The Pally Star



Rezaul Karim Tansen (JSD), Bogra-5

Habibur Rahman, Bogra-6 Momtaz

Majumder, Ňaogaon-2

Shahiduzzaman Sarker and

Naoqaon-3 Akram Hossain

Chowdhury, Rajshahi-2 Fazle Hossain Badsha (Workers Party),

Rajshahi-3 Sardar Amjad Hossain,

Rajshahi-4 Tazul Islam Md Faruk,

Raishahi-5 Khairuzzaman

Liton/Shahriar Alam, Natore-1 Abul

Kalam Azad (brother of slain former

AL lawmaker Momtaz Uddin).

Natore-2 Hanif Ali Sheikh, Natore-3

Ahmed Ali and Natore-4 Abdul

Sirajganj-2 Md Kazol, Sirajganj-4

Abdul Latif Mirza, Sirajganj-5 Abdul

Sayeed, Pabna-2 AK Khandaker,

Pabna-3 Maqbul Hossain and

Narail-1 Sheikh Hasina, Narail-2

Mufti Shahidul Islam (Khelafat

Majlish), Kushtia-2 Hasanul Haq Inu

(JSD), Kushtia-3 Barrister Amir-UI

Islam, Meherpur-1 Zainal Abedin

Kushtia-1 Afazuddin Ahmed

Chuadanga-1 Solaiman Haque

Joarder Salun, Chuadanga-2 Ali Ajgar

Togor, Jhenidah-1 Abdul Hye,

Jhenidah-2 Nure Alam, Jhenidah-3

Shafiqul Aziz Khan, Jhenidah-4 Md

Anar, Jessore-2 Sheikh Afil Uddin,

Jessore-3 Khaledur Rahman Tito.

Jessore-4 Principal Abdul Wahab,

Jessore-5 Prof Qazi Mahmudul

Hasan. Jessore-6 ASHK Sadeq,

Khulna-1 Sheikh

Hasina/Panchanan Biswas,

Bagerhat-1 Sheikh Helal Uddin

Ahemd, Bagerhat-2 Abdur Rahim

Khan, Bagerhat-3 Talukder Abdul

Chanda, Khulna-6 Sheikh Razzak

Ali, Satkhira-1 Sheikh Muiibur

Rahman, Satkhira-2 Sheikh Nazrul

Islam, Satkhira-3 Md Mustakin and

Delwar Hossain, Barguna-2 Golam

Sabur Tulu, Barguna-3 Golam

Sarwar Forkan, Patuakhali-2 ASM

Firoz, Patuakhali-3 AKM Jahangir

Hossain Patuakhali-4 Mahbubur

Rahman, Bhola-2 Advocate Yusuf

Hossain Humayun, Bhola-3 Major

(retd) Jasim and Bhola-4 Abdullah Al

Barisal-1 Abul Hasnat Abdullah

Barisal-2 Rashed Khan Menon

(Workers Party), Barisal-3 Advocate

Afzalul Karim, Barisal-4 Maidul

Islam, Barisal-5 Syed Faizul Karim

Montu (Gono Forum), Dhaka-6

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Dhaka-7

Sayeed Khokon, Dhaka-8 Haji

Mohammad Selim, Dhaka-9

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud.

Dhaka-11 Kamal Ahmed Mojumder

Tangail- 2 Khandker Asaduzzaman,

Tangail-3 Prof Matiur Rahman,

Tangail-4 Abdul Latif Siddiqui,

Tangail-6 Ahsanul Islam Titu,

Tangail-7 Ekabbor Hossain and

Tangail-8 Shawkat Momen

Jamalpur-1 Abul Kalam Azad,

Sherpur-1 Atiur Rahman Atiq,

Jamalpur-2 Faridul Haq Khan Dulal

Jamalpur-3 Mirza Azam and

Sherpur-2 Begum Matia Chowdhury

and Sherpur-3 Engineer Fazlul Haq. Mymensingh-1 Pramod Mankin

Mymensingh-3 Majibur Rahman

Fakir, Mymensingh-5 Islami Jote,

Mymensingh-6 Mohammad Moslem

Uddin, Mymensingh-7 Abdul Matin

Sarker, Mymensingh-8 Abdus Sattar,

Mymensingh-9 maj gen (retd) Abdus

Salam. Mymensingh-10 Altaf

Hossain Golondaz, Mymensingh-11

Dr M Amanullah and Mymensingh

Ruhi, Netrokona-2 Arif Khan Joy,

Netrokona-3 Monjur Kader

Koraishee and Netrokona-4 Shafi

Kishorganj-5 Advocate Abdul Hamid

Manikganj-Naimur Rahman

Munshiganj-4 Mohammad

Gazipur-1 Advocate Rahmat Ali,

Gazipur-2 Jahid Ahsan Russel, Gazipur-3 Akhtaruzzaman and

Gazipur-4 Tanzim Ahmed Sohel Taz.

