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NCP ties up with Jamaat 'strictly for polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party has finalised a seat-sharing arrangement with Jamaat-e-Islami to contest the upcoming national election, ending days of intense debate, speculation, and political drama.

After Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman announced the development at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, NCP Convener Nahid Islam at another urgent press conference said the party's pact with Jamaat and the broader coalition is "strictly electoral".

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

Nahid said the party's reform, justice, and anti-hegemony agenda would remain unchanged.

"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," he said.

He said the NCP had initially prepared to contest independently, but shifting political realities required broader unity. "This understanding helps overcome electoral hurdles while keeping our reform agenda alive.

Addressing the country's crises and fulfilling post-uprising goals demands wider cooperation," he added.

Under the agreement, he said, 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 candidate, it will support alliance nominees.

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

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

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), led by Col (retd) Oli Ahmed, also joined the Jamaat-led electoral pact, expanding it from eight to 10 parties.

At the Jamaat press conference, Shafiqur said the alliance has nearly completed its nomination list for all 300 constituencies through discussions, with the remaining work to be completed fairly after the submission of nomination papers.

Referring to the NCP's absence from the briefing, Shafiqur said the party's leaders were unable to attend due to time constraints but had formally conveyed their decision to join the alliance and would brief the media separately.

"We now have less than one and a half months left for the national election," Shafiqur said.

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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

Alliance with Jamaat part of reform strategy: NCP

SHAMIMA RITA

The NCP's alignment with Jamaat-e-Islami took shape during 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", which it claims involves campaigning for the media separately.

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Tarique has his first day in Gulshan office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman visited the party chairperson's office in Gulshan for the first time yesterday, as he slowly gets into the groove

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NOMINATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE TODAY Parties, alliances 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.

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