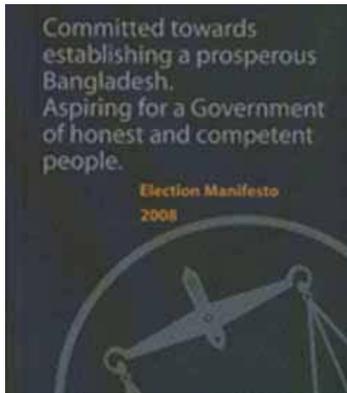


Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami

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Election Manifesto 2008: Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami



In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Beneficent.

Election Manifesto-2008

Committed towards establishing a prosperous Bangladesh.
Aspiring for a Government of honest and competent people

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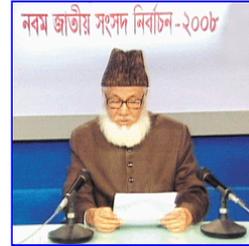
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Introduction

Bangladesh gained independence as a result of the supreme sacrifices made by its beloved freedom fighters and by the people of the country at large. People of Bangladesh are religious and committed to democracy. God has given this country enormous wealth. It has natural resources, mineral resources and human resources. It is therefore perfectly possible to build a prosperous Bangladesh by exploiting these resources.

The aims and objects of Bangladesh Jamaat-i-Islami are economic emancipation of the people, ethnic and religious harmony, cultural enrichment, preservation of history and tradition, justice – economic, social and political, and above all to preserve and protect the freedom and sovereignty of Bangladesh. To realise these objectives, Jamaat seeks to establish a corruption free, just, equitable and prosperous Bangladesh.

Election - 2008



Ameer-E-Jamaat's speech on BTV for the nation

WORLD NEWS HEADLINES



Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed Distributes relief goods among the cyclone-hit affected People in Barisal



Iftar party at Sonargaon Hotel Dhaka today 5 o'clock in the afternoon 19th September, 2007, Diplomats and High Commissioner of the different countries deployed in Bangladesh.



To achieve these objectives, Jamaat will cooperate with all democratic and patriotic forces of the country. As a matter of fact, Jamaat wants a national consensus insofar as maintaining the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, to preserve and strengthen the democratic process and maintain economic development. Additionally, Jamaat will continue to resist all attempts and efforts designed against the country and against the principles of Quran and Sunnah. As a primary step to establish an Islamic welfare state, the existing laws of the country will be suitably amended and necessary administrative reforms will be carried out. Jamaat believes that only government of the people elected through adult franchise can bring these reforms, gradually transforming Bangladesh into a prosperous welfare state.

Five years of the 4-Party Coalition Government

In 2001, the 4-Party Alliance was formed to preserve the freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bangladesh, to undertake programmes of economic reconstruction and poverty alleviation, to restore press freedom, to eradicate corruption and combat terrorism, to institutionalise democracy and to restore fundamental rights of the people. The Alliance was committed to continue with the democratic movement from the same platform, to participate in the election unitedly and, if elected, form a coalition government. And with overwhelming support of the people the 4-Party Alliance obtained a two-third majority in the Parliament. Accordingly, the Alliance government was formed. Jamaat shared power for the first time with two Cabinet Ministers. In that Parliament Jamaat had 17 MP's and later on had 4 additional female MP's amongst the 30 reserved seats for women. At the end of the 5-year term, on 29th October 2006, the Alliance government transferred power to a Caretaker Government under the Constitution.

Success of the Alliance Government

In the five years of the Coalition Government, Jamaat's two Ministers between them had run three Ministries, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Industries Ministry and the Ministry of Social Welfare. It is universally accepted that the two Cabinet Ministers of Jamaat run their Ministries in a transparent and efficient way, and were not involved in any corruption. However, both of them were prosecuted by the Anti-Corruption Commission merely because they were members of the cabinet purchase committee, and the cabinet purchase committee took the decision in accordance with the Rules of Business of the Government framed by the President under the authority of the Constitution. These proceedings were challenged before the High Court Division by the Jamaat Ministers and the proceedings have been stayed and they have been granted bail by the High Court Division prima facie on the ground that the proceedings were brought against them for a collateral purpose. Insofar as the success of Jamaat is concerned, the following points are worth mentioning:

Success of Jamaat

By taking part in the government of the last Coalition Government, the two ministers of Jamaat have proved that it is very much possible to run a country with efficiency and competence by remaining free from corruption, nepotism and all forms of injustice. A big proof of this is that, during the anti-corruption drive by the present caretaker government, despite all sorts of inquiry and investigation, no trace of corruption was found in the two ministries headed by the two Jamaat ministers. As part of Jamaat's success story, the following points are worth mentioning:

The Jamaat MP's played a constructive role in Parliament. They devoted themselves with all honesty and sincerity to the development work in their Constituencies.