Narsingdi-1 Mohammad Ali, Narsingdi-3 Mohon and Narsingdi-5

Dastgir, Narayanganj-2 Emdadul Haque Bhuiyan, Narayanganj-3

Kaiser Hasnat and Narayanganj-4

Rajbari-1 Kazi Keramat Ali,

Narayanganj-1 Gazi Golam

Raziuddin Ahmed Raju.

Shamim Osman.

Rajbari-2 Zillul Hakim

Durjoy, Manikganj-2 Shamsuddin Ahmed, and Manikganj-3 Mafijul

Islam Khan Kamal (Gono Forum).

Kishorganj-7 Zillur Rahman.

Netrokona-1 Moshtak Ahmed

(Dhobaura-Purbadhala).

Ahmed.

Mohiuddin.

Jamalpur-5 Rezaul Karim Hira.

Tangail- 1 Dr Abdur Razzag

and Dhaka-12 Murad Jong.

Shahhjahan.

Tofail Ahmed, Barguna-1

Satkhira-4 Prof Ruhul Haque.

Barisal Division

slam.lackob

Bhola-1

Narail-2 Mufti

Pabna-4 Shamsur Rahman Sharif.

Khulna Division

Sirajganj-1 Mohammad Nasim,

Rajshahi-1 Omar Faruk

Chowdhury.

Quddus.

Hossain and Bogra-7 Md Afsar.

JP to run

FROM PAGE 1 candidates' list yesterday and claimed it was finalised in consultation with the AL.

After a long discussion with the JP. the AL leadership decided to sacrifice Nilphamari-1, Gaibandha-2, Narail-1, Patuakhali-3, Netrakona-2 and Habiganj-3 constituencies for its main alliance partner JP for fighting the coming election. AL candidates won these seats in 2001 election

JP candidates will face Jamaate-Islami leaders who will be BNPled four-party alliance nominees in Comilla-12, Pirojpur-1, Satkhira-2, Satkhira-3, Satkhira-5 and Gaibandha-1 as Jamaat candidates won these seats on four-party ticket in the last election. The JP will also contest in Moulvibazar-2 against MM Shahin, who won the last election as an independent candidate and later joined the BNP

Besides, JP has got 26 constituencies where BNP leaders won the last election and AL candidates secured second position in most of the constituencies. These seats are Nilphamari-3 and 4, Lalmonirhat-3, Gaibandha-4, Naogaon-2, Natore-2, Natore-4, Kushtia-4, Khulna-3, Patuakhali-1, Barisal-6, Pirojpur-3, Tangail-5, Mymensingh-4 and 8, Kishoreganj-4, Manikganj-4, Dhaka-4 and 5, Narsingdi-4, Narayangani-5, Rajbari-2, Sunamganj-4, Sylhet-3 Comilla-7 and Chittagong-5.

Of the 22 seats in greater Rangpur, JP won 14 seats in the last election while the AL won three and BNP-led four-party five seats.

AL now sacrificed Nilphamari-1 and Gaibandha -2 seats for JP candidate NK Alam Chowdhury and Wahiduzzaman Sarker, Dr Hamida Banu Shova and Lutfur Rahman Sarker won these two seats as AL candidates in the last election.

Candidates from the AL secured second position in 11 constituencies in Rangpur. But none of them got nomination from the grand alliance this time.

Sources said JP is still bargaining for 7/8 more seats but the AL leadership is trying to convince the party that it does not have enough strength to win the coming polls in a huge number of constituencies. But JP leaders said all their candidates will win the election with a huge margin of votes over their opponents.

"We will finalise everything in consultation with Awami League," ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader told reporters yesterday.

According to the JP announcement, the constituencies from where Ershad will contest are --Dhaka-5, Lalmonirhat-3, Rangpur-3, Sylhet-3 and Habiganj-3.

The other JP candidates are -politician, told the function that he Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (Thakurgaonioined the BNP in protest against 3), NK Alam Chowdhury (Nilphamari-Ershad's "deviation from party 1). Qazi Faruq Qader (Nilphamari-3). M Shawkat Chowdhury (Nilphamari-Bengal and BNP leaders Nazmul 4). Muiibur Rahman (Lalmonirhat-2). Huda and Amanullah Aman also Moshiur Rahman Ranga (Rangpurspoke at the function.

Battle for ballot FROM PAGE 1 1), Mohammad Ali Sarkar

AKM Mostafizur Rahman

(Kurigram-1), Tazul Islam

Chowdhury (Kurigram-2), Maulana

Matiur Rahman (Kurigram-3),

Golam Habib Dulal (Kurigram-4)

Wahiduzzaman Sarkar Badsha

(Gaibandha-1), Abdur Rashid

Sarkar (Gaibandha-2), Dr TIM Fazle

Rabbi Chowdhuy (Gaibandha-3),

GM Qader (Gaibandha-4), Begum

Rawshan Ershad (Gaibandha-5),

Tofazzel Hossain (Naogaon-2).

