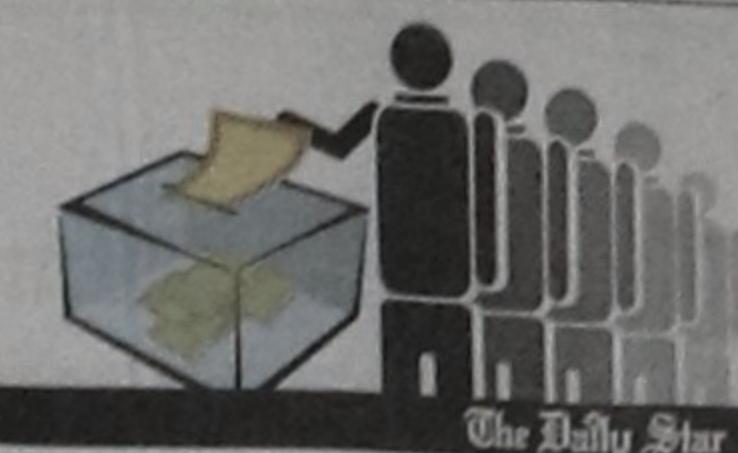




ELECTION 2008

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2008



5 new AL faces out of 6 nominees in Dinajpur

Candidates in Dinajpur-1, 4 may be changed to appease grassroots men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Dinajpur

At least five new faces of Awami League in five of the six constituencies under Dinajpur district will contest in the December 29 election.

In 2001 national election, AL got only one seat while BNP and Jamaat candidates won in five other seats in the district.

However, unrest is prevailing among the supporters of deprived candidates in Dinajpur-1 and 4 constituencies.

Party sources said AL may change its candidates in the two constituencies after evaluating its field survey reports.

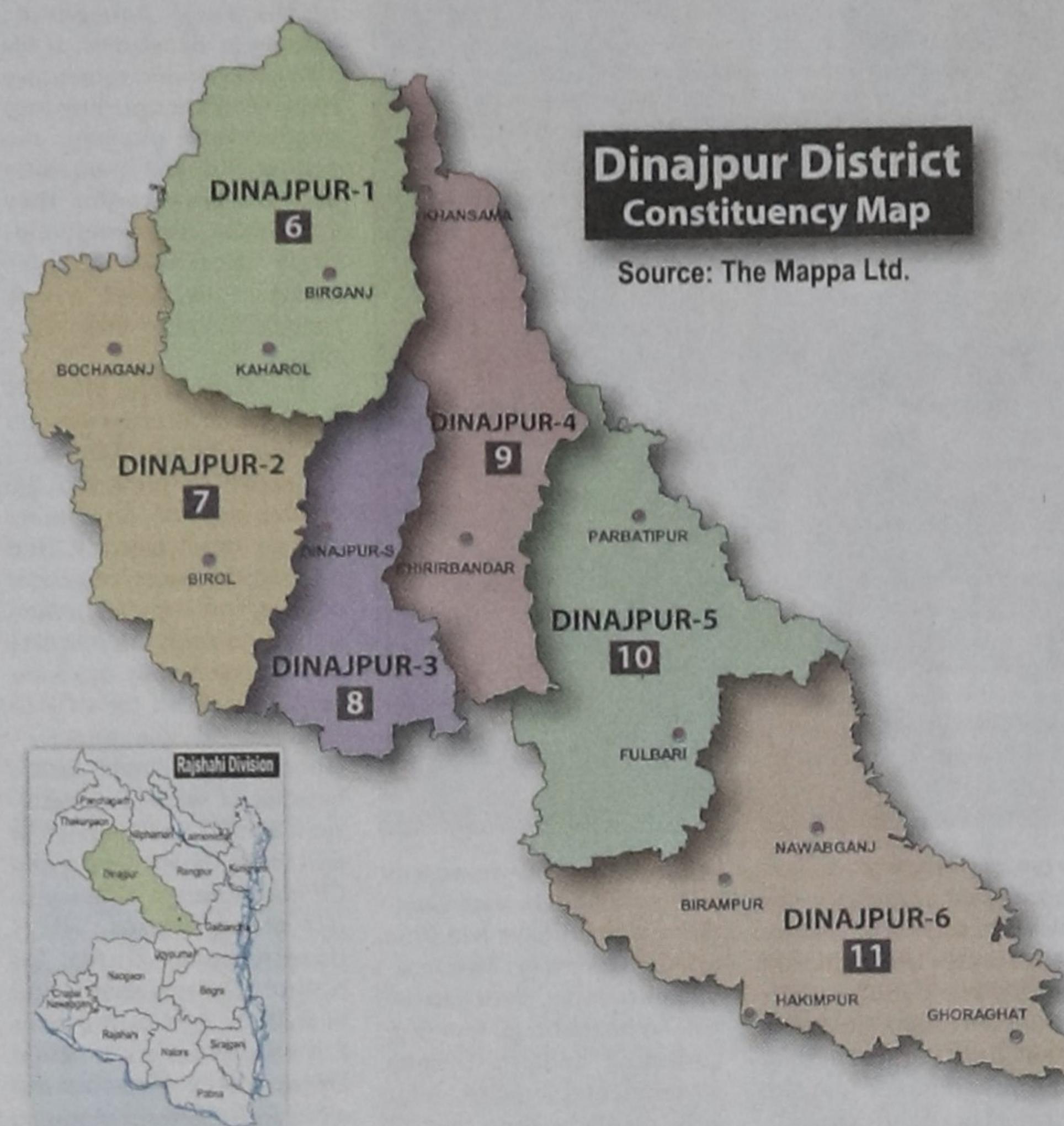
In Dinajpur-1 (Birganj and Kaharol), Monoranjan Shill Gopal, who joined AL in 2006, submitted his nomination papers with party ticket.