As the Agriculture Minister the Ameer (President) of Jamaat took effective measures to achieve self-sufficiency and brought about far-reaching changes in the agricultural sector of the country.

Production of exportable agricultural products were increased.

In order to eradicate poverty and to empower the peasants, a project called "Chashir Bari – Bagan Bari" [the home of the farmer is a garden and orchard] was introduced.

In order to promote the sale of agricultural products, community markets were established.

As part of the tree plantation programme, planting fruit trees was emphasised; and thus a new era of fruit production began.

At administrative level, a full-time Director General was appointed to head Agricultural Research Institutes.

At the grass-root level, ranks of 12,000 block supervisors were upgraded to Deputy-Assistant Agriculture Officers. This innovative step boosted their morale and increased their interest in agricultural development.

For rapid industrialisation, to reduce unemployment, and to generate new employment and to establish small and medium enterprises (SMEs), an industrial policy known as Industrial Policy 2005 (IP-2005) was formulated and the SME Development Strategy 2005 was undertaken.

Modernisation of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), establishment of the National Accreditation Board and the formation of the Directorate of Patent, Design and Trademark by combining the offices of Patent and Trademark Registry.

Industries such as the caustic-chlorine plant of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) and the Khulna Hard Board Mill were re-opened.

Steps were taken to establish a National Entrepreneur Forum to provide employment for women and to ensure their participation in small and cottage industries.

The National Productivity Organisation was modernised to ensure a successful fertiliser system and the development of small and cottage industries and human resources.

Growth in the industrial sector, when Ameer of Jamaat became Minister of Industries, during the last Coalition Government surpassed all previous records.

In addition, the country witnessed substantial economic development, as many development programmes were undertaken and implemented in the agriculture and industrial sectors.

When the Secretary General of Jamaat was the Minister for Social Welfare, different programmes of credit, government grant, increased income, training, etc were undertaken for poverty alleviation and human resource development.

In order to materialise these programmes, budget was increased 4-fold.

The number of the recipients of the old age benefit was increased from 400,000 to 1700,000, and along with the increase of the allowance the budget was increased 8 times.

Diabetes hospitals, heart foundations and other medical centres were founded and expanded for providing treatment to the poor and distressed.

For the amelioration and welfare of the disabled, short- and long-term programmes were undertaken in 8 stages.

Along with the benefit system and interest-free loan for the disabled, as part the expansion of education for the disabled students, a permanent student stipend programme was established.

Ameer-e-Jamaat Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami Signing the condolence Book Kept in Pakistan Embassy in Dhaka at the death of Benazir Bhutto



Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed Distributes relief goods among the flood affected People

Steps designed to increase the income of the disabled, such as establishment of mineral water production centres and its marketing, and expansion of the plastic materials production and marketing, were taken.

National Social Welfare Policy was formulated for the first time to expand social welfare activities and establish social security.

Parliamentary elections 2008

The entire nation is eagerly anticipating the election scheduled on 29th December 2008 through which an elected government would assume power peacefully. Through a free and fair election, the nation will return to democracy. It is to re-establish democracy and lead the nation towards prosperity and social development that this Election Manifesto is published.

In the forthcoming 9th General Election, Jamaat will participate as part of the 4-Party Alliance. This Manifesto illustrates the development programmes that Jamaat will seek to undertake if elected.

Manifesto 2008

Constitutional and legal reforms

The Constitution shall be amended to ensure that the transition of power takes place in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Necessary measures shall be taken to develop a constitutional and democratic polity on the basis of legal and civil rights.

The current legal framework shall be amended and reformed in order to expedite the administration of justice.

