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# The Daily Star

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## Inside today

### Sport

**Maradona to retire**



Soccer superstar Maradona will retire at the end of the year. Page 7

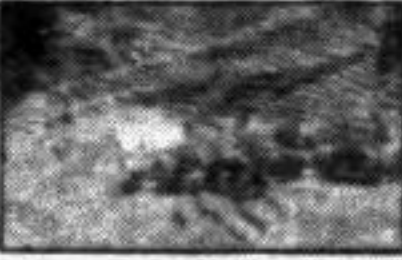
### International

**US hunt for Scud launchers**

US forces have redoubled their hunt for elusive mobile Scud launchers. Page 5

### Feature

**Travel & Leisure**



A travelogue by Nancy Wong describes the splendour of the rice terraces in the Philippines. Page 6.

### Editorial

**Hammers of peace**

In spite of the end of the cold war, a group of peace campaigners is convinced the arms race is continuing unabated. Page 4

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Shake-up in Kremlin**

MOSCOW, Jan 19: Seven top liberal advisers, including key figures of perestroika reform have been excluded from the new team to run the Soviet Union alongside President Mikhail Gorbachev, inter-fax agency said today, reports Reuters.

**US-Soviet summit February 11**

MOSCOW, Jan 19: The Soviet Union said Saturday next month's summit between President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush would go ahead as planned. Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said the summit would go ahead as planned from February 11 to 13.

**Special Affairs Ministry abolished**

The Special Affairs Ministry, set up by the Ershad government, has been abolished. It has recently been turned into a division under the President's Secretariat. The Ministry was formed in July last to look after tribal affairs. Former Vice-President Moudud Ahmed was in charge of the ministry, reports UNB.

**Khurshed made Principal Secy**

The Finance Secretary, Mr. Khurshed Alam has been appointed Principal Secretary to the President's Secretariat, an official handout said in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS. The new Principal Secretary will also continue as the Finance Secretary in addition to his own responsibility till the appointment of a new Finance Secretary. The Defence Secretary, Mr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman has been appointed Cabinet Secretary.

Baghdad's telecom, water, electricity knocked out      Defeat of Iraq will take time: Major      101 Allied planes downed: Iraq      40 Iraqi soldiers killed inside Kuwait

## Iraq's N-capability damaged

BAGHDAD, Jan 19: Allied bombers pounded targets in and around Baghdad during four hours of pre-dawn raids Saturday and despite the heavy raids, Baghdad was quiet, with no signs of unusual activity, reports AP. Baghdad's telecommunications, electricity and water have been knocked out and the city's central telecommunica-

tion facilities destroyed. However, some satellite telephone linkups were still available.

The day had begun with both sides, strategies apparently unchanged — the US — dominated coalition continued its bombing raids; Iraq responded with strong words and weak firepower. U.S. military officials on

Saturday said fewer than 50 of Iraq's 700-plane air force could be confirmed to have been destroyed — a marked scaling-down from early allied estimates that up to 50 percent of the fleet had been wrecked.

Baghdad claimed that it had shot down 101 Allied planes. Although the multinational coalition's air power out num-

bers Iraq's by 3-1, worries remained about how much air strikes would be able to undermine Iraq's more than 500,000 ground troops that have dug in occupied Kuwait and western Iraq.

And despite air attacks on 11 mobile missile-launchers, Iraq still has an undetermined capacity to barrage far-away targets with conventional or

chemical warheads.

AFP reports: Allied bombing raids, have seriously damaged Iraq's nuclear weapons programme. US Senator David Boren said.

He said Friday after being briefed by US intelligence officials that the US-led air strikes may have left Iraq's nuclear programme in a state of virtual non-existence.

Allied aircraft have carried out more than 4,000 sorties since the start of Gulf war and shot down 11 Iraqi planes — five of them in 24 hours, a U.S. military spokesman Maj Gen Robert Johnston told a news briefing on the third day of the war.

