

Focus on election-'91

BNP manifesto: Village-oriented politics, market-oriented economy

Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Bangladesh Nationalist Party will continue the village-oriented politics of the late Zia and pursue a market-oriented economy.

The draft manifesto awaits approval by the Party's standing committee, BNP's highest decision-making body Mr. Noon said.

The policy of appeasement and seek friendship with the neighbours, Commonwealth and Muslim countries and other democratic states on the basis of sovereign equality.

and sovereignty said Mr. Noon who is also BNP's chief election coordinator.

Khurshed likely Principal Secretary

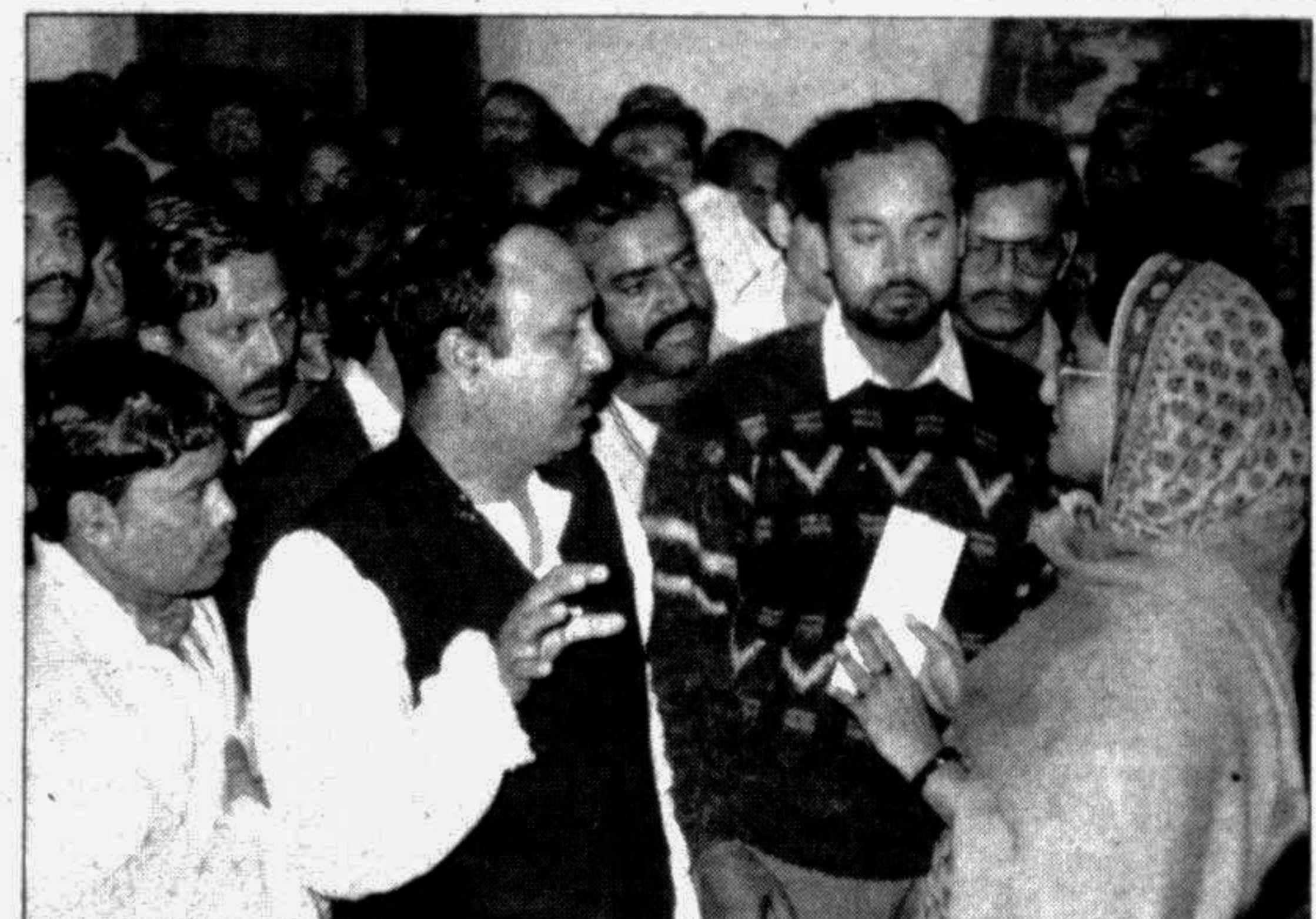
A STAR Report Finance Secretary M. Khurshed Alam is likely to be appointed Principal Secretary and Defence Secretary Mohammed Siddiqueur Rahman will become Cabinet Secretary.

