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The Baily Star

Let us devote our efforts to ensure free and fair polls on February 27. Cast your vote judiciously and allow others to excercise their rights.

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

-Inside today -

Metropolitan

One-legged rickshawpuller

One-legged ricks hawpuller, teen -aged, Mokbul, says nothing is impossible. Page 3

International

Iragi arms worry doctors



Some of the weapons which may be used in a Gulf war could leave doctors unprepared to treat wouned troops. Saddam says US troops will swim in blood.

Feature

Page 5

Peace or war in the Gulf



With a rise in the oil import bill, remittances falling and exports to Kuwait and Iraq lost, the fragile economy of Bangladesh is in for a harder time should the war break out in the Gulf. Page.6

NEWS BRIEFS

Three VIPs interrogated

Police investigators Sunday interrogated three people in connection with an arms case against former President Ershad. A police source said three "very important" persons were questioned by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Their names cannot be divulged, he

Firoz Rashid charged

A corruption case was filed Sunday against former Post and Telegraph Minister Kazi Firoz Rashid, former Chairman of T & T Board Magsud Ali Khan and their accomplices. The Anti-corruption Bureau filed the case with Ramna police against Kazi Firoz Rashid, Maqsud Ali Khan, Managing Director of KECO Limited Kazi Rezaul Mustafa, Managing Director of Gulf Bangladesh Associates Ltd Major (Rtd) T M Nurunnabi.

Solar eclipse on January 16

An annular eclipse of the sun will take place on January 16. It will begin at 02.51 a.m. and will end at 08.55 a.m. The duration of the annular phase will be 7 minutes 47.3 seconds, according to an ISPR press release. The eclipse will not be visible in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

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DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 14, 1991

JAMADIUS SANI 27, 1411 HIJRI

Participation by largest number of parties in 9 years

AL, BNP, 109 others file nominations



Awami League (left) and BNP candidates filing nomination papers at the Dhaka Returning Officer's office yesterday - Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Over 3,078 candidates filed nomination papers in 238 constituencies till Sunday, the last day of filing of nominations for the February 27 Parliamentary Elections. Election Commission sources said they were yet to receive informa tion from the rest 62 constituencies.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will be done today (Monday). The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is January 21.

Election Commission sou rces said candidates from 11 political parties and hundreds of independents have filed nomination papers.

In view of the large number of parties contesting the polls this time the Election Com See Page 10 col. 4

Perez leaves Baghdad

Peace chances slim



UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar (1) is accompanied by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz upon his arrival in Baghdad on January 12 to hold peace talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. - AFP photo

sion Office at Road No 2 of

Dhanmondi. Some students of

the City College clashed with

the visa brokers in front of the

High Commission office over

issuance of visa. Later, they

college aided by some other

students of the Ideal College

attacked the police-box at the

Science Laboratory corner.

They ransacked the police box

and set a fire two motorbikes

with the some outsiders barri-

caded the Mirpur Road till 7 in

brought out by the students

protesting the police action.

They were chanting slogans

calling for observing a hartal

today at the Ward No 20 of the

Pro-Moscow group takes

over in Lithuania

The local parliament "is in-

AP adds: Soviet troops and

capable of controlling the sit-

tanks stormed Lithuania's main

broadcast facility early Sunday,

killing at least 13 people and

injuring more than 113, the

Lithuanian health minister

The takeover by Soviet

troops of at least the seventh

key building in the secession-

ist republic prompted the

Lithuanian government to ap-

peal for help and President

Vytautas Landsbergis to call

parliament into an emergency

to a legal government".

uatio," it added.

Dhaka City Corporation.

The agitated students along

Processions were also

The agitated students of the

clashed with the police.

belonging to policemen.

the evening.

LUXEMBOURG, Jan 13: UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has left Baghdad after talks with Iraq on averting a Gulf war and will meet European Community representatives in Paris, reports Reuter.

Luxembourg, which holds the rotating EC presidency, is sending a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Jacques Poos to Paris for the meeting on Sunday night or early Monday. A Luxembourg government

spokesman said Perez de Chellae wasid also see rither French President Francois Mitterrand or Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Dumas and Poos are the to

attend an emergency meeting

of EC Foreign Ministers in Brussels at 11 A.M. (1000 GMT) in Brussels on Monday.

