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 BNP election manifesto, finalised on Monday will also pledge to restore gram sarkar. village defence party', 'palli chikitshak', and mass literacy programmes which were shelved by the ousted Ershad government.

Mr. Feroze Noon, a member of BNP's manifesto committee told The Daily Star that BNP would give priority to the development of the least-developed areas including the northern part of Bangladesh and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The party's election pledges will also include strenghthening of the rural sector through increased allocations to agriculture, and cottage industries, and special projects for students.

Khurshed likely

Principal

Secretary

A STAR Report

shed Alam is likely to be ap-

pointed Principal Secretary

and Defence Secretary Mo-

become Cabinet Secretary.

hammed Siddgur Rahman will

nate director in World Bank.

on his return, may take over

the charge of Finance Secre-

tary. It has not yet been de-

eided who will replace

Mustafizur Rahman in Wash-

ington head office of World

shad nominated former health

secretary Hasan Ahmed for the

post. But Finance Secretary

Khurshid Alam's name was

discussed as traditionally the

finance secretaries fill up this

US, European

From Page 1

sures from the Bangladesh

French, New Zealand and

other deplomatic missions in

Bangladesh have decided to

close down non-essential

wings of their missions if war

there might be terrorist activi-

ties by pro-lraqi forces to cre-

ate panie among the American

and European nationals. "We

Earlier, the British High

Commission issued a circular

to all British nationals, who

wanted to go back home to

leave the country before

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 7

chief said. She requested all

cratic forces, who ousted the

autocratic regime unitedly, to

work together for transition to

democracy through free and

keep an eye on the polling

centres to resist entrance of

nationalists forces would win if

the polls were held in a con-

genial atmosphere. Because,

she said, if elected, her gov-

ernment will solve the national

problems, created by the past

autocratic and anti-people

that if (elected) her govern-

ment would revive all the

'development-oriented' pro-

grammes, taken by the previ-

ous BNP government for eco-

Dhaka city BNP chief Lt Gen

(retd) Mir Shawqat Ali, and

the Prakton Sainik Sangstha leaders including group cap-

tain (retd) Saiful Azam and

Group captain (retd) Shamsul

Alam addressed the confer-

ence. Subedar (retd) Aminul

Islam was in the chair.

nomic uplift of the country.

Begum Zia assured people

Begum Zia urged people to

The BNP chief hoped the

She called upon all demo-

to respectful to low.

are paniestricken", said

The missions fear that

The American, British.

government.

breaks out.

British diplomat

January 15.

fatr polls.

the culprits.

rulers.

Ousted President H.M. Er-

Mustafizur Rahman, alter-

Finance Secretary M. Khur-

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

The manifesto will also tell the people that BNP will fight 'imperialism, social imperialism and colonialism, uphold multi-party democracy and 'politics of production'. BNP will makes no compromise on the question of keeping 'Bismillah' in the Constitution.

and uphold the 'Bangladesh Zindabad' slogan.

Similarly, the party will uphold Bangladeshi nationalism' which Mr. Noon explained was based on 'language, geographical entity, culture, religion and an independent economy, and the spirit of the liberation war.'

Regarding the country's foreign policy, he said 'BNP would pledge to discontinue the policy of appeasement and seek friendship with the neighbours, Commonwealth and Muslim countries and other democratic states on the basis of sovereign equality. It

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The SAARC idea was mosted by BNP's founder late Zia. Mr. Feroze Noon said. BNP will also pledge to take

will seek to strengthen the

up with India the outstanding bilateral problems like watersharing, transfer of Tinbigha' and the South Talpatti issue for early settlement.

