



# ELECTION 2008

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2008



## 2 join BNP as AL fields 7 new faces in Ctg

New BNP faces likely in Ctg-1, 3, 13, 14

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

With the Election Commission's announcement of reschedule for the upcoming parliament elections, aspirants of BNP and Awami League (AL) are now lobbying to get tickets from BNP-led four-party alliance or AL-led 14-party grand alliance.

The aspirants of BNP have started lobbying for party ticket while those of AL, particularly the new faces, are up to retain the nomination in the seat sharing with the grand alliance partners, said sources in both the alliances.

Speculation is rife about Chittagong City Corporation acting Mayor Manjur Alam's joining BNP and contesting the upcoming polls with four-party alliance ticket from Chittagong-9 (Double Mooring-Pahartali), one of the four seats in the port city, sources said.

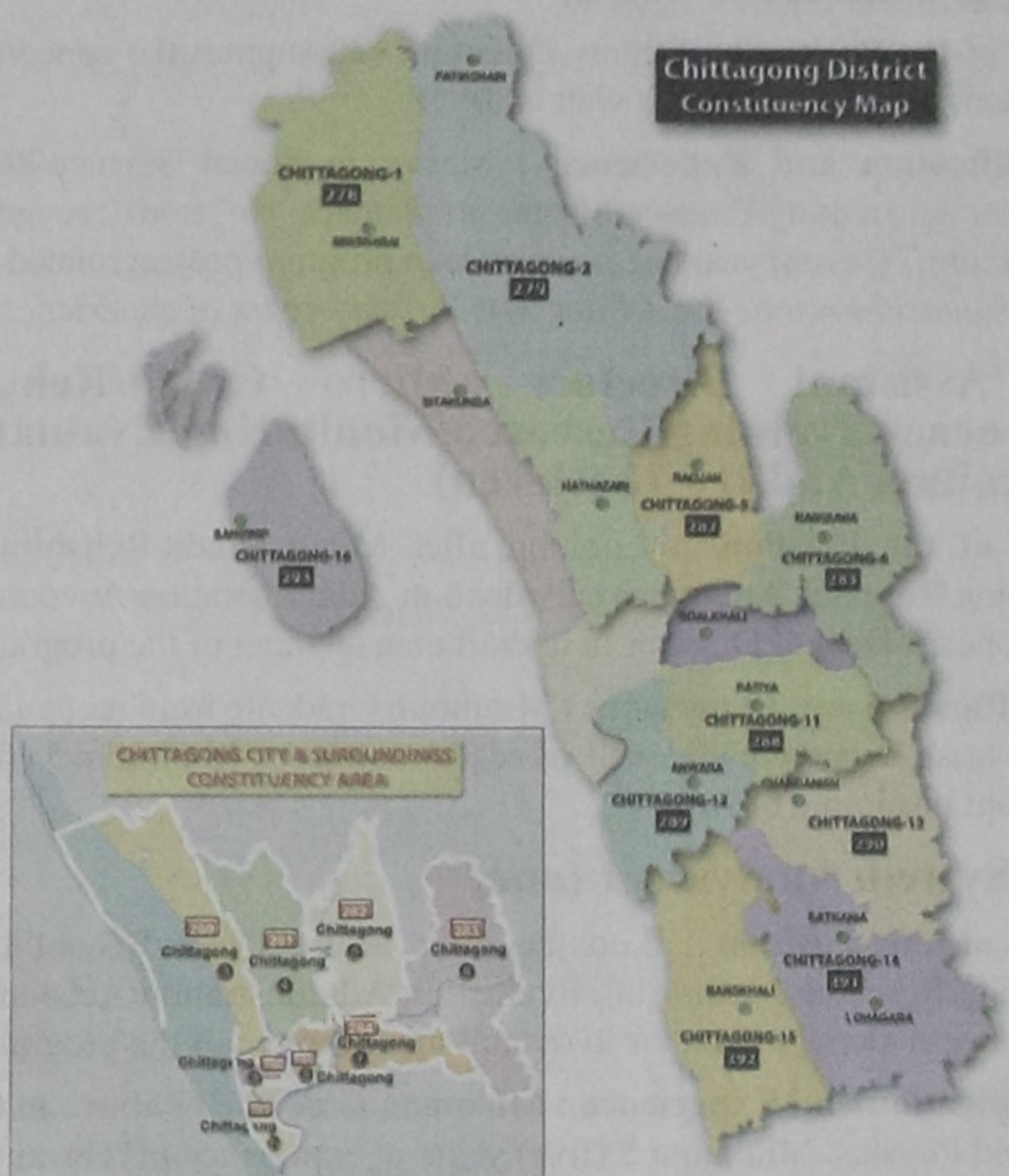
Manjur started thinking of BNP ticket after he failed to win AL nomination to contest in the election from Chittagong-9.