He said 12 Iraqis were taken prisoner in Friday. See Page 10 Col. 2

## Iraq hits Israel again

NICOSIA, Jan 19: Iraq launched a second wave of missiles at Israel Saturday morning, after issuing a worldwide appeal for Muslims to attack Western interests, reports AP.

Baghdad radio announced the attack as it was taking place, interrupting a broadcast to say, "This moment we are launching 11 missiles at the enemy."

Iraq also announced that it had shot down another seven allied warplanes Friday night, raising Iraq's claimed total of kills to 101, according to the official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The US-led multinational force has admitted to losing eight warplanes.

The missiles slammed into the Tel Aviv area, causing minor injuries to 17 people and little damage, according to Israeli officials. There was no sign that any of the missiles carried chemical warheads. An

Israeli Cabinet member said retaliation was 'almost inevitable'.

"The time has come to crush the enemy and erase the disgrace," said a pre-attack broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Meanwhile, US President George Bush telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir early Saturday to express his concern following a second Iraqi missile attack on the Jewish state, the White House said.

"The President called Israeli Prime Minister Shamir shortly after 3 a.m. EST (0800 GMT) to express his continuing concern about the missile attacks on Israel last night," spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in a telephone briefing for reporters.

Fitzwater said Bush emphasised that US and Allied warplanes were continuing their efforts to destroy Iraq mobile launchers, intermediate-range

Scud missiles, which were fired on Israel in attacks on Friday and early on Saturday.

Iraq also warned that the two waves of missile attacks on Israel were 'only the beginning' in a despatch from the official INA news agency monitored in Nicosia Saturday.

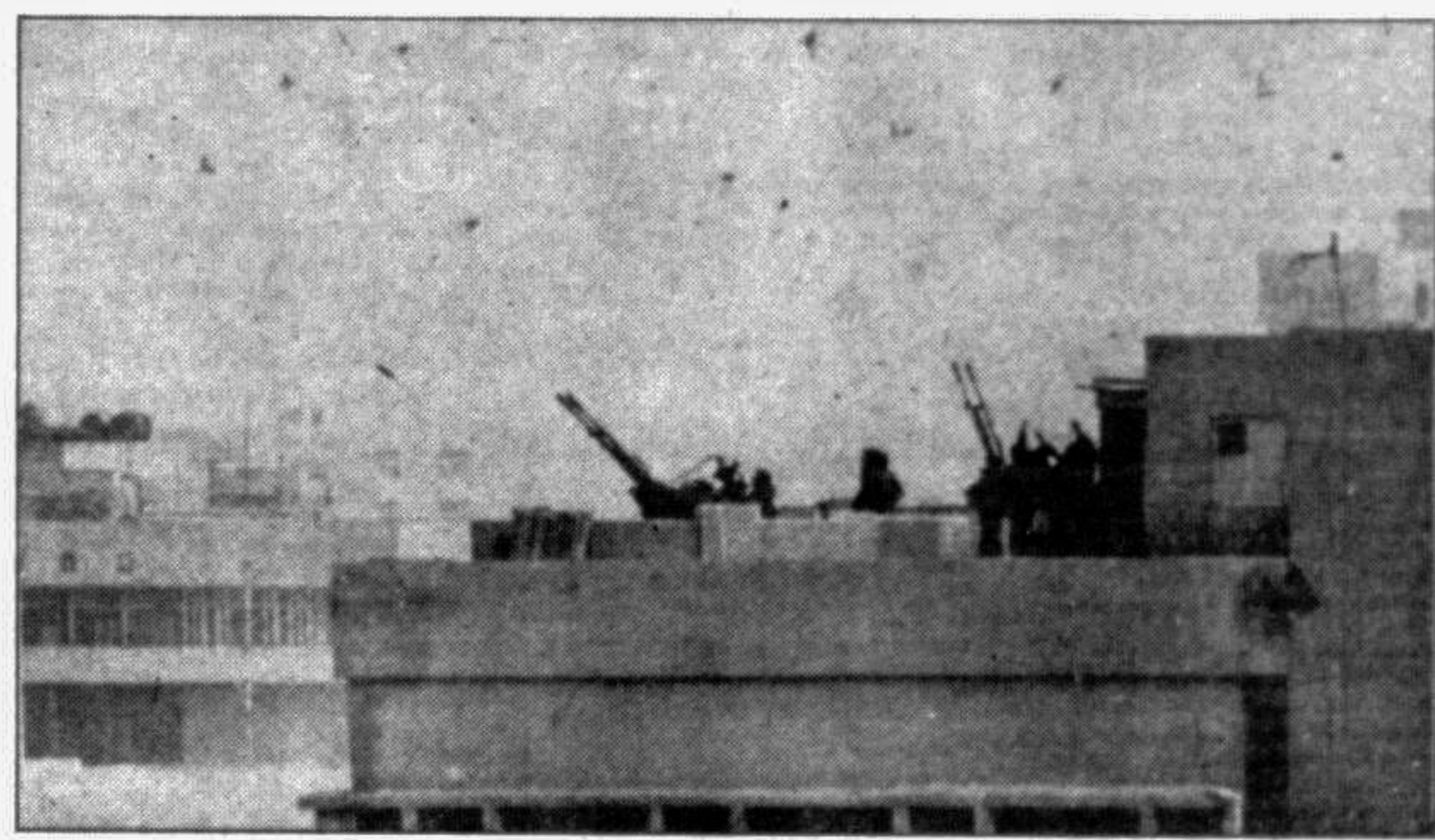
Iraq also alleged Israeli warplanes are flying missions against Iraq alongside the Allied forces.

