



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Star Lifestyle

TRANSCOM
DIGITAL

PHILIPS TRANSTEC

CHANGHONG

Customer Care Center:
8855366-8, 01712 885463

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XVIII No. 308 • DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2008 • AGRAHAYAN 11, 1415 BS • ZILQAD 26, 1429 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00 • www.thedailystar.net

AL's yes to JS polls, no to upazila schedule

Wants the election process to start after JS polls; may review nomination in around 60 seats

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The Awami League (AL) last night demanded scrapping of the upazila election schedule but formally accepted the fresh parliamentary polls schedule.

"The upazila polls schedule has to be cancelled and the Election Commission must set a date after the national elections for filing nomination papers for the upazila polls," AL spokesman Syed Ashraf Islam said while briefing newsmen at Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi.

As per the upazila polls schedule, the last day for filing nomination papers is December 13. The final day for withdrawing nominations is December 31 and upazila election day is January 22, 2009.

"We accepted the election schedule [parliamentary election] responsibly...

considering the interest of the country and democracy," Ashraf said a day after the chief election commissioner announced a fresh polls schedule.

AL's formal acceptance of the schedule removes the uncertainty over major political parties taking part in December 29 polls since BNP had already said that they would take part in the elections.

AL also demanded complete and immediate withdrawal of the state of emergency.

AL may review its nominations in more than 60 constituencies following widespread dissatisfaction among grassroots-level leaders over party picks.

An expert team of AL, which has been reviewing party nominations for several days, handed over a list of around 60 nominations to AL President Sheikh Hasina yesterday. The team suggested that she should make changes of nomina-

tions in those constituencies in order to ensure victory against candidates of BNP-Jamaat alliance, sources said.

The team also suggested that the AL chief review a number of the nominations in constituencies of the capital. It observed that party nominations were given before the last date for submitting nomination papers and blamed the Election Commission (EC) for the problems the AL has been facing for at least a week.

Grassroots-level leaders have been demonstrating in many constituencies and even in front of Hasina's Sudha Sadan home for several days against AL high-ups' picks.

Many rebel candidates of AL, who failed to get party tickets, have submitted nomination papers against the party picks in a number of constituencies. AL's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



POLL RULES VIOLATION

EC vows to go tough on Mannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will take action against Bikalpadhara Bangladesh Secretary General Major (ret) Abdul Mannan for 'violating the electoral code of conduct by using a helicopter'.

It has already directed the electoral enquiry committee in Laxmipur to investigate the breach and recommend action, said sources in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

4-party joins polls on 2 conditions

Demands full emergency withdrawal, scrapping or suspension of EC power to cancel candidature; nomination paper to be available from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance announced late last night that it would contest the December 29 national polls if the state of emergency is withdrawn on or before December 11 and the Election Commission's (EC) power to cancel candidature is scrapped or suspended.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain came up with the announcement after back-to-back meetings of the party's standing committee and four-party alliance at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

December 11 is the closing date for submitting nominations in the parliamentary polls.

At the same press briefing, BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said the party will start selling nomination forms at its central office in Naya Paltan today.

Aspiring candidates were asked to collect and submit forms within 10:00pm tomorrow. They would have to buy a candidacy form for Tk 1,000 and pay Tk 20,000 more during its sub-

mission.

Interviews of nomination seekers will begin on November 27. The BNP Parliamentary Board headed by Chairperson Khaleda Zia will finalise the nominations.

"We are always an election-oriented party and eager to participate in a free, fair and credible election," Delwar said.

He added that due to time constraint, they would have to complete the nomination process quickly.

Asked what they would do if their demands were not met, he said they might do something like what Awami League (AL) did before the cancelled January 22 election last year.

AL withdrew its nominations at the last moment and opted out of the election.

He said their alliance would meet again if their demands are not met and decide on the next course of action.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami, the second largest component of the alliance, said it would

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



It's all because of tea bill, 100 taka change

8 hurt, prison van burnt at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday set a police van on fire near Shahidullah Hall during a string of clashes between students and policemen on the campus over changing a 100 taka note.

Witnesses said at least eight people, including students and policemen, were injured in the clashes in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 4:00pm.

The clash ensued between the residents of Shahidullah Hall and members of DMCH police camp when the officer-in-charge of the camp tried to calm a chaos involving the students and a tea stall owner near emergency unit gate over

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

A prison van burns in front of Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University yesterday. Students torched the van when police tried to stop a brawl between students and a tea stall owner. The scuffle began over the change of a 100-taka note.

FAKE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Falu's counsel says sorry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A counsel of former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu yesterday told the court he "mistakenly" attached the controversial medical report on his client's health to his bail petition in a relief scam case.

Falu's Advocate-on-Record (AOR) Moulavi Md Wahidullah made an unconditional apology to the Supreme Court (SC) for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bhuiyan, 'reformists' to get BNP nod

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP, faced with a crisis of candidates in a number of constituencies, is trying to woo some Awami League (AL) leaders who have been denied nominations, and place them on its ticket for the December 29 general election.

Besides, sources said, the high-command has lately

been in contact with the former lawmakers including Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who had been estranged from the mainstream BNP following a move towards intra-party reforms after 1/11.

Though the party starts selling its nomination forms only today, it has already settled on candidates for many constituencies on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Serving the Sentinels of Border

Our First Booth at BDR, Peelkhana, Dhaka goes into operation from today

Bank Asia
Limited



Only an expert can spot the flawless

Which is why we won the ICAB Award for Best Bank in Bangladesh for published accounts and reports 4th time in a row.

It is a testament to our commitment of providing a banking service that is truly accountable, transparent and efficient. On this occasion, we would like to express profound gratitude to our customers, patrons and employees whose unconditional support and effort has made us worthy of this great recognition by the expert Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh.

Your loyalty and hard work makes us stand out like a gem among others.



Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference

www.prime-bank.com