Shamsul Alam, Managing Director of Messers Elias and Brothers Group, who failed to get AL nomination for Chittagong-8 (Kotoali), is now reportedly planning to contest the election either with BNP ticket or as an independent candidate.

Awami League had already nominated party candidates in all the 16 parliamentary constituencies in Chittagong district.

AL picked up seven new faces for nominations in seven seats including Chittagong-2 (Fatikchhari) where two times former AL lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar will not be able to contest this time due to his conviction in an EPR case.

Among the new faces are ATM Piyarul Islam for Chittagong-2 (Fatikchhari), Dr Hasan Mahmud for Chittagong-6 (Rangunia), Abdus Salam for Chittagong-7 (Boalkhali), Khorshed Alam Sujan for Chittagong-10 (Patenga-Halishahar in the city) one of the four city seats, Shamsul Haq Chowdhury for Chittagong-11 (Patiya), advocate Sirajul Islam for



Chittagong-14 (Lohagara-Satkania), and Dr Jamal Ahmed Chowdhury for Chittagong-16 (Sandwip).

In nine other constituencies AL nominated old faces including Mosharrar Hossain for Chittagong-1 (Mirer Sarai), ABM Abul Kashem for Chittagong-3 (Sitakunda), MA Salam for Chittagong-4 (Hathazari), ABM Fazle Karim for Chittagong-5 (Raozan), Nurul Islam for Chittagong-8 (Kotoali in the city), Afsarul Amin for Chittagong-9 (Double Mooring in the city), Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury for Chittagong-12 (Anowara), Afsaruddin Ahmed for Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish) and Sulatanul Kabir Chowdhury for Chittagong-15 (Banskhali).

Most of the aspirants winning the AL party tickets have already submit-

ted their nomination papers.

AL nominated candidates Afsarul Amin, Khorshed Alam Sujan and Abdus Salam submitted nomination papers for three city seats -- Chittagong-9, Chittagong-10 and Chittagong-7 on Sunday. Nurul Islam submitted nomination paper for Chittagong-8 (Kotoali) - the other and the most vital city seat, on Thursday.

However, with the four-party alliance joining the polls some of these candidates are sure to be dropped in the seat sharing with partners of the grand alliance led by Awami League, political observers said.

Of the AL-led alliance partners, Jatiya Party expected six seats including Chittagong 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 15, LDP expected five seats including

Chittagong 1, 6, 11, 13 and 14 while Jatiya samajtantrik Dal (JSD) one seat to contest the upcoming polls with alliance tickets.

The seats that AL is most likely to share with the grand alliance partners include Chittagong-4, Chittagong-7, Chittagong-13 and Chittagong-14, AL insiders said.

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, JSD central leader Mainuddin Khan Badal, and LDP chief Col (retd) Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram are like to contest from these seats with alliance tickets, sources said.

To lobby for retaining nominations for the AL aspirants, particularly the one for Chittagong-7, Chittagong Mayor and city AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury recently went to Dhaka, sources said.

There may be change in nomination for one or two seats like Chittagong-16 (Sandwip) where the grassroots leaders expressed dissatisfaction for depriving Mahfuzur Rahman Mita, son of late AL lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman, party sources said.

AL nomination also triggered controversy and resentment in Chittagong-11.

Following BNP-led four-party alliance's announcement to participate in the rescheduled polls, BNP nomination aspirants have started lobbying for alliance tickets, said party sources.

At least four new faces are likely to figure in the BNP-led alliance nomination.

The alliance would go for picking new faces for Chittagong-1, 3, 13 and 14 constituencies.

Prospective candidates for these seats are industrialist Kamal Uddin Ahmad or industrialist Emran Chowdhury for Chittagong-1, Aslam Chowdhury or AYBI Siddiqui for Chittagong-3, BNP leader Abu Taher for Chittagong-13 and Jamaat leader Shamsul Islam Chowdhury for Chittagong-14.

DINAJPUR-4

AL nominee's effigy burnt by party rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Tension is mounting between two factions of Awami League in Dinajpur-4 constituency as activists of the deprived leader on Tuesday burnt effigy of party nominee AKM Mahmud Ali.

