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US-Soviet joint statement

Ceasefire if Iraq pledges pullout

WASHINGTON, Jan 30: The United States and the Soviet Union declared Tuesday night a ceasefire in the Gulf war would be possible if Iraq made an unequivocal commitment to withdraw all its troops from Kuwait and took concrete steps in that direction, reports AP.

George Bush would be willing to suspend the Desert Storm attacks with less than the total withdrawal of all Iraqi troops. The total withdrawal concept is embedded in United Nations resolutions that gave the US-led coalition authority to wage war.

In his State of the Union message, Bush Tuesday evening gave no sign of compromise, vowing, "We will succeed in the Gulf."

The Soviet-US statement was issued at the conclusion of talks between Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander A. Bessmertnykh. It said, in part: "A cessation of hostilities would be possible if Iraq would make an unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait."

In their statement, Baker and Bessmertnykh declared the Arab-Israeli dispute was a source of conflict in the Middle East and it "will be especially important" to try to resolve it after the conflict is ended.

The Soviet official told reporters, "The main task remains to free Kuwait, to liberate Kuwait."

Code of conduct not followed, Shahabuddin told

BNP Secretary-General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder met the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at President's Secretariat in the city on Wednesday, reports BSS.

He complained that the code of conduct for the coming parliamentary polls was not being followed by some parties which, he said, interfered with the election campaign of his party.

He mentioned some officers by names in different districts, who, according to him, were working against the interests of the BNP candidates. He also alleged two BNP workers were illegally arrested in Bhola while engaged in election campaign.

The Acting President said all powers to deal with such allegations have been delegated to the Election Commission which is an independent body.

He advised the BNP Secretary General to lodge complaints in this regard with the Election Commission.

Menon concerned at unlimited spendings, use of arms in polls

By Staff Correspondent. Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon on Wednesday urged the government to check spendings by some candidates without waiting for submission of returns. He also called for recovery of all illegal arms.

Exchanging views with newsmen on his return to Dhaka after a 10-day visit to the southern districts he also

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AL, BNP have no character, says Abbas

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan said on Wednesday the aides of the ousted autocratic government were contesting the coming elections with BNP and Awami League tickets. In fact, these parties have no character and as such, they sold their nominations to the aides of the past government, he added.

Abbas Ali Khan addressed five separate election meetings at Akbar Ali Government College, Sherpur of Bogra district, Natmalhat, Coloybazar and Mokamtali on his way to Jaipurhat from Dhaka.

He said conspiracy was still going on even after the fall of the autocratic government. He said Fate of the common people had not changed after change of governments during the last 20 years. He said only Islamic spirit can protect country's independence and sovereignty. Those who propagate that the nation does not need armed forces, they are the enemies of the nation, he said. He said Jamaat Stands for a strong army.

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UNEP says it is now ready to provide a reliable early warning system on the health of the planet

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NEWS BRIEFS

Talks on Chakma refugees soon

Bangladesh and India are likely to meet soon to talk repatriation of Chakma refugees from Tripura before next month's parliamentary election, an official source said Wednesday, reports BSS.

Shops to close at 7 p.m.

The Government has directed to close all shops and establishments at 7 pm instead of 8 pm for fuel saving due to the Gulf war, an official hand-out said on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Shoes thrown at Kaifu

TOKYO, Jan 30: Shouting "no to war of aggression" anti-war protesters threw shoes at Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as he addressed the Diet (Parliament) today, police said the two were arrested for interrupting the proceedings of the Diet, reports AP.

Tamil Nadu govt sacked

NEW DELHI, Jan 30: Prime Minister Chandras Shekhar on Wednesday dismissed the government in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and imposed direct federal rule, accusing it of aiding Sri Lankan Tamil rebels, reports AP.

New oil slick

LONDON, Jan 30: Iraq has started pumping more crude oil into the waters of the northern Gulf to form another oil slick, military sources said today, reports Reuters.



- * Khafji under control: Saudi Arabia.
- * 5 Iraqi tanks destroyed in Khafji.
- * 10 US personnel carriers knocked out.
- * 6 Iraqi naval vessels sunk.
- * Iraqi troops cut off: Allies
- * 20 Iraqi T-55 tanks destroyed: Allies
- * Iraq pouring reinforcements.
- * 23 Iraqis taken prisoner: Allies.
- * Iraqis push 20 km into S Arabia.
- * Iraqi missiles set ablaze oil refineries around Khafji.
- * 10 US among 20 Allied troops killed.
- * Iraqi ship, 3 more planes take refuge in Iran.
- * 24 Iraqi tanks, armoured carriers knocked out in Kuwait: US.



