

If you miss your copy of the Daily Star today, please don't hesitate to call the Circulation Manager immediately on Tel: 246023-4 (PABX), 863035, 863036. The Daily Star is at your service day in and day out.

The Daily Star

Let us devote our efforts to ensure free and fair polls on February 27. Cast your vote judiciously and allow others to exercise their rights.

VOL. 1 NO. 14 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 13, 1397 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 27, 1991

RAJAB 10, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA. 3.00

Inside today

International

Outrage over oil spill



President Bush said Iraqi President Saddam is now shocking the world by spilling oil into the Gulf. Page 5

Gulf crisis

Eves desert homes to help men in war

They joined for the same reasons men do, but they never expected to be at war. Page 6

Sport

Seles makes history



Monica Seles wins Australian open women's title. Page 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Tiniest books on display in the city. Page 3

Feature

Travel and Leisure

Holiday on the South China Coast. A travelogue by Nasreen Sobhan, a freelance journalist in Beijing. Page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Iranian food for Iraq

TEHERAN, Jan 26: Iran today ordered its Red Crescent Society to provide the Iraqi people with food assistance, official Teheran radio said. The decision was adopted at a meeting of the ruling Supreme National Security Council "in light of the difficult situation triggered by the war in Iraq and the shortage there of food and medicine," reports AFP.

UN meet on Gulf next week

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 26: The United Nations Security Council meeting requested by Yemen to discuss the Gulf war may be held next week but it is unlikely to consider any resolution on a ceasefire or a pause for peace in the Gulf, reports FTI.

Sweeping new powers to KGB

MOSCOW, Jan 26: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today gave sweeping new powers to the KGB and police to enter any business premises to check stocks, documentation, accounts and cash, reports Reuter.

Katyusha fired at Israel

TYRE (Lebanon), Jan 26: Muslim guerrillas fired two Soviet-made Katyusha rockets at Israel's self-proclaimed security zone in south Lebanon on Saturday, the first anti-Israeli attack in the area since the Gulf war erupted reports AP.

7 Iraqi fighters make emergency landing in Iran

Huge oil slick on fire



An oil slick as massive as 31-mile long and 8-mile wide from Kuwait spreading fast along the Saudi Coast. —TV photo

A part of a huge oil slick from Kuwait spreading along the Saudi coast was on fire and posing a threat to Allied water supplies on Saturday, reports agencies.

Seven Iraqi warplanes made emergency landing in Iran. One plane crashed in flames and two others were damaged on landing.

Early Saturday, Iraq launched more missiles into Saudi Arabia and Israel and urged Arab soldiers in the alliance to switch side.

Away, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday Iraq is receiving arms supplies through Iran.

Ten days into the conflict, the United States and its allies may launch a bloody ground operation in the Gulf war.

Oil slick on fire

Military sources in London said, a part of a huge oil slick spreading down the Gulf from Kuwait along the coast of Saudi Arabia is on fire.

Two oil rigs in the slick and an oil terminal were also burning and there was a fire on Fay-lakah island off Kuwait.

The sources in London said the Iraqis were deliberately pumping the oil into the sea from Kuwait but could not give details or say how the fires started.

Urgent consultations on how to stop the oil being pumped out to sea were being held between Saudi, US and British officials.

The United States has accused Iraq of "environmental terrorism" for allegedly dumping into the Gulf from a Kuwait facility. US officials in Washington estimate the present size of the spill to be 12 times larger than the 11 million gallons (41.8 million liters, 262,000 barrels) that

Iran to seize aircraft from either side of Gulf war.

More Scuds launched into Saudi Arabia, Israel

17,500 sorties flown: Allies

22 Allied planes lost.

80 Iraqi POW's, 5 killed, 45 planes destroyed: Allies.

20 allied POW's: Iraq.

23 missiles fired into Israel so far.

Kuwait pledges \$13 billion to Allies.

Iraqi arms supply through Iran: Los Angeles Times.

US forces in South Korea under curfew.

The Exxon Valdez tanker spilled into Alaska's Prince William sound in 1989. In addition to the drinking water threat, the thick oil could hamper a beach invasion of Kuwait.

Reuters reports from Ni- See Page 10 Col. 7

Dhaka warned against entry of terrorists

By Moinuddin Naser

The American and the West European missions in Bangladesh are alarmed about acts of international terrorism which may be staged here in support of Iraq, according to diplomatic sources.

It is said well-placed US sources have cautioned Bangladesh authorities about the possible entry of armed terrorists into this country.

In response to the US concern the authorities here, have taken strict measures specially at the airport, to prevent un-

See Page 10 Col. 6

ATP scandal

Case filed against Ershad, four others

By Staff Correspondent

Former President Ershad, two of his former ministers, a former Managing Director of Bangladesh Bitman and a former Secretary of the Government have been charged with misappropriation of about Taka 22.44 crore in the purchase of ATP aircraft for Bangladesh Bitman.

A case was filed with the Mottijheel thana on Saturday against them for causing financial loss to the government

See Page 10 Col. 6

Gas supply disruption leads to loadshedding

By Chapal Bashar

Abrupt stoppage of production in four wells at Titas and Bakhrabad gas fields has affected power generation resulting in the loadshedding up to 100 megawatts in different parts of the country. The Ashuganj and Ghorasal power plants, which depend mainly on gas, have to suffer much because of such disruption in supply.

The situation has forced the Power Development Board (PDB) to quadruple its diesel and other liquid fuel expenditure for power generation. Normally, the PDB spends Taka eight lakh a day for diesel and that now mounts to Taka 32 lakh.

