

Focus on election- '91

8 injured in poll clash in city, Ctg

At least three students were injured and two makeshift election camps ransacked on Monday in attacks by "miscreants" on Awami League and BNP workers at Mohammadpur in the city, reports UNB.

Injured Sharif Hossain of Lalmitia Boys School and Faisal and Pappu of Mohammadpur Government High School were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

According to witnesses, about 15 youngmen attacked the camps of Awami League and BNP at Salimullah Road and stabbed Sharif Hossain.

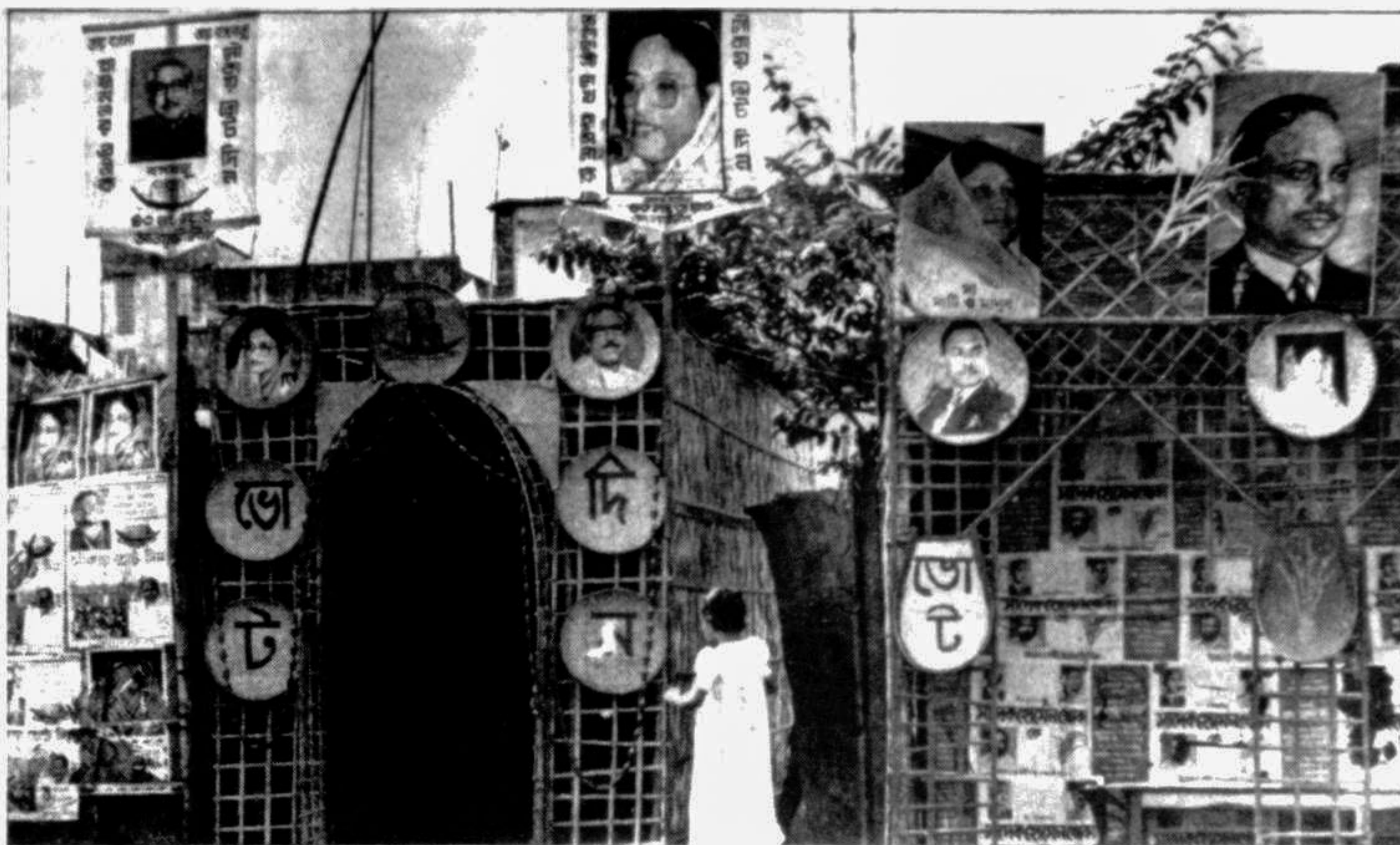
Protest processions of Awami League and BNP workers in the afternoon came under further attacks of the miscreants, when Faisal and Pappu were injured.