Mahmud Ali's supporters at meetings in Chirirbandar and Khanshama yesterday protested the action and demanded punishment of people involved.

Contacted, Khanshama Awami League secretary said it a suicidal to destroy the images of party.

A faction of Chirirbandar AL led by local Krishak League president Bikash Chandra Roy and Jubo League leader Mostafizur Rahman held a meeting and formed a human chain at Beltali Bazaar demanding nomination of Mizanur Rahman Manu from Dinajpur-4 (Chirirbandar and Khanshama).

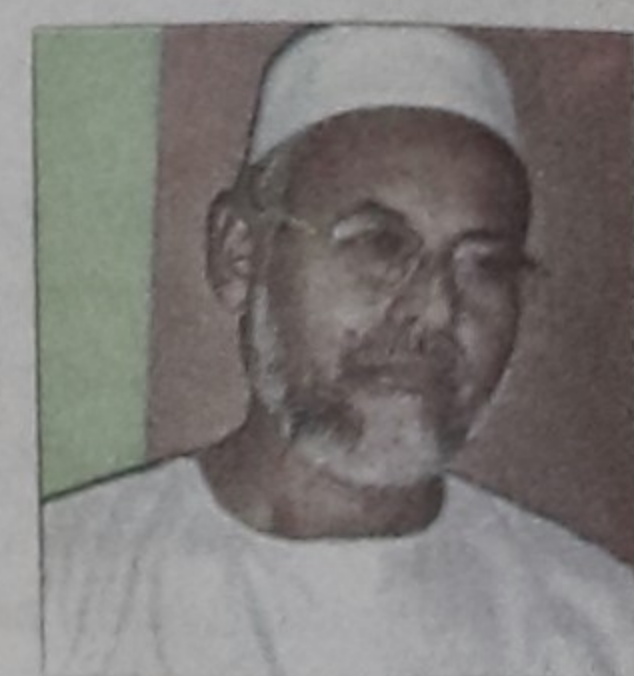
They burnt effigy of AKM Mahmud Ali at Beltali Bazaar.

Mizanur Rahman Manu was elected from the area in 1996 election. He was defeated by BNP leader Md. Akhtaruzzaman Miah in 2001 election.

Jamaat firm to field candidate in Kushtia-2



Sahidul Islam



Abdul Wahid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The row between BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami has widened over nomination from Kushtia-2 (Mirpur-Bheramara) as Jamaat is adamant to field its candidate in the seat bagged by BNP in last parliamentary election.

A senior Jamaat leader seeking anonymity said they are demanding the seat as BNP leader Sahidul Islam is unlikely to win because of alleged corruption during his tenure.

Kushtia district Jamaat Ameer Abdul Wahid has collected nomination papers and started campaign in Kushtia-2.

Wahid told this correspondent yesterday that he collected nomination paper on directive from party high-ups and that his party will press hard to get the seat from the alliance.

Sahidul Islam, president of Kushtia district BNP, was elected from the seat in last two elections. He is on the run since 1/11 and was seen in Kushtia since then.

Sahidul is on the list of 20 corruption suspects made public by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Besides had long been demanding the JS seat where it has a good number of party men. Besides, Jamaat activists were always against Sahidul Islam.

Wahid contested for the seat in twice in 1991 and 1996, when he got 29,869 and 30,632 votes respectively. AL candidate Mahbulul Alam Hanif got 87,734 votes in 2001 polls.

## AL, JP nominate candidates in all 5 Gaibandha seats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Both Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP) have nominated their own candidates in five constituencies here for contesting the upcoming Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections.

AL-nominated candidates are Monjurul Islam Liton (Gaibandha-1), Mahbub Ara Gini (Gaibandha-2), Brigadier (retd) Mahmudul Huq (Gaibandha-3), Monowar Hossain Chowdhury (Gaibandha-4) and Advocate Fazley Rabbi (Gaibandha-5).

Besides, Advocate Fazley Rabbi, four new faces will contest the election here.

JP-nominated candidates are Wahiduzzaman Sarker (Gaibandha-1), Abdur Rashid Sarker (Gaibandha-2), Dr TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury (Gaibandha-3), Ali Mahbub Talukder (Gaibandha-4) and

Rowshan Ershad (Gaibandha-5).

In 2001 elections, Rowshan Ershad of JP was elected a lawmaker from Gaibandha-5 constituency defeating Advocate Fazley Rabbi of AL. She got 93,432 votes while Rabbi bagged 72,804 votes. Both of them will vie for the seat this time also.

