Focus on election- '91

Time for choosing right leadership

The leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Mohtuddin) on Tuesday expressed apprehension that autocracy would again emerge if the nation failed to elect suitable persons in the coming polls, reports BSS.

The time for choosing right leadership has appeared, they said in the central committee meeting of the party in Dhaka calling upon the people to elect the JSD-nominated candidates in the February 27

The meeting was presided over by the party President Mahiuddin Ahmad and addressed, among others, by

General Secretary Azizul Islam Swapan, Vice-President, Amir-Uddin Sarkar Manju and Joint Secretary Babul Mia.

They said the people would be able to elect the candidates of their choice if the participating political parties follow the code of conduct announced by the government.

The JSD leaders also said that restoration of full democracy in the country would only be possible if a pasiamentary system of government could be established based on the 1972 constitution.

They also felt the necessity of the unity of all pro-liberation forces for establishing the parhamentary system of govern-

Menon

From Page 1 Col. 4

the reflection of national consensus was there in the framework identical formulated by the three alliances. But Awami League and BNP leaders have forgotten their commitment to that in view of the coming polls, he said.

People are no more interested in polemics against each other. Menon said making it clear the nation now wanted a guarantee for their food, clothing, medicare and democratic rights.

He said his party and the Five-Party Alliance were pledge-bound to raise the demands of the geople of all shades of opinion in parliament and to implement the identical framework of the three alliances.

The Workers Party leader said the facilities for the city people were not increased despite a huge amount of money spent for the city beautification programme. Workers Party will pursue its movement both in parliament and on the streets for the solution of the problems of Dhaka city, he said.

APSU's demand to send Ershad to jail

KHULNA, Jan 29: Leaders of All-party Students Unity Central Committee on Tuesday demanded of the present government to send former President Ershad to jail and arrest of all his associates, reports BSS.

The Student leaders were addressing a public meeting here today at the Shaheed Hadis Park held under the auspices of APSU.

They also called upon the different political parties not to give shelter to those persons who were associated with the ameratic government of Ershad.

Two ministers

From Page 1 Col 8

Anisul Islam Mahmud Ziauddin Bablu, Abul Hasnat Anwar Hussain Manzu, Naziur Rahman and Sardar Amjad Hussain.

UNB adds : Zafar Imam. surrendered to Dhaka Central Jail authorities last night.

Deputy Jailor Shamsul Huda told the agency over telephone that the former minister had surrendered at the jail gate at

about 9 pm. Government directed these ministers to surrender within

seven days to the Central Jail failing which they will be convicted for one-year imprisonment. The warrants from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court also provide for attach-

ment of their property unless they surrender before the deadline.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) has been persistently demanding arrest of the

former ministers of Ershad.

Editor: S. M. Ali

AL committed to four state principles

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Bangladesh Awami League will reiterate its commitment to four state principles -democracy, nationalism, secularism and socialism, in the election manifesto which is likely to be announced early next week.

The party may soften its socialist programmes in the light of changes in the Soviet Union and east European countries pursue a mixed economy equally emphasising the role of the public and private sectors to establish a welfare economy. It will give priority to the rural sector and introduce cooperative system.

sources told the Daily Star that the party will renew its pledge to restore parliamentary democracy, check corruption, and establish accountability at all levels.

Awami League will vow to uphoid Bangalee nationalism. and help flourish the traditional Bangalce culture. The source said AL's stand on secularism does not contradict Bismillah' in the Constitution.

committee headed by AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad has prepared the draft manifesto now awaiting approval by the party's central

RIYADH, Jan 29: Saudi

Arabia has set off an interna-

tional ecological alarm as it

moves to prevent the whole-

sale death of sea cows, turtles,

birds and coral reefs from his-

tory's biggest oil spill, a lead-

ing environmental official said

With the slick already pol-

luting some areas of the Saudi

Arabian coastline, teams have

been dispatched to rescue

wildlife and survey the general

impact, Abdulaziz H Abuzinada

the National Commission for

Wildlife Conservation and

Development said booms had

been placed around Jena,

Keram, Kereen and Jeried is-

lands in the Gulf to protect vi-

tal nesting grounds for thou-

was establishing links with

wildlife experts around the

world, hoping to create a task

force to aid the animals in dis-

tress or destroy those beyond

cials say the slick was deliber-

ately caused by Iraq, when it

opened the tap at Kuwait's Al-

Ahmadi oil tanker station.

