

## Focus on election- '91

2,781 contest  
in 299 seats

A total of 2,781 candidates in 299 constituencies are contesting the general elections on February 27. Election Commission sources said Wednesday night, reports BSS.

The death of a candidate in Gaibandha-1 necessitated the termination of all proceedings relating to the election in that constituency where nomination papers are to be submitted.

According to the latest information received from the Election Commission, 1,047 candidates in 299 constituencies withdrew their candidature on Monday, the last date for withdrawal.

A total of 3,855 candidates filed nominations till January 13 last for the 299 constituencies. Election Commission source said. The earlier figure of filing nomination for 300 constituencies given by the Election Commission was 3,820.

A total of 58 nomination papers including all the five filed by the deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and some of his ministers were found invalid during scrutiny on January 14. Thirty three candidates including H M Ershad appealed to the Election Commission against the cancellation of their nominations.

The Election Commission upheld 31 appeals including those by Ershad, and finally the total number of valid nomination papers in the 299 constituencies now stands at 3,828.

## Deprived of food

From Page 1 Col. 5

campaign in northern districts.

Giving a comparative picture of the situation under the three post-liberation governments, Begum Zia said the people had the best of time during BNP rule.

"You have seen three different governments since independence, and also that it was the BNP which worked for the wellbeing of the people", Begum Zia said.

Terming her party's election symbol "sheaf of paddy" as the "symbol of welfare", she urged the people to vote for BNP to bring about socio-economic emancipation and protecting the country's independence.

The BNP leader also addressed a series of rallies and wayside meetings at Natore Sugar Mills, Chak Badyanath, Chattri, Basudebpur, Naldanga, Habibpur, Banpara, Mankhora and Gurudaspur.

## Schools

From Page 1 Col. 4

als. They are as good as our nationals, Saudi government told Bangladesh mission, the Ambassador said.

Kazi Golam Dastagir said the ambassadors of the SAARC countries meet twice or three a week to review the latest situation and take stock of the safety of their nationals.

The ambassadors of the SAARC countries separately drew the attention of Saudi government to the problems of their nationals. Bangladesh ambassador said Saudi government had taken a number of steps to ensure safety and comfort of our nationals.

Camps have been opened in the eastern Province where the Saudi government will provide free food and shelter to the distressed expatriates.

## Basra bombed

From Page 1 Col. 7  
ago, admitting the loss of one warplane in combat.

## Bush

President George Bush is frustrated by a lack of information on how much damage has been inflicted on Iraqi military

## Ershad villa

From Page 1 Col. 7

Shafi Ahmed called upon the Government to confiscate the illegal wealth the associates of the deposed President Ershad amassed by wanton corruption and demanded their immediate arrest. He said these people were vitiating the political atmosphere in the country.

Fazlul Haque Milon said the Government would be accountable to the people if it failed to establish democracy.

Later, a procession was brought out in the city.

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AL workers resent  
patchup decision

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leaders and workers in different constituencies have resented the unilateral decision of the party's central leaders to concede 36 seats to the breakaway components of the Eight-party Alliance.

Many of them have submitted memorandum to the Awami League chief requesting her to reverse the decision. They mentioned that the decision of the party would ultimately frustrate the party workers, who had already started working for the Awami League candidates.

General secretary of Nawabganj Thana Awami League Mamtazuddin Ahmed in a letter to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina requested her

to reverse the decision in Dhaka-2 constituency. He said BKSAL candidate Azizur Rahman Fuku, who is now replacing the Awami League candidate Subid Ali, had no political credibility in the area. Aziz played a silent role during the democratic movement, the letter noted.

Mamtaz further said, in Nawabganj BKSAL had no strong base and the party had no ground to seek nomination from that area.

