

Focus on election- '91

Call to cancel candidatures of Ershad, associates

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Participants of a democracy march that ended at Lalitghat Maidan here yesterday called upon the caretaker government to recover illegal arms and black money to hold the coming parliamentary elections free, fair and peaceful, a press release of the marchers said today, reports BSS.

They also urged upon the government to cancel the candidatures of former President Ershad and his absconding ministers to defuse agitations in this regard. They requested the government to form all-party volunteer corps in accordance with the recent address to the nation by the Acting President. They demanded ouster of Prof. Golam Azam from the country and punishment to those responsible for December 22 incident in Chittagong University.

They called upon political parties to expel arm holders and mastans from their respective parties and stop rehabilitation of lackeys of the autocrat. They urged party leaders to form all-party volunteers corp to maintain order in election centres. They further called upon the people to launch social movement to ensure human rights including voting rights. The democracy march had started from Dhaka on December 24 under the joint auspices of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Sammilita Peshajibi Sangram Parishad, Otkabadda Nari Samaj and Sarbadaliya Chhatra Otkya.

Code of conduct can succeed if parties cooperate

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal President Mr. Khalequzaman Bhuiyan Sunday said the code of conduct announced by the Election Commission will succeed only when all parties extend full cooperation, reports BSS. Addressing a public meeting at Dhania in Chandpur, BSD chief called upon all to come forward to stop the vote rigging and capturing of polling centres which were the hall mark during Jatiya Party rule. The BSD chief called upon the Government to supply agricultural inputs like diesel, pumps, seeds and insecticide at fair price to the farmers. Presided over by Alamgir Hossain Dulal, the meeting also addressed by Rahmatullah and Ripon.

16 ladies

From Page 1 Col 4 respectively while AL chief Sheikh Hasina faces Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Maj (ret) M. A. Mannan of BNP in Dhaka 7 and 10 constituencies respectively. Sixteen prominent female candidates are in the fray for the February 27 elections, a preliminary scrutiny shows. They include five from Bangladesh Awami League, four from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), three from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and two each from Jatiya Party and Workers Party. Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League (BKSAL) had initially fielded three female candidates. But following the January 22 rapprochement with the Awami League they have withdrawn from the races. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, who is also contesting from Gopalganj-3 will face BNP candidate Amalendu Biswas.

Begum Khaleida Zia who is also contesting for two other seats will face Zakaria Bhuiyan of AL and Shirin Akhtar of JSD (JSD) in Feni-1. In Bogra-7 constituency her rivals are Abdul Mutalib Manik of AL and Saleha Sultana of Workers Party. AL General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury will face Abul Hossain Mia of BNP and Md. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party in Faridpur-2 constituency. AL central leader Syeda Zohra Tajuddin has two rivals—Brig. (ret) Hannan Shah of BNP and Moazzem Hossain Sarker of JP in Gazipur-4 constituency. BNP central leader Mrs. Farida Rahman faces Intaj Ali of AL and Syeda Razia Fayiz in Satkhira-2. Awami League leader Begum Matiya Chowdhury will face Zahed Ali Chowdhury of BNP in Sherpur-2.

The Midnight File

Coup attempt in Ciskei fails JOHANNESBURG, Jan 27: The military leader of South Africa's Ciskei Homeland survived an overnight coup attempt by his former right-hand man, Homeland residents said today. The residents said Brigadier Oupa Gqozo had arrested Colonel Mangwane Bizana for trying to seize power in the impoverished Indian ocean coastal territory, reports Reuter.

25 Tamil rebels killed COLOMBO, Jan 27: Sri Lanka's Airforce killed 25 Tamil separatist guerrillas in a bombing raid and denied a rebel claim to have downed a helicopter, military sources said today. The Air Force killed the 25 during the destruction of a rebel camp on Saturday at Nayar village in northeast Millaitivu district. On Saturday, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said they shot down a helicopter straffing Navattikulam village in north-west Mannar district, reports Reuter.