They describe the action as

Saturday bombed two onshore

piping facilities connected to

an offshore terminal from

which millions of gallons

(liters) of oil gushed into the

On Monday, the US mili-

tary said it believed the spill

estimated to be 35 miles long

and 10 miles wide (56 kilome-

American warplanes on

"ecological terrorism."

US and Saudi military offi-

The official said his agency

sands of birds and sea turtles.

The secretary- general of

Tuesday, reports AP.

told reporters.

working committee.

The manifesto committee source said Awamt League will not nationalise any new industry, but stop indiscriminate denationalisation in individual and coterie interest'. He pointed out that planned denationalisation was started during the rule of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. AL will raise efficiency of nationalised industries to make those

Al will seek to check corruption by establishing accountability at all levels. The government will be responsible to the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) and the Jatiya Sangsad will be responsible to the people. Similar accountability will be there in local government bodies, the source

He said that the economic policies of AL will be based on

The upazila system will be further democratised allocations to upazilas will be adjusted keeping in view the availability of resources both internal and external. It will solve the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem politically.

The source said Awami

AL chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Belabo in Narshingdi yesterday. -Star Photo

Riyadh calls for world

aid to combat spill

ters long and 16 kilometers

wide) had been largely stopped

that no assurance can be given

that the available resources

and expertise will be able to

prevent severe ecological dam-

age," Abdulaziz told a news

has arrived and other coun-

tries and private citizens have

offered help. But Abdulaziz

stressed there was still "much

scope for further contribution

He said it would be difficult

From Page 1 Col 7

gatherings here today Sheikh

Hasina called upon people to

vote for her party to ensure

people's rule which would

Advocating for parliamen-

tary democracy she said it is

the only system to protect

people's rights and bring an

end to autocracy, exploitation.

15 years' rule as the history of

autocracy, exploitation and re-

pression. After the killing of

Bangabandhu she added, two

dictators - Ziaur Rahman and

H.M. Ershad ruled the country

in the same manner. She said

there was no difference be-

tween the two 'armymen'

whom she accused of snatch-

ing people's fundamental

The AL chief also accused

the two former presidents of

adopting various measures to

allow the rich become richer

and the poor become poorer.

"Late president Zia reimposed

different taxes, waived by

Bangabandhu, and his succes-

sor Ershad increased the

amount further," she observed.

Ershad was his army chief and

When Zia was president.

The AL chief termed last

and repression.

rights.

replace autocracy once for all.

to the international effort."

A team of American experts

"The problem is so large

at the source.

briefing.

la ague considers education as people's right and not a privilege. It will give more emphasis on spread of technical and vocational education. AL will seek to implement the recommendations of the Kudrat e-Khuda Education Commi ssion with slight changes in the light of the needs of the

Awami League will pursue a non aligned foreign policy. It will seek friendship with all and oppose guardianship from any quarter, he said.

The AL manifesto committee source said the manifesto will not be a radical departure from the party constitution. AL will still call for establishment of a socialistic society with the aim of reaching 'the greatest good to the greatest number of

election manifesto committee are: Presidium members Dr. Kamal Hossain. Abdul Mannan Islam Anu.

Islamic rule

From Page 1 Col. 3 -Meeting of basic needs of

- Modernisation of the defence in order to protect independence and sovereignty. -introduction of interestfree banking and insurance

system. The Jamaat chief said, the basic needs of the people such as food, cloths, shelter and medicare are guaranteed in an Islamic state.

In a 32-point manifesto released to the newsmen, the Jamaat leader outlined that his party fought against autocracy to end social injustices. Hence they would remain firm in continuing the movement to put an end to all black laws curbing the fundamental rights of the people, he said.

Referring to rule of law he said they stand for independence of judiciary in order to

protect people's rights.
He further said his party is committed to abolish all anti-Islamic rules to protect moral values. He pointed out that Islam always discards politics of oppression. The party will en sure religious rights of the non-Muslims, he added.