Muiibur Rahman Sentu (Natore-2)

Abul Kashem Sarker (Natore-4)

Advocate Abdul Awal Miah

(Kushtia-4), Qazi Firoz Rashid

(Narail-1), Abdul Gaffar Biswas

(Khulna-3), Abdul Jabbar (Satkhira-

2), Advocate Salauddin Ahmed

(Satkhira-3), HM Golam Reza

(Satkhira-5), ABM Ruhul Amin

Rowshan Ershad (Mymensingh-4)

Islam Mahmud (Chittagong-5).

hatching conspiracy," she said.

values...it will gradually vanish."

Munshigani district to work for Shah

Moazzem to ensure his victory in the

election from Sreenagar-

Former president and LDP chief

Chowdhury or his son Mahi B

Shah Moazzem, an outspoken

Razia Foez and Ismail Hossain

Chowdhury is likely to contest the

polls from Sreenagar-Siraidikhar

ajdikhan constituency.

FROM PAGE 16

election.

constituency.

deology'

Aihar Ali.

nomination papers. Another partner of the grand (Rangpur-2), Karimuddin Bharasa alliance, Jatiya Party (Ershad), (Rangpur-4). SM Fakhruzzaman vesterday announced the names of Jahangir (Rangpur-5), Noor its 53 candidates finalised in consul-Mohammad Mondol (Rangpur-6), tation with the AL.

Announcing the names, JP Chairman HM Ershad has instructed the party men to file nomination papers today

Sources said the LDP leaders too will file candidatures today although its chief Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhurv vesterdav said they have yet to decide on the issue. The party so far has been given 27 seats.

Apart from the two major political alliances, contenders of some other political parties and independent candidates have started filing nomination since last week.

On the last date, the offices of 68 returning officers (RO) and 536 assistant returning officers (ARO) will be receiving the nomination papers from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Howlader (Patuakhali-1), Advocate The Election Commission (EC) Bakhtiaruddin Iqbal (Patuakhali-3), has reserved 150 symbols for the Nasrin Jahan Ratna (Barisal-6), contenders. Of those, 76 were Mostafa Jamal Haider (Pirojpur-1), earmarked for as many number of Abdul Jabbar Engineer (Pirojpur-3), political parties contesting the polls M Abul Kashem (Tangail-5), Begum and the rest are for the independent candidates.

Fakrul Imam (Mymensingh-8), Fakir After the last date for withdraw-Ashraf (Netrakona-2), Mojibul Haq ng candidature that is January 3, Chunnu (Kishoreganj-4), Golam the ROs will allocate the symbols Sarwar Milon (Manikganj-4), Syed among the candidates fielded by the Abu Hossain Babla (Dhaka-4), Brig political parties as well as the inde-(retd) Qazi Mahmud Hasan pendent ones.

(Narsingdi-4), Nasim Osman The official process towards the (Narayanganj-5), MA Matin election to form the ninth parliament (Rajbari-2), Momtaz Iqbal began on November 27 with the (Sunamganj-4), Nawab Ali Abbas announcement of election schedule (Moulvibazar-2), Nurul Islam Milon that went on to be changed on (Comilla-7), Kazi Zafar Ahmed several occasions. It will end with (Comilla-12) and Barrister Anisul gazette notification of the victorious candidates. Shah Moazzem

Over 9.30 crore voters are supposed to choose their representatives at 300 constituencies.

"Many don't want Bangladesh's In the official process, the first progress and advance. So, they are step, filing nomination papers, will be completed today. After that, the On Jatiya Party's joining the 14-ROs will scrutinise the nomination party combine, she said the party again and again has deviated from papers tomorrow and declare which its ideology. "Now the party has no ones are valid and which are not. ideology of nationalism and Islamic using the criteria prescribed by the laws.

The BNP chairperson urged the The EC Secretariat has already party's activists and supporters to sent to the ROs a number of circuwork unitedly for the four-partylars containing the guidelines for nominated candidates to win the scrutiny She asked her party men in

This time the candidates will not be able to have the copies of the voter list of their respective constituencies as the EC could not yet provide the district election offices with the updated ones. The printing of the electoral roll is still on.

But the candidates need the voter list to file the nomination papers, as they must mention the names and serial numbers [on the list] of his proposer and seconder.

