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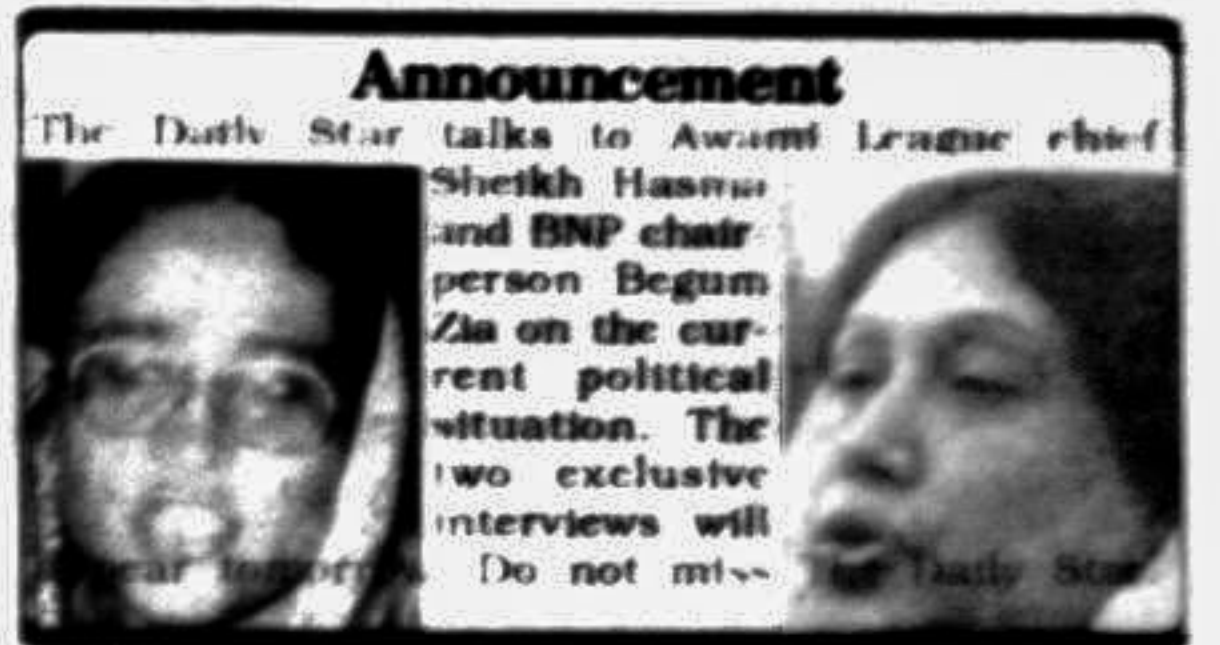
The Daily Star

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Announcement
The Daily Star talks to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP chairperson Begum Zia on the current political situation. The two exclusive interviews will do not miss.

Inside today

Metropolitan

A gold each for teenagers



When 16-year-old Sayeduzaman (Pinu) heard that he had won a Jawaharal Nehru Memorial Award he found the news unbelievable. Page 3

Editorial

Peoples and Rights

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury writes on patterns of rights people are to enjoy under a government. Page 4

International

US troops move for hammer blows



US army's rapid deployment force headed north to prepare for a ground offensive against Iraq. Page 5

Feature

US move to protect Israel

US airlifted Patriot missile batteries to Israel to protect it from Iraqi attack. Page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Blast at Allied military base

DHAHRAN, Jan 20: Loud explosions were heard on Sunday evening at Dhahran, which contains a major allied military base and oil refinery on the eastern Saudi coast, witnesses said, reports Reuters.

Explosions in Bahrain

MANAMA, Jan 20: Alarm sirens sounded today in Bahrain as several explosions rocked the Gulf state. Official radio and television meanwhile interrupted their programmes to announce an "imminent danger" and urge the population to take cover indoors and "stay calm," reports AFP.

Skies cloudy over Iraq

WASHINGTON, Jan 20: Cloudy skies and scattered rain are expected over Iraq and Kuwait on Monday continuing a weather pattern that has hampered US air strikes in the past days, a private US forecaster said Sunday, reports Reuters.

Rafsanjani asks to close ranks

TEHERAN, Jan 20: Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today called on Islamic states to close ranks in an effort to halt what he called the devastating, brutal and unequal war in the Gulf, reports AFP.

Japan to raise taxes for aid

TOKYO, Jan 20: Japanese government is considering to raise taxes to expand its aid to the campaign.