Reuter reports from Jerusalem: At least three Scud missiles crashed into Israel's biggest city Tel Aviv, eyewitnesses said.

A loud explosion was also heard in Jerusalem but security sources said it was not a missile.

"This cannot go unpunished," Justice Minister Dan Meridor said. "We'll have to pick the time and the way that we do it," he told American television.

One missile tore through a See Page 10 Col. 3



Iraqi soldiers man an anti-aircraft battery on the roof of a building in downtown Baghdad during an air raid by the US-led multinational forces on Thursday. —AFP Photo

## 8-Party splits: New alliance with Five-party formed

By Staff Correspondent

The Eight-Party Alliance has split. A new combine "Ganatantrik Otkya Jote" has been formed with the smaller partners of the Eight-Party Alliance, all the parties of the Five-Party Alliance and two left leaning parties.

The Jote will contest the parliamentary elections jointly with common symbol sickle.

Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League (Baksal), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), National Awami Party (NAP), Ganatantri Party and Gana Azadi League in a joint statement yesterday accused Awami League of follow-

ing "go alone policy" at a time when the nation needed the collective move to revert to parliamentary system. The parties noted with regret that Awami League showed "big brotherly attitude" with the smaller partners throughout the dialogue since January 8.

The parties stated that Sheikh Hasina, chief of Awami League, was never available for consultations and the senior alliance leaders could not meet her on January 17. The parties alleged that Awami League offered 72 seats to smaller partners of the Eight-Party Alliance and names of candi-

dates in 62 seats were finalised. But on Friday, the Awami League leaders instead of coming to the meeting offered them only 32 seats over telephone.

The smaller partners termed Awami League's move as mysterious. They held that the disunity among the like-minded parties who pledged to end the politics of coup and conspiracy in the country had acted against that objective by refusing to accommodate the smaller partners. The leaders regretted the Awami League's shabby behaviour with the See Page 10 Col. 7

## Hasina's call to end Zia-Ershad system

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Saturday called for mobilising public support for her party to achieve two-third majority in parliament to do away with the "Zia-Ershad system", reports UNB.

"We want to restore parliamentary system for which we require two-thirds majority in the Jatiya Sangsad to amend the constitution", she told a delegation of Juba Ainjibi Samity.

She urged the lawyers to mobilise public opinion in favour of parliamentary form of See Page 10 Col. 2

## Zia has given us national identity: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Rich tributes were paid to the late president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of his 55th anniversary of birth yesterday.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations observed the day by placing wreaths at the mazar of Ziaur Rahman and, offering 'fatheha' there. Discussion meeting were also held.

