

Focus on election- '91

Kader Siddiky AL nominee, Hasina tells EC

Freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddiky is contesting the parliamentary polls from Tangail-8(Sakhipur-Basail constituency as Awami League nominee, party sources said on Monday, reports UNB.

Form probe body to terminate corrupt bureaucrats : APSU

By DU Correspondent

All Party Students Unity (APSU) demanded the formation of a probe body to enquire into the activities of the bureaucrats involved in corruption.

still active to foil the democratic process. Democracy would not be restored if they were allowed to continue such activities unabated, they added.

Basic rights

Speakers at a discussion meeting, organized by 'Shaheed Asad Parishad', yesterday stressed the need for establishing basic rights of the people in order to materialise the objective of the mass upsurge of '69.

Hasina and Khaleda

Zia it is a matter of long-standing commitment. Sheikh Hasina sees it as a necessity, forced on the country by the deliberate policy of two successive governments to "damage" the nationalised industries. According to the Awami League leader, "The losses in the nationalised industries were well-planned and deliberate. De-nationalised banks were bought by the private sector with loans taken from the public sector financial institutions."

However, the Awami League leader offered an olive branch to the private sector. She made it clear that an AL-led government "will not nationalise the industries which have already been de-nationalised." At the same time, the government "will try to remove all obstacles and make the existing nationalised sector profitable."

Khafzi

On the BNP's wish to retain the presidential form of government and the Awami League's wish to revert to the parliamentary form, both spoke firmly in support of their respective demands.

Gulf

From Page 1 Col. 8 callites, ostensibly hired for gearing up campaigns. The posters and banners have reached the doorsteps of many candidates as most of them were waiting for alliances' decision for floating single candidates.

Meanwhile, US Marine helicopter gunship pilots say they believe Iraq may be holding its best anti-aircraft weapons in reserve to combat any ground offensive.

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Jamaat to strengthen armed forces

The Acting Ameer of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Mr. Abbas Ali Khan on Monday said, if voted to power, his party would strengthen the armed forces of the country for consolidating independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Presided over by upazila Amcer of Panchbibi Mr. Abdul Wadud, the meetings were addressed, among others, by freedom fighter Azizur Rahman Aziz and former student leader Dr. Omar Faruq.

Explaining the significance of the forthcoming parliamentary elections, Mr. Khan said vote was the amanat (trust), gifted by Allah.

Egypt to penalise pro-Iraqis

CAIRO, Jan 21 : Egypt, a key player in the Gulf crisis, has embarked on a round of intensive diplomatic consultations with Arab friends while penalising Arab countries showing sympathy for Iraq, reports AP.

A Foreign Ministry official said President Hosni Mubarak sent Safwat el-Sherif, his Information Minister, to Tripoli on Monday with a message for Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi. The official would only say it pertained to the Gulf war.

On Sunday, the President dispatched Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid and Osama el-Baz, Mubarak's top Political Adviser, to Syria. They conferred Sunday night with Syrian President Hafiz Assad and on Monday with Assad's Foreign Minister, Farouk al-Sharrna.

The three northern African countries are among half a dozen Arab states whose governments and peoples have exhibited sympathy for Iraq.

In London, leading British Jews, concerned over security during the Gulf war, have urged the government to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in London.

Austrian police Monday were interrogating 11 Iranians arrested over the weekend on suspicion of planning terrorist attacks in retaliation for the US-led assault on Iraq.

The Philippines Monday ordered the expulsion of Iraq's Consul General in Manila for alleged links to last Saturday's failed bomb attack against a US government library in the Philippines capital.

Syria's arch-Arab foe, accused Jordan Monday of encouraging Saddam Hussein's expansionist dreams.

Syria's religious leaders also have rejected an Iraqi call for Jihad, or Holy War, against the US-led alliance and Israel, and held Iraqi President Saddam Hussein responsible for the Gulf war.

India, a Council member, has had consultations with other Non-Aligned countries the 15-member body, including Cuba, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr V C Shukla, is leaving for Belgrade Tuesday morning to further activate the Non-Aligned Movement's initiative to end the Gulf war.

Xinhua reports from Islamabad : Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif is to start a peace mission Tuesday by visiting four Muslim countries of Iran, Turkey, Syria and Egypt.

In his forthcoming mission, the Prime Minister will discuss and consult about the current Gulf war with leaders of the four nations and find out ways to end the hostilities as soon as possible.

HONG KONG, Jan 21 : A British journalist, Bruce Cheemson, has gone missing in Baghdad since last Thursday when allied bombings started there, for which the freelancer worked said today, reports AFP.

According to AP, US Navy Rear Admiral Riley Mitson, Commander of the Red Sea Battle Force, also said the allied air war against Iraq will take at least two more weeks and possibly longer if the Iraqi air force continues to avoid dogfights.

Faced with intensive air bombing, the Iraqis have kept the bulk of their planes grounded in heavily fortified bunkers. He said heavy bombing would be required to destroy those planes.

The British parliament was to debate the Gulf situation today, with Major introducing the discussion expected to reaffirm all-party support for the government's war to last several weeks, despite considerable damage already inflicted on Iraq's military in thousands of air attacks.



