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Not quite independent

AL leaders seeking to run as independents must get the party's nod

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Although the ruling Awami League has decided to field alternative candidates from among its leaders in different constituencies, anyone seeking to file such nomination must get the go-ahead from the party, multiple sources said. The AL made the decision in efforts to make the election competitive and draw more voters to the polling centres, they added. However, such candidates will not be allowed in all seats.

Buoyed by the decision, many grassroots and "deprived" leaders are already making preparations to vie in the January 7 election amid possible boycotts by opposition BNP and several other parties.

On the other hand, many party nominees and incumbent lawmakers are worried about their win as they will now have to face a stiff challenge from party colleagues.

The Daily Star spoke to several nomination-seekers and sitting MPs, and all of them think the upcoming election is going to be a contest between AL candidates.

However, they fear that fielding alternative candidates will result

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Uncertainty looms over seat-sharing with the 14-party alliance partners after the ruling party gave nomination to its candidates in some of the seats that currently belong to its allies.



Bus-counter employees taking a nap on empty benches of Mohakhali Bus Terminal as there were hardly any passengers yesterday due to the nationwide blockade. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tainted, yet given AL ticket

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and MD ABBAS

The Awami League has nominated several controversial incumbents for the January 7 parliamentary election.

Some of them sparked outrage in the party for their unruly and aggressive behaviour while others hogged headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Take the example of Shafiqul Islam Shimul, a lawmaker from Natore-2 since 2014 and also

vice-president of Natore AL.

In August 2015, Shimul and his men snatched away a suspect from Rab custody immediately after his arrest.

Natore AL General Secretary Shariful Islam Ramzan and former joint secretary Mortuza Ali Bablu were assaulted allegedly by Shimul and his men over an internal feud in January this year.

In June, Shimul's supporters threatened to

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Rift wide open in JP over polls nomination

Candidates for 287 seats unveiled; Mymensingh-4 kept open for Raushan

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party unveiled its nominees for 287 constituencies yesterday.

The JP said it did not get any nomination seekers for a handful of constituencies and party ticket winners for the rest would be announced later.

It said it left Mymensingh-4 vacant for Leader of the Opposition and JP Chief Patron Raushan Ershad, who is yet to collect her nomination form.

Raushan's son Rahgir Almahe (Saad Ershad) MP and opposition chief whip Moshir Rahman Ranga also did not collect nomination forms for the January 7 national election.

JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu made the list public at a press conference at the JP chairman's Banani office.

The unveiling of the list widened the gap between JP Chairman GM Quader and Raushan, said a number of JP leaders.

Quader is the MP from Lalmonirhat-3. But this time, he will run from Rangpur-3, where Saad Ershad is the incumbent MP.

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