EC imports 13 maunds of ink

By Staff Correspondent About 13 maunds of nonerasable ink has been imported by the Election Commission for use during the February 27 elections to guard against false voting.

The ink will be applied on a right-hand finger of each voter at the time of vote casting. This method of preventing false voting has been in use in Bangladesh for decades.

Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Justice M. A. Rouf said on Thursday the Election Commission felt relieved that a man sent to import the ink had returned just one day before the start of the Gulf war on January 17.

During a meeting with representatives of political parties he said the commission had examined the question of issuing identity cards to voters. But the proposal had to be shelved due to shortage of

AL to solve CHT issues politically

RANGAMATI, Jan 25 Awami League Chief and Eight-Party Alliance leader Sheikh Hasina today said that if voted to power Awami League would find out a "political solution" to Chittagong Hill Tracts problems so that the Hill people could lead their life in their own style and with their own identity, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at the Court Building square Shetkh Hasina said a national issue like that of the Hill Tracts could be solved only by a sovereign parliament.

Reiterating her pledge to establish parliamentary form of government Sheikh Hasina said without such form of gov ernment no national issue could be solved or national progress attained.

Organised by Rangamati district unit of the party the meeting was presided over by unit President Badiul Alam. Among others, Awami League Central Finance and Planning Secretary Ataur Rahman Khan Kaisar, U. K. branch President Nurul Islam Anu and Dipankar Talukder, Bir Bahadur, Awami League nominees for Rangamati and Bandarban constituencies also addressed the meeting.

Referring to various steps taken by Bangabandhu Government for the improvement of the life and living standard of the Tribal people Sheikh Hasina said Awami League Government exempted "Jhum tax", made provisions for sending Tribal students abroad for higher education and ensured other facilities so that they could equally march with the mainstream of the national life.

Autocracy

From Page 1 Col. 3 Payerul Islam.

She said, after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman government was alienated from the people through repeated amendments of the popular and democratic constitution of the country.

Elections held during past 15 years were either rigged or turned into a farce by using armed terrorists, she said. She said, people of the country in various constituencies including Fatikehhari elected Awami League nominees defying armed terrorism by stooges of the autocratic government in

100 injured in fresh

From Page 1 Col. 7

They said although the twoweek long agitation carlier ended after and agreement with the government, the prisoners have been moving freely inside the jail since

In the last riot that occurred on December 29 over the issue of release of those convicted in Martial Law courts during Ershad regime, the jail inmates clashed with security guards. The guards opened fire to quell the unrest, leaving three prisoners

The prison unrest also spread to some other jails in the country.

The government later reached an agreement with the prisoners and, on some conditions, decided to release about 13,000.

Editor : S. M. Ali

Focus on election- '91



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote leaders before launching their 'March for Democracy' from Dhaka to Chittagong on Friday. Barrister Isttiaq Ahmed, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor are seen among the leaders - Star photo

Germany offers Patriot missiles to Israel

JERUSALEM, Jan 25 Germany has offered to send Patriot anti-missile missiles to Israel as a defence against further Iraqi attacks, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Friday, reports AP.

The Israeli Foreign Minister did not make clear whether Israel would accept the American-made Patriots offered by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, but said discussions were continuing.

He denied a published report that German troops would come to Israel to train Israeli crews for the missiles if they were accepted. The United States sent crews to Israel last week to help operate U. S. donated Patriot systems.

At this time we are not talking about German crews, Levy said on Israel radio. He added that the Patriot "is a vital tool to Israel, and would make a great contribution to our security and morale".

Genscher also met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Friday. He did not speak to reporters after the session, but Avi Pazner, a top aide to Shamir, said Genscher assured the Prime Minister of Germany's support in the current crisis.

Pazner quoted Genscher as saying Germany was "full of shame" that Germany companies may have helped Iraq develop chemical and biological

Kuwait

From Page 1 Col. 8

command and control system controlling its huge army.

AF commanders executed

In Moscow, the indepen dent Soveit Interfax news agency reported Friday that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had his top Air Force commanders executed.

Interfax, citing a source in the Soviet Defence Ministry. reported Saddam ordered his commaders of the Air Forces and anti-aircraft defence to be

The agency did not say when they were killed.

