

Focus on election- '91

Establishment of Quran's ideals stressed

The Acting Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Mr Abbas Ali Khan Sunday stressed the need for following the ideals of the Quran and Sunnah for establishing peace in the world, reports BSS.

Mr Khan, addressing an election campaign meeting at the Sotahar Madrasah premises of Joypurhat, said peace can be restored in the world only through establishing Islamic rule.

The Jamaat chief called for following the path of Islam. Presided over by Maulana Abdul Kuddus, the meeting was also addressed by the district Amir of Joypurhat, Mr Ataur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the Acting Amir and Secretary General of the Jamaat, Mr Abbas Ali Khan and Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami, in a statement on the occasion of Biswa Jitima prayed for the success of the congregation.

Shop looted in city

A garment shop in the city was looted at gun point Sunday allegedly by a gang, according to eye witnesses.

The incident took place at Elephant Road, shopping centre, at about 11 am.

The witnesses also said that a group of about 12 young people riding a microbus entered the shop and snatched goods by brandishing pistol and escaped.

AL move

From Page 1 Col. 4 hinted that the party was ready to show flexibility if the partners could convince Awami League about the winning prospect of their candidates.

The partners of the newly formed Ganatantrik Oikya Jote told the Daily Star that they were not aware of any such move. A source said the partners of the jote cannot make any arrangement with Awami League leaving them behind. On the other hand, Awami League may not agree to accommodate the rest of the parties of the Jote.

The outcome of the talks could not be known till 11 pm yesterday. The top leaders of Awami League were not available till late last night. Family sources said they were in a meeting.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of CPB denied any such meeting saying that the talks could only be held with the newly formed combine.

Graft charge

From Page 1 Col. 8 June, 1989. They procured the rice from two rice selling companies in Thailand at a much higher price of US dollar 39,80,000 (Tk 12,93,10,200). The sellers are Hong Yang Seng Co. Ltd and Seng Mong Rice Co. Ltd.

The persons allegedly shipped the rice at a higher rate through a foreign shipping company and misappropriated about US dollar 60 lakh.

An inquiry will start soon.

UP election

From Page 1 Col. 8 The interim government has not yet taken any decision on the extension of the term, an Election Commission source told the Daily Star yesterday.

The Acting President on January 18 promulgated an ordinance giving the Union Parishads and the Paurasavas some additional responsibilities for maintaining law and order during the parliamentary polls.

Capital base

From Page 1 Col. 8 in Bangladesh, capital requirements are determined in relation to deposit liabilities. The proportion is six per cent of total demand and time deposits for private banks and five per cent of demand and time liabilities for foreign banks.

For the nationalised banks the ratio has been arbitrarily determined. The proposed reforms suggest, however, that their capital base should be five per cent of their demand and time deposits.

The Basic Committee recommendations require international banks to raise their capital base to 8 per cent of their weighted risk assets by the end of 1992.

GOJ nominates 118 candidates

By Staff Correspondent

The newly-formed Ganatantrik Oikya Jote has nominated candidates jointly for contesting the parliament elections in 118 seats while other constituencies will remain open for the component parties of the Jote.

The leaders of the Jote said Sunday night they have reached understanding for the adjustments in most of the seats, but could not finalise nominations for the remaining constituencies. It has been decided that the local leaders of the Jote will negotiate among themselves for reaching understanding on joint nominations for their constituencies.

The Jote, which was formed Saturday evening with the breakaway components of Eight-party Alliance, the Five-party Combine and two other

left leaning parties, had the decision to use 'sickle' as their common election symbol. But the Jote announced that the candidates will also be allowed to use the election symbol of their own parties. The Jote leaders said that the decision was taken as a good number of candidates have already used their party's election symbol in the campaign.

The break-up of 118 joint candidates of the Jote are: BKSAL-24 seats, CPB-18, NAP-12, Ganatantri Party-9, Gana Azadi League (Samad)-1, Japata Mukti Party-1, Samyabadi Dal-2, JSD (Inu)-22, Workers Party-8, United Communist League-10, Oikya Prokria-2, BSD (Khaleque)-5, BSD (Mahbub)-2 and Samrik Krishak Samajbadi Dal-2.

Almost all the top leaders of the component parties of the

Jote has been accommodated in the joint panel of the Ganatantrik Jote.

Hasina launches cassettes

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina was chief guest Sunday at the launching ceremony of two musical cassettes produced by Dhaka Sangskritik Dal, reports UNB.

Speaking at a function on this occasion at the Bangabandhu Bhaban, Sheikh Hasina said songs in the cassettes reflect the hopes and aspirations of the masses of our country.

The cassettes contain patriotic songs of Sabina Yasmin, Shanaz Rahmatullah, Rathindranath Roy and Subir Nandi.