Several crackers were also blasted during the attacks, sources said.

Awami League and BNP workers claimed the attackers belonged to the Jatiya Party.

A case has been filed in this connection with Mohammadpur police.

BSS adds from Chittagong: Five persons were injured and an election camp was ransacked in separate clashes between rival parties here today, police said.



Peaceful coexistence: Election camps of Awami League (left) and BNP (right) at S K Das Lane in Dhaka. — Star photo

Where sabre-rattling is not the way

By Nazmul Ashraf

Ninety political parties are locked in election battle this time. The main contenders are Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Awami League (AL).

Though the supporters of the two major parties are often busy rattling their sabres, there are places too where they campaign peacefully.

The picture here shows two well-decorated election camps, S. K. Das Lane in the old part of the capital. On the left is the camp set up by Awami League and on right by

BNP. S.K. Das Lane falls in the Sutrapur-Kotwali constituency. The main contestants in the constituency are Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP candidate Kadek Hossain Khoka.

Workers of both the parties reported that they had not yet had any clash, nor any tension, since the camps were set up a fortnight ago.

The whole areas of the constituency, have worn a festive look with the activists of the contending parties bringing

out colourful processions, writing graffiti and campaigning door-to-door.

Besides big arches, symbols of boat and paddy sheaf, the election symbols of the AL and BNP are a common sight in the area like elsewhere in the city. Playing taped speeches of the leaders and campaign songs with popular tune are also going on there round the clock.

A total of 65 political parties including the AL and BNP participating the ensuing polls

agreed to a draft code of conduct on January 24 to stop use of muscle power and refrain from spending money to allure voters. The code also calls for strict adherence to all election laws, respect for and tolerance of each other's opinion and equal opportunity for election campaign. It also urged the parties to be vocal against terrorism, avoid mudslinging and conflicts through coordination committees representing all parties.

Donors sources indicated that Jamuna multi-purpose bridge and flood control project costing about 1.5 billion dollars will be taken up with the political government.

Meanwhile, the donor are concerned over slow implementation of the on going development projects. Annual Development Programme even 50 per cent of the Programme could not be implemented during the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

Fertilizers

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grammed to attain the projected output.

Most input prices have gone up. Diesel which is used for running irrigation equipment is 92 per cent up in price in current season from what it was last year.

There has also been major changes in distribution of irrigation equipment including Deep Tubewells (DTWs), Shallow Tubewells (STWs) and Low Lift Pumps (LLPs), focusing more on sales than on rental basis operations in recent years. Subsidies for inputs have also been reduced.

Agricultural credits expanded so far this year by about Taka 230 crores only against the annual target of Taka 1100 crore.

The government has recently raised the procurement price of IRRI paddy for 1991 to Taka 240 a maund and that of rice to Taka 369.50 a maund. The new prices will be effective from April 15.

But the available reports from the countryside indicate that acreage under Boro cultivation would be about ten per cent lower than the projected target. (Details on Business page)

Jamuna

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the fund for the Jamuna bridge.

The World Bank in principle agreed to take up the project for consideration. But the bank suggested Bangladesh government to provide fund for the project from the Annual Development Programme. But Dhaka approached the donors to make special funding arrangement for this project which is politically very important for the country.

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Ershad

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since the constitution requires equality before the law to be maintained.

Dr Hossain told the court that the Election Commission had no power to dispense with the application of any law, particularly the Jail Code, to any candidate whomsoever he may be.

He urged that in any case, the person (Ershad) in the hearing is a person against whom there are grave criminal charges for which he has acquired "international notoriety."

Dr Kamal sought a direction from the court that Ershad should not be given any special privileges pending investigation and trial of his crimes.

It was important that such criminal proceedings should be started as early as possible so that any disqualification following therefrom would have a bearing on the candidate's eligibility, he added.