Measures shall be taken to make the Law Commission more active and effective.

The rule of law shall be established to ensure an equal application of law for all citizens.

Measures shall be taken to proscribe political programmes such as hartal (strike) and obarodh (gherao).

The Election Commission shall be made independent and necessary amendments shall be made to all electoral laws, rules and procedures.

Special measures shall be taken for expeditious disposal of long-standing suits.

Steps shall be taken to appoint competent and honest judges in all courts of law.

In appointing public prosecutors, preference shall be given to qualified and efficient lawyers.

Parliamentary Reforms

The Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and if necessary the Constitution, shall be amended in order to prevent a party or an independent lawmaker from making parliamentary sessions ineffective by remaining absent from the House.

All parliamentary standing committees shall be constituted in the second session of the Parliament, and measures shall be taken to make them active and effective.

Administrative Reforms

A transparent, efficient, responsible, accountable and service-oriented administration shall be developed.

Salaries and financial incentives of government servants shall be increased in order to free the administration from corruption.

Appointment and promotion of officers and employees shall not be determined on the basis of political affiliations. Merit, competence, moral quality and seniority shall be the determining factors.

Training institutions and centres shall be made more effective.

Measures shall be taken to inculcate the values of morality and patriotism in the administration with a view to removing administrative complications.

The existing practice of lobbying in the administration shall be brought to an end.

Political interference in the administration shall be eliminated.

E-Governance shall be introduced at all levels of administration.

Defence

In order to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bangladesh, a strong defence force shall be created with modern military equipments, technology and training. Necessary budget shall be allocated for such purpose.

A National Defence Policy shall be introduced with national security as the top priority.

Defence industry shall be given proper emphasis and shall be encouraged.

Measures shall be taken to inculcate moral values in the defence forces with a view to protecting the sovereignty of the country.

Arrangements shall be made to gradually provide military training to the citizens aged between 20-30 years under the supervision of the defence forces.

Maintaining Law and Order and Curbing Terrorism

Life, property and dignity of the people shall be protected.

Legal actions shall be taken against all offenders and criminals irrespective of their political affiliations and social and political influence.

All criminal activities such as terrorism, violence, extortion, murder, robbery, mugging, rape, persecution of women, highway robbery, smuggling, drug trade and trafficking in women and children shall be strictly checked.

All possible measures shall be taken to stop harassment of innocent people.

Professional and moral training shall be given to the police, BDR, Ansar and Village Defence Force; and they shall be equipped with proper transport vehicles and equipments. In addition to salary increase, administrative reforms shall be made in this field.

Community policing shall be strengthened.

In order to combat smuggling, trafficking and other border crimes, the necessary border roads and constructions shall be made.

Curbing Corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission shall receive all necessary cooperation from the Government so that it can work independently to eradicate corruption from society which is the single most harmful obstacle to development and prosperity.

A social movement shall be launched against corruption.

In addition to measures taken by the ACC against corruption, tough measures shall be taken against corrupt officials and employees.

New laws shall be promulgated against corrupt people who hold responsible positions, and measures shall be taken to ensure the stringent application of those laws.

Education

Education shall be given the highest priority.

Gradually steps shall be taken to introduce free education for boys up to HSC level.

Special emphasis shall be placed on educating women, and schools, madrassas, colleges and universities shall be established to promote their education.

The human resource of the country shall be trained in technical education, vocational training and science and technology in order to develop a competent workforce with a view to facilitating their employment abroad.

New primary schools, government madrassas, schools, colleges and universities shall be established.

Mosque - based community education shall be given special priority together with the forqania madrassa system. Community education shall be introduced in places of worship of all religions.

The Alia and Quomi streams of education shall be modernised.

Importance shall be given to the education of adults.

At all levels of education, measures shall be taken for facilitating the use, development and research of information technology and computer science.

Moral and ethical education shall be introduced at all levels.

Instances of bravery and heroism shall be recognised and rewarded.

Involvement of teachers and students in party politics shall be put to an end in educational institutions by making necessary amendments to the existing legal framework.

Science, Information and Communication Technology

Effective steps shall be taken for the application, research and development of science, information and communication technologies.