Last date of withdrawal today

By Staff Correspondent

The date of withdrawal of nomination papers by the candidates in the Jatiya Sangsad polls for February 27 expires today at 5 pm.

The nomination papers by 111 political parties and independent candidates were filed by January 13.

The scrutiny of the papers was done the following day. The final list of the candidates will be published by the Election Commission on January 22.

Appeals of 31 candidates accepted

The appeals filed by 31 candidates, including former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, against rejection of their nomination papers have been accepted by the Election Commission, the Election Commission sources said last night, reports BSS.

With the acceptance of the nomination papers, former President Ershad is now eligible for contesting from five Rangpur parliamentary constituencies. Today is the last date for withdrawal of nomination.

The sources said that the appeals filed by two candidates, Mr. M. A. Halim for Satkhira (three) and Mr. Giasuddin Bablu for Chittagong (ten) were rejected by the Commission.

Rangpur DC withdrawn

The DC of Rangpur, who cancelled all five nominations of Ershad, was withdrawn on Sunday and asked to report to the Establishment Division in Dhaka today, official sources said, reports UNB.

The sources linked the withdrawal of Deputy Commissioner Giasuddin Ahmed to the cancellation of nomination papers of the ousted president Ershad.

The withdrawal decision came immediate after the Jatiya Party leaders led by its acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury met with the Acting President on Saturday.

Mr Shahabuddin, Secretary to the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC), has been appointed DC in Rangpur.

Strong discontent was reported sparked among government officials in the Bangladesh Secretariat by the replacement of Giasuddin.

The DC, as Returning Officer, after scrutiny on January 14, cancelled nominations of Ershad sought for five constituencies in his home district on the ground that those were not filed with the Home Ministry permission. Ershad is under detention.

Ershad's nominations for the Feb 27 parliamentary election were, however, declared valid by the Election Commission after JP had appealed to it.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 4 She called for wiping out corruption from all sections of society and ensuring a people-oriented corruption-free administration.

Addressing a separate meeting with the members of Bangladesh Tanti Samity in the morning, Hasina called for expanding small and cottage industries in rural areas for improving the condition of the common man.

"Our aim is to industrialise and increase industrial production alongside expansion of small and cottage industries", she said.

Call to realise Asad's dreams

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting said yesterday that true respects could be shown to Asad by realising his dream of an exploitation-free, democratic society.

They were speaking at a discussion meeting at the Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) organised by Shaheed Asad Parishad to observe the 22nd anniversary of Asad's death.

Asaduzzaman was killed in police firing during the mass upsurge in 1969.

Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury said, though autocracy is over, the fear of its staging a comeback has not gone. He said, realisation of Asad's dream will not be possible by the big parties because of their class identity.

Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association said, it was the last chance of establishing a democratic system he said, the youths must remain vigilant against the enemies of democracy.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists' President Reazuddin Ahmed said, there is lack of democratic values and norms among the political parties. He was also critical of the Acting President's meeting with Jatiya Party delegation led by Mizan Chowdhury.

Eminent lawyer Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, Professor Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, and film director Amzad Hossain also spoke.

Mr. Rashiduzzaman, elder brother of shaheed Asad, recalled the memories of Asad.

Dr. Shakawat Ali Khan, President of Asad Parishad presided.

Shaheed Asad Parishad laid wreaths at Asad's grave at his village Shibpur.

NAP Dhassani also organised a discussion meeting at its central office.

Rishij Shilpi Goshti organised a discussion meeting and a musical function.

Ganachaya, a cultural organisation, arranged recitation of poetry to pay homage to Asad.

Jatiya Party plea for fair polls

The Jatiya Party has urged Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to ensure free and fair elections in the country and suggested a number of measures towards that end, reports BSS.

Acting chairman of the party, Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, in a letter to the Acting President, said their party would take part in the coming polls and expressed the hope that neutrality of the present administration would be maintained till the last.

The party said the Special Powers Act of 1974 should be annulled and all persons including former President Ershad, now interned and jailed be set free and allowed to participate electioneering and test their popularity. It also urged the government to withdraw the warrants issued against a number of leading persons of the party without any specific charges.

The Jatiya Party said no candidate or worker belonging to political parties on contesting as independent should be arrested before the elections without warrant issued by courts for cases, based on specific charges.

It demanded a code of conduct for the elections and assured full cooperation of the party to the government in this regard.

He demanded recovery of all illegal arms, arrest of the "mastans" and suppression of terrorism before the polls.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has urged the party workers to help maintain law and order in the local areas even in the face of provocation by different quarters.

He was addressing a group of workers of the Jatiya Shechchasevak Party at his Gulshan residence on Sunday afternoon.

