNP, echoed the same.

"I was an Awami League activist for 40 years. I also served as the Chattogram divisional president of Jatiya Hindu Mohajote. I could not participate in national elections earlier as there were several heavyweight candidates. Now, I have got the chance under the banner of Trinamool BNP," said Sujit Sarkar.

In four districts of Sylhet, some 16 candidates of the three parties are

> Only four of them are known faces in their constituencies. Trinamool BNP's are: chairperson Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, Sylhet-6; former parliamentarian Shahinoor Pasha Chowdhury, who was recently suspended from the vice-president post of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, in Sunamganj-3 from Trinamool BNP; former lawmaker MM Shahin, who

They are: Khokon was a presidium member Chowdhury in Chattogram-4, Md Nazim of Bikalpadhara, in Moulvibazar-2 from Trinamool BNP; and former lawmaker Dewan Shamsul Abedin, grandson of poet Hason Raia. in Sunamganj-4 from BNM.

The remaining 12 are little known to their

Other Trinamool BNP nominees include Ashraf Ali in Sunamganj-1, Mohammad Abdul Mannan Khan in Sylhet-2, Koysor Ahmed Kawsar and Kutub Uddin Ahmed Sikder in Sylhet-5, Khairul Alam and Sadiqur Miah Talukder in Habiganj-2 and Anwar Hossain in Moulvibazar-1.

The BSP nominated candidates include Md Haris Miah in Sunamganj-1, Abu Saleh in Sunamganj-5, Badrul Alam Siddiqui

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Minority voters a big factor in Khulna

DIPANKAR ROY

Voters from minority communities in the three constituencies of Khulna will likely play a key role in the upcoming national polls as they contribute to a large stake in the areas' vote bank.

In Khulna-1 (Batiaghata-Dakope), around 47.24 percent of the voters belong to minority communities, while in Khulna-5 (Dumuria-Phultala) and Khulna-6 (Paikgachha- Koyra) the figures are 32.36 and 27.27 percent respectively.

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The correspondent talked with at least 25 voters from minority communities in the three constituencies. Most of them said they will not vote bank for any particular political party.

A minority community leader said local development is their main priority, not any particular party.

Three candidates are contesting in Khulna-1. Kazi Hasanur Rasid from Jatiya Party, Gobinda Chandra Pramanik from Trinamool BNP and Nani Gopal Mondal of Awami League.

Nani Gopal Mondal said he is hopeful that the community would support him.

"Voters, now highly politically aware and independent in their views, recognise the government's efforts for the improvement and well-being of the minority community," he said.

Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, also general

Tel: 49270077

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A queue of illegally parked trucks takes up almost half of the Keraniganj-Nawabganj highway. The photo was taken in Dhaka's Kadamtoli area yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



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3.	920434	OTM	Repairing and Renovation of Sohid Minar, Supply and fitting of plumbing Goods for Guest house at BARI Gazipur	12-Dec-2023 10:00	26-Dec-2023 12:10
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