



ELIGIBLE ASPIRANTS DEPRIVED OF TICKET FROM DINAJPUR-3

BNP office locked protesting nomination to 'stranger'

Three new faces, three stalwarts chosen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Aggrieved at BNP nomination to Jatiya Ganatantrik Party leader Md Shafiqul Alam for Dinajpur-3 constituency, local BNP men locked Dinajpur BNP office protesting the decision.

The central BNP has given party ticket for the seat to a person who does not have any relation with grassroots BNP leaders while eligible party leaders have been deprived, said grassroots BNP leaders and activists.

Shafiqul Alam Prodhon, who hails from Panchagarh, went to file his nomination paper to Dinajpur returning officer under police escort.

At the time he was accompanied by Jatiya Ganatantrik Party leaders but no BNP leader or activist was seen around.

In 2001 national elections, four out of six BNP-led four-party alliance candidates in the district were from BNP while two others from its key alliance partner Jamaat.

The alliance won five of the seats while BNP candidate for Dinajpur-5 Rezwanaul Haque was defeated to AL man.

However, the political situation in Dinajpur district has changed as alleged large-scale corruption by the then ruling BNP-led four-party alliance lawmakers caused resentment among the people and many suspected party leaders are on the run to evade arrest.

Death of former minister

Khurshid Zahan Haque, elder sister of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in June 2006 also created a vacuum in BNP leadership in the district.

Nominees of BNP and its alliance partner Jamaat yesterday filed nomination paper in all six constituencies in Dinajpur district.

In Dinajpur-1, Jamaat

leader Maulana Abu Hanif filed his nomination paper. Md Aftab Uddin Mollah of Jamaat contested in 2005 by-election but was defeated to independent candidate

Monoranjan Shill Gopal.

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen Mahbubur Rahman, who won from Dinajpur-2 in 2001, filed his nomination paper in the seat.

In Dinajpur-3, Shafiqul Alam Prodhon filed his nomination papers but grassroots leaders and activists want BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia here, which is also her home constituency.

Khaleda Zia had submitted her nomination from this constituency for January 22, 2007 election (later cancelled).

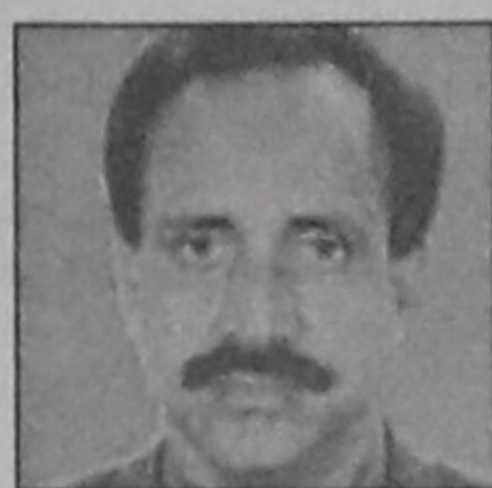
Md Akhtaruzzaman Miah, who won from Dinajpur-4 in 2001 election, filed his nomination paper with BNP ticket from the constituency.

BNP sources said there is severe intra-party feud in the constituency as several aspirants including industrialist Hafizur Rahman Sarker and advocate Abdul Halim sought BNP tickets from the seat.