Mizan Chowdhury has reiterated his demand for the release of all party leaders and for withdrawal of warrant of arrest issued on the party candidates.

He also hoped that the Acting President would not forget the oath taken from the former President and Chairman of the Jatiya Party for upholding the constitutional provisions.

Oikya front

The Jatiya Oikya Front, an alliance of 23 like-minded political parties led by Khondakar Moshaiq Ahmed Sunday decided to take part in the coming parliamentary elections as "a token participation" by keeping nominations in several specific seats, reports BSS.

The Midnight File

Thai troops guard embassies

BANGKOK, Jan 20: Hundreds of soldiers guarded the US, British, Israeli and Australian embassies Sunday following a terrorist threat related to the Gulf war. Soldiers in combat gear and armed with M-16 rifles and machine guns replaced policemen at the US and other embassies and diplomatic residences on Saturday, and checkpoints were set up on roads leading to the compounds, reports AP.

Greece won't be a spectator

ATHENS, Jan 20: Greek premier Constantine Mitsotakis said last night that for reasons of principle and national interest Greece could not remain a simple spectator in the Gulf war. Mitsotakis directly rejected Socialist Pasok and Communist led leftist coalition's criticism over Greece's participation in the multi-national force with the dispatch of a frigate, saying that there were four reasons for Greece to joining the force-national interest, the Cyprus issue, the arrangement of regional problems and national pride, reports Xinhua.

Red Cross fails to enter Iraq

GENEVA, Jan 20: Red Cross delegates have been unable to establish figures for civilian casualties from allied bombing in Baghdad, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Sunday. The spokesman said the organisation's priority was still to deploy medical teams in Iraq and Kuwait, but that contacts with Iraqi authorities had failed to produce an agreement so far, reports AFP.

Unexploded missile found

NICOSIA, Jan 20: Civilians found an unexploded surface-to-surface missile and loaded it onto their car to take to the authorities, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday. "The brave citizens put the missile on the roof of their car and transported it without fear of danger, for the love of their country," INA reported. But no details were given about what type of missile was, reports AFP.

Thai workers may leave Israel

BANGKOK, Jan 20: Thai Foreign Minister Arthit Unratat has said that all Thai workers might be evacuated out of Israel if it decides to enter the Gulf war, according to a local press report Sunday. Arthit said he had instructed the Thai ambassador to evacuate Thai citizens in cities that are potential targets of Iraqi attacks, including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, to the south-western coastal town Eilat which is considered safe, reports Xinhua.

Bomb blast in British bank

BEIRUT, Jan 20: A bomb exploded outside the British bank of the Middle East in Beirut Sunday, witnesses said. The bomb caused heavy material damage to the bank but no reports of any casualties, police said.

Pyramids reopen for tourists

CAIRO, Jan 20: Egypt reopened the Giza Pyramids, Sphinx and other monuments to Western tourists on Sunday, but Egyptians and other Arabs were still barred as a precaution against terrorism. Zahi Hawass, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation official in charge of Giza Plateau, said Cairo's museums remain closed indefinitely, reports AP.

Iraqi forces

From Page 1 Col. 4

a first wave of Scud missiles on Israel. An AFP correspondent reported Friday that eight Israeli aircraft overflew southern Lebanon in an eastward direction toward Syria, but Damascus denied Israeli warplanes entered its airspace.

On Saturday, Iraq claimed Israeli aircraft were flying bombing raids alongside Allied forces after saying on Saturday that 64 Israeli aircraft had landed in Saudi Arabia, a claim denied by Riyadh.

Reuter reports from Nicotia: Fifty-six Allied aircraft based in Turkey and the Gulf raided Iraq on the fourth day of intensive bombing Sunday but Baghdad said it was confident of victory.

Reuter photographer Fath Saribas saw 35 US aircraft return to Incirlik base in south-eastern Turkey after raids on Iraq, apparently striking northern areas where much of the Iraqi air force is believed to have taken refuge.

Saribas said 10 more US planes took off later. US officials said on Friday that US planes based at Incirlik were raiding Iraq, although Turkey has tried to shroud the flights in secrecy.

Iraq said it had shot down 15 Allied aircraft overnight bringing the total to 157 and reported an almost non-stop wave of missiles and air raids on Baghdad and other cities. One of the towns hit by a missile was Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

Reports from Tel Aviv say: US Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger arrived in Israel Sunday to coordinate efforts linked to the Gulf war following Iraqi missile attacks against the Jewish state. He was accompanied by Paul Wolfowitz and Under Secretary for Defence.

A senior Iraqi diplomat said on Saturday that Israel had already retaliated for missile attacks by taking part in a raid on his country.

Abdul Razzak Al-Hashemi, Iraqi Ambassador to France, made the comment in an interview from Paris with CBS Television.

