

108 CU Shibir activists freed on bail

CHITTAGONG, Jan 31: One hundred and eight members of Islami Chhatra Shibir have been released on bail in last two days here, reports BSS. Police arrested the Shibir members for alleged involvement in the incident of Chittagong University on December 22 last jail authorities said today. The release order was given by Chittagong District Judge Court upon an application on behalf of the Shibir members. A press release of Islami Chhatra Shibir said that its members were released after forty days' detention without any formal charges. Chittagong University unit of the Shibir held a reception at its Chandanpura office here this evening. Speakers demanded arrest of the killers of Shibir members Amin and Anul and also the real culprits of the December 22 incident.

5-party Alliance pledge

From Page 1 Col 7

The 5-party leader blamed Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party for their failure to rise up to the expectations of people. Awami League, soon after independence, unveiled its autocratic character by introducing the black laws and one-party rule, he said. The black laws also existed during the rule of BNP and JP as an extension of the autocratic system, the alliance leader said. AL, Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties legalised the autocratic rule of Ershad by participating in the parliamentary polls of 1986, he remarked. Khalequzzaman described the objectives on the basis of which the 5-Party will launch united movement and called upon people to vote for its candidates in the polls. The alliance will annul all the amendments to the constitution excepting the first and the third ones, try all accom-

plishes of ousted president Ershad, an act now laws to try the corrupt persons of the civil administration and the army, corrupt businessmen and politicians. He said the police administration would be re-structured in accordance with the people's need and bring change in the structure and rules and regulations of the armed forces. Regarding the economic policy, the alliance leader said, they would minimise dependence on foreign aids and change the capitalistic economy and cancel the denationalisation policy. About agriculture and rural economy, he said, a drastic change would be effected in the land reforms on the basis of lands for farmers' policy and introduce scientific agricultural system. In the interest of the working class, the Five-party will repeal the laws opposed to the interest of the workers and materialise the

demands of the Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad. Ratio of wages will be 5:1 of the working class ranging the highest and the lowest salary in the national pay-scale, he said. He said alien culture would be eliminated and a secular universal education system would be introduced. The 5-party convener said rights of women, medical facilities to all without discrimination would be ensured and the interests of the minorities would be fully protected. On foreign policy, he said, non-aligned policy would be followed and a firm position in favour of the anti-imperialism would be taken and good relations with the socialist world to be maintained. The press conference was also attended by Five-party leaders including Hasanul Huq, Inu Moinuddin Khan Badal, Hader Akber Khan Rono, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Sharif Nurul Amin.

Ekushey programme

From Page 1 Col 5 Bangladesh to fight the War of Liberation in 1971. The traditional programmes this year have the rightful demand to be more elaborate and diversified in the light of the mass upsurge. '90. Bangla Academy will start the 25-day programme to commemorate the 'Amar Ekushey '91 today. Bangla Academy will hold a children's painting competition titled 'mass upsurge '90' at 9 am on the day. The main attraction of the Bangla Academy programmes will be the month-long book fair. Muktafahara, a leading publishing house, has arranged a 'souvenir competition' on 'Amar Ekushey'. Meanwhile, 'Amar Ekushey February, 1991 observance committee of Dhaka University' has imposed restrictions on hanging of portraits at Central Shaheed Minar. The nation

