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The Daily Star

Let us devote our efforts to ensure free and fair polls on February 27. Cast your vote judiciously and allow others to exercise their rights.

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International

Lithuanian govt in exile



Lithuanian Foreign Minister said he would form a govt in exile, if the elected administration overthrown, causing concern to Gorbachev. Page-5

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An Indian view of political consciousness of Bangladeshis, their communal tolerance and the time ahead of them. Page-4

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Science & Technology



Dr. Anwar Hossain, a leading scientist of Bangladesh writes on the use of remote sensing in Bangladesh. A Special to The Star. Page-6

NEWS BRIEFS

Shahabuddin to address nation

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed address the nation at 7-15 pm today (Tuesday). His speech will be relayed simultaneously by national hookup radio and television, reports UNB.

Village doctors sue Ershad

The Village Doctors Associations lodged a case with Ramna police against ousted President H M Ershad for alleged misappropriation of village doctors' funds and suspending their training course. Ershad's lawyer Barrister Kazi Shahad Hossain told this over telephone, but police expressed their ignorance.

US mum on deadline

WASHINGTON, Jan 14: The White House was mum today on when a military conflict might break out in the Gulf but said any moment after midnight Tuesday (0500 GMT on Wednesday) was borrowed time, reports Reuter.

US observer to oversee polls

A group of about 25 American observers is due in Bangladesh during the last week of February to oversee the ensuing parliamentary polls, reports UNB.

We'll do what we've to do, says Bush : No concessions, says Saddam

Clock ticks towards war

BAGHDAD, Jan 14: Iraq today vowed no concessions on Kuwait and said it was fully prepared to fight the United States in the Gulf, as a last-minute United Nations effort to prevent war failed, reports AFP.

With the clock ticking toward conflict ahead of a UN deadline for a withdrawal from Kuwait that expires here early Wednesday, Parliament endorsed President Saddam Hussein's determination to hold on to the Emirate.

The rubbers-stamp legislature voted today to defy the world and fight to hold on to the Kuwait in a move tantamount to a declaration of war.

Your steadfast Iraq led by President Saddam Hussein has resolved to fight," Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh told the 250 member assembly before it approved the resolution by acclamation. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de

Cuellar, who held last-ditch peace talks with Saddam in Baghdad today, said he now saw little room for diplomacy.

"I see no cause for optimism," he told reporters in Paris after talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, who along with other members

AMMAN, Jan 14: Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein wants UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue his efforts on the Gulf crisis, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said he was told by the Iraqi Foreign Minister today, according to a late night Reuter reports.

of the 12-Nation European Community has promised to work to the last minute to try to avert war. President George Bush, who has orchestrated the Western and Arab military buildup in the Gulf, said on Sunday that the United States

was prepared "to do what we have to do".

Iraq's refusal to pull out of Kuwait despite a campaign of U.N. trade sanctions did not surprise him -- "but they are making a tremendous mistake," he told reporters. Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said in yesterday Monday that he still hoped for a peaceful settlement in the Gulf, adding that he believed it should be resolved by Arab countries.

"I still have hope", Mr Waldheim told reporters in the Omani capital, before his departure to Jordan for talks with King Hussein.

It was the worst crisis since World War II, he said, calling on the United Nations to implement all its resolutions on the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian issue.

Mr Waldheim said he favoured an Arab solution to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "Not

only me, many other people would be happy to see Arabs resolving their own problem", he said.

Yemen plan

Yemen has a Gulf peace plan that is backed by the United States and will be put forward later today to Iraqi officials, President Ali Abdallah Saleh announced in Aden.

Colonel Saleh, whose country is a key ally of Iraq, told Parliament the plan called for Iraq's pull out from Kuwait together with a United Nations Security Council commitment to implement resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The plan "has the agreement of the Americans," he said.