In 2001 election he contested as Jatiya Gonotantrik Party candidate from the seat but defeated. In 2005 by election he contested as independent candidate and emerged as winner by defeating Md. Aftab Uddin Mollah a Jamaat nominated candidate.

Local AL leaders of Birganj and Kaharol of Dinajpur-1 seat protested his nomination. Terming him as an 'outsider', they said he maintained huge gap between him and AL grassroots leaders in the constituency. Grassroots leaders selected him as second choice though he never held any meeting with his party men since he joined AL in 2006.

In Dinajpur-2 (Biraj and Bochaganj), Md. Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, son of late Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, former state minister during AL ruling depriving four times winner Shatish Chandra Roy. Roy was defeated to BNP candidate former army chief Md. Lt Gen (rtd) Mabubur Rahman in 2001 election.

Khalid Chowdhury filed his



nomination papers recently. Besides, the supporters of Shatish Chandra Roy are still lobbying for AL ticket. They have warned to boycott the election and resign from their party posts if Roy is not nominated from the seat.

In Dinajpur-3 (Dinajpur Sadar), Md. Iqbalur Rahman, former student leader of Dhaka University and son of advocate M Abdur Rahim, former lawmaker from Dinajpur-3 seat, submitted his nomination paper with AL ticket.

Virtually Dinajpur AL does not have any row over his nomination. BNP candidate

Khurshid Zahan Haque won from the seat in 2001 election.

In Dinajpur-4 (Chiribandar and Khansama), AHM Mahmud Ali former ambassador and advisory member of central AL, new face to Dinajpur-4 seat with AL ticket filed his nomination paper.

Mizanur Rahman Manu, a former lawmaker from the constituency, was deprived of the party nomination.

Manu was defeated to BNP lawmaker Md Akhtarruzzaman Miah in 2001 election.

Manu remained away from national politics since the 1/11 changeover last year. Former lawmaker

Mostafizur Rahman Fizal, also general secretary of Dinajpur district AL, filed his nomination papers from Dinajpur-5 (Phulbari-Parbatipur) constituency where Phulbari coalmine is likely to be a key issue in the coming election.

Fizal was elected lawmaker in 2001 election.

In Dinajpur-6 (Birampur, Goraghat, Nawabganj and Hakimpur), Lutfar Rahman Chaudhury has been nominated AL-led alliance candidate.

