

Use of black money in election must be prevented

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These are included in the manifesto of all the parties but in reality these are not done. Some leaders say that they never promised to do it during the tenure of this government. They tell the people to bring them to power once again so that they can fulfill the promises. Here comes the question of accountability. We want them to tell us how much of the promises given last time have been fulfilled by them.

If voters get information about the candidates then it would become possible for them to assess their honesty and competence. Political parties should not nominate people with black money or having connection with terrorism. Our purpose is not to criticise the politicians. We have seen many politicians who have become paupers doing politics. Then again we have seen paupers become filthy rich by doing politics. It is true that honest and competent candidates do not get elected all the time. This is our misfortune. Common people cannot identify them. Through the coming election we want to see a functional parliament, a parliament that will speak for the people and progress towards the path of development.

Everything that is happening today from educational institutes to social life is the result of erosion of values. We have taken the initiative to remove that. We want the discrimination in the education system against men and women to end. Research is essential component of higher education.

Adv. Nurul Kabir Ahmed

It is mentioned in them leaflet about independence of the judiciary, dependence of bureaucracy, interference of foreign powers and so on. There is mention of this in the constitution of 1972. We cannot get out of this cycle unless we can be self-reliant and stop asking for money. I am also for two-chamber parliament.

ATM kamal

When I see that the words and deeds of a person do not correspond, I feel very frustrated. There is a nomination board in every political party to select candidates. Let Nagorik Committee form a shadow selection board in every district and search honest and competent candidates.

Shafiuddin Ahmed

Among the eight objectives outlined by Nagorik Committee there is mention of Bangladesh politics and development. But we cannot leave out the hard working workers from this. We cannot think of a ideal society without their participation. The garments workers have signed a tripartite agreement but it is not being implemented. My request to Nagorik Committee, please speak about this issue. There is no proper democracy in the two major political parties. Help begin the process there. That will ensure selection of competent candidates.

Delwar Hossain Chunnu

The country is passing through a crisis period. People want a meaningful change. This country has to be freed from sick politics. We have to reject owners of black money and godfathers.

Adv. Montu Ghosh

For minor things ambassadors of America or some other country try to dictate us. Opposition political parties ask for help to them. If we do not stand up against capitalism, we shall not be able to keep our independence and ensure development. It is not good to blame the politicians only. There are politicians who have contributed in the development of the country. CPD and the civil society members will have to turn their faces to them. The high and mighty had to bow down for Kansat, Shanir akhra and garments workers. The literate people do not consider those people as political force. Unless they are organized all attempts to do politics will go in vain.

Anwar Hossain

Human rights is being violated everywhere in Bangladesh. It has to be seen whether after the brutal treatment of the leaders and workers of the opposition there is any environment for dialogue. The degeneration of politics does not happen in a day. Since the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975, real politicians are being pushed to the corner. Politics has gone to the bureaucrats, army and vested quarters. Before liberation student leaders were all meritorious students. Now it has gone to mastans and cadres. People do not want to see terrorists and godfathers given nomination this time.

Adv. Taimur Alam Khandaker

This is a very timely programme. Everyone is hoping that the next election will be a free and fair one and good candidates will get elected. But our past

experience says that Bangladesh is considered a big cake by many. We prepare this cake for 300 people and they take a slice each. Voters try to find out who has more money. Voters themselves do not look for honest candidates. One who is not involved in politics throughout the year suddenly want to contest in elections. We the political workers run after such people. Why don't the people take the decision that they would not vote for any corrupt person? If parties can perceive this mindset of the people then they will not nominate corrupt candidates. Even in the election of lawyers association we see money playing a role. Therefore, why should poor people living in slums cast their votes for free? It is the concept that needs to be changed and not only the system.

Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy

If there is a strong civil society then only a government can be strong. Many people are criticizing hartal. I have myself worked in many hartals. For some issues hartal is acceptable. If the civil society becomes vocal and politicians have good relationship among them there would be no necessity of hartal.

