

## AL grassroots

**FROM PAGE 1**  
But how many constituencies will be conceded to them is not yet finalised, with JP demanding 60 seats and LDP demanding 40.

Sources said components of AL-led 14-party coalition will seek more constituencies than they had sought earlier.

Iatiya Samajtantrik Dal (ISD) gave a list of 18 ISD nominees to AL's Ashraful Islam.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon also talked to Hasina during her stay abroad urging him to concede 15 constituencies to his party.

But, AL is likely to share a lesser number of seats with its allies this time around compared to what it was ready to share prior to the stalling of the January 22, 2007 election, party sources said.

The party yesterday, from a meeting of its central working committee (ALCWC), sent directives to its grassroots level committees to send names of five possible nominees for respective constituencies.

At the meeting held in AL president's political office in Dhanmondi, some leaders said it will not be possible to bring major changes to the nomination process in such a short time.

They also wondered if it will be possible to coordinate the mammoth task of getting the nomination suggestions from the grassroots levels across the country and to finalise a list of nominees by sifting through those in only a week, since November 13 is the last date for submitting party nominations to the EC.

The ALCWC meeting was adjourned till Hasina's return, so she can preside over it on November 7, when the formation of the grand electoral alliance and the issue of sharing seats with the allies will be finalised, sources in AL said adding that the party will nominate candidates based on acceptability and their abilities to win the election.

The sources said AL might change its earlier nominations in at least 25 to 30 constituencies.

The party also decided primarily that no leader will be given nomination in more than one constituency.

Some of the former lawmakers of the party died, while there are at least 11 leaders are convicted under emergency powers rules, and the party broke its alliance.

**Melamine-free**

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bangkok and at the laboratories of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Three brands -- Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2 -- were found contaminated with melamine. These Chinese brands were earlier banned because these had no registration with the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition.

Meanwhile, following a writ petition by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, an NGO, the HC on October 23 ordered stopping sales and display of all the eight brands until receipt of the test results from Bangkok.

Later, the law enforcers seized and destroyed a substantial quantity of these powdered milk from shops not complying the HC order.

Distributors have asked us not to sell these brands because of the court order," said Nazrul Islam, a retailer at Karwan Bazar in the capital.

Health Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali on Monday said the government would now inform the court about the test results. An official of the commerce ministry yesterday said the test results were not be submitted to the court yesterday.

## 4-party

**FROM PAGE 1**  
organisational strength compounded by a good number of influential leaders being convicted and detained should discourage the top brass from deciding to join the December 18 race.

"We are indeed faced with a dilemma here," said a top BNP leader. "We are always an election-oriented party, but we are wary of how this government and the Election Commission (EC) are biased against us."

Meanwhile, Majlis-e-Shura, the highest policy-making body of Jamaat-e-Islami, has decided in favour of participating in the polls, and will place their arguments at today's crucial meeting of the alliance, said party sources.

BJP leaders said they think it would not be wise for the alliance to take part in the election under the present EC.

"This commission has failed to maintain neutrality. Besides, a free and fair election is not possible under the state of emergency," Andaleeb Rahman Partho, BIP chairman, told The Daily Star after a meeting of party presidents.

Islami Oikya Jote (Aminee) however decided in favour of polls participation.

"We think this election won't bring any good to us. On the other hand, if we stay off the polls Awami League will win almost uncontested," Abdul Latif Nezami, secretary general of IOJ, told The Daily Star.

## Mamun sent to jail for Tk 8cr swindling

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

with Islamist fundamentalist Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, with which it had been ready to share five seats for the stalled January 22, 2007 election.

The party will start selling nomination forms for 300 constituencies from 10:00am today.

Nomination aspirants must buy the forms for Tk 7,500 each and submit them to the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital by 5:00pm on November 7, after filling them up.

After submitting the nomination forms to the central party office the nomination seekers will also have to submit copies of them to the presidents and general secretaries of respective upazila or thana units of respective constituencies, who will later prepare a panel of maximum five prospective nominees in extended unit meetings, to send the panel of names to the AL parliamentary board by November 9.

"Although time is very short, we have no alternative to completing the process by November 9," Ashraful Islam said.