US, European

From Page 1 sures from the Bangladesh government. The American, British, French, New Zealand and other diplomatic missions in Bangladesh have decided to close down non-essential wings of their missions if war breaks out.

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 7 chief said. She requested all to respectful to low. She called upon all democratic forces, who ousted the autocratic regime unilaterally, to work together for transition to democracy through free and fair polls.



Sheikh Hasina talking to supporters of her party, who came in processions from different constituencies of the city yesterday. —Star photo

Fair elections

From Page 1 Col. 5 President would be held in accordance with the laws of the land. The Acting President who explained the measures taken by his interim government in regard to the disposed President, said on the basis of the report of the eight-member committee headed by Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, two cases have been filed against Ershad — one for possessing illegal arms and the other for possessing a huge amount of money which is disproportionate to his income.

send the former President to jail and ensure his punishment after holding trial within a few days, Justice Shahabuddin said, "I am oath-bound to discharge my duty in accordance with the constitution and laws. Therefore, it was not possible on my part to accept such demands which are inconsistent with laws".

Punitive measures The Acting President said in view of the longstanding demand of the people Election Commission had been reconstituted with three sitting Judges for free, fair and impartial polls.

A total of Taka one crore ninety one lakh in cash and eight unlicensed fire arms have been recovered from the Dhaka Cantonment residence of the former President, he pointed out adding that the recovery was made under the leadership of a committee headed by Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and which included a close relative of Ershad.

Neutrality issue The Acting President said all wanted a neutral and non partisan government but he wanted to know what the neutrality meant.

Troops deployment He said armed police, armed ansars, Village Defence Party, even BDR, would be deployed to maintain peace and order in the polling centres. Above all, he added, units of patriotic Armed Forces would be deployed in each upazila and further to the interior so that they could be present at a short notice to a place if any incident happens and restore peace and order there strictly.

Latvia appeals for world help

RIGA (U.S.S.R.), Jan 15: Soviet troops seized a police academy Tuesday and Latvia's government appealed for world help to prevent a murderous coup d'etat. It feared Kremlin backed forces were about to launch in the Baltic states, reports AP.

services to military units in Latvia. Gorbunovs began discussions last Thursday with Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov concerning military bases in Latvia.

forming an exile government if Moscow takes over his break-away republic flew to London on Tuesday to appeal for international support.

152 prisoners freed: more to follow

At least 152 prisoners including 4 women at Dhaka Central Jail walked to freedom yesterday (Tuesday) under a government amnesty that followed a two-week prison revolt, jail officials said, reports UNI.

The freed persons form the part of the 750 prisoners the government has decided to release by Thursday from Dhaka Central Jail.

The government earlier announced that about more than 13,000 prisoners of different categories will get benefits of the amnesty, some in the form of release and some in lessened sentences.

The agreement came in response to attempted breakout that started first in Dhaka Central Jail and then spread to some other prisons.

At least 10 prisoners were killed in the rioting in the jails of Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore.

Only Islam can end repression on women: Abbas

Mr Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Amecr Jammal-e-Islami, Bangladesh, said in Dhaka yesterday only establishment of Islamic society can save the womenfolk from all sorts of repression and injustices that are being perpetrated on them at present, reports BSS.

APSU programme

From Page 1 Col. 8 Ershad and recovery of all illegal arms. The APSU will organize a countrywide demonstration on January 19, a rally of different professionals at the Central Shaheed Minar on January 23 and a rally at the 'Battala' of Dhaka University on January 28. They will start their campaign for realizing supports from different political parties the same day.

Section 144 in Rangpur

RANGPUR, Jan 15: The district administration today imposed Section 144 in the town banning meetings and processions ahead of a general strike called for tomorrow by the local Jatiya Party, reports UNI.

2 policemen hurt in brickbatting

Two policemen received injuries on Tuesday when a group of students assaulted them while protesting the killing of a City College student in police firing on Monday.