Jatiyatabadi Samajik-Sangskritik Sangatha (JSSS) held a discussion meeting at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the afternoon where Begum Khaleda Zia was present.

Speaking on the occasion BNP Secretary-General Barris- See Page 10 Col. 6

## Riyadh normal: Bangladeshis safe

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Riyadh is completely normal and Bangladeshis are doing usual work all over Saudi Arabia including the Gulf area in the Eastern Province, according to Bangladesh Ambassador in Riyadh Kazi Golam Dastagir.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone from Riyadh on Saturday evening, Ambassador

Dastagir said he had telephone talks with many of our nationals in Dhahran, Al-khobar, Dammam and Jubail industrial areas in Saudi Eastern Province on the day and they informed him that they were working normally. Only 14 Bangladeshis workers came to Riyadh, out of fear from See Page 10 Col. 7

## Austerity steps by Govt

The Government, in view of the prevailing war situation in the Gulf area, has decided to take some emergency measures to avoid any untoward situation and enforce austerity at all possible spheres, reports BSS.

The measures include: formation of an Advisory Committee for Emergency Management to review the overall situation from time to time and to take necessary remedial steps.

Setting up of a monitoring cell in the Ministry of Commerce to watch the price position of essential commodities. See Page 10 Col. 2

## Jatiya Party leaders meet Shahabuddin

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party leaders in an interview with the Acting President yesterday demanded release of the ousted president H. M. Ershad and lifting restrictions on the party funds to facilitate their party activities.

An 11-member delegation of Jatiya Party, led by its acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, called on Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and made several suggestions on holding free and fair elections. The delegation included its acting secretary-general A. B. M. Shahjahan.

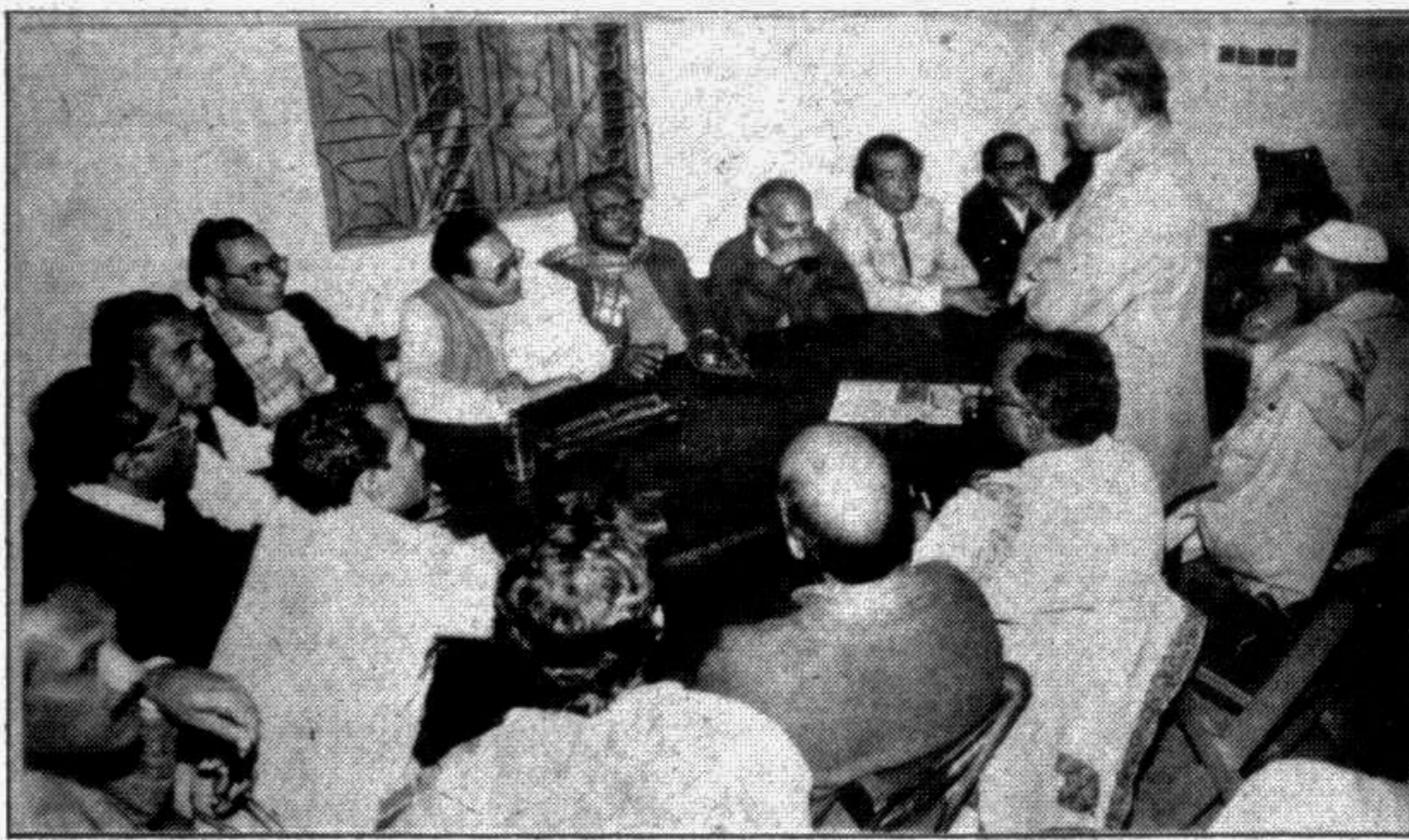
During their meeting with the acting president Mizan Chowdhury proposed, some See Page 10 Col. 1