Briefing reporters after the three and a half hour long ALCWC meeting, Ashraful said the process of forming the electoral grand alliance with all forces except BNP-Jamaat-led alliance and anti-liberation war forces is on, and will be finalised after Hasina's return.

**HASINA HEADING HOME**

At the time of filing this report late last night, Sheikh Hasina was already in London en route to Bangladesh.

She is scheduled to reach Zia International Airport at 8:15am on tomorrow on board a flight of Emirates, confirmed Hasina's Special Aide Dr Hasan Mahmud.

AL is planning to accord a massive reception to Hasina from Zia to her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi, lining up a large number of party workers and supporters on both sides of the road.

AL top leadership yesterday also held a meeting with assistant secretaries of the party's sub-committees, and with the presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka city unit, the units of adjacent districts, and of all associated organisations to mobilise the well-wishers.

**14 killed in Baghdad attacks**

**AFP, Baghdad**

Insurgents killed at least 14 people and wounded dozens more in the Iraqi capital on Tuesday, including seven who lost their lives in a bomb attack on a bus depot, security officials said.

Seven people were killed and 18 wounded when a bomb exploded in the depot in the eastern Baghdad neighbourhood of Al-Mashda, the officials said.

On July 3, 2007 he was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms at his residence.

Mamun was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment on March 27 this year for amassing wealth worth Tk 11.1 crore illegally and concealing information of his wealth from the ACC.

In a similar attack, four people were killed and eight wounded when a roadside bomb went off in Al-Qahira in the north of the capital, they said.

One person was killed and seven wounded when a bomb planted in their car, part of a government convoy, exploded in the central Karrada district.

A civilian was killed and five wounded when a bomb blew up in a car near the University of Technology in Baghdad, the security officials said.

Contacted, Prof M Tahir, vice-chancellor of BSMU, admitted receiving a list of detainees and said he had all concerned to take proper steps.

"Being a doctor, I can't issue an administrative order forcing other doctors to release their patients if they are really sick," he said. "The jail authorities have made the request so that they can provide treatment facilities to other prisoners."

Asked, the IG-Prisons said, "We would discuss with the home ministry about the allegation of submitting fake medical certificate to the court and measures would be taken according to its suggestion and the jail code."

Replies to a query he said, "We were not informed of the fake medical certificate as it was submitted averting us. Besides, the medical board was also not approved by the government."

Prof M Tahir also said, "We don't know how did they submit the report to the court. After the court found it false we have provided all the information it wanted."

Kuldip Nayar said, "Journalists should have the power of building up a society. If journalists fail, the society will fail."

The readers expect standard writings from the Prothom Alo and their expectations have to be met every day, he said.

He expressed his gratitude to the Prothom Alo, saying the daily has done a great job in the 10 years.

"The future of Bangladesh and Prothom Alo are linked together. And the future is of happiness, enlightenment and prosperity. Our success is professional and institutional... We must not deviate from our values," said Mahfuz Anam.

Matiur Rahman said Prothom Alo will try to remain in touch with people through objective journalism, creativity and cooperation.

The newspaper also accorded reception to 10 staffs for their performance.

## 12 VIP prisoners

**FROM PAGE 1**

"The list was provided to the BSMU authorities formally with a request to send them back," the IG-Prisons added.

In another attack, a policeman was killed and three others wounded when they were shot at by gunmen driving in a vehicle in the southeastern Baghdad district of Al-Gadhdh.

An Iraqi police major was also wounded along with his two sons when a bomb planted in their car exploded in Al-Wahda in the centre of the capital.

Iraqi security officials claim that insurgents are now resorting to using smaller bombs and planting them in vehicles.

**Prothom Alo**

**FROM PAGE 16**

the board of directors Shahnaz Rahman, Atikur Rahman, Saifur Rahman, Arshad Walir Rahman, Simin Hossain, Shezrib Haque, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, among others, were present.

"We are indeed faced with a dilemma here," said a top BNP leader. "We are always an election-oriented party, but we are wary of how this government and the Election Commission (EC) are biased against us."

Meanwhile, Majlis-e-Shura, the highest policy-making body of Jamaat-e-Islami, has decided in favour of participating in the polls, and will place their arguments at today's crucial meeting of the alliance, said party sources.

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