Arabs offer Jews homes JERUSALEM, Jan 27: Israeli Arabs have offered to open their homes to Jews in the Tel Aviv area who have been injured or had their homes damaged by Iraqi Scud missiles, a spokesman for the council of Arab Municipalities said today. The council, representing all Israeli Arab towns, made the offer on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Hasina under fire

From Page 1 Col 8 symbol 'hat'. On the other hand, even after the instruction of the party leadership the Awami League candidates in 36 constituencies have not refrained from election campaign. They are still mobilising their workers with their independent election symbols like 'wall clock', 'electric bulb' etc. Nawabganj Thana Awami League on Sunday brought out a procession in support of the original Awami League nominee, Subid Ali. He was later replaced by Azizur Rahman Fuku of Baksaal as Eight-party nominee. But the majority of the Awami League workers in Nawabganj (Dhaka-2) have rallied behind Subid Ali, who is contesting the polls with 'wall clock' as his symbol. On the other hand, the Awami League nominee Nazma Khanam who is contesting from Narayanjanj told the Awami League president that in her constituency the CPB candidate has not yet withdrawn.

The disgruntled leaders of the Awami League said that the last ditch effort to salvage the Eight-party Alliance by surrendering 36 seats had become a boomerang to the Awami League when the decision had failed to unite eight party leaders. Meanwhile the smaller components of the Eight-party Alliance who wanted to sit with Sheikh Hasina last night failed to get her audience. The Five-party Alliance in the newly formed Gonatantrik Otkyo Jote (GOJ), which took a stand to ignore the seat offer by the Awami League has not yet received any time schedule to discuss the future course of the GOJ. According to the Election Commission, there is no time to change the symbol now. If any one wants to challenge the symbol of any candidate he should file case in the court for judgment.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia addressing a big public meeting at Chatai in Tangail yesterday. —Star photo

Khaleida

From Page 1 Col 7 February 27 parliamentary polls. Begum Zia said the people were well aware which party had congratulated Ershad when he took over overthrowing the elected Sattar government. "Those speaking about last 15 years of autocratic rule had contested the 1979 presidential election under the BNP government and also sat in the main opposition bench in parliament", she pointed out. Without mentioning name, Begum Zia questioned how could they participate in the 1986 parliamentary polls under the autocratic Ershad regime. She recoiled the charges of misuse of BNP's arch rival, saying "man and dog shared food from dustbins during their rule, while they claim it to be a golden era in Bangladesh". She accused them of enacting the Special Powers Act in the name of law, squeezing the number of newspapers to only four in the name of press freedom and attack on minorities in the name of secularism. Presided over by local BNP leader Azmal Hossain, the rally was also addressed by party candidate in the constituency Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad. "A wave of sheaf of paddy, BNP's election symbol, is sweeping across the country which has unnerved them", Begum Zia said. Assuring a peaceful and prosperous society if elected to power, the BNP chief urged the people to cast vote for sheaf of paddy. "Vote for friends," she said, adding BNP has kept its promise to the people in the past and would not betray in future. BNP would implement its unfinished 19-point programme by reviving 'Gram Sarker' for the agricultural and industrial development of rural Bangladesh.

Grenades fired at bank

SIDON (Lebanon), Jan 27: Two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a branch of the Fransabank Saturday in the sixth such attack reported against Western interests in Lebanon since the Gulf war broke out. Police said the 6:56 p.m. (1655 GMT) attack caused severe damage to the ground floor of the seven-storey building housing the bank, which is believed owned jointly by Lebanese and French financiers. There were no casualties, reports AP.

Cold claims 23 in India

JAMMU, Jan 27: Twenty-three people have frozen to death in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir in the past two weeks in a cold wave which closed highways and stranded scores of people, officials said today. More 15 people have been reported injured in avalanches that brought down houses in this mountainous region, reports AFP.

Two given 144-year jail terms

MANILA, Jan 27: A Philippine court sentenced two communist rebel leaders to jail terms of 144 years each for killing army engineers in an ambush in 1988, the military said today. Ruel Ramirez and Rodrigo Samon were accused by the military of involvement in the attack by about 60 communist rebels on a convoy of army engineers aboard two trucks in the central province of Bohol, reports Reuter.

Shekhar visits Nepal Feb 13

KATHMANDU, Jan 27: The Prime Minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar, will pay a three-day visit to Nepal from February 13 at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart, Dr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. This will be Mr. Chandra Shekhar's first visit to Nepal after assuming Prime Ministership of India. He had visited Nepal on January 18 last year, leading an Indian parliamentary delegation to attend the national conference of the then banned Nepali Congress, reports PTI.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7 of national life had deepened over the last 15 years when there was no democratic rule in the country, Hasina said, adding that the anti-people regimes resorted to large-scale corruption, plundered national wealth and foreign aids, and denied people of their fundamental rights. Those who spoke on the occasion included Rickshaw Owners' Association President H. M. Mallick and General Secretary Mohd Mahtabuddin, Rickshaw Drivers' Association President Abdul Barck and General Secretary Momen Ali, Loanees' Welfare Association Executive President Prof. Syed Kutubuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Fazlul Haq, and WDB Sramik Karmachari League President Humayun Kabir and General Secretary Nekbar Ali Pradhania. BSS adds: Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina today called upon the intellectuals to place the black history of killing, repression and conspiracy of the autocratic government of Ershad before the next generation through their writings.