JP presidium member Dr TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury who will contest from Gaibandha-3 constituency was elected a member of parliament (MP) for five consecutive terms.

JP joint secretary general Wahiduzzaman Sarker is likely to face a tough fight against Jamaat leader Maolana Abdul Aziz in Gaibandha-1 constituency. Aziz won the 2001 elections bagging 75,478 votes while Wahiduzzaman got 57,048 votes.

## Don't allow JP in Nilphamari seats, urge AL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Leaders of all upazila units of Awami League (AL) have urged their party chief Sheikh Hasina not to allow Jatiya Party (JP) men to contest the upcoming Jatiya Sangsad (JS) elections as candidates of the grand alliance.

Following emergency meetings held in all upazila units of the party this week, they sent messages to their party chief to this effect. Terming JP as a decaying force, they said JP secured third position in the 2001 JS elections. If AL high command allows to contest polls then it would be suicidal for the party, they said.

In last JS elections, AL secured 2,49,159 votes while JP got only 2,03,525 in all four seats in the district.

In Nilphamari-1 (Domar and Dimla upazila) constituency, AL candidate Hamida Banu Shova was elected a lawmaker defeating her nearest rival N K Alam Chowdhury



Asaduzzaman Noor



Hamida Banu Shova



N K Alam

of JP. If AL sacrifices the seat to JP then NK Alam is sure to get the final nomination.

In Nilphamari-3 (Jaldhaka and part of Kishoreganj upazila) constituency, Mizanur Rahman of Jamaat won the 2001 elections. Dipendra Nath of AL secured the second place while Rashidul Alam of JP secured the third position. This time, AL nominated Jaldhaka Press Club president Golam Mostafa while JP nominated Kazi Faruque Kader, son of the then central minister of Pakistan, Kazi Abdul Kader, a leading collaborator of the occupation Pakistan army during the liberation war of

Bangladesh in 1971. AL leaders and freedom fighters urged the AL chief not to allow Faruque to run the elections in the seat.

In Nilphamari-4 (Syedpur and part of Kishoreganj upazila) constituency, AL nominated Col (retd) Maruf Saqlain as the party candidate. He lost to BNP candidate Amzad Hossain Sarker with a narrow margin of 2,914 votes in the 2001 elections. This year, JP nominated a new comer named Sakawat Chowdhury, also a BNP deserter.

In Nilphamari-2 (Sadar upazila) constituency, Asaduzzaman Noor was elected a lawmaker defeating JP candidate Joyal Abedin.

NAOGAON-6  
BNP, AL to resist Alamgir Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Grassroots leaders and activists of both BNP and Awami League have vowed to resist former BNP state minister Alamgir Kabir in Naogaon-6 (Atrai-Raninagar) constituency.

Hundreds of BNP leaders staged agitation in Atrai and Raninagar upazilas yesterday and threatened to resign en masse following a rumour that Kabir, now a leader of Liberal Democratic Party, was returning to BNP.

Local Awami League leaders also told the media that they would reject Kabir if he gets nomination from the AL-led grand alliance. Alamgir Kabir won Naogaon-6 seat three times since 1991.

## AL nominees face deprived party men in 3 Rajshahi seats

BNP still undecided as Jamaat demands 3 seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League (AL) nominees have started electioneering in all six constituencies in Rajshahi district braving division among party men over ticket to three industrialist newcomers.

BNP leaders are still waiting for party nominations while its electoral alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami has demanded tickets for party men in three seats.

The BNP leaders and activists, affected much in the anti-graft and anti-crime drives during the last two years, now seem to get encouraged again following the two BNP bigwigs' return to election field.

The two bigwigs are former Rajshahi mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and former lawmaker Abu Hena.

AL district President Tajul Islam M Faruk is leading a party faction that is representing the nomination-deprived leaders while General Secretary Omar Faruk Chowdhury in leading the other faction in favour of AL nominees.

Still AL is hopeful for winning all the Rajshahi seats cashing on BNP-Jamaat's 'image crisis'.

**RAJSHAHI-1 (TANORE-GODAGARI)**  
Former BNP minister Aminul Haque, convicted in a case for abetting militancy, is now staying abroad.

Aminul's brother former inspector general of police Enamul Haque is likely to get the party ticket in the seat while Jamaat is lobbying for its Assistant Secretary General Mujibur Rahman.

District AL General Secretary Omar Faruk Chowdhury is the party candidate from the seat.