"As was reported to Interfax at the Ministry of Defence, with the reference to well-informed sources, on order of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the commanders of the Air Force and anti-aircrast defence of Iraq were shot," the agency report said.

An Interfax editor told Reuters the execution took place a few days ago, after the first strikes on Iraq by Allied air forces.

"We have confirmation of this from several sources," he said. The interfax agency has good sources within the Soviet central ministries.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow denied

the report. "All this is a lie and fiction. This is a part of the psychological warfare undertaken by

hostile forces," he said. The Soviet military has long-standing ties to the Iraqi armed forces, built up over years of cooperation and arms

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March for democracy launched

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Sanscritic on Friday morning launched its programme of march for democracy' from the metropolis with a pleage to maintain peace and order during the parlamentary polls.

The programme announced earlier began at 9 am in front of the National Press Club in which prominent caders of professionl groups partici-

Former Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Istiak Ahmed while inaugurating the programme called upon all political parties to demonstrate tolerance in order to ensure free polls saying that it was an inperative need institutionalist democ-

He said that only free polls could make the politics stable which had become national demand during the recent democratic movement.

He urged all to remain vegilent against those who were active in foiling elections. Among others, Prof. Kabir

Choudhary also spoke on the occasion, He stressed the need for recovery of illegal arms immediately to free political arena from violence and hooliganism.

Those who took part in the programme include Ramendra Majumder, Advocate Shamsul Hoque Choudhary, Dr Ma Jalil Mamunur Rashid, Khairul Kabir Khokan Jamaluddin, Justice KM Sobahan and Fayez Ahmed.

War Commission report

From Page 1 Col. 4 litical parties by threats, inducements and even bribe to support their designs for bringing about a particular kind of result during the general elections in 1970 and later to induce some of the political parties to refuse to join the National Assembly when it was called to meet in Dhaka on

Marh 3, 1971. It said the Generals in agreement with one another brought about a situation in the then East Pakistan which led to a civil disobedience movement subsequently leading to surrender of the Pakistan troops in December 1971.

Atrocities

The Hamoodur Rehman Commission recommended that a high-powered court try atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army in the then East Pakistan in 1971 and those found guilty of wanton immorality should be duly punished. The composition of the court of enquiry, if necessary, should be publicly announced so as to satisfy national conscience and international opinion, according to the re-

The commission recommended that a departmental enquiry should also be conducted into the circumstances in which Maj. General Rahim Khan, who became Chief of General Staff, Pakistan Army, abandoned his troops consisting of 39 ad hoc division in the then East Pakistan and the circumstances in which he was appointed as Chief of General Staff without any debriefing or enquiry into his escape from the then East Pakistan.

. BNS Titumir was abandoned

It said a similar enquiry should also be held into the case of Commander Gul Arin of the Pakistan Navy, who is alleged to have abandoned PNS Titumir, Khulna, before the orders of abandoning the same were communicated to him.

The judicial commission further recommended that enquiries should also be held into the conduct of Lt. General Irshad Ahmed Khan, Commander one Corps, Maj. General Abid Zahis, GQC 15 Division and Maj. General B.M. Mustafa, GOC 18 Division.

Rao Forman's irregularities

It recommended a proper enquiry into the circumstances in which Maj. General Rao Forman Ali remitted his message on the eve of surrender in December 1971 through one Paul Marc Henry to the United Nations Secretary General after General Rao Forman Ali, Lt. General Niazi and some other army officers, then prisoners of war in India, would be avaliable.

According to some investigative journalists here, the commission had severely condemned General Niazi for allegedly making money in the handling of Martial Law cases while posted as GOC, Sialkot and later as Martial Law Administrator in Lahore. "There are reports of brothels and of women who were General's touts for receiving bribes for getting things done and that he also indulged in the smuggling pan (betel leave) from the then East Pakistan to the then West Pakistan."

Rs.1.35 cr looted in Sirajgonj

The Commission referred to an evidence to the effect that a group of senior army officers and their units had been involved in large-scale looting including theft of the then rupees 1.35 crore from the National Bank of Strajganj.