The district election officers said they are helping the candidates mention the names of their proposers and seconders and the serial numbers using the existing voter

"In this situation there is no

atmosphere in the country for hold-

ing a free and fair election," the LDP

would participate in the election

They also demanded that the chief

security while they conduct cam-

Asked about today's deadline of

filing nomination paper, LDP presi-

dent said, "still there is time, we will

seats with the 14-party grand alli-

ance, Badruddoza said that they

had demanded about 30 to 40

seats. Sources, however, confirmed

that LDP had sought 30 seats while

Replying to another question, the

LDP Secretary General Maj

(retd) MA Mannan said they want to

participate in the election but not in

the prevailing situation. "We are not

sure whether the election will be

held in a fair and free way or not in

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

Vice President Syed Deedar Bakht

yesterday sent a rejoinder protest-

ing the news item published yester-

this situation." he observed.

among others in the briefing.

REJOINDER

resign from LDP.

rearet the error.

LDP president said that they are still

with the 14-party grand alliance.

On their demand about sharing

paigns throughout the country.

decide in the meantime."

he rest three

The district election officers also could not complete deletion and nclusion of names in the updated

আল্লান্থ আকবার বিসমিল্লাহির রাহ্মানির রাহীম

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ ও বাংলাদেশ খেলাফত মজলিসের মধ্যে নির্বাচনী সমঝোতা স্মারক

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ ও বাংলাদেশ খেলাফত মজলিস এই মর্মে অঙ্গীকারাবদ্ধ হচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত ৫টি বিষয়ে ঐকমত্য পোষণ করে আসন্ন নবম জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে সমঝোতার ভিন্তিতে অংশ গ্রহণ করবে এবং মহান আল্লাহ তা'আলা বিজয় দান করলে এই বিষয়গুলি রাম্বরায়ন কররে ।

- 51 পবিত্র কুরআন সুনাহ ও শরীয়ত বিরোধী কোন আইন প্রণয়ন করা হবে না।
- 21 কওমী মাদরাসা সনদের সরকারী স্বীকৃতি যথাযথভাবে বাস্তবায়ন করা হবে।
- নিমবর্ণিত বিষয়ে আইন প্রণয়ন করা হবে ঃ ত।
- (季) "হযুৱত মহাম্মাদ (সা.) সর্বশেষ ও সর্বশেষ্ঠ নবী।
- সনদ প্রাপ্ত হক্বানী আলেমগণ ফতওয়ার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। সনদ বিহীন (国) কোন ব্যক্তি ফতওয়া প্রদান করতে পারবেনা।
- নবী-রাসল ও সাহাবায়ে কেরামের সমালোচনা ও কুৎসা রটনা করা দন্ডনীয় (9) অপরাধ

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের পক্ষে বাংলাদেশ খেলাফত মজলিসের পক্ষে <u>كم: (2772 مەلەكىمى) (مالىچە ھەمە) - 2677) مەلەپە ھەمە) - 2677) مەلەپە مەلە مەلەپە مەلەپە</u> (المامية علم تحقيمة) 26 12 0. মহাসচিব

AL's dicey acts

FROM PAGE 1 faces in AL such as Salman F Rahman, Kazi Zafarullah and Sheikh Selim for offending the party's traditional base by pandering to the bigots.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil who went to Khelafat leader Shaikhul Hadis Azizul Haque's residence to sign the MoU now feels deeply offended as he had to do it under pressure, some highly placed party sources said. There is every sign that the party top leadership is now in rows over many crucial decisions.

The impression that the AL may stay off the electoral race any time on any pretext has been deepened as none of the chiefs of the big allies such as Sheikh Hasina, Badruddoza or Ershad has clearly said that they are finally going to participate in the polls.

The leaders of the so-called grand alliance hoped that the three top leaders would hold a grand rally or press conference to justify their participation in the polls. But such steps are still conspicuously absent although the AL chief distributed nomination papers vesterday.

The question that now rings loudly in all corners of the AL and its 13 allies is if any significant change in the election environment has occurred that led to the decision to taking part in polls. A number of demands such as pushing Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury -- the newly inducted election commissioner who once wanted BNP ticket for the upcoming election -- out of the Election Commission, correction of voter list before announcement of election schedule, appointment of new commissioners. deeper reshuffle in administration

vesterday its position on participation in election is still uncertain and 'if the present situation prevails, it would be very hard (for his party) to ao to the polls'. And on the very day that his party

decided to the electoral fray, AL's Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury said the AL may still back off. "Such statements are making us

confused and our position in the constituencies are being greatly affected. We are proving a wimp to the people." said an AL candidate from a Barisal constituency.

Party leaders also accuse the high-ups of vacillating on the guestion of whether polls are possible under the current schedule. The AL, all through its recent movement, had been demanding shifting back election date as it said enough time was not left for correcting voter list or its poll preparation. But suddenly, AL General Secretary on ... said 'everything is possible within 90 days meaning the current election schedule is okay with the party. The same day, AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta met the EC officials said correction of voter list is a must before announcing poll schedule,

"These are the confusions we are facing today and Hasina is not clearing the air about anything," said the Barisal leader. "We simply feel insecure in such a situation."

coming under questions from party members for his often 'dubious' and shifting stances on important matters. They cite the latest incident of signing the unacceptable MoU with Khelafat and Jalil's first denying having signed any such deal. He

Amartya Sen

FROM PAGE 1 anniversary function chaired by ASK Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed at National Museum auditorium.