The press release said on the basis of the Deputy Attorney General's undertaking for actions against Ershad as soon as possible, Dr Hossain told the court that he would not press the present petition.

Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif said that he had submitted before the court that since Cr. PC provides for time limit within which trials are to be completed, no fresh direction is necessary as the Government is making all efforts to initiate the trial at the earliest. He also submitted that the Government is conscious of the need for speedy trial.

The division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Abdul Jailil and Justice Kazi Shafiqul Islam disposed of the writ petition accordingly.

Mr. Aziz had held the UN chief personally responsible for the Gulf war in a message dated January 24, one week after the start of hostilities.

Gorbachev

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and elsewhere -- seek a cease-fire to give diplomacy one last chance before the war costs escalate.

man's land near the Iraq-Jordanian border, they moved to Amman with the help of Red Crescent men. In Amman, they passed 22 days in utter distress and severe cold. And then moved to port city of Aqaba from where they left for Bombay by an Aeroflot flight on February 2. A Biman flight brought them all to Dhaka on Sunday morning.

Shamsunnahar, another returnee worked in Baghdad as a housemaid. She went to Iraq after living six years in Kuwait when it was annexed by Iraq. On January 17 she woke up shot the missile and the debris of the missile fell on the ground. He said Iraq's anti-aircraft defence system is very strong.

He, however, contradicted the press reports that presidential palace in Baghdad was damaged by the raids. Only a conference hall adjacent to the palace was destroyed, he said. He even doubted the Allied forces' claim of destroying the nuclear and strategic military installations inside Iraq.

The residents are doing their normal work during the interval of the raids and even cars are moving on Baghdad streets, he said.

As the power facilities were damaged, most of the residents were living without electricity. Internal telephone lines also remain disrupted. There is also shortage of water in the city but some reports said there has been partial revival of water distribution system.

Sadek said Iraqis living in rural areas are leading normal life and the effects of the war were yet to be felt. Saddam and his war against the 'enemies' are also getting popular support. Sadek said Iraqis believe Saddam has justified his commitment to nation by his deeds.

Rashidur Rahman, restaurant manager of Al-Rashed Hotel returned from Baghdad after two years in the same flight. Accompanied by his wife and a child, he moved to Amman just after the war began. Staying two days in no-

an impending war.

A. H. M. Shamsul Islam, First Secretary (Labour) in Baghdad told the Daily Star that he and his skeletal embassy staff worked very hard to arrange repatriation of an estimated 35,000 people from Kuwait via Baghdad after Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said the embassy effectively handled all the cases of repatriation.

Most of the returnees said the Iraqis are well-prepared for a protracted war. The high spirit of the Iraqis is at work to withstand the trials of war, they added.

The returnees said hundreds of Bangladeshis were still stranded in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Prospects of their safe return are still uncertain, as the situation suggests.

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Hasina

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not again darkened. Chaired by Sylhet district Awami League President Syed Abu Nassar, the meeting was also addressed by Abdus Samad Azad, Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, Zubunnessa Haq, Kazi Kayes and A. T. M. Faiz.

Sheikh Hasina said for the last 15 years the people had no role either in forming a government or in replacing it. Power was always transferred through unconstitutional means -- the process which was initiated and enunciated by Ziaur Rahman.

She said it was Ziaur Rahman who captured power by taking part in the bloodshed of hundreds of Army officers and jawans, he annihilated. Zia not only killed democracy but also snatched away voting right of the people by making a mockery in the name of 'yes' and 'no' votes.

Referring to the election manifesto of BNP, Hasina said the party now claims that Ziaur Rahman declared independence on March 26. "Its an utter lie", she said adding, the whole nation knows that Bangabandhu declared independence on March 25 midnight. She said that for the last 15 years, BNP had been claiming that Zia announced it on March 27. "Such attempt is a clear betrayal to the nation's history, sacred War of Liberation and the sacrifices of 30 lakh martyrs and two lakh oppressed women", she said.

Earlier Sheikh Hasina offered Fatcha at the Mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA). She offered her Zohr prayer at the holy shrine and offered Fatcha at the Mazar of Hazrat Shah Paran at Khadimnagar.