Quoting from the election manifesto the Jamaat chief further said they have taken uncompromising stand for proteeting sovereignty and independence of the country. For that Jamaat has attached top priority to modernise defence by increasing its capability, he

The manifesto, however, proposes introduction of lalamic labour laws for the wellbeing of workers. It says the party would introduce interest-free banking and insurance system as embodied in the code of Islam. The manifesto advocates for uninterrupted growth of both public and private sectors.

The Jamaat leader said the corruption had become rampant during all the past governments. So the party has decided to eliminate corruption through establishing rule of Allah, he said.

In reply to a question the Acting Ameer said his party is contesting 220 scats. Jamaat would support honest, patriotic and like minded people in the remaining seats, he said.

Urging people to vote for his party candidates the Acting Ameer said honest persons should be elected to protect national interests.

When asked on the form of government, the Jamaat leader did not make it clear but said the party would work wholeheartedly for establishment of

When asked whether Jamaat would accept a female as the head of state for the sake of democracy the Acting Ameer replied that they would de so although Islam never allowed a female to be the head

City Ameer Abdul Kader Mollah and Jamaat leader Prof. Yusuf Ali were also present

Foreign aid

From Page 1 Col 7 year were: 118 million dollars in food, 115 million in com-

showed new aid commitments by the development partners in July-November at 405 millton dollars.

on November 30 was 5728 million dollars including 142 million dollars in food, 462 million in commodity and 5123 million in project assis-

Motifheel thana against former Hossian on charge of misapand advance money for foreign

handout, Hossian took over as Industry Secretary on contract

He drew Tk 5,31,600.56 as salaries, allowances and advance money for foreign trip from the Industries Ministry from April 13, 1988 to February 28, 1990. Mr. Hossain had also drawn Tk 5.64,449.61 from BCIC as salaries, allowances and advance money for foreign tour

Despite repeated reminders, Hossain neither refunded the money taken from BCIC nor adjusted it, the

Nine members of the Sangbad Pathak Samity (Newscaster Association) have withdrawn their membership from the association on the ground that 'objectives of the samity would not be fulfilled under the present organisa-

In a joint statement, the member said the association was formed in 1987 with a view to bringing back confidence in TV and Radio news. Seminars, and symposia were organised, memorandum and statements were issued but the objectives could not be ful-

The signatories to the statement said the association failed to play a positive role in the movement for democracy in 1990. They said members of the association were now prepared to read news at any circumstances. In the general meeting of January 25, many members even questioned the role of many 'powers' in the mass movement including the 'Sammilito Sangskritik Jote.'

Severing all links with the association, the signatories pledged to continue to play a clear role in broadcasting objective news over radio and television through different organisations and other means.

The signatories to the statement are: Serajul Mazid Mamun, Ramendu Mazumder, Sadia Choudhury. Shamim Ahmed. Nafis Imtiazuddin. Babul Akhtar, Ishrat Azim and Syed Anwarul Huq.

The Midnight Eile

US cuts aid to Yemen

WASHINGTON, Jan 29: Two months after Yemen voted against the United States in a-crucial United Nations Security Council debate on the Gulf crisis, the State Department has slashed its aid from a planned 22 million dollars to less than three million. The cut was disclosed in a letter from the department to Congress showing aid allocations for countries around the world in the current fiscal year that ends September 30, reports Reuter.

Sharif hopes to host ICFM

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Monday he hoped to host an Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) soon to try to end the Gulf war. Shartf, on his return from a week-long tour of the Middle East, said he had the support of the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Iran. Turkey, Jordan. Egypt and Syria, reports

BP office in Athens bombed

ATHENS, Jan 29: Terrorists bombed the local offices of British Petroleum early Tuesday, a day after a blast damaged the Athens branch of American Express, police said. There were no injuries reported in either blast, says AP.

Bush's popularity at peak

WASHINGTON, Jan 29: President George Bush's approval rating has returned to the highest point of his presidency with 79 per cent of poll respondents giving him a favourable mark, according to a new poll. The 79 per cent in the Washington Post-ABC News poll who said they approved "the way George Bush is handling his job as president" matches the high point recorded about a year ago after the invasion of Panama. The lowest approval rating for Bush, 51 per cent, was recorded in the budget debates last fall, and the rating has been rising since then, reports AP.