## 5-party

From Page 1 Col. 8

a meeting on Wednesday and reviewed the situation. The meeting expressed its igno-

rance about any meeting of The Ganatantrik Oikya Jote with Awami League on electoral unity. The meeting said Five-party leaders could learn of such alliance only through newspapers. But a source in Eight-Party claimed that the

Five party leaders were present in the meeting on Tuesday and they did not agree when AL denied them more seats.

The Five party meeting was attended by Hasanul Haq Inu, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Tipu Biswas, Mubinnul Haider Choudhury, Nurul Anwar, Mohsin Ali, Susanta Das and Dr. Shah Alam Mollah. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Nirmal Sen.

Mizan meets  
student leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of Jatiya Party, on Wednesday met representatives of different city college students led by the recently abolished Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leaders.

He told them that Jatiya Party is against the use of students by political parties. But his party would welcome any student organisation based on nationalism, democracy, progress and Islamic ideal according to a party press release.

He said the future of the nation can be determined only by a declined student force, it added.

In another press release, A. B. M. Shahjahan, acting secretary general of Jatiya Party, urged all party workers to campaign for the party nominees in parliamentary poll.



APSU threatens to gherao posh Gulshan house where Ershad is detained. Rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. —Star photo.

## Saudi border

From Page 1 Col. 2

border. The agency, reached by telex in Tehran, refused to cite the source of its report, saying only that it was "confirmed news for IRNA."

Iranian Radio indicated the captured Allied forces might have been manning Saudi border posts.

Kuwaiti, Saudi and American forces, including US Marines, are in forward positions near the Saudi-Kuwait border.

In Washington, the US Defence Department said Wednesday it had reports of artillery fire between Iraqi and Allied forces along the Saudi-Kuwait border.

But in Dhahran, western military sources denied that Iraq had begun a ground offensive.

## 'To teach peace'

Iraq is launching missiles into Israel to teach them about peace, Baghdad's US Ambassador in UN says, but Israeli officials counter that the at-

tacks will provoke retaliation. Nearly 100 people were injured in the latest, most serious such attack and three people died after the explosion.

The latest missile to strike Israel came after repeated failures of Iraqi missiles to hit targets in Saudi Arabia, where the coalition forces are concentrated.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher plans to fly to Israel on Thursday to express solidarity with the Jewish state.

## Attack on oil field

According to Reuters: Iraq said Wednesday it also fired missiles at Abqaiq oil field in eastern Saudi Arabia during

Tuesday's Scud attacks against the kingdom, Baghdad Radio reported.

## 'Iraq to be offensive'

Allied commanders say Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may be planning surprise ground and air attacks instead of sitting back and watching his military machine being slowly ground down.

## Turkey threatened

Baghdad on Wednesday threatened Turkey with unspecified "consequences" for allowing the Allies to stage bombing attacks against Iraq from the Incirlik air base in southern Turkey.

## Operation Desert Storm

No windfall  
for defence

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, Jan 23 : The high-tech war beamed into American living rooms each night from the Gulf is a defence contractor's dream and a budget maker's nightmare, defence analysts agree that images of smart bombs flying down air shafts and stealth fighters zooming undetected over Baghdad will build momentum for more spending on sophisticated hardware, reports AP.

## Gulf wedding

MUNICIPAL (INDIANA), Jan 23 : A couple's wedding ceremony ended with a new twist when the judge finished by saying "Kendy, you may now talk to your husband," Kandy Green and army Reservist John Lee were denied the traditional kiss in their

telephone wedding between Saudi Arabia and the United States, but the judge wished them a long and happy lifetime when they get together, reports AP.

## Fuel rates stopped

NICOSIA, Jan 23 : Iraq said today it was temporarily suspending fuel sales across the country. An announcement by the Oil Ministry, broadcast on Baghdad radio said, reports Reuter.

## Grim message

NICOSIA, Jan 2 : Iraqis are getting a grim message from their state-controlled media, the Gulf war will be long. The message is still getting across despite heavy electronic jamming and intensive disruption of telecommunications after a week of relentless pounding of Iraqi targets by the planes of the U. S.-led al-

Body on Press  
Act submits  
report

The committee formed to review and examine the necessity of amending or repealing the Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) Act, 1973 and the provisions of the Special Powers Act, 1974 relating to press submitted its report to the Acting President on January 21, according to an official handout yesterday.