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Thousands of people gathered at the airport to greet Begum Zia and became impatient when her arrival was delayed.

Khaleida

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some political parties were using money and arms to come to power. She said they were also resorting to armed violence to foil the February 27 parliamentary elections.

The BNP chief urged all to vote for her party in order to ensure to bright future for the nation. She also urged the people to be united in resisting any possible violence during the ensuing polls. "You will guard the polling booths with bamboos against the Jatiya Party mastans and drive them out", she said.

Begum Zia called on the government to recover all illegal arms in the country before the polls and also urged the people's help in expediting the recovery process.

The BNP chairperson also called on the people to vote for her party candidates to consolidate the country's sovereignty.

BNP central leader Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed also addressed the meeting. BNP candidate from the Chittagong-1 constituency Shah Newaz was also present.

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Administrative snags

From Page 1 Col 7

from relevant ministries as speedily as needed. The sources said, census committees had already been formed at different level. But meetings could not be organised effectively as entertainment allowances were not given in time. Project officials are yet to finalise transport arrangements due to various constraints, sources complain.

The source also complained that disputes over posting had made the bureau officials highly dissatisfied with their jobs. For years the bureau could not prepare a graduation list for the officers to solve the problem.

A Population and Housing Census Project 1991 source, however, said they were readying themselves for the job. The preparation is good since the work for the present census started in 1987, he said.

This time there has been some technological improvement for data processing. Meanwhile with the inclusion of nine new items in the census questionnaire, the data to be collected will be almost twice as much as that of 1981, the source said.

The nine new items of information to be covered this time relate to toilet facility, electricity connection, household income, religion of individual members, detailed educational level, field of education, detailed economic activities, working status and nationality, the source said.

For the purpose of the census Bangladesh has been divided into 28 regions and 92 census districts to be manned by officials of the Bureau of Statistics. 460 upazila statistical officers will work as upazila census coordinators and oversee the activities of about 2200 zonal officers each of whom will guide works of 100 enumerators. A total of 2.1 lakh enumerators will do the actual head count under a total of 35,000 supervisors.

This time, the project source said, the census is being done by officials of the Bureau of Statistics with help from local administrations. Two previous national censuses were done through district administrations, the project source said.

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The Midnight File

Italian CP transforms itself

RIMINI (Italy), Feb 4 : The 20th congress of the Italian Communist Party approved Sunday its transformation into the Democratic Party of the Left. The vote was 807-75, with 49 abstentions it came after four days of debate. The Italian Communist Party was founded 70 years and 13 days ago on January 21, 1921 at Livorno by Antonio Gramsci. It was among the most powerful of communist parties in western Europe, reports AFP.

Discrimination against Iraqis

NEW YORK, Feb 4 : The city Human Rights Commission has subpoenaed the president of Pan American World Airways over the airline's policy of barring Iraqis from flights, a commission spokesman said Sunday. Commission spokesman Lonsie Soury said the panel requested and received a copy of the procedure which we feel is in possible violation of New York civil rights law. The law prohibits discrimination against people based on their citizenship and national origin, he said, reports AP.

Manila detains 11 Pakistanis

MANILA, Feb 4 : Immigration authorities detained 11 Pakistanis at Manila's airport Monday under tightened control aimed at keeping out any possible terrorists, officials said. Ben Kalaw, an immigration control officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said authorities decided to refuse entry to the 11, who claimed to be tourists, for "security reasons," reports AP.

Nine killed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 4 : Nine people died in weekend unrest, including six men fatally shot or stabbed during a fiery rampage through a Natal township, police said Monday. The police unrest report said a large group of people set fire to about 150 dwellings and attacked their occupants Saturday night in Magdala, in eastern Natal Province, reports AP.

6,000 workers to leave Taiwan

TAIPEI, Feb 4 : About 6,000 foreigners working illegally in Taiwan have signed up for voluntary deportation, police reported Monday. Police stations in Taipei country and nearby Taoyuan county are busy handling applications from such workers, police said, adding most of them were Filipinos and Malaysians, reports AP.