AL candidate late Mostafizur Rahman defeated Jamaat candidate in 2001 election.

MOULVIBAZAR-2
AL grassroots
reject Shamim,
demand ticket
for Monsur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Rejecting Awami League nominee US expatriate Ataur Rahman Shamim, local leaders and workers have continued agitation for party ticket to Sultan Md Monsur Ahmed from Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura and a part of Kamalganj) constituency.

Talking to this correspondent, many AL leaders in Kulaura and Kamalganj said Shamim is not known to party men in the area and the party will lose the seat if the nomination is not changed.

On Thursday, party men formed a human chain at Kulaura road intersection.

Chairmen of 10 union parishes in Kulaura upazila in a press conference demanded revision of the party decision in favour of Monsur.

On the other hand, some former leaders of Chhatra League now living in UK and USA, have collected signatures of Monsur supporters there to press their demand for nomination of Sultan Monsur. Papers containing the signatures have been faxed to Sudha Sadan, party sources said.

Many AL men told this correspondent that they would resist Shamim in the area and that all party men are united under the leadership of Monsur.

JHENIDAH-3
BNP, Jamaat
clamour for
ticket

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

BNP leaders and activists are determined to retain Jhenidah-3 (Korailchandpur, Moheshpur) constituency where party leader Shahidul Islam Master was elected in 2001, 1996, and 1991 elections.

Jamaat-e-Islami, a key partner of BNP-led four-party electoral alliance is also demanding alliance ticket for the seat.

Shahidul Islam Master, who went into hiding after the promulgation of emergency in January last year, was sued in at least 15 cases on charge of extortion, misappropriation of relief materials and land grabbing.

"BNP has remained inactive in the area due to absence of Shahidul Islam Master since 1/11 last year. Now I am hopeful to win this seat in the upcoming polls," said Jamaat leader Prof Motiur Rahman, a nomination aspirant from four-party alliance for Jhenidah-3 constituency.

They are Panchanan Biswas, Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim and advocate Nurul Huq of Awami League (AL) and Abdul Gaffar Biswas of Jatiya Party.

He also made a futile attempt to join BNP again.

Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim, senior vice president of Khulna City Awami League, was defeated in 2001 national elections, this veteran Awami Leaguer was

deprived of nomination

reportedly for siding with AL 'reformists' after one-eleven changeover.

AL has nominated Nani

Gopal Mondal, president of

BNP feud in Moulvibazar-1, 2 seats for ticket

2 new AL faces out of 4



Ataur Rahman - AL



Shahab Uddin - AL



Abed Reja - BNP



M M Shahin - BNP

of US expatriate Ataur Rahman Shamim ignoring the local party men's demand for central AL organising secretary and a former DUCSU VP Sultan Mohammed Monsur Ahmed.

In BNP, there are two rival factions supporting former lawmaker MM Shahin and the other in favour of Abed Raja, president of Dhaka Metropolitan Advocates Bar Association who joined BNP this month. Party sources said the executive committee of Kulaura upazila BNP is against MM Shahin.

Moulvibazar-3 (Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas): The scenario in AL is different in the constituency as the party rank and file has supported nominee Syed Mohsin Ali abiding by the party high command's decision though Md Azizur Rahman, elected three times earlier, was an aspirant.

Mohsin Ali will face BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman, whose four-party alliance ticket has been confirmed.

Moulvibazar-4 (Srimongal upazila and Kamalganj pourasava and five unions): Former chief whip of the opposition M A Shahid has been nominated by AL for the seat, which has been accepted by local party men, AL sources said.

BNP aspirant in the seat is Mujibur Rahman Chawdhury who contested as an independent candidate in 2001 election. He enjoyed AL support in 2001 polls but joined BNP in 2006.

Md Ahad Miah, Chairman of Srimongal pourasava is seeking BNP nomination from this seat.

3 ex-AL MPs, 1 from JP to run independent in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Dakop upazila unit of the party, to contest from this constituency.