Witness to the commission Lt. Colonel Aziz Ahmed Khan said "the troops used to say when the commander (General Niazi) was himself a rapist, how could they be stopped."

He also told the commission that "his superior boss one Brigadier had asked him to destroy all houses in Joypurhat and that he executed the order."

Another witness Brigadier lqbal-ur Rehman told the commission that during his visit to the formation in the then East Pakistan General Gul Hassan used to ask the soldiers, "How many Bengalis have you shot"?

Ghost phone

From Page 1 Col. 5

terrorists whom they claimed were identified. They also sought administration's help to step up security measures in and around their missions and residence. One Saudi diplomat complained that despite repeated requests Bangladesh Government did not deploy Ansars to their mission, although police were posted

The GCC diplomats expressed their strong resentment at the allesed nondiplomatic activities by an Arab mission in Dhaka and the Government did not take any action against them. They warned that if the non-diplomatic activities of that mission continues they might even consider to close down their missions in Dhaka for security reason.

MBBS

From Page 1 Col. 2

cause of the refusal could not be ascertained as the authoritics kept mum on this issue despite the insistence by this correspondent. All the 111 students earlier got their admit cards, it is learnt.

The angry candidates snatched away the answer scripts. The Medial College invigilators could collect only 500 scripts out of 4756.

Witnesses said the 111 candidates, who were issued admit cards, had learnt of their disqualification just before the examinations began at Later they inquired of the

Hall Superintendent Prof Abdus Salam, the cause of the cancellation of their admit cards. But Prof Salam failed of reply.

This infuriated them and they opted for violence. Protesting the rejection of their applications they first entered the Arts Faculty Building (Dhaka University) hall, forced the candidates out and tore their answer scripts. Later, the protestors went to two other halls at the DMC and Badrunnessa Girls' College and

created disturbances there. The invigilator of the Badrunnessa Cöllege hall told the Daily Star that the trouble shooters snatched most of the scripts from the examination control room there.

Principal of the DMC, Prof Kabiruddin, told this correspondent that the next date for admission tests was uncertain. A decision to this effect will be taken at a meeting of the Examination Committee.

But the date for the meeting is yet to be scheduled, he added.

Kashmiri, Sikh militants jointly call strike today

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: Kashmiri militants fighting a bloody separatist war joined their Sikh counterparts Friday in calling a general strike to mark India's national day, reports Reuter.

Paramilitary reinforcements were sent into Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, after the militants told the Muslim population to observe a 40-hour strike from this evening. India's Republic Day on Sat-

urday is celebrated with parades and speeches in state capitals. Senior police officials said the army might be deployed in

some of the most militant areas of the old city of Srinagar to head off trouble. The Kashmiri militants. whose campaign has cost about 2.000 lives in the past year,

also called on people to

demonstrate following Friday

prayers against Indian rule of the Himalayan region. The strike and demonstration calls brought immediate

response in the city. Those shops which did open swiftly closed their shutters and most peopel left the

Sikh militants in the northern state of Punjab fighting for an independent homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure) also called a strike to mark Republic Day.

BNP manifesto January 28

BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia will announce her party's election manifesto at a press conference on January 28. The conference will be held at 5-30 p.m. at House No-5, Road No-10, Dhanmondi, said a press release on Friday, reports UNB.

Eight-party unity on the rocks again

favour of the Awami League

candidate Nazma Khanum.

Montu Ghose came to the

party office and told the party

leaders that he would not

he would contest the election

with 'sickle' and the question

of his withdrawal was absurd.

However, he was in favour of

the revival of a 15-party

Alltance as it was before the

'eontroversial' decision of tak-

ing part in 1986 election when

Five-party Alliance drifted away

from the combine led by

in any way the prospect of the

GOJ was blcak. Because, they

clarified the politics of the

components of the Eight-party

Alliance was destined to the

same goal and it was difficult

for them to come out of that

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said

that the formation of the GOJ

was a political blunder, while

NAP in a meeting of the

Central Executive Committee

on Thursday decided to re-

spond to the Awami League of-

fer from positive angle. The

Ganotantri Party also cannot

afford to annoy its four candi-

dates who got chance to run

the election with the blessings

of the Awami League, said a

leader of the Five-party

Meanwhile, the CPB leader

The Five-party leaders said.

withdraw.