**RAJSHAHI-2 (RAJSHAHI CITY)**  
This seat is the centre of attention for all as the major electoral fight of the district is likely to be here between Workers' Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha and BNP leader former Rajshahi city mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu.

BNP's Mizanur Rahman Minu, now acquitted in the extortion case he was convicted before, is still in jail as he is yet to get bail in two graft cases.



But he is now eligible for contesting the election and nomination papers have been collected in his favour. Rajshahi city Jamaat Amir Ataur Rahman also collected nomination papers.

AL nominee Akhtar Jahan told the media that AL is going to share the seat with Fazle Hossain Badsha who is already in electioneering.

**RAJSHAHI-3 (PABA-MOHONPUR)**  
BNP is considering its office secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and former lawmaker Kabir Hossain at this newly created constitution to fight against former district AL acting President Meraj Uddin Mollah.

District BNP Student Affairs Secretary Raihanul Haque is also a nomination seeker from this seat.

**RAJSHAHI-4 (BAGMARA)**  
Industrialist Enamul Haque, a newcomer to AL, is facing protests of party men while electioneering as he was nominated

ignoring grassroots opinion for senior party leader Sardar Amjad Hossain.

Former BNP lawmaker Abu Hena who was ousted from party for revealing party men's involvement behind the rise of militancy returned to the party again. He is likely to get nomination this time too. Bagmara upazila BNP President Abdul Gafur is another possible candidate.

Jamaat wants this seat for Ahad Ali Kabiraj.

**RAJSHAHI-5 (PUTHIA-DURGAPUR)**  
Unlike two other industrialist AL nominees, Kazi Abdul Wadud Dara was in the panel of nominees elected by the grassroots. Yet local leaders and activists are protesting as the nomination was made ignoring Tajul Islam M Faruk who got highest grassroots votes.

In absence of former lawmaker Nadim Mostafa, BNP leader Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul is lobbying for ticket in the seat.

NETRAKONA-1

BNP leaders to resist Abbasi's return to party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Twenty-one BNP leaders of Durgpur upazila in a statement issued Tuesday night expressed their determination to resist return of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidium member MA Karim Abbasi to BNP fold.

Abbasi won in 2001 elections from Netrakona-1 constituency. He joined LDP protesting the corrupt activities of former state minister Irfuzzaman Babar.

When contacted, Abbasi said he is likely to win the 4-party Alliance nomination.

KURIGRAM DISTRICT  
JP fields candidates in all 4 seats

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Jatiya Party (Ershad) has confirmed candidature in all the four constituencies in Kurigram through submission of nomination papers.

The candidates are former president and JP chief HM Ershad and another party aspirant Maj. (retd.) Md. Abdus Salam in Kurigram-2 (Sadar, Fulbari and four unions of Rajarhat) constituency, former JP MP Md. Mostafizur Rahman in Kurigram-1 (Bhurungamari and nageswari), former BNP minister and newcomer in JP AKM Maidul Islam Mukul and another aspirant (JP) Abu Taher Khairul Haque AT in Kurigram-3 (Ulipur and three unions of Rajarhat) and former JPMP Golam Habibul Dulal in Kurigram-4 (Chilmari, Raumari and Rajibpur) constituency.

After scrutiny, one candidature each will be withdrawn from Kurigram-2 and Kurigram-3 as per the party decision, district JP general secretary Abdur Hossen Bulu said.

RANGPUR, KURIGRAM

## 3 ex-JP MPs join BNP for ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Three Jatiya Party leaders in Rangpur and Kurigram district have joined BNP with hope to contest in the upcoming parliament election with BNP ticket.

JP leaders and activists in Badarganj, Pirganj, Gangachhara in Rangpur continued protest against the party decision about nomination for the concerned constituencies.

Former JP MP Noor Mohammad Mondol of Rangpur-6 (Pirganj), former JP MP Mohammad Ali of Rangpur-2, and former JP MP Tajul Islam Chowdhury of Kurigram-2 joined BNP recently and they are lobbying with the party's high command for tickets.

Jatiya Party left Rangpur-6 constituency for grand alliance leader Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, it nominated Anisul Hoque Mondol instead of Mohammad Ali for Rangpur-2 constituency and JP chief HM Ershad himself is the candidate in Kurigram-2 constituency.

Party sources said Ershad refused Tajul Islam Chowdhury as he joined PDP after 1/11, and Mohammad Ali and Noor Mohammad Mondol for their alleged secret communication with BNP after BNP-led alliance government came to power in 2001.

When asked, Tajul Islam Chowdhury said, he did not seek JP nomination this time.