

NCP ties up with Jamaat 'strictly for election'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party has forged a seat-sharing arrangement with Jamaat-e-Islami to contest the February 12 national election, ending days of intense speculations.

NCP Convener Nahid Islam at a press conference yesterday said the party's pact with Jamaat and other parties is "strictly electoral".

"In the current political situation, it is not possible for the NCP to contest the election alone. That is why we have decided to form an alliance with like-minded parties."

The party's reform, justice, and anti-hegemony agenda will, however, will remain unchanged, he added.

"This is not an ideological alliance; it is an electoral understanding. Our goals and principles will continue. For now, the focus is on electoral cooperation."

"This understanding will help overcome electoral hurdles while keeping our reform agenda alive."

The NCP chief observed that addressing the country's crises and fulfilling post-uprising goals requires wider cooperation.

Under the agreement, he added, candidates finalised through the alliance would submit nomination papers, with the NCP and its affiliates campaigning for them. In constituencies where the party has no



Amid the biting cold, children huddle around small fires for warmth, unaware of the dangers of fire-related injuries. Each winter, many across the country suffer burns while trying to keep warm in this way. The photo was taken around 3:00pm yesterday in the capital's Ramchandrapur, when it was still foggy. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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candidate, it will support alliance nominees.

On possible splits or resignations, Nahid said participation in the polls or remaining in the party is a personal decision. "Candidates will be selected from among those aligned with our objectives and who have higher chances of winning."

He also said the Gontantrik Songskar Jote no longer exists following the NCP's seat-sharing deal with Jamaat.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Reform push or an ideological trade-off?

SHAMIMA RITA

The National Citizen Party's alignment with Jamaat-e-Islami took shape during the talks at the National Consensus Commission, with leaders insisting that state reforms remain central to its election agenda.

NCP leaders said their top priority is implementing the July charter and securing a victory for the "yes" vote in the referendum.

According to the party, Jamaat and its allies support its reform agenda, while the BNP has "adopted an anti-reform stance".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NONOMINATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE TODAY

Parties scramble to finalise line-ups

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

Political parties are locked in fevered, last-minute negotiations to settle their line-ups for the February 12 polls, as today marks the final deadline for submitting nomination papers to the Election Commission.

Election officials said preliminary estimates show that at least 2,780 nomination papers had been collected as of 2:30pm yesterday.

EC Public Relations Officer Ruhul Amin Mollik cautioned that not all collected forms would translate into valid candidacies, while

many more were expected to be collected and submitted on the final day.

EC sources later said a total of 3,144 individuals had collected nomination papers by 5:00pm yesterday.

In a demi-official letter issued yesterday, Election Commission Secretary Akthar Ahmed urged the home ministry to take necessary steps to ensure a level playing field ahead of the 13th national parliamentary election and the referendum on the July charter, both scheduled for the same day.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



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