Amartya Sen stressed the need for strengthening agency as a means of making human rights more powerful and fulfilled. He said the limited role of women's active agency seriously afflicts the lives of all people -- men as well as women, children as well as adults.

Appreciation of the women's agency involves an important evolution of the basic nature of women's movements across the world, the Nobel laureate said, adding that focusing on the agency role is central to recognising people as responsible persons.

Paying tribute to the memory of Salma Sobhan, the founding executive director of ASK, Amartya Sen said she had brought about a remarkable enrichment of the gender perspective and feminist understanding of social inequalities in Bangladesh and also elsewhere.

"She had fresh ideas to offer on the importance of human rights including the rights of women. She also had much to say on the ways and means of fighting against and overcoming socia injustice

Sen found similarity between the agency perspective and recent suc-cess of women's movement and the importance of taking an adequately broad approach to human rights

He recalled the role of Mary Wollstonecraft who has been quite central to both the theory of women's agency and development of an ade quately broad view of human rights in general.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Muhammad Yunus underscored the need for local government for resolv-ing dispute. "If the dispute resolving process at the local level is made effective in any part of Bangladesh that will open up a new dimension ir the administration," he said.

Appreciating the role of ASK in helping the poor section in the society, Prof Yunus said poverty can be overcome through removing deprivation. Yunus also formally launched the ASK 20th anniversary commemorative report.

He said thousands of clients of Grameen Bank who are very poor and live in the village get legal help and assistance from ASK.

Yunus expressed hope that ASK Magura-1 Prof M H Akbar, Magura-2 will continue its assistance to the Biren Sikder and neglected section in the society. George Soroj appreciated the role Shahidul Islam.

of civil society in Bangladesh. "Al-though Bangladesh is known as a poor country in the world, its civil society is very outstanding which is an example of others to follow " he said

He hoped that ASK, which has Khaleque, Bagerhat-4 Dr Mozammel worked for upholding human rights Hossain, Khulna-2 Principal Quazi during the last 20 years, will continue Faruque, Khulna-3 Quazi Sikandar its efforts in the future Ali Dalim, Khulna-4 Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Khulna-5 Narayan Chandra

AL goes

FROM PAGE 1 madrasa certificates and punish blasphemy.

The statement issued by Jalil as the convener of the 14-party alliance read, "By winning the elections we will rescue the country and the society from the grips of extremist communa forces and bring back the country to the foundations of the liberation war

Adding, "In order to do so, we will remove these forces from all levels of the government and the bureaucracy, bring war criminals to justice, ban religious politics and its dissemination and prevent intervention into free thought and freedom of conscience.

(son of Char Monai Peer), Jhalkathi-Yet, later in the day, replying to 1 BH Harun and Jhalkathi-2 Amir

Candidate list of AL, **FROM PAGE 16** Rangpur-6 Sheikh Hasina, Lalmonirhat-1 Motahar Hossain, Hossain, Faridpur-4 Mostafa Ami

Faisal and Faridpur-5 Kazi Jafarullah Nilphamari-2 Asaduzzaman Nur Gopalganj-3 Sheikh Hasina, Gaibandha-2 Mahbub Ara Gini Gopalganj-1 Col (retd) Faruk Khan Gaibandha-5 Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Gopalganj-2 Sheik Fazlul Karim Bogra-1 Abdul Mannan, Bogra-2 Selim Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Bogra-4

Madaripur-1 Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton, Madaripur-2 Shahjahan Khan and Madaripur-3 Syed Abul Hossain.

Naogaon-5 Abdul Jalil, Chapainawabganj-1 Brig Gen (retd) Shariatpur-1 Mobarak Ali Shikder Shariatpur-2 Shawkat Ali and Shariatpur-3Abdur Razzak. Mohammad Énamul Haque, Chapainawabganj-2 Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, Chapainawabganj-3 Sylhet Division Sunamganj-2 Suranjit Sengupta, Sunamganj-3 MA Mannan, Prof Wadud, Naogaon-1 Sadhan

Sunamganj-4 Muhibur Rahman Manik, Sylhet-1 Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, Sylhet-4 Emran Ahmed, Sylhet-6 losam Uddin Chowdhury Maulabhibazar-1 Mohammad Shahbuddin. Maulabhibazar-2 Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed Maulabhibazar-3 Azizur Rahman, Maulabhibazar-4 Abdus Shaheed Habiganj-1 Dr Reza Kibria and Habiganj-4 Enamul Haque Mostafa

Shaheed Chittagong Division

Brahmanbaria-1 Sayedul Haq, Brahmanbaria-2 Kamal Ahmed, Brahmanbaria-3 Rabiul Alam Muktadir Chowdhury, Brahmanbaria-5 Ebadul Karim Bulbul and Brahmanbaria-6 captain Latif Biswas, Sirajganj-7 Habibur Rahman Swapon, Pabna-1 Prof Abu (Retd) Tazul Islam.