Economic development shall be brought about by generating employment opportunities using such technologies.

'Electronic Governance' shall be introduced to ensure good governance.

Radio, Television and Popular Media

A National Policy shall be framed to encourage sound and creating thinking through literature, culture and popular media.

In radio and television channels and in other popular media, programmes conducive to the intellectual and social development shall be broadcasted.

Radio and television shall be given autonomy to work impartially.

The extent of media coverage of the political parties shall be determined by their representation in parliament.

Economy

Industries based on local and agricultural goods shall be promoted and foreign dependency shall be reduced with a view to pursuing a policy of self-sufficiency in all economic sectors.

Amendments shall be made to customs and income tax laws and necessary institutional reforms shall be made with a view to increasing revenue.

The interest rates of nationalised and private banks shall be gradually reduced and the difference between interest rates of savings accounts and loan accounts shall be reduced.

The growth of business and industry shall be promoted by providing unemployed youths with technical training and long-term, interest-free loans.

Poverty rate shall be reduced.

Measures shall be taken to ensure economic development through proper utilisation of the country's land, labour, capital, raw materials and natural resources.

The private sector shall be developed by modernising the relevant rules and regulations and increasing the cooperation of the government.

Administrative support shall be provided to ensure the proper investment of the foreign remittance sent by expatriate Bangladeshi workers. In order to strengthen the country's economy, the nation's economic ties with China, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Pakistan, South Korea, Iran and other neighbouring countries shall be strengthened.

Foreign investment shall be encouraged by bringing reforms to the Board of Investment and amending the relevant rules and regulations without marginalising the interests of the nation.

The economic sector shall be made dynamic and well-structured by making appropriate reforms to the existing infrastructures.

Participation of the disabled shall be ensured in all economic activities of the country.

In order to prevent wastage of time and public funds and to accelerate development, measures shall be taken to change the trend of project-based development activities to programme-based development activities. In order to realise development programmes financed by public funds, funds shall be allocated to programme-based development activities drawn up by government offices through relevant ministries.

Zakat money shall be made tax-free.

Controlling Price Hike

At times of crisis, food, energy and fertiliser shall be imported in order to meet the local demand. Relevant purchase laws and rules in this regard shall be amended.

In order to supply rice at a subsidised price through private dealers, open market sales (OMS) shall be introduced as and when required.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) shall be expanded in order to ensure supply of edibles like rice, lentils, soybean oil, powdered milk at subsidised prices.

Production, marketing and import of sugar shall be conducted by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation to keep the prices of sugar stable.

Food and Agriculture

Agricultural subsidies shall be increased in order to reduce dependency for supply of food.

Budget shall be increased for the use of modern technology to facilitate research and expansion of agricultural sector.

Measures shall be taken to diversify and increase the production of crops, poultry, cattle and fish which shall be exported with a view to increasing foreign remittance into the country.

Subsidies shall be granted to make seeds, fertilizers and insecticides readily available to farmers, with a view to making the country's most important sector – agriculture – profitable.

Measures shall be taken to make the country self-sufficient in the production of potato, onion, garlic, ginger, vegetables and lentils.

The agricultural market shall be restructured in order to ensure a reasonable price of agricultural goods. A Price Commission shall be formed in order to assess the production and operation costs so as to determine the fair and reasonable price of crops.

The loan and finance programmes of development projects shall be brought under the supervision of banks instead of NGOs in order to make the country's agriculture system stable and profitable.

Interest on all agricultural loans shall be exempted, and a separate agricultural and rural credit system shall be introduced.

Subsidies shall be increased to keep TSP, MOP and DAP fertilizers within the purchasing capacity of farmers.

A Land Utilisation Policy shall be drawn up and implemented to prevent agricultural land from being used for industrial and residential purposes.

Arable land shall be made available to farmers by making necessary amendments to the existing legal framework.

Practical measures shall be taken to prevent industrial use of agricultural lands adjacent to roads and highways in a 60-mile radius from Dhaka. Entrepreneurs shall be encouraged to use lands on river banks and uncultivable land for industrial purposes.

Appropriate measures shall be taken to establish country-wide agriculture-based industrial establishments, to conserve fruits and crops and to export them with a view to increasing the income of farmers.