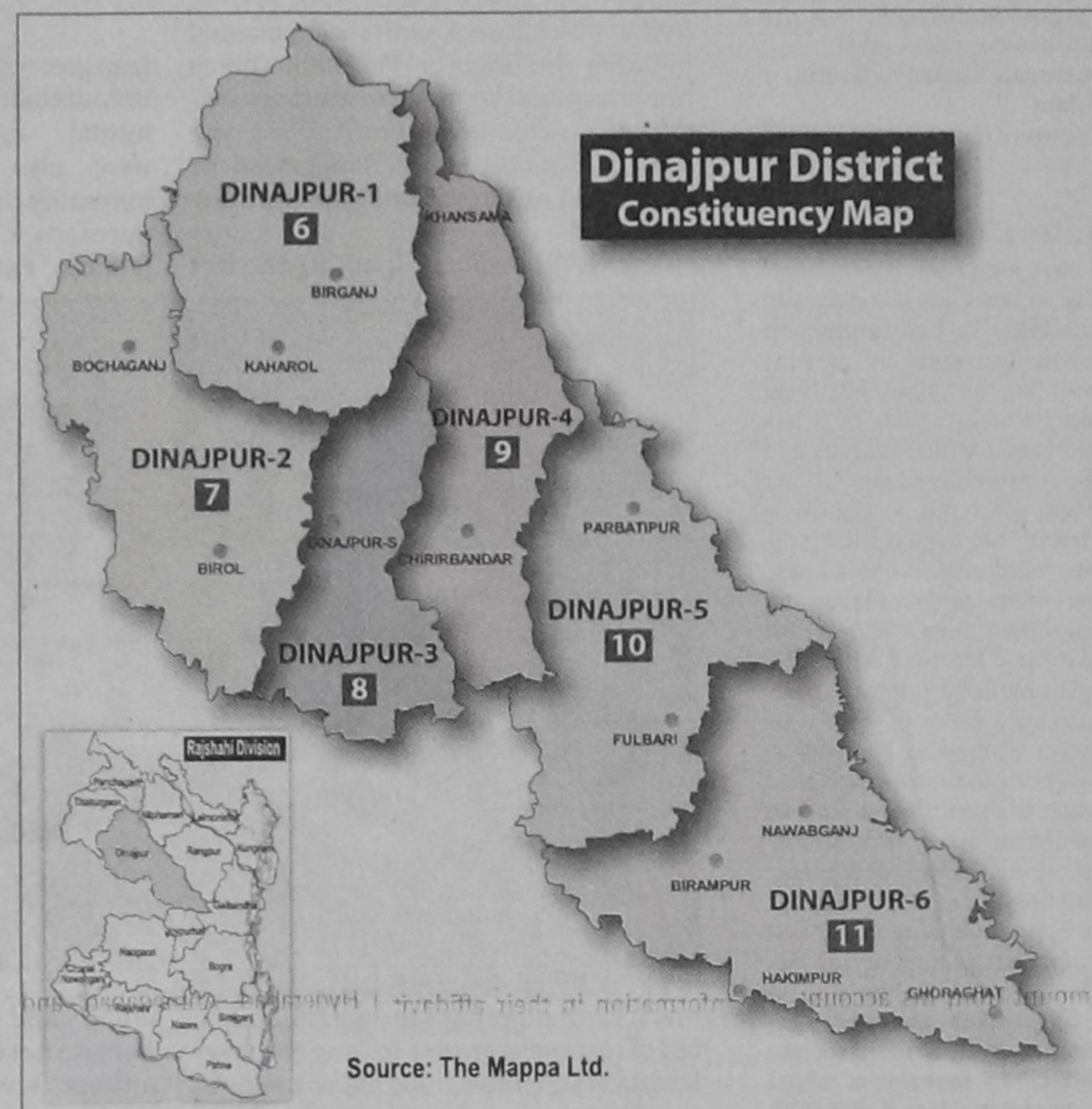
In Dinajpur-5, BNP leader AZM Rezwanaul Haque, who was defeated to AL's Mostafizur Rahman Fizar in 2001, filed his nomination paper.

Md Anwarul Islam, general secretary of Dinajpur Jamaat, filed nomination paper in Dinajpur-6.

In 2001, Jamaat leader Maulana Azizur Rahman Chowdhury was elected lawmaker from the seat but the party later expelled him following allegations of corruption, said party sources.



Dinajpur BNP candidates, from left, Mahbubur Rahman, Akhtaruzzaman Miah and AZM Rezwanaul Haque



Source: The Mappa Ltd.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's uncle Farid Hossain submits nomination paper on her behalf to the assistant returning officer in Tungipara of Gopalganj yesterday.