will pay homage to the Language Movement martyrs at the Shaheed Minar on February 21. The committee, formed yesterday in a meeting presided over by Professor Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will be responsible for maintaining discipline on the occasion. Professor Anwarullah Chowdhury, Dean of the Social Science Faculty, has been made coordinator and Professor Shahadat Ali, Chairman of Zoology Department, joint coordinator of the committee. Ershad's detention under SPA challenged Supreme Court Correspondent. The detention of ousted President H. M. Ershad was challenged in a writ petition by his brother in law, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman. The detention was challenged on the grounds inter alia that the Special Powers Act (SPA) of 1974 under which the former President was detained had been repealed by him on December 6 last. The petitioner further alleged that notwithstanding the fact whether the Special Powers Act had been repealed or not, the former President cannot be held under this law as it was illegal and unlawful being made for collateral purposes and without any material on record. The petitioner claimed that there was nothing to show that the detenu should be prevented from doing any prejudicial act which might endanger public safety and order. The petitioner further contended that there was nothing on record against the detenu nor there was any prejudicial act on his part to apply Section 2 of the Special Powers Act. The grounds communicated are also vague, indefinite, irrelevant, illusory and non-existent. A division bench comprising Justice Fazle Hossain, Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Mr. Justice Abdul Hasib of the High Court Division issued a rule nisi on Tuesday upon the Secretary and Senior Assistant Secretary (Security), Home Ministry to show cause within seven days as to why the detenu should not be brought before the court so that it may satisfy itself that he is not detained without any lawful authority or in an unlawful manner. Kazi Shahadat Hossain appeared for the detenu. Hearing of Moudud's detention case Sunday Supreme Court Correspondent. The detention of the former Vice-President Moudud Ahmed came up for fixation of date of hearing before a Division bench comprising Mr. Justice Ismailuddin Sarker and Mr. Justice Md Badruzzaman of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on Thursday. Sunday has been fixed as the date of hearing. Moudud's detention has been challenged by his elder brother M. Mahmood Ahmed in a writ petition before the Court. Officials. From Page 1 Col 7. Justice Shahabuddin listed the step taken by his interim government to ensure free and fair polls. Ershad's appeal. From Page 1 Col 8. Ershad said certain quarters were raising the demand for shifting me to Dhaka Central Jail as part of the plot. The former President said he is contesting the parliamentary polls from five constituencies in Rangpur, his home district. "Being concerned of my victory and of my party candidates, a particular quarter has hatched a conspiracy to stage another heinous jail killing in the country's history. "I am a citizen of this country and a former President as well. I have not been given minimum facilities as per existing laws. On the contrary, I have been detained illegally," he said. The motive of the conspirators, the letter said, became clear from their persistent demand for shifting him to Dhaka Central Jail. "It's the responsibility of the government to ensure my security in detention and I appeal to you to take necessary action." "I also appeal to you not to transfer me to Dhaka Central Jail for the security of my life," said Ershad.

The Midnight File

Red Cross convoy in Iraq

GENEVA, Jan 31: A Red Cross convoy carrying 19 tonnes of emergency medical and surgical supplies has crossed from Iran into Iraq, the international Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday. An ICRC statement said the convoy of trucks headed for Baghdad was accompanied by four delegates from the all-Swiss humanitarian agency, reports AP.

UK to station B-52 bombers

LONDON, Jan 31: British Defence Secretary Tom King said today Britain had agreed to a United States request to station B-52 bombers in Britain for use in the Gulf war. King told parliament that a limited number of B-52s would be temporarily stationed in Britain and would fly missions armed with conventional munitions against Iraqi military and strategic targets, reports Reuter.

US leaflets for Iraqi troops

SAUDI ARABIA, Jan 31: The United States is blanketing Iraqi troops from the air with five million leaflets telling them how to surrender. The one-page leaflets in Arabic and English tell the Iraqis to show they are giving themselves up by slinging their weapon over their left shoulder barrel down and waving a leaflet or other white object with raised right arm, reports Reuter.

Six killed in ANC, Inkatha clash

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 31: Six people were killed today in a clash between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party just two days after their rival movements forged a peace deal, police said. Thousands of people took part in the fighting at Umgababa, a Natal province township. About 60 people were injured and 150 houses were damaged in the attack, a spokeswoman said, reports Reuter.

Benazir cut short US visit

ISLAMABAD, Jan 31: Former Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto is cutting short a US speaking tour to attend a special National Assembly session on the Gulf war and to try to stem a torrent of criticism at home. She would return on Sunday for the assembly session and to meet party leaders angry at what they see as her political blunders abroad, a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) source said, reports Reuter.

Major rules out interest cuts

LONDON, Jan 31: Prime Minister John Major ruled out an early cut in interest rates and said there would be no quick fix until the "central evil" of inflation was brought down. In an interview with the Times newspaper published on Thursday Major said he had no choice but to pursue a counter-inflation policy and predicted inflation would come down to the forecast 5.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1991, reports Reuter.

N. Korea, Japan hold talks

TOKYO, Jan 31: North Korea and Japan ended today a first round of talks on normalising diplomatic relations and agreed to meet again in March, Pyongyang's official news agency said. The two-day meeting held in the North Korean capital. Delegates agreed to reconvene in Tokyo in the first half of March, reports Reuter.

National Poetry Festival today

By DU Correspondent. The fifth National Poetry Festival '91 will start today (Friday) at 10 a.m. at the Dhaka University T.S.C. road island. The slogan of festival for this year is 'poetry for democracy'. Begum Sufia Kamal will inaugurate the festival. The inaugural session of the two-day festival will be addressed by Fayez Ahmed and Nirmalendu Gun with poet Shamsur Rahman in chair. A seminar on 'struggle of poet and poetry' will be held today at 11 a.m. as part of the programmes. Zillur Rahman, Siddiqui, Adviser for Education will preside over it. The Session for recitation of self-composed poetry will start at 2.30 p.m.