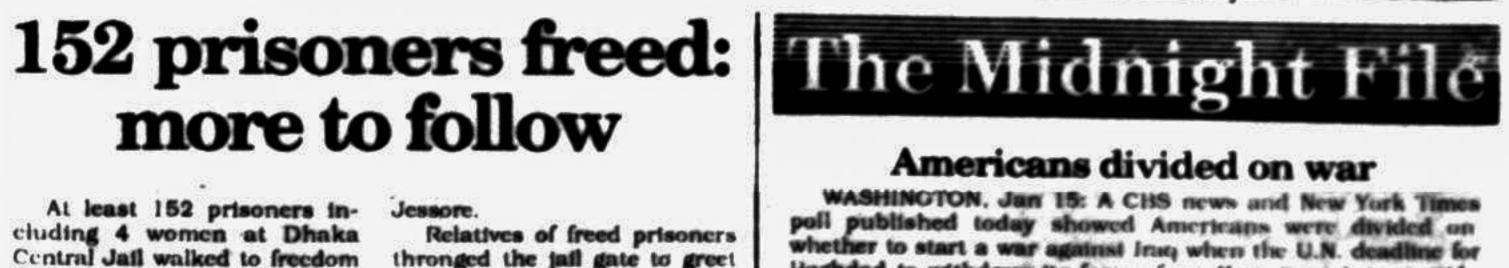
The draft manifesto cmphasises the need for the 'politics of unity' introduced by late Zia to build the country unitedly by forgetting all differences created in the past.

It will seek to guard against intrusion of harmful alien culture for safeguarding independence and sovereignty said Mr. Noon who is also BNP's

chief election coordinator. HNP will continue the Jamuna bridge and the Teesta barrage projects and take steps to construct bridges over the Dharla, the Dhaleswari and some other major rivers.

It will pledge to establish a corruption-free government. pursue the 19-point programme of president Ziaur Rahman, continue the privatization drive and take steps for export promotion. It would pledge to reach the basic necessitics of food, clothing and shelter at the shortest possible time.

BNP's vice-chairman prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury is the convener of the manifesto committee. Its other members are: messrs Saffur Rahman, Nazmul Huda, Shamsul Islam and Mahbub



Relatives of freed prisoners thronged the jail gate to greet them with garlands, bouquets and sweetmeats. lowed a two-week prison re-Our Staff Correspondent

tail official said.

INI

under the amnesty.

adds: A jail official said that

Lists are being prepared in

75 other jails to free prisoners

Section 144

in Rangpur

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

strike tomorrow to protest

cancellation of the nomination

of ousted President Ershad

144 was enforced from 3 pm

to avert possible clashes be-

tween two groups wanting to

hold meetings at the same

clamped when JP announced

it would hold a meeting at the

town's Shapla Square to

protest rejection of Ershad's

nomination papers and press

Party Students Unity (APSU).

opposing JI's move for staging

lier declared to hold meeting

near the same venue and at

maintain law and order in the

municipal area of the town, the

local unit of the Jatiya Party

held a rally and organised a

procession here this afternoon

presided over by former

Chairman of Mithapukur

upazila Abdul Latif, denanded

that the nomination papers of

the deposed President be ac-

cepted and he be freed within

72 hours. They also called for

observing a day-long hartal in

dressed, among others, by

former JP ship in parliament

Harisuddin Sarker and Sadar

Upazila Chairman Sharfuddin

2 policemen

hurt in

brickbatting

By Staff Correspondent

juries on Tuesday when a

group of students assaulted

them while protesting the

killing of a City College student

the head by brickbats hurled

by the processionists at the

police van that Faruq was rid

ing near Science Laboratory

Naik Habibur Rahman, a po-

sources said.

Circus mosque.

police firing.

inite period

college premises.

Constable Faruq was hit on

in police firing on Monday.

Two policemen received in-

The meeting was ad-

the town tomorrow.

Speakers at the rally.

Defying the ban designed to

a political come back, had ear

The local unit of the All

for his release.

same time.

They said the ban was

and press for his release.

The JP has called the

Official sources said section

RANGPUR, Jan 15: The

among the released prisoners, The freed persons form the 126 were convicts and 22 inpart of the 750 prisoners the cluding a woman were degovernment has decided to release by Thursday from Dhaka More prisoners will be re-Central Jail. leased today (Wednesday), the

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 less ened sentences.

yesterday (Tuesday) under a

government amnesty that fol-

volt, jail officials said, reports

The agreement came in response to aftempted breakout that started first in Dhaka Contral Jafl and then spread to some other prisons.