Rickshaws with passengers smashed at Tejgaon yesterday. Eight persons were killed in the accident. — Star photo

8 killed as truck smashes rickshaws in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three separate road mishaps occurred in the city on Wednesday claiming 11 lives including eight in one single accident. The total number of persons injured in the accidents was 25, of whom the condition of 16 was stated to be serious.

The first accident took

place near Nabisco Biscuit factory in Tejgaon industrial area at dawn. Eight persons were killed when a truck smashed as many as 15 rickshaws. The soil-laden truck in a bid to overtake another truck at top speed hit the rickshaws coming from opposite direction carrying vegetables, eye wit-

nesses said. One rickshawpuller and five passengers died on the spot while two others succumbed to their injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The driver of the truck along with helpers fled away, police said. But the truck was seized. See Page 10 col. 1

Rehabilitation plan for repatriates

By Moinuddin Naser

Government has finalised a proposal to set up a welfare foundation for rehabilitation of the repatriated workers from Kuwait and other Middle-eastern countries due to the Gulf war.

The Manpower Ministry prepared a project costing about Taka 113 crore to fi-

nance self employment schemes. The initial cost of taka three crore will be financed by the government and rest of the money will come from banks and the repatriates. Taka 88 crore will be borrowed from banks and rest of the money will be generated from insurance premium. See Page 10 Col. 2

Indecision costs Biman Tk 10 crore a week

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman, which has suspended its flights to eight destinations within the war zone in the Middle-east from January 14, is negotiating with Lloyds Company to finalise the insurance arrangement. But Biman has so far

failed to get any positive response from Lloyds regarding reduced premium rate — which is delaying the resumption of flights to those destinations. The Bangladeshi nationals See Page 10 col. 1

We stand at a defining hour, Bush tells Americans

WASHINGTON, Jan 30: President George Bush confidently assured Americans that the war against Iraq will be won and the recession at home will end in short order.

"We stand at a defining hour," Bush said Tuesday night in his State of the Union address.

"For two centuries, we've done the hard work of freedom. And to night, we lead the world in facing down a threat to decency and humanity."

Bush said in the nationally broadcast address to a joint session of Congress.

It was the first wartime State of the Union address since the days of Vietnam. Extraordinary security precautions crisscrossed the Capitol, a bow to threats of terrorism.

Bush won a long standing ovation when he praised US forces in the Gulf as "truly America's finest" and again when he predicted "we will prevail" over Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"As Americans, we must there are times when we know step forward and accept our responsibility to lead the world away from the dark chaos of dictators, toward the brighter promise of a better day," Bush said in his 55-minute speech.

The President delivered a terse assessment of the war to date: "I'm pleased to report that we are on course. Iraq's capacity to sustain war is being See Page 10 Col. 3

Parliamentary democracy to end killing, says Hasina

RAJSHAHI, Jan 30: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said here today that her party would establish parliamentary democracy to bring an end to the politics of killings and conspiracies, reports BSS.

"We will not allow anybody to fish in the troubled water," she said while addressing a public meeting at Shahb Bazar road here this evening. Presided over by Advocate Muzaffar Hossain, President of Rajshahi Awami League, the meeting was also addressed by Joint Secretary M. A. Jalil and President of US-Awami League Nurul Islam Anu. Sheikh Hasina said people had undergone a tremendous See Page 10 Col. 2

No democracy during AL rule, says Khaleda

SATKHIRA, Jan 30: BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia today said the nation could expect nothing good from those who conspired against the people by taking part in elections under Ershad regime, reports UNB.

"If they are voted to power again, they will deprive the people of their rights," Khaleda said addressing an election meeting at the Satkhira Government College football ground this afternoon. Without naming BNP's arch rival Awami League, she said during the rule of a particular party, there was no democracy in the country and killing, hijack became regular features amid total disruption of law See Page 10 Col. 6

A new month starts

Tomorrow

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The Daily Star

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