Fresh admission test for MBBS, BDS courses

The admission test for MBBS and BDS course, held on January 25 have been cancelled, an official Press Note issued on Thursday the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said, report BSS. Fresh test will be held on February 15 at 9 am at all the centres, the Press Note said. The decision to cancel the test and hold a fresh one has been taken at a meeting held recently with Health and Family Welfare Adviser Prof. M. A. Majed to review the report of the investigation committee which have been constituted to probe the untoward incidents in some of the admission test centres, the Press Note said. Many of the candidates did not appear in the admission test at Dhaka Medical College centre due to disturbances by some admission seekers whose applications were cancelled due to non-fulfilment of terms and conditions for admission. Legal measures would be taken against the troublemakers, the Press Note said adding that PIK has been recorded against them. CEC firm. From Page 1 Col 8. ple's unequivocal support and cooperation and the commitment of the interim government, next month's parliamentary election will certainly be unique in our national life. Hasina. See Page 10 Col 4. "Joybangla" as both the words denote the same meaning. "Zindabad" is a Persian word meaning "victory". She said adding while Joybangla also means the "victory of Bangladesh". She further said, the people of the Sindh province of Pakistan use to say "jaya Sindh" and they definitely do not turn into Hindus. Discarding the Jamaat propaganda that a "female" could not be the head of a Muslim state Sheikh Hasina posed a counter question-where in under Islam it had been written that women could not be the head of a state? She pointed out that the first human being who embraced the holy Islam from Hazrat Muhammad (SM) was a female and who embraced martyrdom in "Zihad" was also a female. She said, even in Pakistan the Prime Minister was a woman although it is an Islamic country. She said, in 1983 she performed "Umra" and in 1985 she performed holy haj.

People to establish Allah's law: Abbas

The Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, Abbas Ali Khan on Thursday said that the people of the whole country had awakened to establish Islamic rule in the country, reports BSS. Addressing a big public meeting at Teghardisha Madrasah maidan in Jaipurhat presided over by Moulana Ataur Rahman the meeting was also addressed by the Ameer of Jaipurhat district Jamaat-e-Islami, Ataur Rahman. Mr. Khan said that the 110 million of people of the country were being subjected to repression and oppression during the last two years in the absence of 'Allah's law and the rule by honest people in the country'. He said the people who were in power during the last two decades worked only for the improvement of their own lot. But, he said, they did nothing for changing the lot of the nation. Criticising the rule of Awami League he said during their three and a half years' of misrule people died of

starvation and the bodies were buried without cloth. He said the freedom of the press was gagged and one-party autocratic rule was thrust upon the country. He warned if they were voted to power again the country's independence and sovereignty might be at stake. The Acting Ameer of the Jamaat regretfully said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Awami League have nominated accomplices of the autocratic ruler against whom the whole nation had relentlessly fought during last nine years. Abbas Ali Khan said the life and property of the non-Muslims would be ensured in an Islamic society. He said if Islamic rule was established, the women would get back their full dignity and rights. He said land tax would be written off and the peasants would be given interest-free loan if Islamic government was established. In the country, the system of certificate cases would also be done away with, he added.

Electoral anarchy

From Page 1 Col 4 candidate Kamal Haider. In many other constituencies the candidates and workers are unhappy with the party decision. Awami Leaguers are more unhappy with the candidates of smaller partners of Eight-party Alliance, who did not retire in favour of AL candidates. Although AL gave up 36 seats, the electoral scene is dominated by party candidates. The electoral alliance has not worked well on the other side too. BNP and Jamaat held a series of talks on seat adjustments in many constituencies without reaching

firm agreements. The smaller partners of Seven-party Alliance merged with BNP. The probable allies of BNP like Muslim League, Jajga, Janata Party are contesting the elections with their respective party symbol. Five-party's move to have an electoral understanding with both AL-led Eight-party Alliance and BNP could not be worked-out due to adjustment problem. The over all situation is that the election is now contested by all the parties without having any broad understanding. The latest election scenario is a departure from the initial speculation that AL and BNP will be in the centre stage of elections and smaller partners as per ideological tilt will align with these parties. But the failure of electoral understanding among the Eight-party partners, between BNP, Jamaat and Five-party has resulted in multi-polar contest. The major contestants are now BNP, AL and Jamaat. There may be last moment understanding locally among the candidates of the like-minded parties. But the situation will remain unclear until middle of this month. There is near anarchy in the use of symbols by the candidates of the same party. The secretary general of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Saifuddin Ahmed Manik is using 'boat' as his symbol while Mujahid Islam Selim is using 'sickle'. Similarly, NAP chief Mujaffar Ahmed is using 'hut' as his election symbol while some of the NAP candidates are using 'boat'. The use of different symbols by the candidates of the same party in different places has created confusion among the supporters of mainly Eight-party Alliance. BNP has no any such problem at the moment.