30 injured

From Page 1 Col 5 February 27 parliamentary polls. The venue of the meeting was shifted to Akkas Ali High School ground as the district authorities had imposed section 144 prohibiting meeting at poura Park Scheduled earlier. Mizan Chowdhury who is contesting the election from Chandpur town, told the meeting "people will suffer if the process towards democracy is hampered just one month prior to the polls". His observation came after a group of people armed with lathi, hockey sticks and other lethal weapons attacked the JP meeting. The chaos continued for about half an hour. Mizan Chowdhury resumed his speech after the attackers were repulsed by his supporters. At least 30 people were injured in chase and counter chase between JP workers and rival groups. Two of the five seriously injured were admitted to Chandpur Hospital. Chandpur unit of All Party Students Unity (APSU), after a protest rally at Hasan Ali School ground, brought out a procession in the town. The processionists demanding trial of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman Ershad and his corrupt associates attacked a number of houses of JP leaders. Dr Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury, elder brother of Mizan Chowdhury, was injured when the APSU activists stoned and ransacked his house at Natun Bazar Stadium Road.

Farm loan relief

From Page 1 Col 7 standing agricultural credits. Interest exemption will cost further more. The parties have not yet spelt out their implementation arrangements for the programme, which will be incorporated in their respective manifesto to be formally announced. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Awami League has announced that it would exempt agricultural land holdings up to 25 bighas from any taxes. This is in addition to the party's announcement about the agricultural loan relief programme. Rough estimates suggest that tax-exemption on agricultural land holdings up to 25 bighas will mean a revenue loss of about Taka 50 crore a year for the Government. The interest exemption measure in 1987 cost Taka 300 crore, the burden of which was divided equally among Bangladesh Bank, Commercial Banks and the Government itself under a three-year phased operation.

Teachers

From Page 1 Col 8 ernment has decided to introduce double shift in 40 schools more including eight in Dhaka, 30 in old district towns and two at Khagrachhari and Bandarban. Double shift has been felt necessary in view of the growing pressure of students. It is gathered that 261 posts of teachers are lying vacant for a long time. Another 212 vacancies were created this month when 98 teachers were promoted as Assistant Headmasters, 68 as Assistant Headmistresses and 46 others as assistant District Education Officers. The sources said the 22 government high schools which so long offered double shift utilized the services of the teachers on deputation, or declared surplus by the Enam Committee on reorganisation of services.

Arms recovered

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Chittagong Metropolitan Police in cooperation with the district and the jail authorities today recovered iron rods, axes, billhooks and stocks from different cells of Chittagong jail, reports BSS.

Shift Ershad

From Page 1 Col 4 Front chief Mostafa Faruk and Chhatra League (N-S) general secretary Shaif Ahmed addressed the marchers. The student leaders warned they would be compelled to Ershad's transfer to the Jail by holding rally in the area violating Section 144 if their demand was not accepted. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the government order declaring the Gulshan villa as sub-jail, saying no jail could exist in the diplomatic enclave.

Another court may hear Moudud's detention case

By Supreme Court Correspondent The detention matter of Mr. Moudud Ahmed, former Vice-President was fixed on Sunday before a Division Bench comprising Mr. Justice Abdul Jalil and Mr. Justice Quazi Shaifuddin for further hearing. At 2 p.m. the court told the Attorney General Mr. Aminul Haque and Mr. Rafiqul Haque that the judges felt embarrassment.