An earlier AP report said, The UN Secretary General met with President Saddam Hussein on Sunday evening in a final effort to avert a Gulf war before Tuesday's UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The Secretary-General, who waited most of Sunday afternoon for the meeting, will go straight to the airport at the conclusion of the talks, said the official, who did not divulge Perez de Cuellar's desti-Earlier, the UN chief had

met with Yasser Arafat. He told the PLO leader of proposals he will make to Saddam, according to Arab diplomats, who spoke on condition o

In another development, an Ambidiplomat, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said Arafat had got a call from Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. De Michelis is asking Perez de Cuellar to pave the way for a visit by a European Community delegation before the January 15

Arafat said after their meeting that the UN chief had a good chance of resolving the Gulf crisis peacefully.

But he added that by en-See Page 10 col. 4

Donors are waiting for the

major political parties to an-

nounce their election mani-

festoes next week in order to

complete a review of aid strat-

egy in the next political con-

sion (ERD) sources said yes-

terday donors had taken a

"positive note" of develop-

ments for establishing a demo-

cratic government through

parliamentary elections on

Asanuma has just completed a

visit to Dhaka during which

the leaders of the two main

parties, Sheikh Hasina of

Awami League and Begum

Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh Na-

tionalist Party outlined their

BNP and AL are the main

programmes to him.

World Bank Director Shinji

February 27.

Economic Relations Divi-

JP's comeback move stalled

By Reazuddin Ahmed and Moinuddin Naser

Orowing resistance by the student activists has stalled the Jatiya party's move to stage a political comeback before the parliamentary elections.

The filing of cases against ousted President H.M. Ershad who is also chairman of Jatiya Party, and demands for his transfer to the Central Jail dia couraged many JP leaders from taking part in the elections. Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed former Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, former Information Minister A.B.M. Golam Mostafa, Former Minister Mahbubur Rahman, and many other top leaders did not file nomination papers on Sunday. But Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, former Prime Minister and acting chairman of the Jatiya Party. filed his nomination and has been making an allout effort to cheer party colleagues and persuade them to take party in political activities. However, threats by the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) on Saturday to catch Jatiya Party leaders for alleged corruption and abuse of power sent many of them underground. None of

hiding ministers, except Ruhul Amin Hawlader person ally contacted Mizar any contacts with interned

He told The Daily Star that his party comrades were afraid of taking part in political activ ities freely. He said he himse was receiving frequent anonymous threatening calls and the head office of his Pioneer Pharmaceuticals Limited has been closed. Yet undaunted Mizan Chowdhury said: "I am B politician and I shall go ahead with my political programme.

Election Commission sources could not confirm the number of Jatiya Party candidates who filed nominations yesterday.

A party source complained that Mizan Chowdhury had announced the names of many nominees without even consulting them and it was not known how many turned up at offices of the returning offi-

Jatiya Party top notchers expressed apprehension that despite Mizan Chowdhury's encouragement, candidates See Page 10 col. 7

AL to help ensure fair polls: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina chief of Awami League and leader of the Eight-party Alliance yesterday said that her party and alliance would play their due role to ensure impartiality and fairness during the February 27 parliamentary

She said a free and fair election was a priority demand of the people's movement over the past years against autocracy and they had realized it by pulling down the dictatorial rule of Ershad through a mass upsurge in December last.

Sheikh Hasina said this when Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, Director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka, met her at the Bangabandu Bhaban here yes-See Page 10 Col. 6

Donors to fix aid strategy

after manifestoes

BNP never deviates from ideals: Khaleda

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that certain quarters which were in politics depending on others, were resorting to terrorism and anarchy because they were scared of the unity of nationalist lorces, reports BSS.

> Begum Zia said the joining of smaller nationalist parties with BNP was making the hands of Bangladesh nationalist forces stronger.

The BNP chief was speaking to the people from Kamrangirchar and Lalbagh areas who joined BNP along with Janata Dal city President Ahmed Ali Manik. Other leaders who See Page 10 col. 3

100 hurt as students clash with police

By DU Correspondent

Over 100 persons were injured in a series of clashes between students and policemen in Science Laboratory area in the city yesterday. Abdul Matin, officer-in-charge of

Dhanmondi police station was

also injured.

Police fired rubber bullets, teargas shells and resorted to lathicharge while the students used rods, sticks and bricks in

the clashes. Of the injured, Pronab Bishwas, a student of Dhaka City College was brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He was released after first aid. Besides, 46 persons, most of whom were students, were given first aid at the DMCH.

Police and witnesses said the clash broke out around II am near Indian High Commis-

MOSCOW, Jan 13: A pro-

Moscow "Committee for Na-

tional Salvation" has taken

power in Lithuania, Soviet

television reported here today,

to take power into its own

hands" to prevent "mass disor-

ders" as local authorities "have

lost control of the situation in

Vilnius and Kaunas", television

throw of the rightful leader-

ship of the republic," television

also said, adding that the

committee would "restore

calm" and "hand back power

"One can't speak of an over-

The committee was "forced

reports AFP.

