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DRAFT ELECTORAL MANIFESTO

AL pledges to tackle graft, food prices

Assures disclosure of wealth records of MPs, their family members to ensure transparency

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Awami League (AL) has drafted its electoral manifesto with promises to publish wealth accounts and sources of income of the prime minister, ministers, lawmakers and their families to ensure transparency of those in government.

The party says containing price hike of essentials will be its top priority if voted to power.

It will ban the use of religion in politics, and bring the war criminals to justice.

To fight the graft menace, it will allow

AL MANIFESTO

Tough action against militancy

Ban on use of religion in politics

100 reserved seats in JS

Deputy speaker from opposition

Trial of war criminals

Formulation of charter of political behaviour

the Anti-Corruption Commission to function independently.

"Some kind of truth and accountability commission may also be considered to investigate corruption of the last seven years," reads the draft planned to be placed tomorrow before the central working committee, AL's highest decision-making body.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the draft that says the party will deal with terrorism and militancy with an iron hand. Besides, it will be tough on loan defaulters, tender manipulators, black

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PARTY NOMINATION Hannan Shah accuses govt of interference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah yesterday accused the caretaker government of interfering in the nomination process of his party.

"The government gave many suggestions during selection of our party candidates which had made a negative impacts on the nomination process," he told reporters at his residence in the city.

Asked whether electoral alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami would yield any negative results in the election in the month of Liberation War victory, Hannan replied in the negative.

"During my visits to different areas of the country, I have noticed that people are not

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Babar, MK Alamgir, shown the door

Nomination of many leaders cancelled during scrutiny

WASIM BIN HABIB

The nomination papers of some bigwigs of various political parties, who filed nominations as party nominees and independent candidates in constituencies across the country, were cancelled yesterday, the first day of scrutiny of nomination papers.

The returning officers (RO) cancelled their nominations on various grounds including conviction in corruption cases, defaulting on bank loans and utility service bills, giving wrong information and document forgery.

Some of the nomination papers had also been withheld and the ROs will decide on those today, the last day of scrutiny.

The aspirants whose nomination papers were cancelled include former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Proshika Chief and United Citizens' Movement President Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed, former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim, Awami League (AL) leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, BNP leader Maj (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, former lawmaker Manjurul



Lutfozzaman Babar

MK Alamgir

Ahsan Munshi's wife Majeda Ahsan and BNP leader Shamsuzzaman Dudu.

Decisions on the withheld nomination papers of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Liberal Democratic Party President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed, BNP candidate Gias Uddin Quader Chowdhury and AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will be made today.

The nomination paper of Dr Quazi Faruque, who filed nomination for Khulna-1 constituency, was cancelled for defaulting on loans.

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ALLEGED LAUNDERING ACC chief says he is ready to quit, if needed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday said he is ready to quit if necessary.

The ACC chairman made the remark while replying to a query from journalists on a newspaper report that said the law ministry advised the authorities concerned to send him on forced leave to invest-
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42 get legal shield to contest polls

HC directs EC not to disqualify K Mahbub Uddin as loan defaulter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-two of the 130 loan-defaulters are going to contest the national polls securing legal protection, according to yesterday's information from the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) of the Bangladesh Bank.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) yesterday directed the Election Commission (EC) and the government not to disqualify BNP candidate

for Dhaka-12 constituency Advocate Khandaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed as a loan-defaulter.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday told reporters: "As a citizen of the country I don't want the loan-defaulters to take part in the elections. But the government has nothing to do if they contest through the loopholes in the laws."

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Govt trying to bring disabled to mainstream development

Says chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government is continuing its efforts to involve the physically challenged in the mainstream of development.

"I believe, persons with disabilities can show success at any work if they get proper education, training, nursing
SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

4-PARTY NOMINEE IN BOGRA-1 Shokrana accused of hiding his past

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

A resident in Bogra town alleges that four-party alliance candidate for Bogra-1 (Sariakandi-Sonatala) constituency Mohammad Shokrana has concealed information in the affidavit submitted with his nomination papers.

Anisuzzaman Mintu in a written allegation submitted
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Mohammad Shokrana

Biman ends pre-hajj flight operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited has completed its pre-hajj flight operation.

It carried 29,536 pilgrims by its 40 hajj flights from Dhaka to Jeddah of which 7,599 are performing hajj under government management.

The post-hajj operation will commence on December 11 and is expected to continue till January 12, 2009.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurated Biman's hajj operation on October 31.