Awami League.

coterie.

Alliance.

By Staff Correspondent

The components of Eight party Alliance disagreed with the stand taken by the Fiveparty Combine on the seat adjustment proposal of the Awami League.

The parties, however, did not formally sever the link with Ganotantrik Otkya Jote (GOJ). The GOJ was formed with Five-party Alliance after AL disagreed with its smaller partners about electoral adustment.

Although Eight-party Alliance assured a meeting with Five-party Combine, they did not instruct their candidates to refrain from election campaigning in favour of the Awami League candidates. The Eight-party components and Five Parties were holding separate meetings till the writing of the report.

The Five-party source said that there was little chance for revival of the GOJ at this stage, but neither of the sides would take any responsibility for the disintegration of the GOJ before election because many of the GOJ nominees are contesting the election with their common symbol 'sickle'.

The Eight-party Alliance source said that the proposed meeting with the Five-party Alliance would be held after January 27. Prior to the meeting they want to discuss the matter with the Awami League President Sheikh Hasina who is currently visiting Chittagong for election campaign.

The leaders of the Eightparty components have not yet issued any official instructions to their party candidates to withdraw in favour of the Awami League candidates at the local constituencies. They are under continuous pressure from their candidates not to compromise in all the scats in exchange of the leniency shown by the Awami League.

On the other hand, the Awami League candidates who are unhappy about the decision of the central leaders to surrender 36 seats to the other components of the Eight-party Alliance also raised a legal question whether they should be deprived of taking boat as election symbol, when the symbol was allocated to the Awami League and not to any individual party leader. Besides, the new allotces of boat belong to other party and as such the decision was a curb on the fundamental right of a party member, they argued and some of them are ready to sue the party leaders, insiders

In Demra constituency Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of CPB was allotted 'boat' by the Awami League leaders but in his constituency the Awami League candidate Habibur Rahman Mollah is contesting the election with 'electric bulb', defying the party's instruction. On the other hand, the CPB candidate Montu Ghose from Narayangani constituency did not withdraw in

Casualties of Bangladeshi troops denied

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan on Friday categorically denied reports of casualities of Bangladesh troops in Saudi Arabia and termed these as "totally baseless and devoid of any truth", reports UNB.

"Our troops in the Kingdom and our people in the Gulf, according to latest information, are safe and secure", he siad. Bangladesh troops in the Kingdom, under the Asudi command, are in defensive po-

sition there. According to biateral arrangements, they will not be used other then for defensive purposes, the Foreign Secretary siad.

AL youth leader attacked, veins cut

FARIDPUR, Jan 25:- A local youth leader was seriously injured after political rivals hit him with knives and cut his veins here today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Liagat Hossain (22). Organising Secretary of the district unit of Awami Juba League, was forcibly brought down from a Jessore-bound bus at Gangabordi, seven km off the town at around 12 noon. Later the attackers inflicted severe knife-injuries to him and cut his veins.

The armed attackers, numbering about 10 left the spot leaving the victim there.

Fire Brigade ambuiance rushed to the spot and bourght liagate to the Faridpur General Hospital, He was later shifted to the Dhaka pangu Hospital as his condition deteriorated further.

A case has been filed in this connection with the kotwali police.

Hungry rodents ground plane

BEIJING, Jan 25 : Eight escaped white mice have grounded a Russian-built Tupolev-154 plane in China's northern Shanxi province. Shanghai's Xinmin evening newspaper said, reports

Authorities, who have so far managed to catch only one of the escapees, fear the hungry Aztzul Islam of Ganotantri rodents may gnaw through Party told the Daily Star that wiring on the plane

Civil Aviation Administra tion of China airline officials are trying to suffocate the remaining mice, the report

The ratce escaped while being transported by a medical company on a flight that left Shanghat on January 21 bound for Tatyuan, capital of Shanxi province, said the Thursday edition of the newspaper, received in Beijing on Friday.