Following the collapse last week of direct US-Iraqi talks to avert war, the international community had pinned its hopes on a mission of Baghdad



UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar looks tired upon arrival from Baghdad at Paris le Bourget airport early January 14 - AFP photo

20000 to benefit from jail amnesty

By Staff Correspondent

The Home Ministry on Monday sent directives to all the jails of the country for preparing a list of prisoners to be released as per government decision, according to a senior government official.

According to the government decision eight categories of prisoners will be considered for release, from country's all 76 jails.

The decisions include --the convicts who have already suffered half of their prison term including the remission till December 6 last year will be released forthwith.

The convicts who have not suffered half of their prison term including remission till December 6 will be released after serving half their prison term. The sentences of the convicts who were awarded life term by December 6 last year will be considered as 20 years will be considered as 20

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3,764 nominations found valid, 56 cancelled



Mother grieves over the body of her son Mithu, a City College student, killed in firing yesterday. - Star photo

By A Staff Reporter

Fifty six out of a total of 3,820 nomination papers were rejected after scrutiny on Monday, Election Commission sources said.

The rejected nomination papers included five filed on behalf of deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, one of two filed on behalf of former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain and two nomination papers of former Ministers Zafar Imam and Nazim Rahman and former Jatiya Party MP Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury. Most candidates and their supporters were present at the offices of Returning Officers (Deputy Commissioners) during the scrutiny. Except in Chittagong and Rajbari where two stray incidents were reported, scrutiny of nomination papers was done peacefully all over the country.

In Rangpur, supporters of Ershad were seen. See Page 10 Col. 5

Moudud, Zafar, Moazzem qualify for contest

Nomination papers of Ershad rejected

By Staff Correspondent

All the five nomination papers of former president H.M. Ershad were rejected after scrutiny yesterday.

The deputy commissioner of Rangpur told the Daily Star that the nomination papers of the former president had not been submitted through "proper channel." Ershad is now under detention at a Gulshan residence.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports Jatiya Party leaders of Rangpur said they would challenge the rejection. They organised a rally at the Rangpur 'Shapla Chattar' to protest the decision of the returning officer.

The rally announced a two-day programme including demonstrations in all six upazilas today to be followed by a rally at 'Shapla Chattar' and gherao of the office of the deputy commissioner who is also the returning officer for Rangpur. The programme also includes a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town tomorrow.

After Monday's scrutiny nomination papers of former minister Nazim Rahman from

three constituencies in Bhola were rejected. The nomination paper of Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, former MP and mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, from Chittagong-13 was also rejected.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: four supporters of Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury were injured in a

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Ershad to file writ

By Moinuddin Naser

Deposed president Ershad, now interned in a posh house at Gulshan, has handed over necessary papers to his lawyer Barrister Kazi Sahadat Hossen to file a writ petition challenging his arrest under the Special Powers Act. He has also handed over other documents to defend him against the criminal cases. See Page 10 col. 1

Shahabuddin appeals for Iraqi pullout

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussain to withdraw his troops from occupied Kuwait as war clouds thickened over the Gulf with the deadline for vacating Kuwait drawing nearer, reports BSS.

The war in the Gulf becomes more real than ever before and the possible loss of life, devastations of properties and infra-structures and other

See Page 10 Col. 8

Kader Siddiky, wife file nomination

By Staff Correspondent Kader Siddiky and his wife Nasrin Siddiky have filed nomination papers from the same constituency, Tangail-8 (Shakhipur-Bashall), and their papers were found valid after the scrutiny yesterday.

The filing of nominations by Kader Siddiky has created embarrassment for the Awami League leadership since the party has already nominated Abdul Khaleque for the seat and his nomination paper was also submitted.

Student killed in police firing

By Staff Correspondent

One student was shot dead and 60 others including seven policemen were wounded, on the second day of clashes in and around the Dhaka City College yesterday.

Some students claimed that two students Imon and Naziruddin, were also killed and their bodies were taken away by unidentified persons. Their claim could not be confirmed yesterday.

The death of first-year Intermediate (Commerce) student Shamsuddin Khan Mithu fuelled the protests, which started after a quarrel between students and visa brokers at the Indian High Commission office in Dhanmondi, where the college is situated.