NOMINATION IN SYLHET REGION

AL, BNP both say no to 'reformists'

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

Reformist leaders have been left aside in nomination by both Awami League and BNP in Sylhet region for the upcoming national election.

Even on repeated attempts, they failed to get party tickets.

In BNP, three reformist former lawmakers have been deprived of nomination in the region. They are former state minister and former president of Moulvibazar district BNP Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of Moulvibazar-1, where BNP has fielded Darad Ahmed, an expatriate from Japan.

Former lawmaker Nozir Hossain was denied party ticket in Sunamganj-1, where Dr. Rafique Chowdhury got BNP ticket.

In Moulvibazar-2, BNP has fielded Abed Raja in place of reformist leader former lawmaker MM Shahin.

Nozir Hossain defeated AL stalwart Suranjit Sengupta in 2001 polls, but he became reformist after 1/11. Sunamganj district BNP at a meeting in July this year dropped him from the party post in the district. He held meetings with his followers in his constituency yesterday. Nozir may contest as an independent candidate, party sources said.

Being refused nomination in 2001, independent runner MM Shahin won in Moulvibazar-2 by defeating Awami League's Sultan Mansur.

Shahin later joined BNP. But this time, Shahin again failed to manage party ticket as president of Greater Sylhet Development Council in Dhaka, Abed Raja, has been tipped for ticket.

Abed Raja joined BNP just weeks ago. Shahin may again run as an independent candidate in the upcoming parliamentary election, sources said.

On the other hand, AL's central organising secretary former lawmaker Sultan Mohammad Mansur has also been dropped from nomination list in Moulvibazar-2. AL has fielded USA AL leader Ataur Rahman Shamim, raising questions at party's grassroots level.

Local units of AL and its front organisations in Sylhet formed human chain and held rallies for nomination of Sultan, but to no result yet. However, it is not clear yet whether Sultan would run independently.

But, stalwart like Saifur Rahman and Sunamganj district BNP secretary Kolim Uddin Ahmed Milon managed things although they were among frontline reformists.

Discontent brews in Moulvibazar-2 as Big Two field new faces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Fielding of new faces by both Awami League and BNP in Moulvibazar-2 (Kulaura and four unions of Kamalganj) constituency has given rise to discontent among grassroots leaders and activists of the two major political parties.

AL has given nomination to UK expatriate Ataur Rahman Shamim, depriving its central leader Sultan Md Mansur Ahmed and while BNP has nominated newcomer Abed Raja depriving former lawmaker MM Shahin for the second time.

Jamaat leader Dr Shafiqur Rahman got BNP-led four-party alliance ticket for 2001 election. Aggrieved BNP leader MM Shahin then contested as an independent candidate and was elected lawmaker from the constituency while Jamaat leader Dr Shafique lost his deposit. After



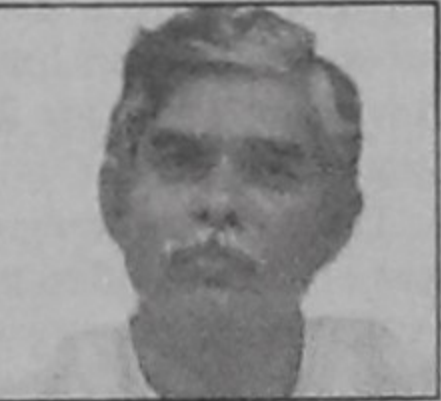
Sultan Monsur



MM Shahin



Ataur Rahman Shamim



Abed Raja

the election, MM Shahin's attempt to return to BNP failed due to opposition of Moulvibazar district BNP president M Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister Saifur Rahman.

In 2006, during the last moment of BNP-led alliance government, Shahin joined BNP and got party ticket for the election (later cancelled) scheduled for January 22 last year.

A faction of Kulaura BNP is supporting MM Shahin while another faction demanded party nomination for Shawkatul Islam Shoku.

Against the backdrop of internal conflict, advocate Abed Raja, son of former Muslim League lawmaker from the seat advocate ANM Yousuf, joined BNP in last month and finally got party nomination.

Deprived MM Shahin has again submitted nomination paper as an independent candidate.