The report contained the recommendations of the committee, reports BSS.

The 10-member committee was formed on December 26 with Justice A. M. Mahmudur Rahman of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh as its convenor.

## Refugees in Iran

TEHERAN, Jan 23 : More than 1,000 refugees fleeing Iraq were authorised today to enter Iran at the Khosravi border post, west of here, the official Iranian News Agency Irna reported.

Nearly 2,000 foreigners included Bangladeshi have fled Iraq through Iran since the Gulf war erupted last Thursday, reports AFP.

## Iraqi creativity

NICOSIA, Jan 23 : The failure of Patriot missiles in Israel to intercept Iraqi Scuds was due to the superior creativity of the Iraqi mind, Baghdad radio said today.

Two Patriots were fired at the incoming Scud but failed to intercept the missile, reports Reuter.

EC talks code  
with leaders  
today

The Election Commission will meet the leaders of the political parties today afternoon to discuss the formulation of code of conduct for the forthcoming Jatiya Sangsad elections, reports BSS.

The Election Commission sources told BSS Wednesday party participating in the February 27 elections have been invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the NEC auditorium at Sher-e-Banglanagar.

The Election Commission said: Some political parties had earlier expressed their desire to formulate a "code of conduct" for political parties for the forthcoming election to Jatiya Sangsad. Some of them had also met the Chief Election Commissioner and submitted their views on the subject in writing.

In view of this, the Election Commission would like to acquaint itself with the thinking and ideas of the political parties on this subject. The Commission has, therefore, decided to hold a discussion meeting with the representatives of political parties for which election symbols have been reserved.

The meeting will be held on tomorrow at 3 p.m. at the N.E.C. Conference Hall in the Planning Commission compound at Sher-e-Banglanagar in Dhaka.

Invitations to send two representatives from each party for attending the meeting have been separately sent to each such political party, the press release added.

Safety of foreign  
nationals must be  
ensured : FBCCI

Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries on Wednesday called for immediate ending of the Gulf war, saying that it would bring about a deep economic crisis globally and on the economic activities of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The federation in a statement issued said security and safety of the foreign officials and employees involved in the economic fields of Bangladesh must be ensured as "our national responsibility."

The federation pointed out that recently in some stray incidents some staff members of foreign embassies and other foreigners were harassed. It called for refraining from such activities for the sake of upholding the heritage of our hospitality. Such indulgences if allowed unabated would not only tarnish the national image but also create impact on the national economic development activities, the FBCCI said.

Meanwhile, Mr Akbar Kabir, a former adviser to the government, greeted those politicians who volunteered to appeal for not harassing the foreigners on the plea of the Gulf conflict. He particularly expressed anxiety at the reported harassment of some members of the Christian community.

He urged upon the government to see that the police administration in both urban and rural districts rise upto the situations.

Warrant against  
Meillat Editor

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Azizul Huq Bhuiyan Wednesday issued warrant of arrest against Chowdhury Muhammad Faruq, Editor, Printer and Publisher of the Daily Meillat, reports UNB.

The Court issued the order on a defamation suit filed by Additional Finance Secretary Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The case in brief is that the daily published an editorial in its issue of January 3 which according to the complainant (Dr. Alamgir) was allegedly defamatory in nature and content.

Dr. Alamgir is the Secretary General of BCS (Administration) Association.

Advocate Badrul Huda of the Supreme Court filed the suit on behalf of the complainant.

During his brief stop over in Moscow on his way to Belgrade yesterday, Shukla met the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky. The two agreed that the potential of NAM should be used to prevent further escalation of the Gulf war and to localise and settle the conflict in keeping with US Security Council resolutions.