Riyadh US Army MPs inspect damages caused by an Iraqi Scud missile which blew up early January 21 in Riyadh. —AFP photo

Lobbying for peace falters so far

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 21 : Quiet lobbying by India and North African countries at the United Nations for a Gulf war ceasefire has faltered so far, mainly because of lack of encouragement from Iraq as well as from the big powers in the Security Council, diplomats said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Operation Desert Storm

NICOSIA, Jan 21 : Radio Baghdad went off the air today for the second time in less than 12 hours as the U.S.-led allies continued air raids on the Iraqi capital and other cities. The radio, which was functioning well on Sunday night, went off the air early this morning but came back at about 10.30 local time (0730 GMT). It went off the air again at 1645 (1345 GMT), reports Reuter.

War to last weeks, says Mitterrand

French President Francois Mitterrand said Sunday that the Gulf war would probably last weeks while, British Premier John Major expected the war to last "quite a few weeks," report agencies. Reuter reports from Paris : French President Francois Mitterrand said that the Gulf war would probably last weeks.

Presidential

Banani office here, Begum Zia said that party had also introduced one-party system burying democracy and gagging freedom of the press to hide its failures.

Journalist missing

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The Midnight File

CDU loses power in Hesse BONN, Jan 21: Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) lost power on Sunday in Hesse state elections seen as a barometer of anti-war feeling in Germany. Provisional official results gave the Social Democrats (SPD) 40.8 per cent of the vote in the traditionally leftist state, enough to re-establish a coalition with the radical Greens, who won 8.8 per cent, reports Reuter.

Iran to remain neutral TEHRAN, Jan 21: Iran strongly denied Japanese reports today that 250 Iraqi warplanes are being sheltered in Iran from US-led allied air raids. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, denying the claim, said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to preserve its neutrality on all levels", reports AFP.

Two tribal activists surrender CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: Two activists of so-called Shantibahini surrendered to Bangladesh Security Forces in Khagrachhari Hill district, an official source said Monday. Mukul Bikash Chakma surrendered along with a SBGL gun to the Security Forces at Gul Mara, Khagrachhari Sunday while Arun Chakma, a Juba-Samty leader surrendered to security forces at Khagrachhari Monday, reports BSS.

Human rights activists held BEIJING, Jan 21: Chinese security officers Monday detained for questioning five foreign human rights activists seeking information about dissidents on trial. Five of a six-member delegation representing several human rights groups were removed from the Taiwan Hotel and taken to Public Security Bureau headquarters for questioning, said the diplomats, who witnessed the incident, reports AFP.

New Prime Minister in Somalia NAIROBI, Jan 21: Somalia's embattled president Mohamed Siad Barre has appointed a new Prime Minister Arteh Chaleb to try to implement a ceasefire between loyalist and rebel forces after three weeks of fierce fighting which shattered the capital Mogadishu, reports Reuter.

Indian ship sinks off Malta PIRAEUS (Greece), Jan 21: An Indian-flagged ship with 35 crewmen sank off Malta early Monday, and rescuers picked up four survivors and 16 bodies. And 15 people were reported missing. The harbour official said the Bombay-registered bulk carrier Continental Lotus sent out a distress signal at 4 am (0200 GMT) saying that its engines had stopped and it was taking on water, reports AP.

Australian arms industry shrinks SYDNEY, Jan 21: While international arms dealers may get a boost from the Gulf war, the Australian arms industry is shrinking. Australian Defence Industries Ltd., the country's largest arms manufacturer, is closing three factories and sacking 1,000 workers, company spokesman Leigh Funston told Reuters Monday.

Rallies to halt war BONN, Jan 21: Tens of thousands more joined protests throughout Germany on Sunday calling for a halt to the Gulf war. The largest rally drew nearly 15,000 people in the southwestern city of Stuttgart, reports AFP. Berliners and Frankfurters also demonstrated anti-war sentiments on Monday.

Rok students In Seoul, hundreds of South Korean students staged an anti-war rally Monday, denouncing US forces in the Gulf for 'drying up blood of the Arabs', witnesses said. The protesters on the campus of Seoul National University burned a US flag, chanting 'oppose war' and the US aggressors are drying up blood of the Arabs'.

In Amman, doctors and lawyers joined anti-American protests Monday as pressure mounted on King Hussein from his subjects to aid Iraq. Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement Monday condemning what it said were Allied attacks on civilian targets in Iraq and calling for a peaceful settlement of the war.

1,018 candidates

From Page 1 Col. 4 The candidates of Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party are contesting all the four seats while Jamaat is contesting from two constituencies.

In Kishoreganj, 23 candidates out of 82 in seven constituencies of Kishoreganj have withdrawn nomination papers. Nineteen nominations were withdrawn from Brahmanbaria's six constituencies out of 77 filed for the elections.

In 11 constituencies of Mymensingh district, 36 candidates out of 141 withdrew their candidature. Four candidates out of 22 in two constituencies in Magura district have withdrawn their candidature.

In Chandpur, 15 candidates out of 72 have withdrawn their nomination papers from five out of six constituencies in the district. None has withdrawn from Chandpur-1(Kachua). Jamat-e-Islami has withdrawn candidates from 83 constituencies. The party in a Press release issued on Monday said, it nominated 298 candidates for the coming parliamentary elections. But the party had decided to withdraw candidates from 83 seats.

Bangladesh Islamic Revolutionary Council has withdrawn all of their candidates Monday from 18 constituencies according to a Press release.

Hasina at 4-30 p.m. from Dhaka by road to begin campaign for the ensuing parliamentary elections. She said after the autocratic rule of 15 years, the opportunity for reestablishing democracy is at the door and it should be availed.