8-party talks on sharing seats remain in trouble

By Chapal Bashar

The seat adjustment talks among components of the Eight-Party Alliance continued to be in trouble in spite of accommodation of some stalwarts. The talks are expected to be resumed within a couple of days after leaders' return to the capital from their constituencies.

After discussions spread over three days since Thursday morning, the meeting of the, alliance leaders was postponed Saturday evening without finalising the joint panel of the alliance for February 27 parliamentary elections.

According to the instructions from the high commends of the components of the alliance, all the party candidates filed their nomination papers from their respective constituencies yesterday.

Sec Page 10 Col. 6

Parliament subsequently

Foreign Minister Algirdas

declared Sunday a day of

raise flags with black ribbons

Saundargas said Sunday he is

ready to form a government-

in-exile if the elected govern-

ment becomes "unable to fulfil

view that the secessionist-

minded Lithuanian govern-

ment remains active despite

Soviet attacks on at least seven

key Lithuanian buildings

Saundargis said in an inter-

and ring church bells.

its duties."

mourning and asked people to

Ershad files nomination from 5 constituences

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR. Jan 13: Nomination papers for former president H. M. Ershad were submitted in five out of six constituencies in Rangpur, his home district, here today.

In three constituencies --Gangachara, Badarganj and Taraganj, and Rangpur sadar --- the nomination papers were submitted by respective upazila chairmen. In Mithapukur and See Page 10 col. 1

> Prisoners returning to lockups

by Staff Correspondent

Normalcy was returning in Dhaka Central Jail after a 16day crisis following a revolt on December 29, jail sources said, yesterday.

For the first time yesterday after the revolt, the jail au-See Page 10 col. 1

Mymensingh Medical College closed sine die

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Jan 13: Mymensingh Medical College has been closed sine die following a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (H-A) today.

The clash took place when some students tore up the posters of their rival group. At least 15 students were injured, five of them seriously. The students were asked to vacate hostels immediately.

The Mymensingh Medical For two years donors, led by College Council took the decithe World Bank, have been pressing the government to sion at an emergency meeting.

By Moazzem Hossain contenders in the elections and support a strong private sector, taking their cue from the developments taking place in other parts of the world.

The interim government has also apprised the donors about its moves to prepare the ground for the elected government to take expeditious decisions wherever necessary. Task forces have been

formed to monitor the current economic situation and to suggest alternatives for improving overall management. The ERD is also holding

regular meetings with the representatives of the donor countries and agencies for mobilisation and utilisation of external aid in the pipeline. Two full-dress meetings

have so far been held with the local consultative aid group in

Dhaka after the interim government took over the respon-

Planning Adviser Prof. Rehman Sobhan chaired the meeting with the aid group last week. He spelt out the measures for improvement in economic performance. World Bank Director Asanuma attended the meeting.

The next annual Aid Club meeting in Paris which the World Bank coordinates, will be held in May to facilitate the new political government to identify its areas of priority for future aid programmes. The Paris Consortium normally meets in April.

Meanwhile, uncertainties about aid flows under some ongoing programmes in financial and energy sectors have See Page 10 col. 3

Unproductive spending on UZs concern donors

By Khalilur Rahman and Shahiduzzaman Khan

Unproductive spending on a cut allocations to upazilas and huge scale by the country's 460 upazilas is causing con-

cern to foreign donors. funds. Nearly Taka 1,200 crore in cash and Taka 1,000 crore in wheat has been spent on upazila activities in the last eight years. Reliable estimates say that about half of this money has gone into the construction of upazila complex buildings and other

to insist that local governments raise more of their own

The government was slow to respond to these demands, because it regarded upazilas as a way of generating political support for the ruling party. Upazila chairmen reported directly to the President.

Nevertheless, allocations fell from Taka 200 crore in 1984-85 to Taka 60 erore in

1990-91. "Hundreds of complaints," according to a senior govern-

ment official, have been made against irregularities in upazila spending, but virtually none was dealt with by the previous administration.

Last year's annual audit was allegedly carried out by a private firm of accountants on the order of the President, instead of being commissioned by the Comptroller and Auditor general.

Citing an example of power enjoyed by the upazila chairmen under the past administration, another gov-ernment

See Page 10 col. 3

day in and day out. VOL: 1. NO. 1