## Ijtema begins

By Staff Correspondent

Bishwa Ijtema, the second largest Muslim congregation after Hajj, began yesterday at Tongi.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees from across the country and abroad have gathered at the Ijtema site on the bank of the river Turag. Delegates from 52 countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, USA, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Bahrain, Turkey, the Maldives, Sudan, Libya, Canada, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Burma and Thailand have already joined the Ijtema. See Page 10 Col. 1



Leaders of the breakaway partners of Eight-party Alliance, Five-party Combine and two other parties at a meeting yesterday to form a new electoral alliance.—Star photo.

## Moscow's fresh move for truce

TUNIS, Jan 19: PLO leader Yasser Arafat received an "official and urgent" message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Saturday, reports Reuters.

Wafa said the message, the second since the Gulf war broke out early, was delivered to Arafat at the Palestine Liberation Organisations' Tunis headquarters on Friday by Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Sobchenko. Palestinian sources say the PLO leadership has maintained contacts with leaders in Iraq since U.S. and allied forces launched the war against Iraq with massive air

attacks early on Thursday. The sources say, Moscow is trying to arrange a ceasefire between Iraq and the U.S. -led coalition seeking to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The PLO said on Saturday in a separate statement that the bombings on Iraq "far exceed the limits fixed for the U.S. and its allies by the Security Council."

The PLO said U.S.-led forces had dropped 23,000 tonnes of shells, missiles and explosives on Iraq.

U.S. President George Bush told President Gorbachev on Friday that the Gulf war will last several weeks, Soviet

television reported. The television, monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Bush and Gorbachev had a detailed telephone discussion about the war on Friday afternoon.

Gorbachev confirmed absolute adherence to international unity as expressed in the U.N. Security Council resolutions, and the determination to obtain their implementation, the TV report said.

Bush told Gorbachev that Operation Desert Storm to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was developing according to plan. "However, (Bush) expressed

the opinion that the war will take several weeks yet, because Iraq still possesses strong military potential, the television reported.

The two leaders also discussed events in the Soviet Union, it said, without elaborating.

President Gorbachev is standing firmly behind Washington in the Gulf war but Moscow's commitment could come under pressure from powerful military and communist hardliners at home.

Gorbachev, who has blamed Iraq's Saddam Hussein for the war, lent further support to the anti-Iraq coalition.

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