UK hosts G-7 summit July 15

LONDON, Jan 29: Britain will host the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations in London on July 15-17 this year. Downing Street announced yesterday The European Community, to be represented by the Netherlands, rotating President of the EC for the second half of 1991, will also attend the summit, reports Xinhua.

PNC speaker assassinated

AMMAN, Jan 29: Refiq Shafie Kiblawi, the assistant deputy speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), was assassinated Tuesday in Kuwait, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official reported. Salim Zaanoun, the Council's deputy speaker, said Kiblawi was shot as he was leaving his house in Kuwait by gunmen who fled in a car. There was no immediate indication who was responsible for the attack, reports AP.

Summit delay a warning

MOSCOW, Jan 29: The US-Soviet summit delay will warn Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that his new hard line threatens to restore the cold war and jeopardises his accomplishments, a leading Soviet reformer said Tuesday. " think this can be a very strong signal for our President and for our rulers in general that the result of their turn back can be a restoration of the Cold war," Moscow Deputy Mayor Serget B. Stankevich said in an interview, reports AP.

13 killed in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 29: Heavy fighting between guerilla forces and government troops in northern El Salvador over the past two days have left 13 dead and 26 wounded, the military announced today. The most serious of the conflicts around the region occurred Sunday near Tecolouca, 73 kilometers (45 miles) from the capital, were five guerillas and four army personnel, including one officer were killed, an army spokesman said, reports AFP.

Iraqi thrust

From Page 1 Col. 7

against us by our enemy," he was quoted as saving.

When asked whether this meant he would not use chemical or other non-conventional weaponry unless these arms were first used against Iraq, he replied, "I don't mean that, I said Iraq will use weapons that will equate those used against

Saddam also claimed that 12 days of bomb attacks and the air superiority established over Iraq by the U.S.-led forces has failed.

However, Saddam said he prayed that the blood would be shed in the Gulf was which began on January 17.

One POW killed

AP reports : Iraq said Tuesday that an Allied air raid on Baghdad killed one of the Allied pilots who had been used as a 'human shield' at a strategic site, and said other prisoners of war have been injured.

Saddam Hussein defended his widely reviled use of prisoners as human shields.

US threat about planes

In Washington, the White House spokesman said Tuesday that the U.S. military is prepared to attack any Iraqi planes that try to rejoin the Gulf war from Iran and increased to 100 its estimate of the number of Iraqi planes in Iran.

Address

Meanwhile, President George Bush made final prepara tions for his State of the Union address scheduled for Tuesday night, the first such wartime address to Congress since the Vietnam war nearly two decades ago.

Scuds on Riyadh, Tel Aviv

In the seventh missile at tack on the Jewish state in 11 days, debris from a falling Scud rained down on the occupted West Bank. Four people died and 215 were hurt in Israel's Tel Aviv and Hatfa regions in the first six Scud attacks.

A mistaken release

Saddam Hussein indicated Monday that he believed that releasing thousands of foreign hostages may have been a mistake.

'If we had kept these 5,000 hostages here, would Bush still have attacked Baghdad?" CNN

quoted Saddam as saying. Shelling on Iraqi depot

According to an AFP report: Two US Marine Corps artillery batteries crept up to the Saudi-Kuwaiti border just before midnight on Sunday and fired a barrage of 72 rounds at

an Iraqi supply depot. The shelling was the heaviest on the ground so far by US or Allied forces and the first by the 2nd Marine Division.

The htt-and-run attack was carried out by 155 mm(eightinch) Howitzers and 203mm M 110A2 self-propelled Howitzers. They fired 36 rounds each, the first shell whistling into the night at 11:59 p.m.

The Iraqi supply point some six miles (10 kilometers) inside Kuwait could not be seen from the marine positions, but orange flashes from secondary explosions were heard, indicating the Howitzers struck their target.