More changes in 4-party nominations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of severe criticism of nomination decisions, the BNP yesterday made several changes to party nominations for the December 29 general election.

The party high-ups brought back some of its candidates who had been dropped from the nomination list.

Party insiders said BNP has settled the issue of seat sharing with Jamaat-e-Islami, a
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Renewable Energy Policy approved

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved Bangladesh's Renewable Energy Policy 2008 for encouraging investment in this sector to generate electricity from renewable sources.

Under the policy, an independent institution styled Sustainable Energy Development Agency (SEDA) will be set up for development of the energy sector with government-private investment.

A meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser
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SERIAL BLASTS CASE 13 accused acquitted in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A court here yesterday acquitted 13 people, including seven activists of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), of charges of serial bomb blasts in front of Barisal Club on August 17, 2005.

The are Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, Jalal Arefin, Hafez Saiful Islam, Abu Yusuf Majumdar, Abu Solaiman Sujon, Md Maruf, Jasimuddin, Abdus Sobahan, Giasuddin, Sarwar, Abdur Rahim, Zahid Babu and Ziaur Rahman Zia.
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Investigators inspect the burnt room at the apartment of Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam (inset), a candidate in the upcoming parliamentary election, in the city's Lalmatia area yesterday.

FIRE IN APARTMENT Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam badly burnt, son dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam, also a nominee of the Awami League-led grand alliance for the upcoming parliamentary election, suffered severe burn injuries and his son was burnt alive in a mysterious fire at their Lalmatia apartment in the capital in the early hours yesterday.

Nurul Islam, who has filed nomination papers for Noakhali-1 constituency, was first admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and then shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the afternoon in an unconscious state, put on a life support system.

Talking to reporters at the
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Parties get more time to fix picks EC bends rules on multiple nomination

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In breach of the electoral laws, the Election Commission (EC) yesterday asked the political parties to rank their picks for a constituency in order of preference, and inform the returning officers about it during the scrutiny of nominations.

The Representation of the People Order (RPO) says a party having more than one nominee against a seat must give the ROs a single name before the scrutiny starts.

"Provided that any registered political party may primarily nominate more than one candidate and if more than one candidate is nominated, the name of one nominated candidate shall be sent to the Returning Officer in writing before the scrutiny of the nomination papers," says article 12 (3a) (b) of the RPO.

To issue the fresh instructions yesterday, the EC cancelled its earlier letter asking the political parties to notify the ROs of their final selection before the examination of candidacy papers, said sources at the EC Secretariat.

The commission issued the letter on November 27. Seventeen registered political parties have multiple candidates vying for a seat. Of them, Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party have more than one candidate in a good number of constituencies.
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Only 13pc of ADP executed in 4 months

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In continuation of last fiscal year's slow progress, only 13 percent of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) has been implemented in the first four months of the current fiscal year.

Though the development expenditure is slow, pace of revenue expenditure is faster due mainly to higher rates of interest payment by the government against both domestic and foreign borrowing.

In the last fiscal year the implementation rate was 11 percent in the first quarter. However, sources say though the implementation this year is 2 percent higher, for the first time the size of ADP was downsized over that of previous year.

The ADP implementation last year was the most sluggish as its rate was from 14 to 15 percent and more.

Sources in the planning ministry say the implementation is usually sluggish in the first half of the year. But as there is no political persuasion or pressure for development work this year, it has become slower.

Apart from some exceptional cases, the government officials this year are in a wait-and-see mood for the elected government to take

over.

In the current fiscal year, the size of ADP was Tk 25,600 crore, which is 3.39 percent lower than the last fiscal year's original ADP. Normally, every year the size of original ADP is 5 percent higher or more than the previous year's.

According to the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) report from July to October, the implementation was Tk 3,282 crore or 13 percent of Tk 25,600 crore.

Of this, the local component is 13 percent or Tk 1,810 crore and project aid 12 percent or Tk 1,472 crore.

In the last fiscal year the first quarterly implementation was 11 percent or Tk 3,039 crore with 11 percent local component or Tk 1,912 crore and 12 percent project aid or Tk 1,127 crore.

Among the major ministries, Rural Development and Cooperative Division spent 37 percent of its total allocation, the agriculture ministry 16 percent, communications ministry 7 percent, local government division 19 percent, education ministry 20 percent, and health and family welfare ministry 13 percent.

Twenty-four ministries and divisions out of
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



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