Awami League's nomination to UK expatriate Ataur Rahman Shamim for the seat has given rise to discontent among the grassroots leaders of Kulaura and Kamalganj AL who had earlier proposed central AL

Organising Secretary Sultan Md Monsur Ahmed's name as their nominee.

Local leaders and workers of AL and its front organisations have continued movement for Sultan Monsur's nomination.

Local AL leaders said Ataur Rahman is unknown not only to voters but also to party men.

Former president of Chhatra League and VP of DUCSU, Sultan Monsur was elected from Moulvibazar-2 with a huge margin in 1996 but was defeated to MM Shahin with a small margin in 2001 election.

Jamaat grumbles for tickets in Bogra-4,5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders in Bogra are unhappy for not getting party candidates in Bogra-4 (Khaloo-Nandigram) and Bogra-5 (Sherpur-Dhanu).

"We requested BNP central leadership through proper channel to reconsider their decision regarding selection of Jamaat-e-Islami candidates Nazir Ahmed for Bogra-4 and Principal Rostom Ali for Bogra-5" said district Jamaat Ameer Shahab Uddin.

He claimed that at least 65,000 Jamaat voters were listed in the last enrolment in Bogra-4 and another over 70,000 in Bogra-5. More than 34,000 people in Bogra-4 cast their votes in favor of Jamaat leader Nazir Ahmed in 1996, he claimed.

Another Jamaat leader Shaidul Islam got about 43,000 votes in Bogra-5 as a party candidate in 1996 polls, he said.

BNP candidate Golam Mohammed Siraj and Dr Ziaul Haque Molla were elected from Bogra-5 and Bogra-4 in 1996.

AL fields four new faces in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

AL this time choose new faces ignoring many of the dedicated leaders in fielding candidates in four constituencies of Gaibandha district out of five in upcoming general election.

The new faces are Monjurul Islam Liton, president Sunderganj Upazila AL from Gaibandha-1, Mahbub Ara Gini central AL leader from Gaibandha-2, Brigadier (Rtd) Mahmudul Huq from Gaibandha-3 and Monower Hossain Chowdhury former chief engineer of LGED from Gaibandha-4. All of them submitted nomination papers with returning officer.

Dissatisfaction however prevailed among the supporters of deprived candidate Dr. Yunus Ali Sarker, who runs second in Gaibandha-3 constituency in 2001 general election. AL high ups this time nominated Brigadier Gen (Rtd) Mahamudul Haque.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Change of candidates by the Awami League high command has widened rift among the leaders and workers of the party in Jhenidah-2, 3 and 4 constituencies.

Some local AL leaders said they were surprised at the sudden change of the nominations in the three constituencies.

In Jhenidah-1 constituency (Shailkupa upazila) former lawmaker Abdul Hye was later nominated. There is no opposition to him among the party leaders and workers in the constituency.

In Jhenidah-2 seat (Harinakunda upazila) Shafikul Islam Apu was nominated by AL. His nomi-

nation has led the party into conflicting groups.

For the stalled January 2007 election Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui was nominated but this time Apu was chosen instead of Siddiqui that led to a division in the party's local chapter.

In Jhenidah-3 constituency Nabi Newaz was initially nominated by AL but in a span of 48 hours he was replaced by Shafiqul Khan Chancal. The change has caught the local AL leaders and workers by surprise, party sources said.

Shafiqul Khan Chancal said, "As AL chief Sheikh Hasina thought me a better choice to fight rival BNP candidate she changed the nomination in my favour. I am confident of winning."

In Jhenidah-4 seat Anwarul Azim Anar has been nominated on Saturday canceling the earlier nomination of former Kaliganj pourashabha chairman Abdul Mannan. These changes in Jhenidah 2,3 and 4 constituencies have given rise to internal feud in the party.

When contacted, Abdul Mannan, whose nomination for Jhenidah-4 constituency was later reverted said, the change of his nomination would tarnish the image of the party and slim the party's chance of winning.