Rebels seize Villa Somalia: Barre flees

NAIROBI, Jan 27: Somali rebels captured the presidential palace in Mogadishu today and President Mohamed Siad Barre fled to an unknown destination, a representative of the medical charity Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) said, reports AFP. Rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) launched an attack on the Villa Somalia, the President's official residence, on Saturday, after four weeks of bitter fighting in the Somali capital, said Stephan Van Praet of MSF Belgium, who is coordinating MSF Europe's medical aid operation from the Kenyan port of Mombasa. He said medical workers in the Somali capital contacted by satellite telephone reported that the rebels had captured the palace early today after bitter fighting. The President had fled "in a tank accompanied by a small military convoy 15 minutes, before the palace was ransacked and looted by hundreds of people," he said. Mr. Van Praet quoted a witness in Mogadishu as saying that "it was like a popular uprising". The President's destination was unknown, but there was speculation that he was heading for the airport, where he is believed to have an underground bunker, or to Southern Somalia, his home region. There were rumours here that Major-General Siad Barre was killed early Sunday, but it was impossible to obtain confirmation.

Zinat

From Page 1 Col 5 Sunday issued Rules Nisi in two writ petitions upon the Government and others to show cause within seven days as to why the detenu Mr. Mosharrar Hossain, a former Secretary, Ministry of Industries under the deposed President H. M. Ershad) and his wife Mrs. Zinat Hussain shall not be brought before the court so that it may satisfy that they are not being held in custody without any lawful authority or in an unlawful authority. It may be recalled that Mr. Mosharrar Hussain and his wife Mrs. Zinat Hussain were arrested after the fall of Ershad regime and were served with detention order. They are detained in central jail, Dhaka.

Iraq may use

From Page 1 Col 4 and held until the conflict ended. Iraq said it was trying to secure the return of its planes, which had made emergency landings in Iran. Baker III said Saturday he had received Tehran's assurances that the planes would remain in Iran 'for the duration'. Baker noted that Iran, said it would take the same action if Allied warplanes landed on its territory. The possible defections coincided with the reported downing of three more Iraqi warplanes by US pilots in aerial combat Saturday and renewed Iraqi missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia. Oil slick damage Iran appealed Sunday for international help to fight a growing oil slick that it said had caused massive environmental damage in the northern Gulf.

told reporters they did not know if the Iraqi pilots were defecting or whether the move might have been pre-arranged between Baghdad and Tehran to help protect the aircraft from US and Allied warplanes. "I can confirm for you... at least a dozen fighters and at least a dozen transport planes — and that number could go higher," said Rear Admiral Mike McConnell, an intelligence expert with the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff. Iran said earlier on Saturday that seven Iraqi aircraft had landed in Iran, one of them crashing in flames. It also said that aircraft from either side in the Gulf war that landed on its territory would be seized.