The production in well

number four and ten at Titas gas field was stopped on January 17, while the gas flow from well number one and six of Bakhrabad remained suspended since that time. The disruption in gas supply was attributed to mechanical problems by the authorities.

According to Petrobangla sources, they received reports of some faults detected in the sub-surface safety valves of two wells in Titas gas field while leakages were traced in two other wells at Bakhrabad.

Ten wells in Titas gas field are in operation which produce 295 million cubic feet gas daily. But due to non-production in two wells, Titas supply has come down to 235 million

cft. Similarly, the production of 180 million cft from eight wells in Bakhrabad has been reduced to 150 million cft.

There is a shortage of 90 million cft obviously from two gas fields that has affected Ashuganj and Ghorasal power plants which are dependent mainly on gas. Ashuganj power plant used to produce 500 megawatt on an average, but production has declined by at least 100 megawatt. At Ghorasal, the power production has declined from 420 megawatt to 250. This situation has been prevailing since a week.

For maintaining smooth power supply, the PDB has in-

See Page 10 Col. 1

Proponent of one-party now shedding tears for democracy: Khaleda

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 26: Begum Khaleda Zia today cautioned the people about a political party which had trampled people's rights while in power and conspired against democracy by helping in the overthrow of an elected government in 1982, reports UNB.

"This party infringed people's rights while in power and even welcomed usurpation of power by Ershad from an elected government... and now it is shedding crocodile tears for democracy," she told a huge electioneering rally at Ullapara College Boarding ground here at noon.

Without naming BNP's arch

See Page 10 Col. 3

Code of conduct announced

The Election Commission in a 16-point code of conduct announced here on Saturday for the political parties urged them to refrain from making provocative and discourteous statements and indulging in abuses and taunts during election campaigns for the February 27 parliamentary polls, reports BSS.

The Commission requested the political parties to build up a proper and healthy atmosphere during their election campaign so that the voters could exercise their right of franchise freely and without fear.

The Commission expressed the hope that the code of conduct which has been formu-

See Page 10 Col. 1

Firoz, Hawlader arrested

Two ministers of the former government, Mr. Ruhul Amin Howlader and Kazi Feroz Rashid, were taken into custody on Saturday, reports BSS.

A special squad of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested them from a city locality, a government Press Note said.

The two ministers were among several persons against whom the Government had issued arrest orders on December 11, 1990 under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

The police could not arrest these former ministers so far despite frantic efforts as they had been hiding very tactfully, the Press Note said.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Saturday charge sheeted former President H.M. Ershad for illegal possession of fire arms in his house along with explosives.

A case was registered against the former President

See Page 10 Col. 1

2,500 writs pending 20 judges burdened with 30,000 cases

By Sheikh Mohiuddin

Shortage of judges in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court has resulted in piling up of over 30,000 cases. Out of these, cases, 2500 are writs and habeas corpus, the court sources said.

There are only 20 judges in the High Court Division at present against the sanctioned posts of 47. There were 29 judges in the High Court Division till the end of last year.

Three judges have joined the Election Commission — one as Chief Election Commissioner and two as members of

the Election Commission. One died and two retired. Two other judges are now engaged in different Enquiry Commissions. As a result only 20 judges are now available to constitute the benches both in Dhaka and in six other benches outside the capital.

There is no judge in the Administrative Appellate Tribunal since December last year. As a result, many cases are awaiting disposal many of which are of urgent nature.

According to court sources, the criminal appeals lying with

See Page 10 Col. 2

3 Bangladeshis injured by Iraqi missiles

Three Bangladeshis were injured by the splinters of the Iraqi missiles that hit Riyadh Friday, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka Saturday, report BSS.

He said the three Bangladeshis sustained minor injuries and were discharged from hospital after first aid. All other Bangladeshis in the Gulf including the troops in the Saudi Arabia were safe and sound, the spokesman said.

The spokesman was unable to give the names of the injured persons, saying names would be available soon.

He said there was no panic or fear among the Bangladeshis in the Gulf region and the mis-

See Page 10 Col. 3

Tk 18,293 crore rolling uplift programme finalised

By Moazzem Hossain

Planning Commission has finalised a Taka 18,293.00 crore development programme in public sector for 1990-93.

The programme is the first major exercise of the Planning Commission under the interim government. It has been drawn up on the basis of a rolling three-year financial plan.

Planning Commission

sources said the programme was developed on the basis of a realistic estimate of resource availability. It shows separately the requirement for spill-over and new projects as well as foreign exchange and local currency requirement for each project, they noted.

The programme accommodates the financing needs of the Jamuna Multipurpose

Bridge Project, special flood control measures and primary education development.

Explaining its rationale, the sources said that the programme would serve as the operational document for determining the priority areas of public investment and selecting new projects. This is essentially a resource-based investment programme incor-

porating clear procedures to contain the number of new projects within the projected resource envelope and to assess their relative priorities" they observed.

The new investment programme may be "integrated" with the Fourth Five-year Development Plan. About 30 task forces set up by the in-

See Page 10 Col. 5

Reliance is not just a Name. You can come and see for yourself.



In just 2 1/2 years, Reliance has proved that it is not just another Insurance Company. Reliance is here to meet the needs of a changing world. Our strong back-up of human resources, in-depth market know-how and wealth of experience give us the strength to provide the security for all your general insurance needs.



EXPERIENCE · STRENGTH · SECURITY

RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED

BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH
Phone: PABX- 240105-6
295080

Telex: 671186 RIL BJ