The eight-man Howitzer crew fired in unison in an at tack that lasted less than 15 minutes. They then scrambled away to avoid Iraqi ground

2,600 sorties

Reuter reports from Riyadh: Allied aircraft have flown more than 2,600 sorties during the past 24 hours, a US officer told a news briefing in Saudi Arabia Tuesday.

6 planes downed

The Iraqi military command on Tuesday claimed to have downed six warplanes and missiles since Monday afternoon. The enemy continued its

air raids against our defensive positions, civilian and residential areas with 65 sorties," said the command's communique. broadcast on Baghdad radio.

Iragi officer killed An Iraqi officer was killed

during a botched ambush of three Saudi Arabian border guards, according to a sentor US officer. The three Saudis were

wounded slightly in the Sunday night attack by about a dozen Iraqis.

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profitable

An AL manifesto committee

An II-member manifesto

pragmatism and no unattainable promise will be made.

people. Other members of AL's

and Syeda Zohra Tajuddin. General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Economic planning Secretary Ataur Rahman Kaiser and central leaders Abdul Momen, Fazlul Hug B. Sc., Matia Chowdhury, Shafiqul Azia Mukul and Nurul

to protect all ecologically im-

portant areas along the slick's

southward path, and indicated

priority was being given to

warding off the slick from wa-

ter desalination and electricity

generation plants along Saudi

long-term effects of the spill

describing the Gulf as

"basically a closed environ-

ment" with a very slow water

turnover. He estimated it

would take three to five years

to replace the Gulf's waters

under present weather condi-

they were responsible for

large-scale corruption, anarchy

and looting she said. Later

Ershad ousted Zia following

conflict between them over

sharing of public wealth, al-

ensuing polls by BNP and

Jatiya Party (JP), the Al. chief

remarked that the parties

having common interests are

now active in the election race.

Both the parties want to grab

power to exploit people while

our party is committed to end

In her speeches at four

public meetings and seven

wayside gatherings. Sheikh

Hasina sought people's cooper-

ation to consolidate the victory

achieved in the recent anti-au-

tocracy movement and institu-

were held at Belabo Modern

Pilot High School ground.

Raipura Serajnagar Mansur Ali

Pilot High School ground,

Tarabo and Narsingdi town

Awami League and 8-party

candidates from the five con-

stituencies of the district and

local leaders also addressed

the meetings and gatherings.

Four big public meetings

exploitation", she said .

tionalise democracy.

On the participation in the

leged Shetkh Hastna .

Abdulaziz said he foresaw

Arabia's Gulf coast

Form of government

modity and 332 million in project aid. The latest official figures

Foreign aid in the pipeline

Misappropriation case against Mosharraf

The Anti-Corruption Bureau Tuesday filed a case with Secretary A. K. M. Mosharraf propriating nearly Tk 10 lakh by drawing salaries, allowances

trips, reports BSS. According to an official

basis on April 13, 1988.

during the same period.

handout added. 9 newscasters sever links with association

By Staff Correspondent

tional set-up.

Begum Zia warned the filled.

now pretends to be the advocates of democracy strangulated it to death by introducing one party rule in the country after passing a bill in the parliament in just four minutes

Shah Moazzem urged The Acting Secretary-Gen-

eral of the Jatiya Party. ABM Shahjahan, on Tuesday urged upon the government to arrange immediately, proper treatment of ailing former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain, who is now under detention "without any trial", reports BSS.

Plunderers From Page 1 Cot. 3 materials for their own well-

She said they took up the reins of the government after assuring the people of making rice available to them at 50 poisha per seer and wheat at 25 poisha. But rice was sold at

that time at Taka 15 per secr. she pointed out. Begum Zia said, "They now describe their rule as the golden age," but, she said in a firm voice that the golden age was not for the people, it was rather for the rulers of that

Presenting a painful picture of the then regime, the BNP leader said although the pcople could not manage two square meals a day, the marriage of the son of the then Prime Minister was solemnised with putting a crown on the groom's head. She said human beings and dogs shared

food from dustbins then. She said they grabbed the property of the Hindus in the name of enemy property. The exponents of secularism lifted ornaments from the bodies of goddesses in the temples, she

people that if this party was voted to power again they would sell out the sovereignty of the country to others and take away the rights of the She said the party which

Treatment of