If we want honest and competent candidates then everyone in society have to be honest. The liberation war movements were done by the politicians. They were patriots. We have to bring back that spirit. Democracy was killed when Bangabandhu was killed in 1975. Why do civil society members keep mum when Bangladesh flag is seen in the cars of the Rajakars? We have become self-centered. The entire nation has become corrupt. I have carried out my responsibilities with honesty. But many people in Narayanganj do not like me. My own staff say we do not want this chairman. My party people say tell me that I do not talk about my party after getting elected. Once a person gets elected he/she becomes the representative of all. One has to rise above the party and work for the nation. Unless this mentality finds hold, there will not be any development. The time has come when there will be explosions in every corner of the country like Kansat and phulari. Let us drive the looters out of this country.

Afzal Hossain

People want to see a society and parliament free of black money and terrorism. Politics has to be made free of these things. We hope political leaders will talk about the recommendations in their party meetings and they will be respectful to them. We know that unwanted people corrupt politics. When politics become corrupt the whole country faces uncertainty. But the real politicians love the country and play significant role in the development of the country. We have to stand beside such politicians and unite them to strengthen the healthy political process. The initiative taken by CPD to speed up the process is praiseworthy. We are with this initiative.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Afzal Hossain, Former MP and Secretary General, Narayanganj Diabetic Shamity (President, Regional Citizens' Dialogue, Narayanganj)
2. Matiur Rahman, Editor, Prothom Alo
3. Advocate Shakhwat Hossain Khan, General Secretary, District Lawyers Association, Narayanganj
4. Dr. Shahnewaz Chowdhury, President, Narayanganj District Medical Association
5. Ruman Reza, President, Narayanganj Press Club.
6. Alauddin Chowdhury, Professor (Retd), Govt. Tolaram College
7. Advocate Merina Begum, Member, Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Women Lawyers Association
8. Bulbul Chowdhury, Former Professor, Govt. Tolaram College
9. Farida Akhter, social worker, Bangladesh Mohila Shangstha
10. Al Amin, Nagar Porikalponabid, Narayanganj
11. Prof. Rashida Akter, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Narayanganj
12. Sadia Afroz Mukti, Lawyer
13. Ranu Khondokar, Teacher, ABC International School
14. Ononna Goswami, Student, Dhaka University
15. Mahmudul Hassan Mashud, Student, East West University
16. Afrida Jahar Juthi, Student, Jagannath University
17. Khodeza Khanam Nasrin, Commissioner, Narayanganj Pourashobha
18. Jahanara Akter, executive director, Jibon Shondhani Shomaj Kolyan Shangstha
19. M K Mannan, Cultural Organiser
20. Shekh Haider Ali, Director, BKMEA
21. Halim Azad, Senior Reporter, The Daily Jugantor
22. Komol Kanti Shaha, Senior Teacher, Narayanganj High School
23. MD. Nobi Hossain, PP, Narayanganj
24. Khondokar Anwar Hossain, Assistant Professor, Haji Ibrahim Alamchan School and College, Narayanganj
25. A K Azad, Entrepreneur
26. Chondon Shil, political activist
27. Mofizul Haq, Student
28. Fazlul Haq, President, BKMEA
29. Major General (Retd) Moinul Hossain, Birprotik, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and member, Nagorik Committee 2006
30. Ahmed Halim Mazhar, Principal, Haji Ibrahim Alamchan School and College, Narayanganj
31. MD. Zohir Uddin Master, Secretary General, Bashasish and Coordinator, Teachers and Employers Association, Central Committee