He said Israeli planes had moved to bases in Saudi Arabia to take part in a raid on Iraq. Xinhua reports: Iraqi ambassador to Nigeria Muthana said Saturday that Iraq would use its gas bombs if the first Allied forces soldier sets foot on Iraqi soil.

The United States reported three noncombat deaths Sunday.

Anti-American demonstrations continue

Different sections of people in the city and elsewhere in the country continued protest against "American aggression against Iraq," reports BSS.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched in processions and held rallies in front of the National Press Club on Sunday denouncing "attack on Iraq".

The processionists, mostly brought in the street spontaneously carried fastoons and banners and chanted anti-American slogans. An effigy of US President George Bush was burnt at the meeting venue.

The United States is leading the allied forces warring on Iraq to force it out of the oil-rich Sheikhdum, Kuwait, annexed by Baghdad after the August 2 invasion last year. Meanwhile, security in the diplomatic enclave areas in Gulshan thana has been tightened.



Processions in support of Saddam Hussein continued on Sunday - Star photo

Operation Desert Storm

US POWs shown

NICOSIA, Jan 20: Iran reported today that Iraqi television had shown film of what it said were two captured US pilots.

Showed the blindfolded prisoners of war paraded in Baghdad streets. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said, adding that the film was shown on Saturday night, reports Reuter.

Scud based on V-2

Scud Ballistic missile which

APSU ultimatum

From Page 1 Col. 3

mandated immediate arrest of the deposed president H.M. Ershad and his associates and cancellation of their nomination papers for the parliamentary election.

They said, if the identified enemies of the people are allowed to participate in the parliamentary election, real democracy will not be established in the country.

The leaders expressed grave concern over the terrorist activities launched in the country by Jatiya Party activists.

Amanullah Aman and Khairul Kabir Khokon, Vice-President and General Secretary of DUCSU, Ashraf Hossain, Vice-President of JUCSU, Rijvee Ahmed, Vice-President of RUCSU and Fariduddin Vice-President of FUCSU signed the statement.

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 8

the closure of a large number of mills and factories, she said. She also alleged that industrial loans were misappropriated and spent on luxuries.

There was also flight of capital. As no new industries were set up and old mills and factories were closed, the problem of unemployment became acute.

Begum Zia urged the industrialists to take initiative to recommitment the closed industries and save the sick ones, said a BNP press release on Sunday.

3-day Ijtima ends today

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day Bishwa Ijtima at Tongi ends today through 'Akhri Munajat' (concluding prayer).

It is the second largest Muslim congregation after Hajj.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees, 2,500 of them from 52 foreign countries including the UK, the US, Canada, France, India, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia will participate in the Akhri Munajat.

The munajat will be conducted at 12 noon by Hazrat Maulana Enamul Ehsan, Amir of Bishwa Tabligi Jamaat.

One unidentified person, aged about 70, died at Ijtima Site yesterday.

Bush-supporter

From Page 1 Col. 4

Siraj Mia is absconding. Police is looking for him.

In another incident, a repatriate from Kuwait has killed his wife and seven-month-old daughter here following a quarrel over money.

According to family sources, Noor Ahmed (30) of Halihsahar killed his wife Monowara (21) when she refused to bring money from her father. Angry Noor Ahmed also threw his daughter on the ground and she died immediately.

Noor Ahmed has been arrested.

Gorbachev's resignation

From Page 1 Col. 4

conservative course in recent months. He has lost his most progressive deputies, such as Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and surrounded himself with obedient party functionaries.

The media, especially radio and television, have once again become doleful tools in the leadership's hands. Gorbachev himself last week asked the Supreme Soviet legislature to roll back the policy of media openness.

"Perestroika is over," said Dmitri Seshko, a middle aged man among the throng crushing against the police barricades surrounding the speakers.

"The people are tired of hunger and injustice," said Nina Lastovskaya, a journalist standing next to Seshko. "The people are afraid of dictatorship."

The size of the rally belied fears among Soviet reformers

that their supporters were becoming more apathetic as they struggle with the daily worried of higher prices and empty shelves.

Protesters, who marched in a column 50 people across along the broad Garden Ring Road and Kalinin Prospekt to the city centre, shouted "Freedom for Lithuania." Their banners were laced with sarcasm for Gorbachev's 1990 Nobel Peace Prize.

In the far south of the Soviet Union, huge crowds of mourners filed through the streets of Baku in memory of more than 100 people killed when the Soviet army seized control of the city exactly a year ago.

Alanasyev said the demonstration was perhaps the largest staged in the capital by noncommunists since the 1917 October Revolution.

The rally follows a report that Gorbachev has dropped seven top reformers, architects of the economic and po-

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