Torkham route to reopen

ISLAMABAD, Feb 4 : The Pakistan government is reported to have decided to reopen the Torkham trade route leading to Afghanistan from Pakistan after three years of closing. This decision was taken after consultation with Afghan mujahideen (Muslim guerrillas), who were opposed to the opening of this trade route before, officials said Monday, reports Xinhua.

Chinese activists will be tried

BEIJING, Feb 4 : Two Chinese dissident leaders will be tried Tuesday on charges of organizing and leading a counter revolutionary group, the Beijing People's Intermediate Court announced. The charges against Chen Yanlin and Zhang Yafei were more serious than those in other recent cases against dissidents and were punishable by not less than five year's imprisonment, reports AFP.

Iraqi posts

From Page 1 Col 4

hit-and-run tactic formulated by our ancestors," the newspaper said in a front-page article.

The unsigned article, which apparently reflects Iraqi military thinking, provided the first explanation from Baghdad of why Iraqi troops attacked Khafji and withdrew after 30 hours of heavy fighting.

The paper said the strategy is meant to prolong the war and inflict more casualties on the allies in both men and equipment.

Iraq has more than 500,000 troops in the Kuwait theater. Iraqi commanders have said special units have been trained for suicide operations against the allies, which were organized by the United States after Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

The Khafji operation, in which Allied commanders have said the Iraqi assault force fought doggedly and with a tactical capability that surprised them, was a big morale booster in Iraq.

The assault demonstrated that Iraq's forces still were capable of offensive action despite the relentless Allied air-campaign.

As of Sunday, US military officials said, 99 Iraqi planes have been destroyed on the ground in air raids. Another 27 Iraqi planes have been shot down and 89 have fled to Iran of a total Iraqi air force estimated at about 590 planes. US officials say.

They said the air campaign had passed the 40,000-sortie mark--final 14 months of World War II.

Witnesses said many communication centers, government offices and industrial installations were hit in the capital-- some of them for the second and third times since the Gulf War started on Jan. 17.

There is no electricity in Baghdad and only intermittent water supplies. The city has been divided into five sectors, which receive water on a rotating basis. There is a severe shortage of food, kerosene and gas.

Three waves of planes attacked Baghdad overnight and correspondents heard huge explosions as US B-52 bombers dropped massive bombsloads southeast and west of the Iraqi capital.

Reuters Correspondent Bernd Debusmann reported that anti-aircraft fire and ground-to-air missiles lit up the night sky over Baghdad. Terrified civilians huddled in air raid shelters.

"What is there left to attack?" asked a resident, receding from lack of sleep. "Have they not destroyed everything already? Will they never stop?"

Relentless air assault on Iraqi forces is a preparation for ground attack -- now widely seen in the West as the only way to reverse President Saddam Hussein's August 2 conquest of Kuwait.

Iraq frequently calls for guerrilla attacks on the United States and its allies.

But Saddam is putting his faith mainly in his army, still regarded by the allies as a formidable force in spite of the hammering it has endured from the air and the disruption of its communications and supply lines.

Baghdad taunted its enemies today. It said they could never defeat Iraq from the air and were afraid to fight on the ground because of the huge casualties they would suffer.

"The battle will be decided on the ground, when the two sides confront each other out in the open," said Iraqi radio.

"Iraq's strategy in a ground war will consist of Islamic hit-and-run tactics" historically used by Muslim commanders when Araba conquered neighbouring nations, the ruling party's newspaper said Monday.

The daily Al-Thawra said Iraq will use its armor and mechanized units and special commando forces in "coming battles" against the United States and its allies.

Iraq troops are prepared for more incursions like the one against the town of Khafji, Saudi Arabia, near the Kuwait border last week, the daily said.

"Combat on the Saudi periphery should be based on the

hit-and-run tactic formulated by our ancestors," the newspaper said in a front-page article.

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Ramsey Clark in Baghdad

Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark arrived here on Sunday for talks later today with Iraqi officials on the Gulf War, a government spokesman said without giving details.