Baghdad Air Force virtually intact, says British intelligence

Iraqi ground forces hammered

- Only part of forces used: Saddam.
- 157 Allied planes downed: Iraq.
- US dispatching 7th aircraft carrier.
- 56 planes from US base in Turkey bomb northern Iraq.
- An unidentified number of Israeli planes deployed in Turkey and takes part in war.
- 22 Allied soldiers killed in combat.
- Iraqi missile hits Saudi desert.
- Air war shifts focus to Iraqi army in Kuwait.
- US Deputy Secretary of State again in Israel.
- Saddam one-man show: US commander.

WASHINGTON, Jan 20: US and Allied warplanes hammered Iraq's ground forces Sunday as the US government moved to bolster Israel's defences against more Iraqi Scud missile attacks, reports AP.

Gen. Norman H. Schwarzkopf, Commander of US forces in the Gulf, said 22 allied soldiers have been killed or are missing in action since hostilities began early Thursday. He told the American NBC and CBS broadcasting networks that included 13 Americans and nine soldiers of other nationalities.

The air war shifted its focus from airfields and other facilities in Iraq to Iraqi army units in Kuwait, including the 100,000-plus troops of the top-rated Republican Guard.

Schwarzkopf said that one aim of the bombing is to interfere with Iraq's command system, which he described as run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Saddam Hussein is a one-man show. That's why we're trying to sever that control," the general said.

States is sending a seventh aircraft carrier to the Gulf to help bolster Israel's defences against Iraqi attacks, a US government source said Sunday.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the USS Forrestal, currently in a Florida Port, will be sent to the eastern Mediterranean 'in the near future'.

Meanwhile, the first Iraqi missiles to hit Saudi territory landed harmlessly in the desert on Sunday, while the US military launched its biggest mission yet from Turkey against Iraq, allied officers said.

Israeli planes in war

AFP reports from Amman: An unspecified number of Israeli warplanes were deployed Friday at the southern Turkish air base of Incirlik, Western diplomatic sources said Sunday.

The sources did not say what flight course the aircraft took to get there but noted that the dispatch of planes came hours after Iraq launched



Kuwaiti Air Force crew prepare to load a 500 lbs bomb into a Kuwaiti Skyhawk jet January 19 at an air base in eastern Saudi Arabia. —AFP photo

Candidates need to show sources of fund in 7 days

By Reazuddin Ahmed and Moinuddin Naser

Candidates for the February 27 parliamentary elections will be required to submit a statement within seven days from today with a disclosure of the probable source of fund to meet the election expenses. The highest amount of expenditure has been limited to Taka three lakh by the Election Commission.

The Election Commission recently amended the Representation of the People Order, 1972 making it mandatory for every contesting candidate to submit the return of election expenditure with seven days from the date of withdrawal of nomination papers. The withdrawal of nomination papers expires today.

The procedures of keeping

the accounts have been stated in the Government Gazette published on January 14. According to this provision, an election agent shall duly keep and maintain a register of receipts and expenditures in prescribed form. The election agent shall within 15 days, after the publication of the name of the returned candidate, under Article 19 or Article 39, submit to the Returning Officer an account of election expenses giving the account of personal expenditure. All vouchers shall be kept with the account of election expenses arranged according to the date of payment and serially numbered. Such serial number shall be entered in the appropriate column of the relevant account.

It is not, however, necessary, while rendering accounts to the Returning Officer, to give particulars of the payees in regard to the items of expenditure, says the amended provision.

Every candidate shall have to fill in the form stating personal source of income, borrowings from relatives, borrowings from persons other than relatives, voluntary contributions from persons other than relatives and contributions from political parties.

Every contesting candidate shall have to submit a statement of his assets and liabilities within seven days from the date of withdrawal of nominations according to the amended provision. The statement will have

Move for ceasefire in Gulf

CHANDIGARH, Jan 20: India has requested Yugoslavia to take some initiative as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to stop the Gulf war, reports PTI.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told reporters here that India was not ignoring the war and had earlier requested Yugoslavia to take the initiative. "We are in constant touch with Yugoslavia," he said.

According to another report: India has proposed suspension of hostilities in the Gulf to provide a pause of a limited duration, and simultaneous announcement of withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait under a time-bound programme.

India's permanent representative to the UN, Mr. C. R. Gharekhan, has been holding intensive bilateral discussions with the members of the UN

Security Council.

Consultations are also on in New Delhi with India's External Affairs Minister and the Iraqi and Yugoslav ambassadors.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, has asked the Iraqi envoy to convey India's proposal to Iraqi President.

Pakistan

Xinhua reports from Islamabad: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has written letters to 14 world leaders and the UN Secretary General asking them to exert their influence to stop the Gulf war, Pakistan Times reported on Sunday.

