



AL goes for a blend of old and new

Hasina encourages dummy candidates to 'make polls look competitive'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

The Awami League yesterday unveiled its list of 298 nominees, and three incumbent ministers and 68 other lawmakers did not make the cut.

Names of the rest two nominees will be announced later.

AL leaders and activists believe that the nominations reflect the party's plan to bring the next generation of leaders to the fore and bench some senior and old leaders.

AL President Sheikh Hasina yesterday hinted that the party would "go soft" on disgruntled party leaders who may run for parliament as independents and become opponents to the party nominee.

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- 71 serving lawmakers denied nomination
- Win without competition will be unacceptable: Hasina
- Three state ministers, one whip fail to get tickets
- AL picks runners in seats for its allies, partners



A student of Rajuk Uttara Model College about to embrace her mother after scoring GPA-5 in this year's HSC examinations. For the 14th year in a row, girls have outshone the boys in the exams. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HSC pass rate, GPA-5 dip

Tests on full syllabus key reason; girls fare better than boys once again

PASS RATE & GPA-5			
Pass Rate	75.90 %	GPA-5	78,521
Girls	78.61%	Girls	41,804
Boys	72.91%	Boys	36,717

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ARAEAT RAHAMAN

The pass rate in this year's HSC examinations has dropped to 75.90 percent from last year's 84.31, while the number of students with a GPA 5 has halved from last year's 1,59,755.

According to board officials, the pass rate fell this year as students had to sit for exams on full syllabuses of all subjects

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'Won't flatter anyone to stay in power'

PM says external meddling won't be put up with



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Awami League does not want to cling on to power by flattering anyone outside the country as the people are its strength.

"We have no guardian other than the people of the country. Being a daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, I'm not doing politics of sycophancy to stay in power," she said while exchanging views at the Gono Bhaban with 3,369 people who had sought her party's tickets for January 7 national polls.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina, also chairman of the AL Nomination Board, said the people of the country gained independence through huge sacrifice and bloodshed under the leadership of Bangabandhu.

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JP drama over nomination drags on

Party set to announce candidates while Raushan, her loyalists yet to collect forms

RASHIDUL HASAN

Although the Jatiya Party is set to announce today the list of its candidates for all 300 constituencies, the party's chief patron Raushan Ershad, her son, and leaders loyal to her have not even collected nomination forms.

JP insiders say Raushan and her followers will not collect nomination forms until certain people get

Amid the stalemate in JP, Raushan has sought an appointment with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She may request the PM to intervene and settle the issue, sources say.

the party's nomination.

Rifts between JP chief GM Quader and Raushan have been making headlines for weeks.

When Quader and Raushan held a meeting on Friday night, many hoped the party given to drama was becoming united.

The hope was short lived as the team selling nomination papers continued to refuse to give Raushan loyalists, including opposition chief whip Moshir Rahman Ranga, the nomination forms.

And JP Secretary General Mujibur Haque Chunnu said only Raushan, her son Rahgir Almahe Ershad, and their family physician KR Islam will get the nomination paper.

Rifts between Raushan and Quader group intensified as the latter is likely to run for Rangpur-3 constituency, of which Rahgir is the incumbent.

Raushan wants Rahgir, also the son of JP founder HM Ershad, to get the party's nomination for Rangpur-3, sources say.

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AB Bank wins five MasterCard Excellence Awards



AB Bank wins MasterCard Excellence Awards in five categories. Among them AB Bank ranked top position in three categories: Debit Business (International), Financial Inclusion and Highest Business Growth. Additionally, in Credit Business (International) and Credit Business (Domestic) categories AB Bank shared the awards jointly with other financial institutions.

Mr. Tarique Afzal, President and Managing Director of AB Bank received this honor on behalf of the Bank.

Dr. Atiur Rahman, PhD, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka, Ms. Helen LaFave, Charge d'affairs, US Embassy, Mr. Md. Sharafat Ullah Khan, Director, Payment Systems Department, Bangladesh Bank and Mr. Syed Mohammad Kamal, Country Manager, MasterCard, Bangladesh graced the program as special guests.

Mr. Syed Mizanur Rahman, DMD, AB Bank along with other officials were also present on that occasion.



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