Former lawmaker Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim, who joined AL in 1996, may file his nomination paper as an independent candidate to contest from Khulna-3 (Khalishpur-Daulatpur) constituency in the upcoming elections as he was denied AL nomination this time.

He also made a futile attempt to join BNP again.

Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim, senior vice president of Khulna City Awami League, was defeated in 2001 national elections, this veteran Awami Leaguer was

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AL has nominated Nani

Gopal Mondal, president of

Khulna district AL Senior Vice President advocate Nurul Huq may contest from this seat as an independent candidate in the coming election. Nurul Huq, who was elected lawmaker from Khulna-3 (Koirala-Paikgacha) constituency in 1996, claimed that grassroots level leaders and workers wanted his nomination.

Awami League nominated advocate Sohrab Ali Sana to contest from this constituency.

Jatiya Party central Organising Secretary Abdul Gaffar Biswas, who was elected lawmaker in 1996, will contest as an independent candidate from Khulna-3 in the coming election.

JP has nominated central Vice Chairman Hasina Banu Shirin, also an elected lawmaker from Khulna-3 constituency in 1986, for the seat.

Two JP bigwigs fight for ticket in Gaibandha-1

AL leaders say alliance yet to decide

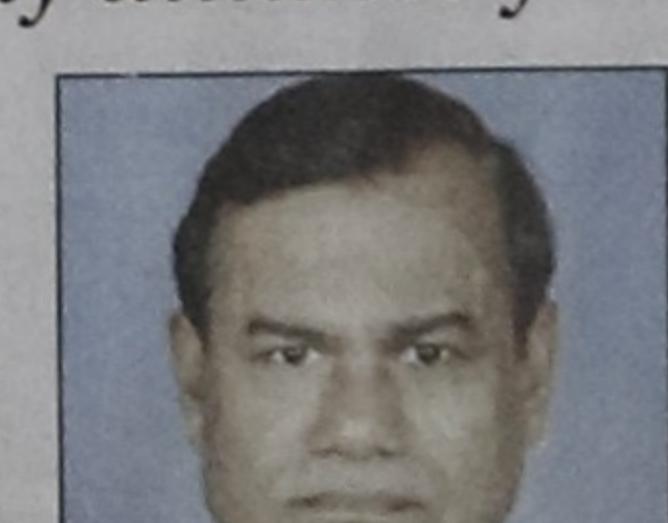
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

A feud has developed between two Jatiya Party bigwigs over ticket for Gaibandha-1 (Sunderganj) constituency as both claimed to have got nod from party high-ups.

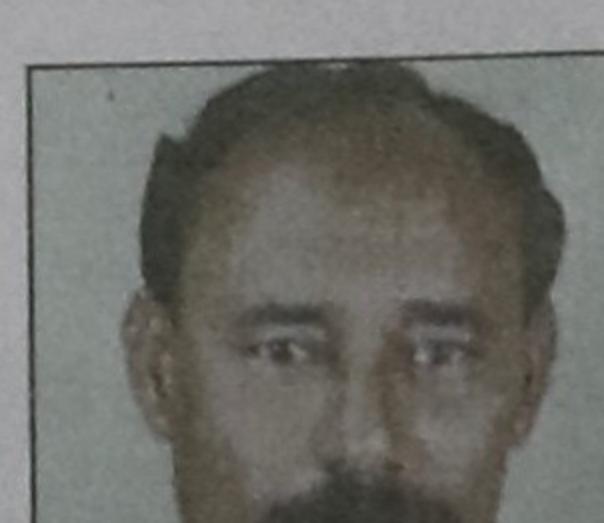
Former lawmaker and central JP joint secretary general Wahiduzzaman Sarker Badsha claimed he was assured of nomination earlier. Central organising secretary of the party Col (rtd) Abdul Kader Khan also

claimed that he also got nod from party bosses to run in the constituency in the upcoming polls.

Both the candidates submitted nomination papers and are in the field, holding party workers' meeting, often casting aspersions on



Col (rtd.) Abdul Kader Khan



Wahiduzzaman Sarker

Brushing aside all the claims, a front ranking Awami League leader said, "Everything depends on AL-led grand alliance which will decide whether the seat will go to AL or JP".