Agricultural Export Processing Zones shall be established in different regions of the country depending on the production of agricultural goods. The zones shall be brought under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture instead of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).

All possible measures shall be taken to protect crops from flood, drought, cyclones, tornadoes, and other natural calamities.

Scientific methods shall be used for agricultural and social forestation and for increased production of tea, rubber and fruits and vegetables paving the way for economic development of the nation.

An Agriculture Wages Board shall be set up under the Ministry of Agriculture to determine the minimum wages and economic benefits of farmers.

Concerted initiatives shall be taken to unify the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in order to strengthen the agriculture sector.

The process of maintaining land records and mutation documents shall be streamlined and modernised with a view to dealing with the problem of land grabbing.

Industry

Factories and mills shall be established in different regions of the country at the initiative of the government as well as the private sector in order to increase self sufficiency, ensure industrial expansion and increase the export of manufactured goods.

A national policy shall be framed with regard to oil, gas and other mineral resources. Preference shall be given to the exploration and extraction of oil, gas and coal by local companies. National interest shall be given the highest priority in awarding contracts to foreign companies.

Necessary measures shall be taken to expand and protect the garments industry.

Minimum wages and security of workers in all factories and firms shall be guaranteed.

Necessary government support and co-operation shall be given for the development of cottage industries. Measures shall be taken to reform, develop and modernise loom, jute, hide, tea, sugar and salt industries.

Petrochemical industries, fertilizer industries, cement industries, food and fruit and vegetable processing industries shall be established by using mineral and forest resources.

Measures shall be taken to prevent Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA) from getting involved in immoral activities and to supervise and control their activities to prevent dereliction and negligence of assigned duties.

The establishment of pharmaceutical industries shall be encouraged.

Commerce

Export and Import Policy shall be framed with a view to reducing trade imbalance without subordinating the interests of local industries and/or hampering the production and export of domestic goods.

Emphasis shall be laid on importing the commodities and raw materials considered to be essential according to the commercial policy of the country.

Regional and international trade especially with neighbouring and Muslim countries shall be increased and initiatives will be taken to export new commodities.

Trade diplomacy with Muslim countries shall be given priority.

Import of luxurious cars, cosmetics and similar commodities shall be discouraged, and high import duties shall be imposed on these products.

Dependency on import shall be reduced in order to save foreign currency. To achieve this goal, demand in the local market shall be assessed and accordingly industries shall be established to meet the demand.

Import of unnecessary goods shall be reduced and domestic capital and industry shall receive greater support and co-operation compared to multinational capital and industry.

Labour and Labour Policy

A minimum wage structure and 'equal pay for men and women' shall be introduced.

Labourers aged 65 years or over shall be given retirement benefits.

Employees shall be given the necessary professional and vocational training; compensation shall be given to those who suffer injuries or fatalities at the workplace; and low salaried employees shall be provided residential facilities and medical services, and their children shall be given free education.

Employees shall be given accident benefits.

Underprivileged children shall be given free education and quality health service with a view to bringing child labour to an end.

Personal, financial and social security of female labourers, particularly those employed in the garments factories shall be guaranteed.

Measures shall be taken to protect the interests of labourers from conspiracies inside and outside the country.

Maternity leave of female workers shall be guaranteed.

Transport System

All regions of the country shall be brought under an efficient communication network, and an inter-district, inter-upazila and inter-union road and transport system shall be established. In order to realise this goal, roads, highways, railways and bridges shall be built in a planned way.

Effective measures shall be taken to speed up the construction of the Padma Bridge. Gradually bridges shall be built both in Mauwa and Paturia.

Effective steps shall be taken to develop and expand the railway system and to make it profitable.

The water transport system of the country shall be developed and modernised, and effective measures shall be taken to prevent maritime accidents.

The river-ports shall be maintained and expanded with a view to reducing the existing problems in the ports.

In big cities and in divisional towns, separate vehicles shall be introduced for women and children passengers.

Chittagong and Mongla sea-ports shall be modernised and made commercially profitable without subordinating the interests of the country.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines shall be reorganised and Zia International Airport shall be modernised and developed to an international standard.

Underground trains and flyovers shall be built in Dhaka city.