At least 10 prisoners were killed in the riotings in the jails of Dhaka, Chittagong and

Only Islam can end repression on women:

Abbas

Mr Abbas Ali Khan, Acting Ameer Jammat-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.

He was speaking at a reception accorded to him on behalf of students and youth organisations of Motifheel Sabujbagh thana at Shahjahanpur Railway Colony maidan.

Mr. Khan said only Islam has given due recognition to womenfolk in the society. Establishment of Islamic socicty could emaneipate them from adverse situation they are now confronting, he added.

He pointed out that all the governments that came to power from 1947 to 1990 took no realistic programme to build the character of the youth. On the contrary, they used the youth for their selfish interest to eling to power, he

APSU programme From Page 1 Col. 8

Ershad and recovery of all filegal 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.

The programmes were announced at a rally in front of the DUCSU Bhaban yesterday. The rally was addressed by DUCSU General Secretary Khatrul Kabir Khokon. Chhatra Leagure (H-A) General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil and Chhatra League (N-S) General Secretary Shaft

Khairul Kabir Khokon said the members of Jatiya Party were trying to create anarchy in the country to foil the ongoing process of establishing democracy. The incidents of City College, jails and garments factories were the parts of

their conspiracy, he added. Khokon called upon the students to resist such activitics unitedly.

Ashim Kumar Ukil said. 'we have to be more tolerant in order to establish democracy. He suggested that all crises should be solved through mutual discussion".

Shafi Ahmed said certain quarters were trying to capture state power. They are creating terror in different places. he said and called upon the people to resist them.

Earlier, a procession was brought out in the University

United States is searching for ways to demonstrate world anger over Soviet violence in Lithuania without jeopardising Kremlin backing in the Gulf or

The first diplomatic casudown that left 14 dead in a

weekend assault on a broadcast station in Vilnius is likely to be the summit scheduled February 11-13 in Moscow between Presidents Bush and Gor-

That meeting was in some doubt anyway, with obstacles till blocking accord on a treaty to slash long-range nuclear

distracting Bush's attention. On Monday, White House Press Secretary Markin Fitzwater described the scheduled talks as 'up in the

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 Haghdad to withdraw its forces from Kuwuit expires at mid night. The poil 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 need Tuesday as the deadline for war drew near. "Ominous." said a U.S. military officer when asked to describe the atmosphere in Hiyadh, 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 Jun 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or risk affairk, reports AP.

Li urges more peace efforts

HEIJING. Jan 15: Chinese Premier Li Peng has warned that many countries would suffer from a Gulf war and urged continued peace efforts. Lt was speaking in talks with visiting Humanitan President Ion Illeseu, 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-Orcunir oil pipeline could be a traget for Guif-related attacks. a scentty official said on Monday. The U.S. State Department warned last week of the threat from possible attacks, saying it had found evidence that trust-supported guerillas were plan ning to attack U.S. targets around the world, including buses, reports Renter.

Slovenia's declaration annulled

BELGRADE. Jan 15: Yugoslavia's Federal Constitutional Court has annulled last year's declaration of sovereignty by Sloventa which asserted the primary 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 parlia ment, 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 10year break. Jordan officials said Wednesday. The break was made by Iran in protest of Jordan's support of Iraq in Iran-Iraq war, reports AFP.

French proposal

From Page 1 Col. 5 will remain part of Iraq for-

ever, 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 ire 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 nec-

in the Gulf region, people fearing an Iraqi chemical at-

cssary.

tack scaled their homes. Turks streamed away from the Iraqi frontier, and flights out of the region left with few empty

Night fight

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

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



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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

The Acting President who explained the measures taken by his interim government in regard to the diposed 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 in-

A total of Taka one crore ninety one lakh in cash and eight unlicenced 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. The Acting President also said that soon after he had taken over he tried to restore law and order. But, he said, the wrath of the people grew once again when the former President, in a statement, said that he would soon come back to power. He said the former President was then interned at a Guishan house under police custody in the interest of na-

tional security. Referring to the continued demands of the people, students and political parties to

RIGA(U.S.S.R), Jan 15: So-

Latvian President Anatolis

barring the delivery of social

states, reports AP.

tervence'.

planned to rally.