The report said the world leaders the Prime Minister has addressed included those of the United States, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Soviet Union, France, the United Kingdom,

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), President of the UN Security Council and China.

Arafat

Reuters reports: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has appealed to world leaders to call for a ceasefire in the Gulf, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Sunday.

The agency said the messages were sent to French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major who was asked to convey its contents to Washington.

Pope

In Vatican City, AFP reports: Pope John Paul II appealed urgently to all sides in the Gulf war Sunday to try to stop the conflict as quickly as possible, saying it threatened to spread throughout the Middle East.

APSU ultimatum to nab Ershad men

By DU Correspondent

All Party Students' Unity (APSU) on Sunday called upon the government to accept their four points demands, including shifting of deposed President Ershad into jail within seventy-two hours.

The other demands included, arrest of Mizan Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar, Anwar Hossain Manju, Nazim Rahman Manju, Kazi Firoj Rasheed, Ruhul Amin Hlawadar, Sheikh Shahed and A.B.M. Shahjahan, and all other close associates of Ershad.

They further demanded strong punishment to corrupt officials under the fallen regime, holding of trial of the murderers of Dr. Milton and withdrawal of all cases against the leaders and workers of APSU.

The demands were announced at a rally held in front

of the Secretariat building Sunday.

The rally was addressed by Chhatra League (S-A) General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil, Chhatra League (H-S) General Secretary Shafi Ahmed and Jatiya Chhatra League General Secretary Kamal Hossain.

The leaders said the autocratic government was deposed but their associates were still active. That is why efforts are being made to foil the caretaker government's efforts to hold elections.

Later, they handed over a memorandum to the Ministry of Home. The rally was followed by a procession.

The leaders of the Students Unions of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Rajshahi and Engineering universities yesterday in a statement de-



The puja of Saraswati, the goddess of education, was celebrated Sunday.

AL stands for disciplined armed forces; Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Sunday said her party stands for a disciplined armed forces and wants to preserve its image and prestige.

Addressing processionists from Mirpur and Mottijheel units at Bangabandhu Bhaban yesterday afternoon, the Awami League chief said the army should not be used as a weapon for capturing power and bringing them in a state of confrontation with people.

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AL move to salvage talks with partners

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leaders, in a frantic bid to salvage the collapsed seat-sharing dialogue with partners of the Eight-party Alliance, resumed talks last night. The formation of the left unity embarrased Awami League, according to Eight-party sources.

Awami League offered only 32 seats to six parties of the Eight-party Alliance, which angered the partners. Awami League sources last night

50 per cent fall in international flights

By Asiuzzaman Retu

The operation of more than 50 percent international flights through Zia International Airport has been suspended due to shortage of passengers following the outbreak of the Gulf war, a senior airport official said yesterday.

"The number of passengers fell by 70 to 80 per cent during the last three days, so we had to reduce our flights," the official said.

Normally 7000 to 8000 passengers move through this airport everyday but, after the Gulf war broke out on Thursday the number of passengers has come down to around 1,000, he said.

Till 10 pm yesterday, 852 passengers including 444 foreigners left Dhaka. Most of them were British and

American nationals as the two embassies started evacuation of their non-essential staff.

The number of flights has been reduced by a half. On normal days, about 15 flights fly from Zia everyday but the number has now been reduced to seven or eight flights a day. Seven flights departed from Dhaka till 10 pm yesterday, the source said.

Earlier, the flights to all the eight destinations of the Middle East were suspended. These are Abu Dhabi, Muskat, Dubai, Riyadh, Doha, Tripoli, Bahrain and Jeddah.

The source said, security at the airport has been further tightened.

Meanwhile, an aircraft belonging to Gulf Air remains stranded at the Zia International Airport for the

Thousands of marchers demand Gorbachev's resignation

MOSCOW, Jan 20: Hundreds of thousands of Soviets rallied in the heart of Moscow on Sunday to protest the government's bloody crackdown on Lithuania and demand President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's resignation.

The crowd that marched to the Manezh Square in sight of the Kremlin was accompanied by a sea of yellow, red and green Lithuanian flags, red, white and blue Russian flags and banners denouncing Gorbachev and military leaders for the assault on the Lithuanian broadcast centre a week ago that left 14 people dead.

A message from Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin, Gorbachev's leading rival, held Gorbachev directly responsible for the bloodshed in Lithuania and the country's

woes.

"The danger of dictatorship has become a reality," said Yeltsin's message, which was read by a supporter.

The President has started on the course of whipping up ethnic passions, supporting self proclaimed committees of salvation, striving for power, on the path of justifying the use of weapons against a peaceful population," it said.