Water, Electricity, Fuel and Other Energies

Efforts to explore and extract the natural resources of oil and gas shall be reinforced.

In order to meet the rising demand, increasing the production of electricity shall be given a special emphasis.

Electricity supply to rural areas shall be ensured within the shortest possible time.

In order to address the electricity and energy deficit of the country, civil nuclear cooperation shall be sought from friendly countries.

Effective steps shall be taken to ensure efficient and well-planned utilization of water resources.

Efficient and well-planned extraction and utilization of natural gas, mineral oil and coal shall be ensured.

A national coal policy shall be introduced.

Coal instead of gas shall be used to produce electricity so that adequate gas can be used as raw material for producing urea fertilizer.

Individual and collective research shall be encouraged for the invention of alternative solar and wind electricity.

Energy shall be utilised and exported in the best interest of the nation and the future.

Society and Religious Life

Muslim men and women shall be educated in the basic teachings of the Islam, Islamic rules and regulations and moral teachings. Appropriate measures shall be taken to establish salaah among the Muslims.

Blasphemy law shall be promulgated to prevent and prosecute anti-religious propaganda and to ban blasphemous remarks in books and in print and electronic media.

Equal religious rights shall be ensured for people from all religions.

Measures shall be taken to undertake mosque-based programmes to promote education and culture and to create health and environment awareness.

Islamic teachings shall be broadcast through radio, television, newspapers and other popular media.

Measures shall be taken to ensure that people from other religious denominations can perform their religious practices freely.

Steps shall be taken to prevent sinful and unsocial activities such as drinking and gambling.

Imams and muezzins of mosques shall be given respectable honorarium. Priest and ministers of equal status from other religions shall be given same amount of honorarium.

Islamic Research and Propagation

Short, medium and long-term projects shall be undertaken and implemented to conduct, publish and disseminate research work on Islam.

Islamic propagation activities under the Islamic Foundation shall be reinforced.

Honorarium and benefits for Khateeb of important mosques such as Baitul Mukarram shall be increased.

Mosque-based social programmes and libraries shall be established. Imams shall be given proper training so that they can present the correct teachings of Islam in the best possible manner.

Conservation of Environment

Necessary steps shall be taken to prevent pollution and to maintain environmental and ecological balance. Public awareness shall be increased in favour of maintaining ecological diversity.

Deforestation shall be strictly controlled. Well-planned forestation shall be encouraged and government funds shall be awarded for that purpose.

Participation of poor and unemployed youths in forestation programmes on a partnership basis shall be ensured, and the current forestation programmes shall be reinforced.

Steps shall be taken to preserve hills and mountains. Unplanned, indiscriminate cutting of hills and mountains shall be stopped.

Human Resource Development and Export and Employment

For the development of human resources, training schemes shall be undertaken that are both moral and practical.

Semi-educated and uneducated youths shall be provided with technical training, and they shall be given bank credit so that they can be self-employed.

Different types of trade and vocational training courses shall be introduced at upazila and union levels.

Job opportunities shall be created for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Bangladeshi workers abroad. Corruption and irregularities shall be removed from recruiting agencies.

The disabled shall be turned into skilled manpower. Comprehensive micro-credit programmes shall be launched so that they can become self-reliant.

Information technology shall be widely used as a tool for employment generation and for development.

Banks shall be encouraged to use part of their investment in self-employment programmes.

Tourism industry shall be widely expanded and developed into a means of earning foreign currency. Our history, tradition and cultural distinctiveness shall be promoted in the tourism industry.

Emphasis shall be put on spreading moral and religious teachings among prison inmates.

Poverty Alleviation and Social Security

Appropriate measures shall be taken to alleviate poverty through expanding industrial business and agriculture and through providing bank credits. Zakat shall be used as an effective method of maintaining social security and development.

People below poverty line shall be included in the work force by training them and giving economic assistance.

Special financial packages shall be introduced for female-headed poor families.

In order to reach a permanent settlement of the munga (extreme poverty) problem in North Bengal, the communication system in the munga-stricken region shall be developed; and the peasants who are dependent on agriculture for subsistence shall be given training and financial aid. Measures shall be taken to diversify agriculture and to ensure guaranteed wage employment.