Meanwhile, Indian Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Digvijay Singh, is going to Zimbabwe, Jordan and Algeria for consultations.

## The Midnight File

## Blasts in Lebanon, Turkey

BALBEK, Jan 23 : Bombs exploded at two banks Wednesday, killing a security guard, in attacks apparently aimed at countries supporting the war against Iraq. A powerful explosion ripped through the partly French-owned Fransabank in the eastern town of Balbek, 40 miles east of Beirut, shortly after midnight (2200 GMT), killing the guard and inflicting severe damage, police reported. About six hours later, another bomb exploded at the Beirut-Riyadh Bank in Beirut, said a police spokesman, who under regulations cannot be identified. Meanwhile, bombs exploded Wednesday morning at the offices of two US organisations, slightly injuring one Turkish woman and causing extensive damage, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. At the scene of the second blast, the attackers left handbills signed by a leftist group protesting Turkey's involvement in the Gulf war, reports AP.

## Suu Kyi's detention extended

BANGKOK, Jan 23 : Burma's military government has apparently extended the detention of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent the past 18 months under house arrest, Rangoon-based diplomats said Wednesday.

Australia, which with other major governments froze aid to Burma in protest at a bloody army crackdown on demonstrators in 1988, has called for the army to release Aung San Suu Kyi, reports Reuter.

## Trial for insulting Islam

JAKARTA, Jan 23 : A Chief Editor went on trial Wednesday, after his weekly tabloid was banned for insulting Islam's holiest figure. His paper, the Monitor, had been banned last October after publishing a poll listing 50 "most admired" figures. In it, the Muslim Prophet ranked 11th, behind President Suharto, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and a number of other Indonesians, including Arwendo, who is a Catholic, reports AP.

## Whitbread award for Mosley

LONDON, Jan 23 : Nicholas Mosley has won one of Britain's richest literary prizes, the Whitbread Book of the Year Award, for his novel 'The Wolf of the Wilderness'. Mosley, 67, received the prize worth 22,000 pounds (42,680 dollars) at an awards dinner Tuesday night.

The novel is about an English student who grows up in radical political circles in Berlin in the 1920s and 1930s. Mosley's father, Sir Oswald Mosley, was a noted fascist leader in the 1930s, reports AP.

## Wang Dan on trial

BEIJING, Jan 23 : Wang Dan, the guiding force of the student-led 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement, went on trial today on charges of counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement. Mr. Wang headed the list of 21 students most wanted for organising the demonstrations of spring 1989. The charges against Mr. Wang, 25, carry a minimum five years imprisonment. Tight security was in force as the proceedings began, reports AFP.

## Maoists kill 11 in Peru

AYACUCHO, PERU, Jan 23 : Eleven policemen were killed on Tuesday when the lorry in which they were riding hit a landmine planted by Maoist guerrillas in the road outside Ayacucho, an impoverished town in the Andean highlands, police and witnesses said.

The guerrillas killed 23 peasants in a village in Huanta province last week in reprisal for aiding security forces. Two other peasants were wounded in a separate attack on Saturday, police said, reports Reuter.

## Hearing of writ

From Page 1 Col. 8

prejudicial acts in order to maintain public safety and public order under Section 3 (1) (A) of Special Power Act.

Mr. Rafiqul Haq, counsel appearing for the detenu read out the 36-page petition and 62-page affidavit-in-opposition. Mr. Haq mainly stressed upon the grounds of detention pre-arranged of the Special Powers Act 1974 and Section 2 (f) and 3(1) (a) of the Special Powers Act. He said the whole purpose of the Special Powers Act is to prevent a person from doing any activity prejudicial to the interest of the state. There must have nexus with the grounds of detention with the order of detention but in this case there is no nexus between the order of detention and grounds of detention.

Mr. Haq further submitted that the four grounds (although the learned Attorney General claimed that all four grounds were, in fact, one ground) clearly show that the detention order was passed not to prevent the detenu from doing something against the public safety and public order, but for the safety of the detenu himself which is against the very definition of the Section 2(f) of the Special Powers Act 1974.