Comilla-1 Abdul Majid, Comilla-2 Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Comilla-3 Jahangir Alam Sarkar, Comilla-4 Raushan Ali Master, Comilla-5 Abdu Matin Khasru, Comilla-7 Mohammad Nazrul, Comilla-8 Aftabul Islam, Comilla-9 ANH Mostafa Kamal Lotus, Comilla-10 Mohammad Tazul Islam and Comilla-11 AKM Kamruzzaman.

Chandpur-1 Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir, Chandpur-2 Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Chandpur-3 Dipu Mani and Chandpur-6 Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan.

Feni-1 Faiz Ahmed, Feni-2 Khodeza Begum (sister of Joynal Hazari), Feni-3 SA Rahim Mollah, Noakhali-1 Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Noakhali-2 Mamunur Rashid Kiron Noakhali-3 Mohammad Ibrahim Noakhali-4 Ekramul Karim. Noakhali-5 Obaidul Quader, Noakhali-6 Mohammad Ali, Laxmipur-1 Mohammad Shahiahan Laxmipur-2 Harunur Rasheed _axmipur-3 MA Hashem and

Laxmipur-4 Abdur Rob Chowdhury. Chittagong-1 Mosharaf Hossain Chittagong-2 Mohammad Shourawadi, Chitagong-3 Mahfuzur Rahman Mita, Chittagong-4 Rafigu Anwar, Chittagong-6 ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Chittagong-9 ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, Chittagong-10 Mainuddin Khan Badal (JSD), Chittagong-11 Shamsul Haq

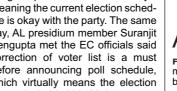
Chowdhury, Chittagong-12 Aktaruzzaman Babu and Chittagong-15 Mufti Izharul Islam (IOJ). Cox's Bazar-1 Advocate Zahir

(Gono Forum), Cox's Bazar-2 Ansarul Karim, Cox's Bazar-3 Mostaq Ahmed Chowdhury and Cox's Bazar-4 Abdur Rahman Badi Khagrachhari-Kuzendra La Tripura, Rangamati-Laxmi Prosad

Chakma and Bandarban-Bir Bahadur.

Iran's N-drive FROM PAGE 16

and environmental engineering said Iran's oil problems have the poten-



which virtually means the election cannot be held within 90 days.

The AL general secretary is also

and secular-democracy.'

eries from reporters o

Eminent citizens

FROM PAGE 1

into the dark ages, if the laws were passed according to the deal. They said it would make room for a parallel legal system

The issuing of fatwa, a key point of the five-point accord, was banned earlier by a High Court (HC) rule. However, the Appellate Division has placed a stay order against the rule. The eminent citizens said the HC handed down the judgment since oppressive incidents had occurred in the country due to the issuing of fatwa.

They said the other pledges that the AL had made to the Khelafat Majlish in the accord would give the constitution a religious hue, if laws were passed according to it.

They said the deal would encourage discrimination against the minority communities.

They claimed the BNP government had taken steps to destroy the education system by treating degrees and certificates of Qaomi madrasas as equal to degrees and certificates of other institutions. If the Qaomi madrasa was recognised according to the signed deal, it would surely damage the education system of Bangladesh, the statement added.

The pact goes against freethinkers, liberals, secularists and democrats and it contradicts with the AL ideology, the eminent citizens observed

The signatories to the statement include Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Ajoy Roy, Dr Muzaffer Ahmed, Hena Das, Major General (retd) CR Dutta, Dr Hamida Hossain, Sultana Kamal, Avesha Khanam, AZ Abdul Ali, Tasmima Hossain, Hafizuddin Khan, ASF Shahjahan, Syed Manzur Elahi, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, Major General (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Md Shafiullah (Bir Uttam), Ibrahim Khaled, Ali Zaker, Sara Zaker, Major General Harun-ur-Rashid (Bir Uttam), Sara Hossain, Dr Abul Baraqat, Dr Ajoy Rov. Ferdousi Privobhasini. Dr SA Samad, Kamal Lohani, Dr Hayat Mamud. Shaheen Anam. Mahmud Salam. Prof Jatin Sarkar, Supriyo Chatterjee, Dr Rawnak Jahan, Tareque Ali, Khushi Kabir, Rafiqun Nabi, Robiul Haque, Dr Sadeka Halim, Mamunur Rashid, Sanjib

Drong, Selina Hossain, Rajia Samad, Dr Sonia Amin, Shamim Shishir Bhattacharva Akhtar. Shafiur Rahman Khan Bachchu. Robiul Hossain Kochi, Raja Debashish Roy, Tareque Masud,

FROM PAGE 1 Badruddoza Chowdhury observed Mosi Uddin Saker, Monirujjaman, that there are huge illegal firearms, Saleh Ahmed, Md Kamal Uddin, which could not be seized yet. Ruhul Amin, Toufiq-e-Elahi (Bir Moreover, the listed criminals and Bikram), Dr Abu Salam Mithu and the black money owners are still at large, he said.

country.

