

ELECTION MANIFESTO ANNOUNCED

Manjur pledges planned city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP-backed mayoral candidate M Manjur Alam Manju yesterday announced his electoral manifesto highlighting the development of Chittagong as a commercial and tourist city of international standard.

The manifesto, which the Chattagram Unnayan Andolan leaders termed as "development guidelines for Chittagong city", includes 17 short-term, 10 mid-term and 29 long-term proposals.

The manifesto emphasised developing the city in a planned way with special focus on ridding the city of waterlogging and traffic congestion; ensuring urban facilities and public

services and upgrading Chittagong port as a modern and prospective one, which would be free from political activities and intervention by vested interest group.

Chattagram Unnayan Andolan Convener Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury read out the 56-point manifesto with the slogan titled "Change for a better Chittagong" at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club in the afternoon.

Manjur announced to make sincere efforts to help develop Chittagong following the manifesto.

While putting up the manifesto Prof Kashem said unplanned construction of structures destroyed the beauty of the city and brought about serious

environmental degradation.

He said instead of being public service provider Chittagong City Corporation rather has turned into a commercial organisation to serve personal interest and a vested quarter.

Chittagong port was kept non-functional on different occasions over nasty politics and due to narrow interest of vested groups, he alleged.

As such, Chattagram Unnayan Andolan -- a citizen's platform comprising professionals, nominated Manjur, who is well known for different benevolent and public welfare activities and beyond any allegation of corruption, nepotism or indulging in violence, he said.

In the manifesto, development of

drainage system with expansion and re-excavation of Chaktai canal to rid the city of waterlogging; renovation and construction of roads with parking lots and spacious footpaths to facilitate smooth vehicular and pedestrian movement; setting up of vocational institutes for free training to create employment for unemployed slum dwellers; all-out cooperation to hawkers and vendors to earn living; extension and modernisation of city bus service; not to increase existing holding and other taxes and easing the tax payment system; help develop good relations between the workers and owners of garments industry; facilitating unhindered information to public for ensuring transparency in CCC, among others, featured as the short-term development.

The proposed mid-term development includes setting up of evening or night shift schools for floating and slum-dwelling youths and women of the city; initiative to reopen closed down mills and factories; project-based affective initiative to help ensure water, power, sanitary, education and health services for slum-dwellers.

The long-term development proposal includes ensuring proper and maximum utilisation of Chittagong port with enhanced efficiency; to help construction of bridge and tunnel linking the other side of the river Karnaphuli for expansion of industrial units and business activities there; setting up and expansion of health centres to ensure health service; implementation of residential projects to address housing problems of poor and distress people under public private partnership.

Chattagram Unnayan Andolan Member Secretary Advocate Nurul Islam, Prof Mahub Ullah, among others, were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, Manjur carried out mass contact and campaign seeking votes in different areas of north Kattoli, Pahartali and Lalkhan Bazar wards.

On the other hand, BNP Chittagong city President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Vice-Chairman Abdullah Al Noman also carried out campaign in different areas of the city seeking vote for Manjur.



Different professional groups form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of the decision to cancel declaration of the daily Amar Desh.

One-third childhood cancer curable

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One-third childhood cancer can be cured totally in the country if it is diagnosed and treated at early stage, health experts said yesterday.

They were speaking at a discussion organised by Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital on the occasion of the World Cancer Survivors' Day at the Ahsania Mission Bhaban auditorium at Dhanmondi in the city.

The experts said a huge number of children suffer from cancer in the country. But the exact number of these children is yet to be known as there is no statistics.

They said awareness should be created among the people so that they (people) can take the issue seriously and go for early detection.

National Prof MR Khan in his speech as the chief guest stressed the need for changing lifestyle and food habit. He also urged the people to avoid tobacco and tobacco related products.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said if cancer survivors are provided with physical, social and economic support, they could lead an active and productive life. In this way, we should pay respect to the cancer survivors.

Cancer survivors Abdul Matin Sarder, Pearsa Begum and Mosabber Hossain also spoke at the programme.

Prof Emeritus of Amsterdam University Dr ABM F Karim, Project Director of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Dr Lutfar Rahman and Director of Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital Brig Gen (Retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim also spoke at the discussion.



BNP-backed mayor candidate M Manjur Alam Manju greets voters during campaign in Foy's Lake area in the port city of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Advertisement for Baridhara Diplomat Tower by Vistaara Architects and Amader Bari Ltd. Includes details about the building and contact information.

FATWA ON HILLA MARRIAGE HC rule on govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the government within three weeks to explain why it should not be directed to file a criminal case against four persons, who allegedly forced a woman to receive a hilla marriage in Bogra in 2007.

The four are Harunur Rashid, Abu Taher, Azizur Rahman and Ansar Ali.

An HC bench of Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Md Zakir Hossain issued the rule following a supplementary petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

Earlier on May 6, 2007, another HC bench issued a

rule upon the government to explain why the rule of fatwa should not be restricted.

The previous rule was issued in response to a writ petition filed by the HRPB following a report was published on the daily Judantor on May 1, 2007, saying that a woman was forced to get hilla marriage in Doshatika village in Bogra.

HRPB yesterday filed the supplementary petition along with the pending writ petition, seeking direction from the HC on the government to file criminal case against the four persons on charge of forcing a woman to receive a hilla marriage in the name of fatwa.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner.

Advertisement for Asset Developments targeting owners of land plots. Includes the slogan 'Owners of Land Plots Are Invited To Discuss Their Proposals' and contact information.

Large advertisement for LG LCD TV featuring the World Cup 2010 offer. Includes details about the 9-month 0% interest installment facility and other benefits like free home theater.