

# No black money, muscle in Dhaka

## Mayoral candidates of south pledge together

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a dozen mayoral aspirants out of the total 20 in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday joined their hands together and vowed to prevent the use of black money and muscle power in the April 28 city elections.

They also pledged to combat corruption, ensure transparency and accountability of the city corporation activities.

At the same programme, over a hundred voters took an oath to cast ballots for honest and eligible candidates.

The interactive meeting was jointly organised by Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN) and Nagorik Odhikar Sangrokkhan Forum at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

Addressing the voters, Awami League-backed contender Sayeed Khokon said, "Everybody must take initiatives for the city's development. If elected, I will coordinate these initiatives for making the city liveable."

Replying to a voter, he said he would rehabilitate the city hawkers.

Bazlur Rashid Firoz, backed by the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), said a "metropolitan government" would be formed to bring all government agencies working for the city under an umbrella to ensure better public services.

Golam Mawla Rony, also an ex-AL lawmaker, said he would ensure chemical-free food, while Baharane Sultan Bahar pledged to reign in the spiralling house rents.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-backed candidate Shahidul Islam said he would reduce taxes.



# Tabith unveils 83-point manifesto for North Dhaka

## Safe food, healthcare for low-income people major pledges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sorting Dhaka city's problems into 12 categories, BNP-backed mayor candidate in the north Tabith Awal unveiled an 83-point manifesto yesterday with promises to ensure safe food, healthcare for the poor, environmental protection, and public safety.

Freeing the city from crippling traffic jams and improving transport facilities also dominate his charter of pledges.

"Though regrettable, it's a fact that Dhaka city which has a wonderful history and tradition is now being identified as an unliveable city in international surveys.

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# Mahi for safe neighbourhoods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahi B Chowdhury, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh-backed candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation, yesterday pledged to build a safe, vibrant, and shiny city.

Presenting his seven-page manifesto at a press conference at a hotel, Mahi said he prepared it in the light of the opinions of people of all ages.

In his innovative manifesto, Mahi pledged to resolve the city's problems through a "SMART" approach where S stands for specific, M for measurable, A for achievable, R for realistic and T for time-bound. "It means we will have to identify the problems, and the problems will have to be measurable for solution," he said.

For example, he said, it should be countable what steps "I have taken to curb corruption in the first 100 days, and one, two or five years."

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# Kafee vows to improve lives of the poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayoral candidate of Dhaka North City Corporation Abdullah Al Kafee, backed by the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, yesterday announced his election manifesto with the promise to provide education, healthcare and housing facilities to low-income people.

He also promised to launch "e-services" in the administration.

"I would make sure that people don't have to come to the corporation's office in person. They would be able to access our services with their smart phones," he said at Jatiya Press Club.

He also promised to set up a 24-hour helpline to deliver services and receive complaints.

Kafee emphasised decentralisation

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# Jam free Dhaka dream of Milon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dreaming of a Dhaka city free from traffic jams, Jatiya Party-backed mayoral candidate in the south Saifuddin Ahmed Milon yesterday came up with a 18-point election manifesto which is also dominated by promises of ensuring smooth supplies of gas, power and water and fighting the mosquito menace.

His other pledges include containing crimes, including extortion, ending waterlogging, and turning the city into a green one by planting trees on every road island.

Saifuddin revealed his manifesto through a press conference.

About the untimely and haphazard digging of roads, he said he would take a coordinated approach for carrying out development activities.

Like most of the mayoral aspirants, Ahmed did not give details of how he would translate his pledges

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# Afroza Abbas demands CCTV cameras at polling centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Afroza Abbas, the wife of BNP-blessed mayoral candidate in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mirza Abbas, demanded installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the polling stations to ensure a fair voting.

"The government is saying it wants a fair election and so do we. The polling centres should get CCTV cameras so that people can watch how the voting is going on," she told reporters while campaigning in Sayedabad.

Later, she also visited Jatrabari, Mir Hajirbagh, Dhalpur, Bibirbagicha, Sheikhpara, and Shyampur. Abbas' election manifesto will be announced within a couple of days, Afroza said.

When journalists drew her attention to her husband's main rival Sayeed Khokon's remarks that she should go to the EC to file complaints, if any, she called Khokon her child and asked him not to create obstacles in her campaign.

"You're like my child. Please mind your own business," she said.

On Wednesday, Afroza alleged that Khokon was not abiding by the election code of conduct in his campaign. In response, he asked Afroza to go file complaints with the EC.

Addressing a street rally

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