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".

But he said that the trial will be held in accordance with the laws. "Law should be equally applied to everyone. Law goes its own way," he

Neutrality issue

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

Justice Shahabuddin said no question was ever raised regarding his impartiality during his long thirty-seven and a half years of service life. But he regretted that some had raised such questions as soon as he assumed the responsibility of

the caretaker government. The Acting President said he had to take decisions on many matters everyday and added, it was beyond imagination that all parties would be happy at his decisions as more than one hundred political parties existed in the country.

"It is only my government which is a neutral government in the truest sense among all the government formed in this region since 1947," Justice Shahabuddin said in unequivocal terms.

services to military units in

Mikhail S. Gorbachev defended

Foreign Minister charged with

the army's bloody assault in

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 impar-

lic said the Election Commission had been working independently and it had been given powers to take any punitive measure, including onthe-spot, "suspension" of all, including returning and presiding officers, for election offences. All government and semi-government officers and employees deployed for election work have been put under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission, he pointed out.

of ballot boxes by force and oc-

there strictly.

Justice Shahabuddin said laws had been promulgated to take measures against stuffing cupying the polling centres.

He said armed police,

disrupted in the polling cen-

He said Union Parishads would be superseded or dissolved where peace would be

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

Troops deployment

Latvia appeals for world help

weapons, and the Gulf erisis

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

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

condolence at the death of City College student Shamsuddin Khan Mithu in police firing. She said an undemocratic force was active to foil the

democracy by creating terror. She urged the students. who played a glorious role in ousting the autocratic regime. to be conscious and responsi-ble. She said none should take

vict troops seized a police academy Tuesday and Latvia's Gorbunovs began discuson Tuesday to appeal for inter government appealed for sions last Thursday with Soviet national support. world help to prevent 'a mur-Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov Aides said the Minister, Alderous coup d'etat' it feared concerning military bases in girdas Saudargas, would brief ward arms control. Kremlin backed forces were British Foreign Office officials about to launch in the Baltic Latvia's appeal came after

Gorbunovs said he told the neighbouring Lithuania. commander of the Baltic mili-Fearing a similar assault in Riga, Latvians tried to set up tary district, Gen Fyodor barricades of heavy trucks Kuzmin, on Tuesday that while around the capital. Soviet Latvia was tense, 'it was not necessary for the army to introops shot out the tires of some of the trucks and firein a broadcast address Gorbombed others. On Monday, Soviet troops bunovs asked supporters of

also seized a police station in separate state to remove barricades to a stadium where opone precinct on the outskirts of Riga, according to a state ponents of independence ment from the Latvian People's Front, a pro-independence In an effort to improve relagroup that has a majority in tions with the army, the Parliament voted to freeze a resothe parliament. Meanwhile, the Lithuanian lution passed on November 14

Moscow takes over his breakaway republic flew to London

on the Lithuanian situation,

and continue preparations for

forming an extle government it

a possible exile government. Saudargas was instructed by Lithuanian President Vytautus Landsbergis over the weekend to flee the Soviet Union. He made a harrowing drive through the night to neighbouring Poland, arriving in Warsaw hours before the bloody military crackdown in Vilnius early Sunday.

He mentioned a hotline to the besieged Lithuanian parliament and held talks with Polish officials and the US, British and Danish ambassadors. the PAP news agency reported. Away in Washington, the

interfering with progress toalty of the Red Army crack-

bachev. process of transition to

law in his own hands.

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Mo-

asked the Cabinet Division and the President's Secr-

previleges she enjoyed. The Cabinet Division and the president's Secretariat have not yet furnished the Ershad. Some official comp-Roushan ran a parallel presidency in the country

business deals.

From Page 1 Col. 8 The commission has

regarding first lady, her powers and functions and information. The commission has reportedly received quite a good number of allegations against Begum Roushan laints even mentioned that and influenced the official

100 cases

ctariat to state the law decisions involving big