In November, Mr. Clark visited Baghdad for talks with President Saddam Hussein on ways of containing the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

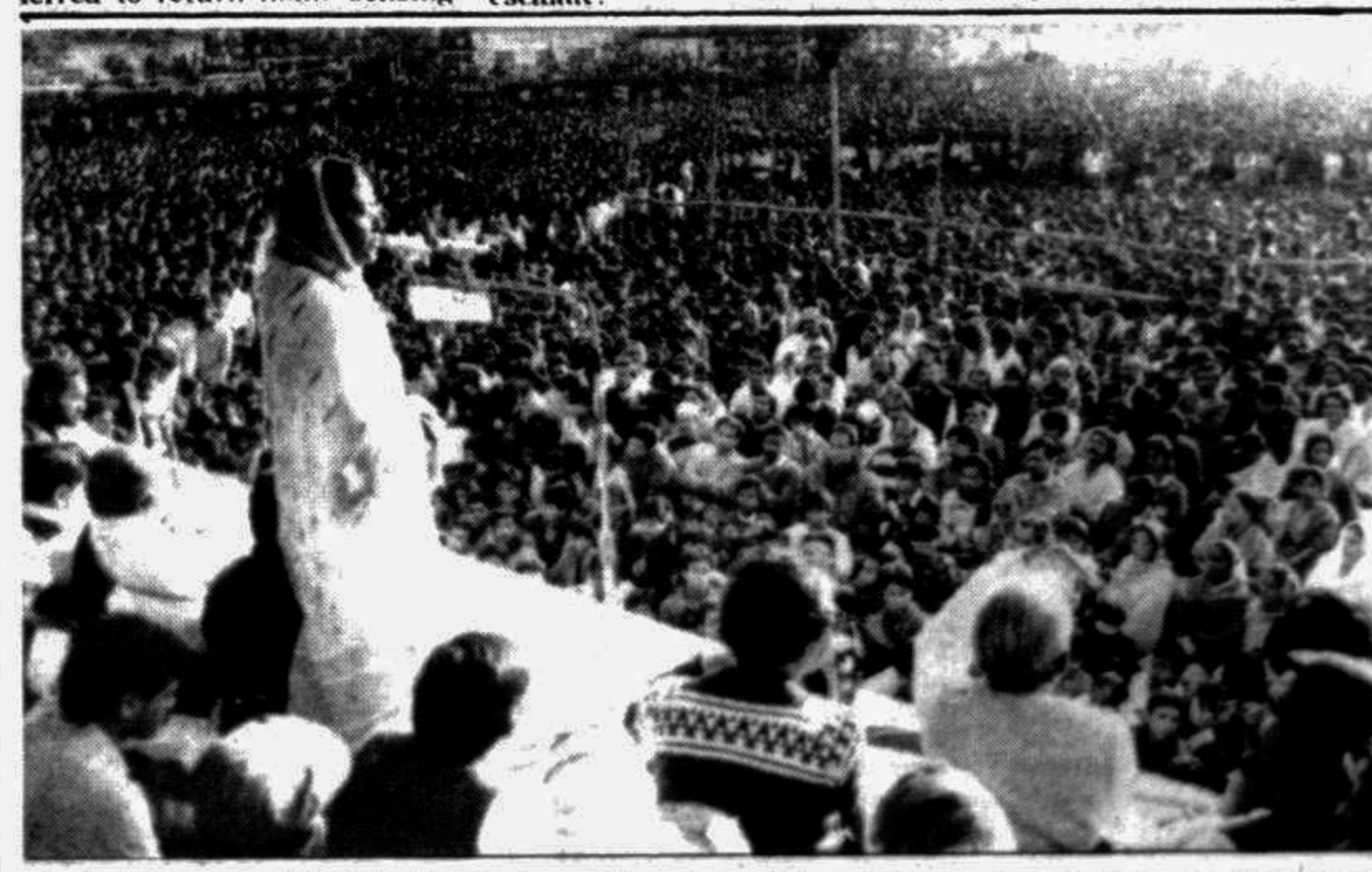
French defence officials in S. Arabia

Newly-appointed French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Godeaux arrived in Saudi capital Riyadh early today to start a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, according to reports reaching.

Attack on US servicemen

Gunmen attacked a military shuttle bus in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah, wounding two Americans and a Saudi security guard, in what US military officers said today may have been a terrorist attack, reports Reuters.

"They said bullets smashed



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a big public meeting at the Alia Madrasa in Sylhet on Monday. —Star photo