



AL NOMINATION

Some MPs, top leaders 'left out'

AL 'finalises list of candidates' for 232 seats; 2 organising secretaries among those denied party ticket

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Some incumbent Awami League lawmakers and top leaders are unlikely to get party nomination this time, as the ruling party has decided to part with controversial and unpopular candidates, multiple sources have said.

As part of the process, the ruling party high-ups already dropped a number of sitting MPs and senior leaders from the nomination list.

The sources confirmed 13 such names to The Daily Star yesterday, saying the list contained more names. But they declined to give any more names.

All the 13 are incumbent MPs. Two of them are also organising secretaries of the party.

They were dropped on the basis of six survey reports prepared by government agencies and private organisations that portrayed them in a bad light, according to the sources.

However, all 42 AL lawmakers in the cabinet are likely to get nomination, they added.

The party also postponed finalising candidates in two seats held by its two joint secretaries, said the sources, requesting anonymity citing party discipline.

The two seats are Dhaka-13, now held by Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and Faridpur-1, currently held by Abdur Rahman.

The Daily Star has also obtained names of around 30 candidates who secured nomination.

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A man, carrying a child, squeezes through a gap in the road divider, even though a footbridge can be seen nearby. The photo was taken on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital's Shanir Akhra area yesterday. As cars drive at higher speeds on highways, the man's action pose a greater risk to his life and the lives of those around him.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CHARITABLE TRUST CASE

Khaleda files appeal against lower court judgment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday appealed to the High Court, challenging the lower court verdict that sentenced her to seven years' imprisonment in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

She submitted the appeal through her lawyers, seeking acquittal in the case.

Khaleda's lawyer Kayser Kamal told The Daily Star that his client appealed for scrapping the lower court verdict against her, staying the fine imposed on her and granting her bail.

He said 24 grounds had been included in the appeal.

Citing the grounds, the lawyer said the lower court had illegally convicted and sentenced Khaleda in the case.

The initiation of the case was not "lawful" as there was no "corruption" in

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3 SYMBOLS ON DEMAND

AL

BNP

JATIYA PARTY

- JATIYA PARTY (MANJU)
- BANGLADESH SAMYABADI DAL
- GONOTONTRI PARTY
- BANGLADESH NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY
- WORKERS PARTY OF BANGLADESH
- JATIYA SAMAJTANTRIK DAL (JNU)
- BANGLADESH TARIKAT FEDERATION
- NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY- BANGLADESH NAP
- ISLAMIC FRONT BANGLADESH

SHEAF OF PADDY
11 PARTIES

BOAT
9 PARTIES

PLOUGH
2 PARTIES

- LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- KRISHAK SRAMIK JANATA LEAGUE
- JATIYA SAMAJTANTRIK DAL (ROB)
- BANGLADESH JATIYA PARTY - BJP
- JAMIAT ULAMA-E-ISLAM BANGLADESH
- GONOFORUM
- BANGLADESH JATIYA PARTY
- BANGLADESH KALYAN PARTY
- JATIYA GONOTANTRIK PARTY
- KHELAFAT MAJLISH
- BANGLADESH MUSLIM LEAGUE
- BANGLADESH KHELAFAT MAJLISH
- BANGLADESH ISLAMIC FRONT

The alluring magic of three symbols

Desperate to win polls, 22 small parties want to contest with election symbols of AL, BNP, JP

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Separate electoral symbols were reserved for all the political parties when they registered with the Election Commission in 2008. Their candidates are supposed to run for elections with own symbols.

But most of them are willing to borrow symbols from major political parties in the hope that it will ensure their win in the next parliamentary polls.

At least 22 out of the 39 registered political parties have shown interest in the symbols of Awami League or BNP or Jatiya Party.

Of them, 11 parties want to join the race with the BNP's "sheaf of paddy". They are components of either BNP-led 20-party combine or Jatiya Oikyafront, a new alliance of BNP and several other parties.

And nine others want to use Awami League's

"boat". They are either part of the AL-led 14-party combine or have recently joined the grand alliance led by the ruling party, EC documents show.

Two other registered parties want Jatiya Party's "plough", which is set to emerge as the third prominent symbol in some areas as the party may not field candidates in all 300 constituencies.

The party, which has announced its plan to contest the polls with the AL-led grand alliance, is bargaining with the ruling party over seat sharing. It wants the AL to leave 100 out of 300 seats for its candidates.

All of them have already informed the EC about their preference for electoral symbols.

Of the registered parties, 11 are yet to make it clear whether they will contest the polls with own symbols or borrow from others.

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BNP aspirants pledge not to quit race

Tarique interviews 540 nomination seekers thru' video conference

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Grassroots leaders of the BNP's Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions yesterday pledged to stay in the electoral race regardless of the situation and support the candidates to be nominated by the party.

They made the promise while being interviewed by the BNP nomination board comprising BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and the party's standing committee members.

The board asked the aspirants to submit their nomination papers to the returning officers.

Through video conference, Tarique, who has been staying in London since 2008, interviewed 540 nomination seekers from 72 constituencies of 16 districts in the two divisions at the BNP chief's Gulshan office.

Tarique was sentenced to 17 years in prison in two

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Army to work professionally, if deployed

Army chief says about upcoming polls

UNB, Savar

Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed yesterday said members of Bangladesh Army would perform their duties professionally if they are deployed during the upcoming parliamentary elections.



General Aziz Ahmed

"Army is always ready for the country's need," he said while addressing a programme at Savar Cantonment.

General Aziz directed the Army men to work using their past experience so that the next general election is held peacefully.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted to build Bangladesh Army as a time-befitting and modern force of the world considering the incomparable role of the armed forces in the Liberation War and their importance afterwards.

To fulfil Bangabandhu's dream, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina established the 2nd Bangladesh Infantry Regiment in 1999, he said.

Top officials of the Bangladesh Army were present there.



Farmers at Munshiganj water their winter vegetables. Although the vegetables see good demand, farmers complain of a drop in prices. Due to a supply glut early in the season, vegetables such as cauliflowers and cabbages are selling for Tk 8-10, almost half the price of last year. Inset, a locally-made three-wheeler loaded with cauliflowers on its way to Dhaka.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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BNP CANDIDACY AL complains to EC about Tarique's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday questioned BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's involvement in the party's nomination process for the upcoming national election.

In a letter to the Election Commission, the ruling party alleged the electoral code of conduct was violated as Tarique, who was convicted of corruption and money laundering, talked to nomination seekers through video-conferencing from London.

An AL delegation, led by its presidium member Faruk Khan, handed over the letter to EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed in the evening, hours after Tarique, who has been living in the UK since 2008, talked to the aspirant lawmakers.

Yesterday was the first day of the nomination seekers' interview by the BNP's nomination board.

Talking to reporters after lodging the complaint with the EC, Faruk said Tarique's involvement in the nomination selection process was a violation of the electoral code of conduct and the existing law as he was a fugitive convict.

"The Supreme Court in an order had also barred media outlets and others to publicise any statement of Tarique Rahman. Therefore, his conversation with the party men through video-conferencing was a contempt of court.