

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

Plus the STAR

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 318

DHAKA FRIDAY DECEMBER 5, 2008

www.thedailystar.net

AGRAHAYAN 21, 1415 BS • ZILHAJ 6, 1429 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: Tk 10.00

Scrutiny serves AL, BNP major salvo

Nomination of AL, BNP candidates in 19 constituencies cancelled

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) and BNP plunge into deep crisis as the scrutiny of nomination papers by election officials has left the arch-rivals without an official candidate in at least 19 constituencies.

In some constituencies, even the back-up or independent candidates loyal to the electoral alliances led by two parties were declared unfit to contest the polls.

At least 12 BNP candidates were declared unfit to contest the polls while five candidates of AL lost their candidature. Most of them lost their candidature due to non-payment of

outstanding bills or loans.

The parties are now desperately looking for independents to support in the upcoming polls. AL leaders believe that it would be very difficult for them to get their rivals beaten in the constituencies where the AL ticket holders lost their candidature.

Nominations of Air Vice-marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker of Pabna-2 constituency, Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdus Salam of Mymensingh-9, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury of Feni-2, Mohammad Ali of Noakhali-6, M Idris Ali of Munshiganj-3 and Ataur Rahman Shamim of Moulvibazar-2 were cancelled among others due to defaulting on loans and bills.

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Mayors barred from JS polls

HC upholds EC rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday upheld the Election Commission's (EC) decision, banning city corporation mayors from contesting the parliamentary election.

The court dismissed the writ petition filed by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka challenging the EC's decision.

After hearing, the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Farah Mahbub delivered the verdict on the grounds that the incumbent mayors are not eligible for contesting the

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Big guns get exit order

557 nomination papers in 64 districts cancelled so far

STAR REPORT

The nomination papers of some candidates including a few former lawmakers of both the major electoral alliances were cancelled yesterday, the last day of scrutiny of nomination papers.

Returning officers (RO) cancelled nominations of BNP leaders Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas, Amanullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, MA Hashem, and Shahabuddin Chowdhury, AL candidates Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman, Khorshed Alam Sujon and M Idris Ali, JP leaders Engineer Abdul Jabbar and Mujibur Rahman.

Election Commission sources said 557 nomination papers have been cancelled in various constituencies in 64 districts. Of the 203 nominations filed for 15

constituencies in Dhaka city, 55 had been cancelled, Aziz Khan, divisional commissioner and RO, Dhaka Division, told reporters at his office.

Of those, the nomination papers of 14 candidates were cancelled for defaulting on loans.

The nominations of BNP's reformist leader ZA Khan and former lawmaker Abdus Salam Pintu were also cancelled.

The nomination paper of Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker, Sector Commanders' Forum chief and AL nominee for Pabna-2 constituency, was cancelled for defaulting on loans, reports our Pabna Correspondent.

The RO office in Pabna said the IFIC Bank claimed that he defaulted on bank loan of Tk 14 crore. AK Khandaker, deputy commander-in-chief of the liberation war, took the loan from the bank when he was

the chief of 'Air Parbat', sources said.

The nomination paper of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad (Habiganj-3) was declared invalid as another aspirant filed nomination as a JP candidate for the same constituency, reports our correspondent from Habiganj.

The nomination of journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, who filed nomination for Feni-1 as an AL candidate, was cancelled for defaulting on loans. The RO also cancelled nominations of eight candidates in different constituencies in Feni, reports our Feni Correspondent.

In Bhola, the nomination paper of BNP leader Hafiz Ibrahim, who filed nomination for Bhola-2 as an independent candidate, was cancelled on Wednesday as he was convicted in corruption cases. The RO also cancelled the nominations of four

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Nurul Islam's 36-hour fight for life ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam died yesterday afternoon after 36 hours of fight for life with fatal burn

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ELECTORAL MANIFESTO AL pledges to review caretaker system

Vows to continue electoral reforms

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) in its draft electoral manifesto pledged to review, if needed, the caretaker government system and will continue electoral reforms to strengthen the country's election system.

AL policymakers made plans to come up with the promise as the formation and function of the caretaker government since October, 2006, has been mired in controversy, resulting in the long delay in holding the national elections, party insiders said.

The AL's draft electoral manifesto says that if the party is voted to power, a reliable election system and regular elections will be ensured, if needed through a close review of the caretaker government system.

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6 burnt alive in city fire

10 hurt; 50 small factories, 100 houses gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three children and three women were burned alive in two fire incidents that gutted around 50 small plastic factories, 20 warehouses and 100 houses at Lalbagh in the city yesterday.