LDP yet

Besides, Nari Mukti Sangsad, Citizen's Rights Movement, Bangladesh Women Journalists Centre, Bangladesh National president said adding that if the Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Society for the chief adviser takes actions against Enforcement of Human Rights these and assures them of ensuring Communist Party of Bangladesh, a congenial atmosphere, then they Jatiya Gono Front, five leftist leaning parties, Gono Mukti Andolan and Jatiya Mukti Council condemned adviser provide them with adequate the AL-Khelafat Majlish deal.

Ershad

FROM PAGE 16 swear affidavit for filing an application for leave to appeal to overturn the High Court verdict.

Ershad was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the case by Dhaka Divisional Special Court in 1995. The High Court on December 14 last upheld the conviction but commuted the punishment to two vears in iail. POLLS CANDIDATES' DETAILS

The Supreme Court on December 19 stayed the HC verdict ordering the EC to collect and make public some vital information including income and wealth statements of the candidates for general elections.

Three lawyers may file the review petition today at the vacation bench of Justice Joynal Abedin which stayed the HC verdict.

Advocate Jahirul Islam, one of the three lawyers, said they will appeal to the SC in the petition to confirm the identity of Abu Safa who had filed a writ petition challenging the HC verdict and obtained the stay order.

The stay order was obtained giving false information in the writ petition, he alleged.

The HC on May 24, 2005 ordered the EC to gather personal details like academic qualification, profession, source of income, criminal records and some other information about the aspirants to parliament and publish those.

remain unmet list in line with the information gath-

"Why then are we contesting the ered through door-to-door visits election at a great risk?" asked one from December 8 to 15 across the central committee member of the Al who did not want to be named. "Who convinced our leader to jump into fire? Who is forcing us to a foregone conclusion?"

"Even Hasina had said a few days ago that she will not go to polls with lajuddin as the chief adviser to the caretaker government. And today she asked us to submit nomination papers. So what has laiuddin done to convince us that Hasina's concerns about fair polls under him have been addressed," another candidate from Narsingdi quipped.

"No such situation has been created for what we can say yes to election," AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader told reporters yesterday, raising once again questions about inner dynamics of the AL. "We will observe until nomination withdrawal date whether a level playing field is created and then declare about participating the election and publish final candidates."

In a similar tone. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) chief Badruddoza Chowdhury said

Joint forces swing

FROM PAGE 16

around 500 criminals on the police list that was updated after the caretaker government took over. Replying to a question, he said from the earlier list of around 350 criminals, some have been excluded while others included.

Around 137 criminals on the list are involved in firearms and ammunition dealing, said a source.

Most of the teenage criminals are LDP Organising Secretary Mahi auided by ringleaders of criminal B Chowdhury, Redowan Ahmed gangs, said a Rab official.

Police sources said this time the ioint forces will launch block raid in a whole district or a vast area so that the criminals cannot escape arrest and their illegal firearms can be seized.

day with headline '5 leaders quit the country is the prime target of the LDP over ground alliance with crackdown while major cities includ-Ershad' and claimed that he did not ing the capital and Chittagong and the adjoining areas will be given special priority. The Daily Star mistakenly printed Bakht's name in the quit list. We

issued a circular asking all to submit

ultimately conceded to having signed the MoU and defended it by saying it is better for an educated cleric to issue edicts (fatwa) rather than by an uneducated person.

Xmas celebrated FROM PAGE 1

joined the reception.

The day was a public holiday. Decoration of Xmas trees with colourful lights, special prayers, distribution of gifts among the children by Santa Claus and exchange of pleasantries were the main features of the day's festivities. To ensure peaceful celebration

of Christmas, security in the capital and many other places of the country was beefed up with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police on alert at different strategic points.

In the capital, Christians visited churches where special arrangements were made to mark the day. A children's programme was also arranged at the ballroom of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Cakes and Christmas feasts were arranged at hotels and the houses of the Christians on the occasion.

Awami League agreed on 27 seats and bargaining is still going on about

and Jahanara Begum were present

The restive southwest region of

The home ministry on Sunday

BKM and their chances of participating in the next election as part of the grand alliance Jalil said "No one in the Swarupkathi- Principal Shahed alliance disagrees with their (BKM's) demand for five seats." Dhaka Division AL Joint General Secretary Dhaka- 1 Salman F Rahman, Dhaka-

Obaidul Kader reiterated Jalil's message at a briefing in the evening saying, "It is not quite the way it has been portrayed in the media, because it is not a contract." He ruled out AL's ditching secular principles and added "We have not deviated from our foundations of secularism and democracy No one can separate AL from its secular foundations.

