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Manifesto should add actions if lost in polls

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties should bring a change in their election manifestos mentioning strategies about their dos and don'ts if defeated in the national polls, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

"In traditional manifestos political parties mention only the work strategy of what they would do if they win the election. But it's very necessary as well to mention their strategies if they are defeated," said Dr Badiul Alam Muzumdar, secretary of Shushashone Jannoy Nagarik (Shujan).

Badiul Alam presented the keynote speech in the roundtable on "Election manifesto of the political parties and citizen expectations" held at the National Press Club.

He said it is very important to mention in the manifestos that the parties, if defeated, would show responsible attitude as an opposition party or alliance. They should mention that they will accept the election results, make parliament the centre of realising demands instead of the streets, formulate a shadow cabinet, and help the government promote the country, he added.

He also said the political parties should reach a consensus to abolish the caretaker government system after one term so that the elected government can play its role during elections.

He emphasised the need of establishing an independent secretariat for the Election Commission, giving it financial freedom and more power. Besides, he suggests continuing the ongoing efforts to

ensure transparency of EC's activities for effective democracy.

The roundtable organised by Shujan was moderated by former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan.

Chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said: "We don't get any word for the villagers, although they represent six crore of the eight crore voters."

He said though the parties ask votes from farmers, labourers and fishermen they do not mention anything about them in the manifestos. Moreover, the parties should focus on environmental and climate change issues in their manifesto, he observed.

Former ambassador Waliur Rahman said political parties make many election pledges before polls

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Police charge truncheons on Jamaat men in front of the north gate of Baitul Mukarram when they come out after a rally yesterday. Story on page 1

Mosharraf, Altaf freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP ministers Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Altaf Hossain Choudhury were freed on bail yesterday afternoon from the prison cells of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star, "The two former ministers were released from the

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US-LED FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN Pak militants loot supply trucks

AP, AFP, Peshawar

Dozens of masked insurgents blocked a mountain pass and hijacked at gunpoint a convoy of trucks carrying military vehicles and other supplies bound for US-led forces in Afghanistan, an official said yesterday.

Attacks are common against supply trucks that use the Khyber

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Pass in Pakistan's northwest to ferry supplies to US and Nato troops across the border, but Monday's raid was particularly brazen.

Some 60 masked gunmen blocked the route at several points and assaulted the convoy, said Fazal Mahmood, an administration official for the Khyber tribal region.

He made the remark at a press

Govt's legitimacy to be at stake if polls not held by Dec 31

Suggests Akbar Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) Chairman Akbar Ali Khan yesterday suggested that the Election Commission (EC) may consider taking the government to court if it creates any obstacles to holding the parliamentary polls.

All smiles and compliments, President-elect Obama and his wife, Michelle, called on President Bush and first lady Laura Bush Monday in a White House visit that was part political ritual, part practical introduction, and a striking symbol of the historic transfer of power to come.

Bush, Obama discuss economy, foreign policy

AP, Washington

The president and Obama talked war and financial crisis. Laura Bush and Michelle Obama talked about raising daughters in the nation's most famous house.

Then Obama flew back to Chicago to work on setting up the new administration that will take over on Jan. 20.

Mrs. Obama came earlier than her husband to the nation's capital, and stayed after him, hunting a new school for the kids by visiting

two of the city's best-known private schools.

If first impressions matter, Obama and his wife displayed one similarity to the super-punctual Bushes, pulling up to the White House's South Portico 11 minutes early. The couples traded warm and easy greetings in the crisp autumn sunshine, with the wives exchanging pleasantries about the fall hues

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BIMSTEC MEET
CA leaves for
Delhi today

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed leaves for New Delhi today to attend the second summit meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec).

The Bimstec summit will be held at Hotel Taj Palace in the Indian capital tomorrow. The CA will deliver the country statement in the plenary session of the summit.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand are members of the

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Mashrafe to miss Tigers' final ODI

BISHWAJIT ROY in East London

Bangladesh pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza will miss today's third and final one-dayer due to a back injury, further denting Bangladesh's attempt to salvage some pride.

BTB will telecast the day-night game live from 6:15 pm today.

Already having lost the series, after second-ranked South Africa clinched the first two games by 61 and 128 runs respectively, Bangladesh announced their 13-member team leaving out

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Prayer Timing		
November 12		
	Azam	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrab	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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