The first fire occurred around 9:00am at East Islambagh and the second one at Islambagh Namapara Mosque Lane, just 200 yards from the spot of the first fire, around 12:30pm, killing the six people and injuring 10.

The fires damaged properties worth over Tk 4 crore while a few opportunists looted valuables from the houses and factories as the victims and fire-fighters were busy trying to put out the blazes.

At least 15 fire engines fought for over six

hours to control the fires. They had difficulty in reaching the spots and douse the flames as they were at very congested areas with narrow roads and lanes.

The deceased were identified as Nasrin Begum, 28, her 13-month-old son Emon and five-year-old daughter Sharmin, another five-month-old infant Sajjad and his grandmother Sufia Begum, 40, and Amena Begum, 35. All six were neighbours and were reportedly sleeping when the fire started. They lived in rented houses belonging to Badiuzzaman.

Among the injured, four were admitted to the Burn and Plastic Surgery unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as their condition was stated to be critical. They are landlord Badiuzzaman, 55, Khalilur Rahman,

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Bail denial under EPR illegal

HC rules on writ petition of last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared illegal and void some provisions of the Emergency Powers Ordinance (EPO), 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR), 2007 that deny some rights including that to obtain bail in cases filed under these provisions and rules.

The HC declared illegal the provisions suspending HC jurisdiction to stay the convictions handed down by the trial courts against the accused during proceeding of the appeals and the rights of the people to move to the courts against the government actions under the ordinance and rules.

The court also cancelled the provisions empowering the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to transfer the cases filed under the EPR to other courts.

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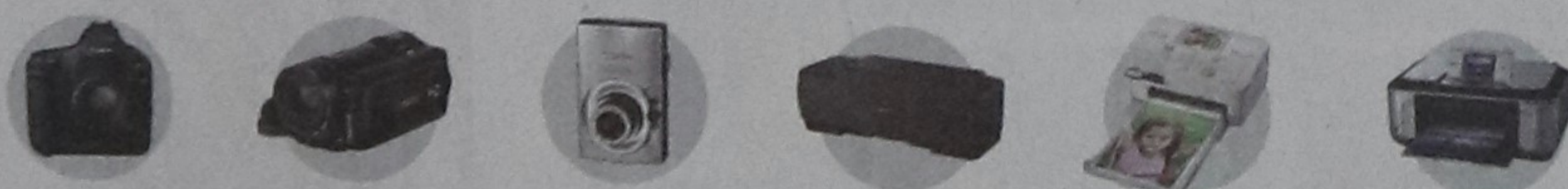
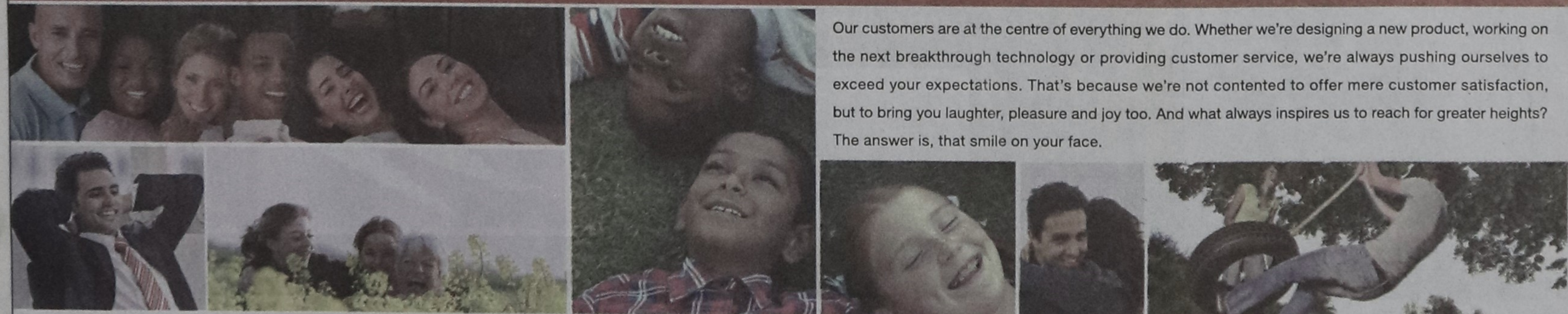
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Delighting You Always



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Our customers are at the centre of everything we do. Whether we're designing a new product, working on the next breakthrough technology or providing customer service, we're always pushing ourselves to exceed your expectations. That's because we're not contented to offer mere customer satisfaction, but to bring you laughter, pleasure and joy too. And what always inspires us to reach for greater heights? The answer is, that smile on your face.



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