In stark contrast to AL's public stance on the issue, a number of prominent AL leaders privately expressed deep resentment at the party's deal with BKM.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Jalil was deeply distressed at the rift within his party and spent most of his time at home yesterday while the crucial decisions regarding party nominations were being taken at the AL chief's residence, Šudha Sadan said sources.

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak told journalists, "The fivepoints are not part of our programme All our programmes are based on the 14-party's 23-point demand."

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon hinted that a serious disagreement over the AL-BKM deal might be brewing within the AL presidium committee itself.

"All other parties in the 14-party alliance have reached a consensus that it is an unacceptable decision in light of our 23-point charter and even the AL presidium committee has agreed with us in principle," said Menon.

After emerging from a 14-party meeting yesterday morning at Sudha Sadan, he added, "It (AL-BKM deal) is not congruent with our secular and democratic ideals.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal chief Hasanul Hag Inu also voiced against the deal and said, "The AL leaders have told us they would reconsider the decision because of our secular ideals.'

"We have taken a political decision that we promise to work in the spirit of the 1972 constitution and the 14 party's 23-point agreement," Inu added. "We also want to bring the war criminals to book and ban issuing fatwas in this country so religion cannot be abused to harass people

Gono Forum leader Panka Bhattacharya told UNB that when he asked AL president Sheikh Hasina to explain the motive behind the deal she replied that it was done with "good ntentions"

A section of AL activists were also angered over the rumour that the nomination for Chandpur-3 constituency would be given to BKM leader Bahadur Shah instead of former home minister Major Rafiqul Islam -- a decorated war hero.

ossain Amu tial to topple the clerical regime. Pirojpur-2 Isahaq Ali Khan Panna, Piroipur-3 Dr Anwar, Banaripara-

Stern said there was no reason to doubt US-led accusations that Iran's drive to develop nuclear energy has more sinister ends in mind, to entrench the regime in power and fend off US military 2 Noor Ali, Dhaka-3 Mostafa Muhsin

hegemony in the Gulf. He added "but it cannot be inferred from this that all Irani (an) claims must be false." "The regime's dependence or

export revenue suggests that it could need nuclear power as badly as it claims," Stern wrote

Many of Iran's oil deficiencies are of its own making, he said, noting that generous domestic subsidies for gasoline mean that Iran's national oil company cannot make money at home and so needs to export as much as it can.

But rapid population growth means that domestic demand is rising all the time, while authorities have let their refineries and pipenes fray.

So Iran, despite being the sec-ond-biggest exporter in the OPEC cartel behind Saudi Arabia, actually has to import oil products like gasoine to cope with demand.

Stern calculated that since 1980 energy demand in Iran has risen 6.4 percent, exceeding supply growth of 5.6 percent. Exports meanwhile have stagnated since peaking in 1996.

For at least 18 months, Iran has failed to meet its quota for oil production set by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries he said. The strong suggestion Stern said, is that Iran's oil production is now actually falling, despite the bonanza that exporters have enjoyed from a period of record-high

Kishorganj-1 Moshiur Rahman Humayun, Kishorganj-2 Prof MA crude prices. And a nationalistic regime is Vannan, Kishorganj-3 Syed Ashraful fuelling the problem by making life slam, Kishorganj-4 Dr Mijanul Haq, ever-harder for foreign oil companies, he said. Kishorgani-6 Alaul Hag and

Stern noted sudden contractual problems faced by India, in its bid to negotiate for supplies of Iranian natural gas, after New Delhi failed to vote with Tehran at a meeting of the United Nations atomic watchdog.

"Iran's petroleum investment climate therefore appears to have greatly deteriorated since 1998-2004, a period when investment was insufficient to offset the recent production decline," the professor said.

"Zero future foreign investment thus appears plausible.

Overall, according to Stern, it 'seems plausible that Iran's claim to need nuclear power might be genuine, an indicator of distress from anticipated export revenue short

"If so, the Iranian regime may be Faridpur-1 Abdur Rahman, Faridpur-2 Sajeda Chowdhury, more vulnerable than is presently understood." Faridpur-3 Khandker Mosharraf

their licensed firearms within December 28. The special drive to recover illegal firearms will be launched after the deadline for

firearms. There are around 22 thousand licensed firearms in the country. Of those licences for 1,274 were issued during the immediate past

became traceless. Later the government cancelled licences of those firearms.

A drive is already on and it will be strengthened in future, spokesman for the police headquarters Assistant Inspector General Motiur Rahman Sheikh told The Daily Star vesterday

submitting the licensed firearms ends, police and Rab officials said, adding that sometimes they face problem to recover illegal firearms due to the presence of licensed

BNP-led four party coalition government. After the 2001 general elections 4,513 firearms that were not submitted to the police stations