Programmes of old-age benefits, freedom fighters' honorariums, disabled benefits and widow benefits shall be further expanded.

Local Government, Decentralisation of Power and Rural Development

Administration, particularly Dhaka-based central administration, shall be reorganised.

Upazila and union councils shall be developed into strong local administrations.

Introduction, implementation and management of development programmes shall be entrusted with local government councils.

For the rural population, developments and improvements shall be made with regard to infrastructure, education, medical services, job opportunities and entertainment. The semi-employed and un-employed work force shall be made part of the development programmes. Also, with government support, rural house building scheme and interest-free house building scheme will be undertaken.

Rural development institutes shall be strengthened and developed.

Public Health and Medical Services

A public health policy shall be introduced to ensure the basic right to medical treatment.

Medical services shall be provided to all people irrespective of their region, clan or gender.

In order to realise this goal, combined initiatives by the private and public institutions shall be taken and all kinds of support shall be provided by the government.

Workforce and infrastructure shall be created to ensure quality public health services.

All national birth-health programmes shall be brought under one framework and combined programme.

Comprehensive projects shall be taken to supply pure drinking water to both rural and urban population. Drainage systems will be improved and steps will be taken to combat environment pollution.

Poor and distressed families shall be identified, and accordingly food and nutrition shall be provided for vulnerable women and children.

Health education and disease prevention shall be introduced in the education curriculum. Effective steps shall be taken

to include people of all walks of life in the vaccination programmes and fight against all preventable infectious diseases.

Industrialists and entrepreneurs shall be encouraged and assisted in ensuring good medical treatment of their employees and labourers.

Legal steps shall be taken against the manufacturing of harmful, adulterated and poor quality medicines.

Strict and combined steps shall be taken to combat addiction to smoking and drugs.

Traditional medical practice shall be developed into a scientific system, and programmes of research and development shall be undertaken in this area.

Appropriate infrastructure shall be developed to guarantee primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities.

Steps shall be taken to ensure specialist services at upazila level and to improve the healthcare services at district level. Examples set by developed nations in this regard shall be followed.

Public representatives, private medical practitioners and, if necessary, military medical corps shall be engaged in conducting healthcare services.

Budget allocation for curative healthcare shall be raised and emphasis shall be put on its infrastructural development.

Disease prevention shall be given importance and disease control programmes shall be coordinated through 'Surveillance'.

Coordinated programmes shall be introduced to reduce maternal and child mortality rate.

Health and family welfare centres in union councils shall be made the focal point of primary health care.

Steps shall be taken to allocate at least 12% of the national budget for the health sector.

Medical services shall be free from corruption.

Subsidies shall be provided for the treatment of serious diseases and for poor patients.

In order to control AIDS and STDs, public awareness shall be created through all religious leaders. A wide campaign shall be run to infuse people with religious values and to encourage people to lead a temperate life free from licentiousness.

Sanitation programmes shall be 100% accomplished.

Sports Development

For the development of the body and mind of all citizens, appropriate sports and entertainment facilities shall be built. Stadiums, sports grounds, parks and swimming centres shall be constructed, and the existing ones shall be modernised and developed.

To ensure participation in international sports competitions, proper plans and efficient management shall be ensured and proper training shall be provided for all athletes.

Appropriate steps shall be taken to develop cricket, football, swimming, shooting, hockey and other sports in the country.

The Rights of the Freedom Fighters

All freedom fighters shall be rehabilitated with honour and dignity.

Medical treatment shall be provided for the crippled and sick freedom fighters.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs shall be made more powerful.

Allowances for the freedom fighters shall be increased and their children shall be given stipends.

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust (BFFWT) (Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust) shall be made more effective.

Freedom fighters shall be included in yearly hajj delegation.

Women's and Children's Rights

In order to ensure women's rights and dignity, employment shall be provided according to their aptitude and competence. Rape and all other forms of violence against women shall be prevented. Distressed widows and unsheltered women shall be rehabilitated.

In order to eradicate prostitution, programmes of correction and social rehabilitation shall be expanded.

Rights of children shall be protected and to implement the UN slogan 'children before all', appropriate steps shall be taken to stop child labour and to rehabilitate the street children.