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders also said they will field candidates in the seat, claiming that it is their stronghold in the district.

Jamaat losing battle for 3 tickets in Rajshahi

Minu, Abu Hena of BNP back to scene

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Jamaat-e-Islami demand for three seats in Rajshahi district is not gaining ground in seat-shifting negotiations with BNP.

However, the BNP is fielding heavyweight candidates envisaging their win over discord in local Awami League.

"Rajshahi is our stronghold... The intra party rivalry in Awami League over nominations will help us win", said Rajshahi BNP organizing secretary Alauddin Ahmed.

Jamaat demanded the four-party alliance nominations for its assistant secretary general Mujibur Rahman, Rajshahi city Ameer Ataur Rahman and Bagmara upazila Ameer Abdul Ahad Ali Kabiraj at Rajshahi-1, 2 and 4 constituencies.

But BNP's former lawmakers Mizanur Rahman Minu and Abu Hena are back and their nominations are almost confirmed at Rajshahi-2 (City) and Rajshahi-4 (Bagmara) constituencies.

However at Rajshahi-1 (Godagari-Tanore), former BNP minister Aminul Haque cannot return as he is fleeing abroad being convicted in

"AK Khandaker was deputy chief of liberation forces during the Liberation War. As freedom fighter, it is our noble duty to work for him, freedom fighter Md. Abdul Hai told this correspondent yesterday at Sujanagar.

"We, freedom fighters are committed to work for him so that he wins", he said.

Tayebur's wife to run in Khulna-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Freedom fighters here have vowed to work for Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker who got Awami League nomination to run the polls in Pabna-2 (Sujanagar-Bera) constituency. Khandaker has submitted his nomination paper.

"AK Khandaker was deputy chief of liberation forces during the Liberation War. As freedom fighter, it is our noble duty to work for him, freedom fighter Md. Abdul Hai told this correspondent yesterday at Sujanagar.

The internal drama in Sylhet in selecting candidate for the region's most important constituency-Sylhet-1 (City and Sadar Upazila)-is yet to be over as none among the important contenders collected party nomination form.

However, a meeting in this regard was held in the capital on Wednesday and as per its decision former chairman of Sylhet pourashava A.F.M. Kamal also a former BNP leader was offered candidacy.

But Kamal declined the offer on Thursday.

Kamal, as a rebel candidate, fought for the mayoral post of Sylhet City Corporation in 2003 against the then district BNP chief M.A. Haque, fielded by BNP stalwart Saifur Rahman.

Kamal was then expelled from BNP.

Saifur won Sylhet-1 seat in 2001 polls defeating AL's bureaucrat turned politician A.M.A. Muhib by over 40,000 votes.

Now Muhib is in the field with AL ticket while Saifur has kept himself aloof from the constituency, party sources said.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Sylhet city BNP secretary Nasim Hossain claimed that they would 'manage' Saifur to run in Sylhet-1 also, since there is no substitute.

On the other hand, the pro-Saifur faction has been trying to scrap the district BNP convening committee headed by Ilyas Ali on the plea of party problems, sources claimed.

Meanwhile, a strong faction backed by district BNP convenor M. Ilyas Ali, a former lawmaker, raised the demand for Khaleda Zia or detained Tarique Rahman's wife Dr. Zobaida Rahman to contest

from the seat. Zobaida is daughter of late Navy chief Admiral M.A. Khan, hailing from Sylhet.

If Khaleda or Zobaida is not available, the faction wants Ilyas to run in the constituency, party sources said.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Sylhet city BNP secretary Nasim Hossain claimed that they would 'manage' Saifur to run in Sylhet-1 also, since there is no substitute.

The district BNP leaders and activists are also making preparation to resign from party posts if the central committee does not change their decision, they said, adding that Samiron, who is not even a member of the district BNP, has no connection with grassroots leaders, let alone common people.

Both the candidates submitted nomination papers and are in the field, holding party workers' meeting, often casting aspersions on

the seat. Zobaida is daughter of late Navy chief Admiral M.A. Khan, hailing from Sylhet