32. Dr. Nazrul Islam, President, Progoti Shahityo Parishad
33. Shamshul Islam Bhuiyan, Lawyer
34. Afzal Hossain, district correspondent, Daily Bhorer Kagoj
35. MD. Abu Al Yusuf Khan Tipu, General Secretary, Jatiotabadi Sromik Dal, Narayanganj
36. Saidur Rahman Molla, Chairman, Sonar Gaon Pourashabha
37. Advocate Awlad Hossain, General Secretary, Narayanganj district NAP
38. Rokon Uddin Ahmed, General Secretary, Bangladesh Krishokh League, Narayanganj district committee
39. Shordar MD. Habibullah, Vice President, Somomona organisation, Narayanganj
40. Jamal Uddin Kalu, Food and Nutrition Secretary, district BNP, Narayanganj
41. Mahmuda Mala, President, Jubo Mohila League, Narayanganj district
42. Golam Mustafa, General Secretary, Jatio Sromik Federation, Narayanganj
43. Advocate Ahsanul Karim Chowdhury, Trade Union Organiser
44. Shukkur Mahmud, President, Jatio Sromik League, Narayanganj
45. Dulal Shaha, Secretary, CPB, Narayanganj
46. Tofazzol Hossain, Chief Reporter, Daily Shocheton
47. AB M Shohrab Hossain, President, Paikpara Union Awami League
48. MD. Abdul Hai, former Vice President, Narayanganj district Awami League
49. Amir Hossain, district correspondent, Daily Shangbad
50. Advocate MD. Kholilur Rahman, President, Human Rights Lawyers Association, Narayanganj
51. Rina Ahmed, Vice President, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Narayanganj district committee
52. Rokiur Rabbi, Former President, Narayanganj Shangskritik Jote
53. Anisuzzaman, Former Professor, Bangla Department, Dhaka University and member, Nagorik Committee 2006
54. Golam Morshed Faruki, Former MP
55. Advocate Nurul Kabir Ahmed, President, Narayanganj Mohanagar NAP
56. AT M Kamal, Former Convenor, Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh
57. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, Bangladesh Textile Garments Labours Association
58. Shafiuddin Ahmed, central polit bureau member, Bangladesh Workers Party
59. Delwar Hossain Chunnu, Convenor, Gonoforum, Narayanganj
60. Advocate Khokon Shaha, General Secretary, Sadar Awami League, Narayanganj
61. Jannatul Ferdous, Office secretary, district BNP, Narayanganj
62. Mohor Ali Chowdhury, General Secretary, Jashod (Inu), Narayanganj district
63. Advocate Montu Ghosh, President, CPB, Naryanganj
64. Anwar Hossain, President, Sadar Awami League, Narayanganj
65. MD. Solaiman Chowdhury, member, Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatro Kendro
66. MD. Monowarul Haque, Managing Director, VESDC
67. MD. Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, Lawyer
68. MD. Ishaq Talukdar Mehedi, Lawyer
69. Amzad Hossain, Cultural Organiser
70. Moloy Dash Chandan, General Secretary, Shomona
71. Fanindra Sharkar, General Secretary, World Peace and Human Rights movement, Bangladesh
72. Mustafa Saiful Islam, Teacher
73. S M Shafiu Islam, Assistant Professor, Narayanganj Shorkari Mohila College
74. MD. Riazur Rahman Talukdar, Lawyer
75. Shuvash Shaha, Entrepreneur
76. Ajoy Kishor Modok, Income Tax Advisor
77. Shamsul Anam Mintu
78. Afsar uddin Ahmed, Janipop, Narayanganj
79. Monir Chowdhury, Senior Officer, Janata Bank
80. Rekha Chowdhury, Vice President, Mohila Parishad, Narayanganj
81. Anis Ahmed, Vice President, Aain Sringkhala Unnayan O Madok Birodhi Committee, Narayanganj
82. MD. Mashud Ur Rouf, Lawyer
83. MD. Mobarak Hossain Rana, Former President, Bangladesh Chhatro Union, Rajshahi University
84. Advocate AB Siddique, General Secretary, Sadar NAP
85. Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker, Chairman, BRTC
86. Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy, Chairman, Narayanganj Pourashobha