He submitted that the purpose of the detention is to prevent a person from prejudicial activities but in the instant case the purpose is to prevent the detenu from participating in the ensuing general election. Mr. Haq said Mr. Maudud Ahmed has filed nomination papers to contest the elections and his nomination paper had been accepted and there lies malafide intention to detain him. Mr. Haq further alleged that the detention order was passed malafide and for collateral purpose and the grounds are all vague and baseless.

Mr. Haq further stated that Mr. Ahmed is ready to face charge, if any in ordinary law of the land and till to-day no such case is pending against him.

Mr. Rafiqul Haq, former Attorney General further submitted that he was surprised to see that affidavit-in-opposition was sworn by a government officer with all wild allegations and not based on official records. He alleged that the present Government is a neutral government and its only motto is to hold a free and fair elections in the country; therefore the allegation

contained in para-11 of the affidavit-in-opposition "that the detenu has a powerful background to destabilise the present situation and thereby he is quite capable to endanger public safety and public order" was not a correct statement of fact derived from official record.

The hearing of the case was adjourned at 4. p. m. It will resume today (Thursday) as a part heard matter.

Earlier in the morning Mr. Aminul Haq, Attorney General prayed for adjournment of the hearing for one day which was opposed by Mr. Rafiqul Haq. As a result the hearing of the case started at 2 pm.

Mr. Rafiqul Haq, assisted by Kazi Shahadat Hossain and Md. Azizul Haque appeared for the petitioner while Mr. Aminul Haque, Attorney General was assisted by Mr. Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, D. A. G. Mr. A. F. Hassan Arif D. A. G. and Mr. Fakrul Islam A. A. G.

## Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 8

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina leaves here this morning for Chittagong on a four-day visit to the greater Chittagong district on election campaign, a party press release said on Wednesday.

## BNP

From Page 1 Col. 8

nied the party's Secretary General.

Salam Talukday said they expressed their resentment about the failure to nab the "corrupt ministers", who are not only flouting law, but also dared to contest the polls.

All the wanted former ministers are running in February 27 elections as Jatiya Party candidates.

He said they also reviewed with the Acting President the law and order situation and measures for holding free and fair polls.

## Law Reforms

From Page 1 Col. 8

for flaws or inconsistencies, if any, and to recommend repeal of laws considered outdated and unnecessary, the Press Note said.

The government has, therefore, dissolved the commission, as it deemed that in view of its limited terms of reference there were no further reasons for its continued functioning, the Press Note concluded.

## Little progress in peace efforts

NEW DELHI, Jan 23 : The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has intensified its efforts for peace in the Gulf both in the United Nations and Belgrade, reports Xinhua.

Indian External Affairs Minister V C Shukla arrived in Belgrade on January 22 and explored the Indian proposal of organizing a greater NAM initiative with leaders of Yugoslavia, the current chairman of NAM, local press reported quoting News from Yugoslav Today.

In the United Nations, the UN Secretary General on

Monday met the Security Council President as well as representatives of India, Qatar, Kuwait and some other countries as part of the Non-Aligned initiative. He later told reporters, any attempts in tune with the Security Council resolutions deserved approval. However he noted little progress had been made so far.

India's UN ambassador, Chinnoy Gharekhan, in the last few days met with other Security Council members from NAM countries to promote an initiative for a pause in the Gulf war in order to seek a new so-

lution to the Gulf crisis.

The initiative is at a very fluid stage, an Indian diplomat in US said, and no concrete proposals has emerged as to what can be done, but there is an urgency of feeling that the Security Council must do something.

India and Yugoslavia are also seeking to enlist other key members including Egypt and Iran in the proposed NAM peace initiative. Support is also being sought from the Soviet Union, France and Italy, and the strategy would be to bring their ideas to the UN Security