Yuri Afanasyev, an historian and leader of the Democratic Russia reform movement, said the protest was called to register "our decisive 'no' to the reactionary course of Gorbachev."

The crowd responded with shouts of "Resign Resign". It was the first time reformers, who until just recently supported Gorbachev, organised a rally with the primary focus being a demand for his resignation.

"Hangmen out of the Kremlin! Down with the Communist Party! Dictatorship will not pass," the throngs chanted.

"We want those responsible for the butchery (in Vilnius) Gorbachev, Pugo and Yazov to resign," one banner said, referring to Interior Minister Boris Pugo and Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov.

Other banners brandished by the protesters as they marched through central Moscow read: "Today Vilnius, tomorrow Moscow".

The rally was organised by liberal political parties such as Democratic Russia and with the backing of radical Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov.

Gorbachev is widely perceived to have taken a more

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Bush-supporter son killed by father

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 20: A pro-Saddam father killed his Bush-supporter son in Chokoria upazila of Cox's Bazar district on Friday.

According to a delayed report, Siraj Mia (55) butchered his son Abu Hanif with a 'dao' (chopper) at his Barobakia house of Chokoria. A heated debate between the two over the Gulf war led to the gruesome killing.

A group of about 200 people is learnt obtained huge loans

Capital base may be raised to tackle bad debt problem

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

In an attempt to tackle the problem of bad debts and stuck-up loans, which have paralysed normal operations in the nationalised banking sector, all banks are likely to be required to substantially raise their capital base.

Details of change are being worked out by Bangladesh Bank, though implementation will probably wait until the installation of an elected government.

Banking sources say nearly a quarter of outstanding nationalised bank loans — Tk 5,000 crore out of Tk 19,000 are unlikely to be repaid. Biggest defaulters include big businessmen and industrialists.

A group of about 200 people is learnt obtained huge loans

because of their connections with the previous regime.

Sonali Bank tops the list of banks with outstanding loans. It is owed Tk 2,000 crore. Janata Bank is owed Tk 1,500 crore, Agrani Bank Tk 900 crore and Rupali Bank Tk 600 crore.

Alarms were first sounded in the mid-1980s. But steps to restrain credit expansion and recover loans were thwarted by high-level political intervention.

Recently, World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been pressing for reforms. They have been threatening to withhold a disbursement of 50 million dollars under the financial sector credit programme.

Failure to come to grips

with the problem of bad debts has had a range of effects, including increased inflation and slowdown in productive investment.

The capital base provisions, now being drawn by Bangladesh Bank, are part of wider efforts to restore some confidence. They follow international recommendations by the Basic Committee which was set up by a group of 10 major industrialised countries with the aim of strengthening banking collaboration between them. The committee's suggestions, which are issued intermittently, are now followed, partly or wholly, by many countries.

Under the existing system

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UP election uncertain

UP election

By Nazmul Ashraf

Holding of the Union Parishad elections has become uncertain following the recent political changes in the country.

The tenure of the existing Union Parishads expires on February 9 this year.

The Election Commission started preparations for holding the polls when the Ershad government was in power. But with the ouster of the Jatiya Party government the preparations came to a halt and the commission began its activities for the February 27 Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) elections.

Election Commission sources said, no order was issued by the interim government regarding the Union Parishad polls.

The chairmen and members of the Union Parishads at their grand rally in Dhaka in late 1990 demanded extension of the three-year term of the Parishads to five years. It was not, however, accepted.

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Taka 3 crore graft charge against former minister, envoy

By Staff Correspondent

A case has been lodged with Ramna thana against a former Minister and three former bureaucrats for alleged misappropriation of over Taka 31 crore.

They are former Food Minister Major (retd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, former Ambassador in Bangkok Anwarul Masud, former economic counsellor in Bangkok Khondaker Abul Hossain and a former joint secretary of the Food Ministry A.M. Khan Chowdhury.

An official of the Anti-corruption Department has lodged the case.

The persons allegedly showed a false requirement statement for procurement of two lakh metric tons of rice in

See Page 10 Col. 1

Khaleda for protection of local industries

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday called for restricting imports and allowing tariff protection to local industries.

Exchanging views with a delegation of industrialists she reiterated her party's stand for a stronger private sector and foreign direct investments for the rapid industrialisation.

The delegation, led by Subed Ali met her at the residence of BNP leader Col (retd) A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman.

Begum Zia, who is also the leader of Seven-party Alliance said local industries were destroyed to protect foreign interests during the rule of the former president, H.M. Ershad. Bangladesh was turned into a market of foreign goods by encouraging smuggling. The unrestricted imports forced

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