Fellow students said he was hit by bullet on the fourth floor of the college when police entered the campus and allegedly started beating the inmates and firing at about 11.15 am. They said he died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The police version is that Mithu was killed as they recovered a stungun snatched from a constable. They alleged that the students also dragged two policemen into the college campus, but they were later released.

As news of the killing spread, students burnt three vehicles and damaged a dozen others at Science Laboratory, Mirpur Road, Green Road.

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Probe body

The Government has formed a one-man commission to inquire into the causes of the total incidents, and find out responsibility and make necessary recommendations relating to the unpleasant incidents of Monday and the previous day in the Dhaka City College area, according to a Press Note, reports BSS.

Besides, Office-In-Charge of See Page 10 col. 5

Polls won't be fair, fears Khaleda

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia Monday expressed her doubts that with the present voter list the coming polls would not be free and fair, reports BSS.

She said "after seeing the voter list, we do not think that elections would be at all free and fair."

Mentioning particularly the voter list of Gulshan and Cantonment areas, Begum Zia said, "We did not see name of any gentlemen in the list. We can show such a list where father is Hindu and son is Muslim," she said.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia stressed the need for establishment of rule of law in all spheres of life to build up a true democratic society free from exploitation and injustice.

Talking to a group of young lawyers who met her at the Banani office of the BNP on Monday evening Khaleda Zia said that there should be a free and fair election to establish democracy.

AL to take up projects for women: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said yesterday real development of the country was not possible ignoring the womanfolk and called for bringing them in the mainstream of economic activities, reports UNB.

Addressing a delegation of Jatiya Mohila Samabaya Samity at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the afternoon, she said if returned to power, her party would undertake income-generating projects for women to attain self-reliance.

"A nation can't make progress without development of women, half of its entire population", she said, adding women will have to work alongside their male partners to attain economic self-sufficiency.

She mentioned various projects initiated by the Bangabandhu government for rehabilitation of women socially and economically in the war-ravaged country.

She alleged post-Awami League regimes used to talk tall about the uplift of women but did not do anything for them.

Latvians block Riga streets

MOSCOW, Jan 14: Barricades were set up in the streets of old Riga, the Latvian capital, as thousands of nationalists today moved to prevent Soviet troops from reaching the Parliament and radio and television buildings, a spokesman for the Latvian Foreign Ministry said.

Valdis Berzins told Agence France-Presse that hundreds of trucks from all over the republic were blocking the streets of the old town where the main public buildings are located.

Meanwhile, a small bomb Sunday night exploded near a building occupied by Interior Ministry troops, but caused no

injuries and only slight damage, the spokesman said. A number of small explosions have been set off in Riga over the past three weeks, causing little damage but heightening tension.

Mr. Berzins said the explosion was part of an orchestrated campaign designed to exacerbate tension in the independent republic.

Meanwhile, the Latvian Parliament has told Lithuanian deputies they would be welcome to hold sessions in Riga if it became impossible for them to continue working in Lithuania.

Latvia will also hold a national day of mourning on the

day the 14 victims of the fighting in Lithuania are buried.

Gorbachev's denial

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev 'gave no orders' for the use of troops in Lithuania and it was the local Army Commander who sent in soldiers to seize the radio and television station in Vilnius, the Soviet Interior and Defence Ministers told Parliament in Moscow today.

"I can say with absolute certainty that no one from the centre (Moscow) gave any order," Interior Minister Boris Pugo said, in answer to a question from a deputy.

Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov said it was the Commander of the Vilnius Garrison, Maj. Gen Vladimir Uskoptshik, who reacting 'emotionally' to 'anti-Soviet propaganda', ordered the attack Sunday on the radio and television centre in which 14 people were killed and 163 injured.

But neither Soviet Defence Minister nor Interior Minister explained how the self-declared Committee of National Salvation had the authority to order Soviet troops and tanks into action.

Soviet President Gorbachev remained publicly silent on the violence.

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