Chhatra league Kaliganj upazila general secretary Palash said, "This repeated change of nomination will hamper the image of the party."



From left: Manirul Islam Moni, Talukdar Md Yunus, Zahid Faruk Shamim, Hafiz Mallik and Afzalul Karim

AL NOMINATIONS IN BARISAL

3-variety six aspirants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Only two out of six Awami League (AL)-nominated candidates in the district are veteran party leaders.

Of the four others, two are retired army officials and two others are Jatiya Party (JP) deserters.

District AL office secretary Advocate Talukdar Md Yunus, also former president and secretary of Barisal Bar Association was nominated to contest from Barisal-1 constituency and other party leader Advocate Afzalul Karim got nomination to contest from Barisal-3 constituency.

Of the two army officials, Col (retd) Zahid Faruk Shamim was nominated to run from Barisal-5 constituency and Maj Gen (retd) Hafiz

Mallik got nomination to contest in Barisal-6 seat.

The JP deserters who got AL nomination are Maidul Huq and Manirul Islam Moni. Maidul was nominated to vie from Barisal-4 seat and Moni got nomination to contest from Barisal-2 seat.

Many senior leaders who were selected by grassroots leaders through secret ballot were ultimately deprived of nomination, grassroots leaders said.

The leaders who were primarily selected for nomination but finally dropped are Abul Hasanat Abdullah (Barisal-1), Syed Mainul Huq, Habibur Rahman Khan, Shah-e-Alam and Alhaj Golam Faruk (Barisal-2).

Former additional secretary Md Sirajuddin Ahmed, also member of Public Service Commission and Board of

Revenue, city AL joint secretary Advocate Afzalul Karim, Advocate Abdul Bari, Kazi Mizanur Rahman Mintu, Abdul Malek Rari, Abdul Bar and Kazi Mizanur Rahman (Barisal-3), Major (retd) Nasir, Farida Mohiuddin, widow of former lawmaker and district AL president late Mohiuddin Ahmed, Advocate Afzalul Karim, Maidul Huq and Mojibur Rahman (Barisal-4), Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, alias SP Mahbub, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Advocate Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal, A R Khan (Barisal-5), former AL lawmaker Masud Reza, businessman Samsul Alam Channu, Engineer Mohiuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Parvin Talukdar and Advocate Ismail Hossain Howladar (Barisal-6).

Soren for AL ticket from Dinajpur-6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rabindra Nath Soren, General Secretary of National Indigenous Council and also a Workers Party nominated candidate from Dinajpur-6 Saturday sought AL chief's support to vie the 9th national election as an AL led grand alliance candidate as Dinajpur-6 constituency has huge number of indigenous people.

The Indigenous aspirant expressed this Saturday afternoon at a press conference in Dinajpur Press Club.

At the press conference the speakers informed that at least 15,00,000 indigenous people are living in the northern part of the country but they do not have any local representative to the Parliament to speak their rights, they added.

CHANDPUR-3

BNP men agitate for aspirant

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Local BNP leaders, workers and supporters became agitated as industrialist and young BNP leader Sheikh Farid Ahmed Manik did not get nomination from Chandpur-3 (Sadar and Haimchar) constituency.

His supporters brought out a procession from his residence at 11.30 am Sunday. Agitated leaders and workers put the party office at JM Sengupta Road in the town under lock and key at the presence of police.

They burnt the effigy of BNP nominated candidate GM Fazlul Haque and lay down on the road demanding change of nomination in the constituency in favour of Manik.

District Sechchasevak Dal general secretary Jahangir Hossain Khan said, only Manik helped the party leaders and workers in the bad days of the



party. He said they would take more programmes, if necessary.

Some 14 persons have collected BNP nomination papers for the constituency. They include former MP SA Sultan Titu, Sheikh Farid Ahmed Manik, Mahbubur Rahman Shahin, former

women MP Rasheda Begum Heera and Abul Kalam Azad.

Former MP of the constituency Prof Mohammad Abdullah has also collected nomination paper from BNP. Local leaders have declared him persona non grata in the area.