Candidates

From Page 1 Col 4 Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) - 61, Islami Oikya Jote-57, Janata Dal-51, Khelafat Andolan -42, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Siraj)-33, National Awami Party (Bhashani)-31, Workers Party -30, Communist Party of Bangladesh -15, Sangyabadi Dal 2, National Congress II, National Awami Party (M) 24, Nezami-Islami Party -3, United Communist League -21, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khalequzzaman) -11, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Mahbub) -6, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal -3, National Hindu Party -2, and Hindu League-6. A total of 3855 nominations were received by returning officers and assistant returning officers by January 13, the last date of filing nomination papers. After scrutiny on the following day, 58 nominations were rejected. Out of the rejected nominees, 33 appealed to the Election Commission and the commission found 31 nominations valid. And the number of valid nominations stood at 3828. By January 21 a total of 1047 candidates withdrew their nominations. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court asked the Election Commission to treat one more nomination valid. Thus excluding the 17 candidates who sought to contest from Gaibandha-I constituency, the number of candidates in 299 constituencies totals 2782. Editor : S. M. Ali

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Processionists wearing 'Saddam T-shirts' in the city yesterday chanting "Stop war in the Gulf". —Star photo

Khafji recaptured

From Page 1 Col 7 male US soldier and a male soldier in a transport unit travelling in the area were missing. 5 Iraqi divisions. Marines on the outskirts of Khafji also said they had been told five or six Iraqi divisions — at least 60,000 troops — were massing near the Kuwaiti town of Al-Wafra, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) to the west, and believed preparing for an attack. Iraq moved into Saudi Arabia on Tuesday night with a four-pronged attack that set off the first major ground fighting since the Gulf War began on January 17 with Allied bombing runs. Hammering on Iraq Allied warplanes continued

hammering Iraq on Thursday and the Gulf became a naval battleground as well. British forces in the Gulf claimed Thursday that a helicopter from the HMS Gloucester attacked and sank another of Iraq's Soviet-designed amphibious landing craft, leaving Iraq with no more than one left. French jetfighters carried out two raids Thursday morning in southern Iraq, near the Kuwaiti border. The official Iranian news agency said the Iraqi port city of Basra was under heavy attack. It said a petrochemical complex sustained substantial damage. Refugees who crossed into Jordan said they had seen extensive damage to civilian areas in several Iraqi cities. Jordanian Foreign Minister

Taher Masri complained Wednesday that US warplanes bombed civilian traffic on the highway, killing four Jordanians and one Egyptian. Iraq claimed to have shot down 10 more Allied planes and missiles over Iraq Wednesday night and Thursday morning. But the commander also sounded a note of caution, saying the Iraqis "certainly have a lot of fight left in them." 'National prayer day' Meanwhile, the Commander of Operation Desert Storm said Thursday the first ground combat deaths in the Gulf War ought to bring home to Americans that war is going to kill people. President George Bush designated Sunday a "national day of prayer."

Rakkhi Bahini

From Page 1 Col 7 those who called Zia an autocrat forget that he introduced multi-party system. The sheef of paddy can bring peace and progress in the country, she said urging the people to elect nationalist forces. She said that her party would revive the 19-party programme of late President Ziaur Rahman. The canal digging programme of late Zia had aimed at increasing food production and saving the country from the curse of flood and drought, Begum Zia said. She said her party will create job opportunity by setting up industries and pursue a free economy for the development of the nation. The meeting was also addressed by former Home Minister Col (Retd) Mustafizur Rahman, BNP candidate for Khulna-5 constituency Prof. Mazedul Islam, candidate for Khulna-6 Sarder Matnuddin, candidate for Khulna-2 Advocate Razzak Ali and former President of Khulna city Chhatra Dal Ruhul Amin Rumi. It was the third day of her election campaign in southern districts. She left for Bagerhat in the evening.

6 patrol boats sunk

According to an earlier Reuter report: US and British helicopters and fighter-bombers destroyed at least six Iraqi missile-carrying patrol boats in a 12-hour battle in the northern Gulf on Wednesday.

Allied plane downed

Iraq said Wednesday it downed one Allied plane and damaged another in dog fights over its territory.

Iraqi POWs transferred

The US Armed Forces have handed over 36 Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) to Saudi Arabia in the first such transfer in the two-week-old Gulf War, the Pentagon said Thursday.