The Midnight File

Americans divided on war WASHINGTON, Jan 15: A CBS news and New York Times poll published today showed Americans were divided on whether to start a war against Iraq when the U.N. deadline for Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Kuwait expires at midnight. The poll found that 47 per cent of Americans favoured military action, compared with 46 per cent who supported continued reliance on sanctions alone, reports Reuter.

Riyadh quiet but watchful RIYADH, Jan 15: Saudi Arabia's desert capital, which lies within reach of Iraqi missiles, was in a quiet but watchful mood Tuesday as the deadline for war drew near. "Omnious," said a U.S. military officer when asked to describe the atmosphere in Riyadh, a modern city of about 2 million. Newspapers reported feverish buying of bottled water, canned food, batteries and other essentials, but there were few other outward signs that war might be imminent after the Jan 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or risk attack, reports AP.

Li urges more peace efforts BEIJING, Jan 15: Chinese Premier Li Peng has warned that many countries would suffer from a Gulf war and urged continued peace efforts. Li was speaking in talks with visiting Hungarian President Ion Iliescu, who arrived on Monday for a three-day state visit. "Once a war broke out in the gulf the consequences that would arise from it would be very grave, very cruel," the New China News Agency quoted Li as saying, reports Reuter.

State of alert in Panama PANAMA CITY, Jan 15: Panama has been put on a state of alert amidst fears that its canal, military bases and Trans-Oceanic oil pipeline could be a target for Gulf-related attacks, a security official said on Monday. The U.S. State Department warned last week of the threat from possible attacks, saying it had found evidence that Iraqi-supported guerrillas were planning to attack U.S. targets around the world, including bases, reports Reuter.

Slovenia's declaration annulled BELGRADE, Jan 15: Yugoslavia's Federal Constitutional Court has annulled last year's declaration of sovereignty by Slovenia which asserted the primacy of local laws over federal legislation, the daily paper Bora reported Wednesday. The court also overturned laws introduced by Serbia to levy customs duties on produce from Slovenia and Croatia, and urged the federal government to see that the court's decisions were respected, reports AFP.

New Soviet Foreign Minister MOSCOW, Jan 15: Alexander Bessmertnykh, Soviet Ambassador to the United States and a proclaimed supporter of good relations with the West, was elected Foreign Minister, Wednesday. Bessmertnykh was voted into the post by parliament, the Supreme Soviet, after President Mikhail Gorbachev described him as an outstanding diplomat, reports Reuter.

Jordan-Iran ties renewed AMMAN, Jan 15: Jordan and Iran have agreed to renew diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors, ending a 10-year break. Jordan officials said Wednesday. The break was made by Iran in protest of Jordan's support of Iraq in Iraq-Iran war, reports AFP.

French proposal From Page 1 Col. 5 will remain part of Iraq forever, and American soldiers who try to prevent this face "the furnace of hell."

Protests Meanwhile, tens of thousands of peace protesters rallied around the world. Tuesday's demonstrations followed widespread anti-war protests on Monday, and in many cities the fire of those participating was aimed at the United States, which has led opposition to Iraq and sent most of the troops preparing to force it from Kuwait if necessary.

Night fight The US military is expected to fight a war at night using technology perfected in the last decade that can turn night into day.

Night-vision goggles illuminate night with a eerie green glow. Thermal sights can see through smoke, dust and fog. Electronic imaging from space-age weapons systems zeroes in on targets without regard for the time of day.

Police guard at Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence, was assaulted near Kalabagan Lake Circus mosque.

The students on Tuesday brought out several processions demanding punishment to the killers of Mithu. They also demanded probe into the police firing.

Mithu, a first year student of City College was killed Monday in police firing in the college premises.

Authorities on Monday closed the college for an indefinite period.

Hasina From Page 1 Col. 5 regime and 'mastaans'.

Sheikh Hasina expressed the hope that people would vote for democratic forces in the parliamentary elections to end the process of autocratic rule. "The future of national development lies in the smooth functioning of the democratic process," she added.

The gathering was addressed by among others, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Ataur Rahman Kaiser, Mojaffar Hossain Palta.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Sheikh Hasina urged the police force to show restraint while discharging their responsibilities.

She expressed her deep condolence at the death of City College student Shamsuddin Khan Mithu in police firing.

She said an undemocratic force was active to foil the process of transition to democracy by creating terror.

She urged the students, who played a glorious role in ousting the autocratic regime, to be conscious and responsible. She said none should take law in his own hands.

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