Shahabuddin greets Indian President

The Acting President Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Friday felicitated Mr R. Venkataraman, President of India on the occasion of its

Republic Day, reports BSS. In a message, the President expressed his firm conviction that the friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between the two neighbouring countries would continue to grow to the mutual benefit of two peoples in the years to

APSU names 10 Ershad cronies

The All-Party Student Unity (APSU) Friday published a list of deposed President Ershad's 10 accomplices nominated by Awami League and BNP for parliament election, reports

The student alliance called upon the people to reject the listed 10 and all other Jativa Party men and Ershad's close aides in the election.

On the list are former

Secretary MK Anwar, a BNP nomince for Comilla-1. Rahimuddin Bharsa-BNP-Rangpur-4, Abul Hossain Saku-AL-Madaripur-3, AKM Abdul Khaleg-BNP-Kushtia-3, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan-BNP-Khagrachhari-l, Nurunnabi Chowdhury-AL-Khagrachhari, Bir Bahadur-AL-Bandarban KS Pru-BNP-Bandarban, Keramat Talukhder-BNP Mymensingh-5, Nasiruddin Kalu-BNP-Shariatpur. APSU sources said the list

was finalist Friday after discussions on the nomination controversies in several meetings over the last few days. Earlier, it has urged the po-

litical parties not to give nom-

ination to any member of Jatiya Party or those associated with the autocratic regime. The three mainstream alliance-8-party, 7-party and 5party who had led the mass movement earlier agreed that

they would not give shelter to

anyone associated with the

Ershad Government or his Jatiya Party. In a press release APSU said "we have repeatedly urged the political parties and leaders not to nominate Ershad cronies, but a few political parties have violated their

signed agreement".

The Midnight File

Makkah, Madinah status

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25: Malaysia has asked Saudi Arabia to declare the Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Madinah 'open cities' because of the Gulf war. Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Friday. He said places declared open cities in an area of conflict would not be attacked by warring sides. During the Second World War, Rome was declared such a city, he said. Under the proposal, Saudi Arabia would continue to exercise sovereignty over Makkah and Madinah, but all warring parties must agree to the proposal, he said, reports

2 Burmese opponents surrender

RANGOON, Jan 25: Two members of a newly formed parallel government of opponents to Burma's military regime have surrendered, a top Burmese leader said here Friday. They were Trade Minister Than Kyaw and Agriculture Minister Myint Aung, Major General Khin Nyunt told a press conference. The formation of the parallel government was announced in Manerplaw, near Burma's border with Thailand,

on December 18, reports AFP. Lankan state of emergency

COLOMBO, Jan 25: The Sri Lankan government asked parliament to extend a 20-month state of emergency today and Tamil separatist rebels withdrew their unilateral ceasefire with immediate effect. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Vincent Perera said 37 civilians, 12 soldiers and two policemen had been killed between December 16 last year and January 16 in the north and east, reports Reuter.

Actions against smugglers urged

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami at a rally on Friday urged the interim government to take stern actions against the smugglers in order to ensure sound growth of industrial sector. He said that smuggling became rampant during the fallen Ershad regime confronting the emancipation of the national economy sharply. The Jamaat leader was addressing a public meeting at Aftabnagar High School ground of Sathia upazila in Pabna. Presided over by Maulana Abdul Malck the meeting was addressed by, among others, the local leaders Abu Taleb Mandal, Akmal Hossain and Wadud Khan

Sufia Kamal re-elected

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal and Mrs Ayesha Khanam have been elected President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad for the next two years with 37 members elected to the central committee. The seventh national conference of the Parishad on its concluding day Friday also elected a 160-member National Council. The widow of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon who was killed during the Antiautocracy struggle, inaugurated the 2-day conference of

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, reports BSS. A convict of 12 cases held

Police arrested a convict of 12 cases with his ally and recovered stolen goods worth over taka one lakh from their possession on Friday. A team of policemen led by the Officerin-charge of Sutrapur Thana arrested Jahangir Alias Pet-kata Jahangir and his ally Delwar Alias Delu from Nichintapur village of Fatuliah under Narayanganj. The recovered goods include television, tap recorder, watch and cane of bear,