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Kader Siddiqui

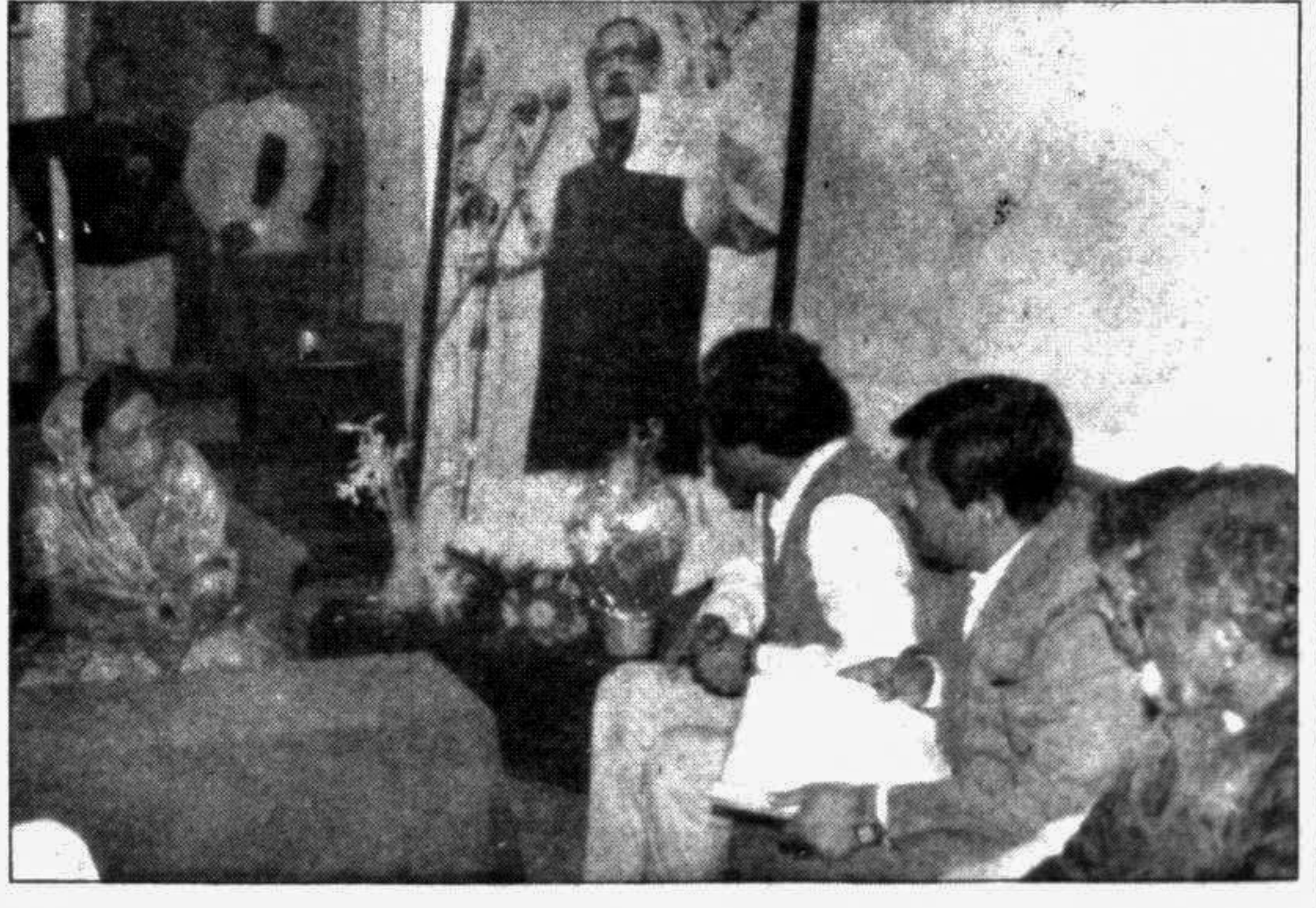
From Page 1 Col 5 League to contest the ensuing general elections from Tangail constituency. His nomination paper has also been accepted. On 15.1.91 the detenu left Dhaka and reached Rajbari the same day. He addressed a political meeting at Rajbari the next morning and there after he went to Jhaidah. On the way he addressed several political meetings in Magura, Modkhali, Kamarkhali, Jhaidah etc. The petitioner further stated that Mr. Kader Siddiqui was arrested on January 17 from the WAPDA Rest House, Jhaidah. A large contingent of armed police encircled the Rest House, before his arrest. When the detenu wanted to know the reason of his arrest, the police officer vaguely hinted at some conviction of the detenu, of which the detenu claimed to have no knowledge. When he wanted to see the warrant of arrest, the police officer failed to show any. He, therefore, refused to accompany the police officers. The police officers then produced an order of detention dated 13.1.91 under Section 3(1) (a) of the Special Powers Act, 1974, stating that it was necessary to arrest the detenu for public safety and public order for a period of 120 days. Dr. Kamal Hussain, senior counsel appeared with Kader Siddiqui, Mr. A. F. M. Mesbahuddin, Mr. M. K. Rahman, Mr. Shamim Hussain and Mr. Nurul Islam.

Hearing

From Page 1 Col 3 ted chargesheet against Ershad for possessing unauthorised arms and ammunition. The Special Committee which prepared the inventory at the official residence of Ershad at Cantonment found four pistols, four double barrel guns and ammunition of different caliber. Police stated in the charge sheet that licence of the arms and ammunition was not available. Three cases have been filed against Ershad so far. Two other cases regarding possession of Taka 1.90 crore at his residence which was beyond the ostensible source of earning and the other one is regarding purchase of ATP planes by Bangladesh Biman.

JP processions demand release of leaders

By Staff Correspondent The Jatiya Party and Jatiya Sramik Party have jointly brought out processions in different parts of the city on Sunday demanding the release of all JP leaders including the former President H. M. Ershad who are now under detention. A procession was brought out in Motijheel, Dilkusha area Sunday morning under the leadership of Abdus Salam, Abdul Haque and others. A rally of the Jatiya Party was held yesterday afternoon at BDR gate in Lalbagh area. The rally presided over by Abdus Salam demanded immediate release of the former President Ershad for the sake of free and fair elections. The JP President Guljar Hossain also spoke at the meeting. According to reliable sources, more cases are being prepared against former President Ershad. He may be chargesheeted for abusing power to exempt huge bank interest for some privileged persons.



AL chief Sheikh Hasina talking to the representatives of Rickshaw Owners Association who called on her yesterday. —Star photo