Acid throwing, the dowry system and all forms of persecution of women and children shall be strictly contained.

Rights of Non-Muslims

Equal opportunities for people from all religions and ethnic background shall be guaranteed.

Security of life, property and honour of people from all religions shall be guaranteed. Religious freedom and civil and legal rights of people from all religions shall be protected.

Welfare of the scheduled caste shall be ensured and the cultural identities of non-Muslims and indigenous communities shall be maintained. All shall be given equal opportunities in education and employment.

Foreign Policy

The principle governing foreign policy shall be: friendship with all nations, animosity to none.

Foreign policy shall be formulated with highest regard to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Friendly relationships with all neighbours and other nations shall be established only in the interest of Bangladesh.

Strong representation of the country shall be made to different international organisations.

No treaties or strategies harmful to the dignity and interest of the country shall be signed or implemented. All previous treaties that go against the interest of the country shall be reviewed and reformulated to bring them in line with the sovereignty of the country. No country shall be given the privilege to use the land, water, sea frontiers and air routes of Bangladesh for its military need or against the security of Bangladesh.

A strong role shall be played against neo-colonial domination, expansionism and interference in the internal affairs of the country.

Along with being vigilant against racism and communal violence, complete support shall be extended to protection of national identity and sovereignty.

Steps shall be taken to strengthen D-8 and SAARC, and practical measures shall be taken to earn the membership of the ASEAN.

Effective steps shall be taken to increase economic cooperation amongst the OIC Member States.

Alliance with all peace-loving nations of the world shall be strengthened, and especial diplomatic ties shall be maintained with the Muslim countries.

NGO Policy

Cooperation shall be offered to ordinary constructive activities of all domestic and foreign non-governmental and voluntary organisations that work for the general socio-economic development of the people.

In order to ensure the transparency of the NGOs and to supervise their overall activities, the NGO Bureau shall be expanded and strengthened.

Security of the NGO workers shall be ensured all over the country.

NGO programmes shall be made free from politics. Dependence on foreign NGOs shall be reduced.

National rules and regulations shall be formulated to oversee NGO activities.

Chittagong and Ethnic Minority

The Chittagong Hill Tracts, which is one-tenth the total sovereign land of the country, shall be protected against all forms of threats. Security of life, property, rights and dignity and the cultural identity and livelihood of all the inhabitants and indigenous people of the region – irrespective of race, religion and culture – shall be protected.

The fundamental rights of all people, including the indigenous tribes and ethnic minorities living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in other parts of the country, shall be protected.

Any plot, conspiracy or move designed against the territorial integrity or political independence of any part of Bangladesh, or against the national interest of the nation, shall be strongly resisted.

Conclusion

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami is a modern and democratic Islamic political party. Jamaat has been working to establish a liberal parliamentary system of democracy. Jamaat is dedicated to building a prosperous, stable and democratic Bangladesh.

Presently almost half of the population of the country live below poverty line. Jamaat believes that it is the primary duty of any democratic government to provide for the basic needs of the population. Because of this belief Jamaat intends to undertake development programmes that will bring benefit to the entire population and transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country. The following issues will receive special importance:

Development and modernisation of the food, agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors to achieve self-sufficiency.

Strengthening the Defence to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Reinforcing the programmes of poverty alleviation, education and social security with a view to enabling the poor and helpless and their children to develop into worthy citizens of the country.

Preventing cruelty to women and children by ensuring the State and society fulfil their respective duties to them;

Ensuring economic growth by injecting dynamism in key sectors such as the industry, education, information technology, trade and commerce and energy, etc.;

Modernising the Labour Policy to reduce unemployment and to facilitate export of human resources;

Undertaking development programmes which would include protection of life and property of Non-Muslim community;

Ensuring social security by eradicating terrorism, corruption and bribery;

Guaranteeing the religious rights of all citizens by removing all impediments in this field.

Jamaat is determined to transform Bangladesh into a modern, democratic welfare state by implementing the programmes set out in this Manifesto. Jamaat believes that Bangladesh is capable of becoming a country which is politically strong, economically stable and culturally rich. Jamaat further believes that Bangladesh can be a middle-income country and contribute to peace and stability in South Asia.

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