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# 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. 29 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 28, 1397 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1991

RAJAB 25, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

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Young Terry Norris proves too good for his ageing idol Sugar Ray Leonard  
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#### Allies shift focus

Allied planes have shifted the focus of their bombing campaign to isolate Iraqi forces in Kuwait ahead of a ground war.  
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#### Price of a B-52's bomb



A rural clinic can treat 4,000 villagers for the price of just one bomb dropped by an American B-52 bomber.  
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### Business

Khalilur Rahman reports city markets run short of fowls as 'mastans' rule the trade.  
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## Land war when Allied planes run out of targets : Cheney

# Iraq's no to truce offers

BAGHDAD, Feb 10 : Iraq rejects any proposal for a truce in the Gulf war, Baghdad radio said.

"Iraq rejects any attempt to establish a ceasefire in the Gulf war, and reiterates its rejection of threats and armed aggression," it said, reports agencies.

AMMAN, Feb 10 : Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi today said Iraq was prepared to enter negotiations on condition the United States does not intervene, reports AFP.



US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney (L) and Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell (C) and General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of US ground forces in the Gulf, prior to a press conference in Riyadh. — AFP photo

## Court moved to quash arms case against Ershad

Supreme Court Correspondent

An application was moved on behalf of the former president Ershad for quashing the criminal case pending against him under the Arms Act. The petition was moved by Quazi Shahadat Hossain.

He placed the petition for quashing the case before a

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## APSU demands Ershad's trial before polls

By Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of APSU activists including women carrying lathis and demanding trial of former president Ershad before general election marched through Dhaka streets Sunday.

The procession, earlier planned to move towards a Gulshan villa where Ershad is interned, veered to end up at Zero Point. The changed routes were decided at a

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## AL, JP snatched rights of people : Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Feb 10 : BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia today made a double pronged attack on Awami League and Jatiya Party saying that the parties had snatched away people's rights to meet their selfish ends, reports UNB.

In an oblique reference, she said Awami League and Jatiya Party had never been true to their words and curbed people's fundamental rights trampling the democratic order.

Begum Zia was addressing a big public meeting at the local Circuit House maidan.

Of the three governments since independence, Begum Zia said the one headed by BNP was the best as it ensured people's rights and led the nation towards progress. The BNP government had initiated

the politics of production and revitalized the economy, she said.

Begum Zia urged the electorate to vote for BNP to strengthen the hands of the nationalist forces to make Bangladesh strong, restore democracy, protect national independence and reintroduce the politics of production.

"We do not believe in politics of bluff and making false commitments. What we want is to increase production and introduce free economy", she added.

The meeting was presided over by AKM Fazlul Huq, President of Mymensingh district BNP.

Begum Zia reminded the people that her party had not participated in any election

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## JP for presidential election by May

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury demanded presidential election within 180 days from the date of resignation of former president HM Ershad.

Announcing a 12-point election manifesto of the party Sunday at a press conference at his Gulshan residence Mizan Chowdhury said that a democratic system with balance of power between the president and the parliament and other representative units from the lowest level would be evolved if his party was voted to power.

The party manifesto was announced by Syed Tarek who has recently joined the Jatiya Party by deserting Janodal and is now performing the responsibility of political secretary to the acting chairman of the Jatiya Party.

Mizan Chowdhury said that the Jatiya Party had created a history by transferring power

in constitutional manner and avoiding blood shed.

Mizan Chowdhury also said that prior to his resignation, Ershad, sat at a meeting with the presidium member on December 2 and discussed the issue with them. But decision was his own, he informed.

He said Ershad had resigned to avoid bloodshed but the nation witnessed what he called an undemocratic frenzy after the transfer of power to the caretaker government.

The acting chairman of Jatiya Party said that holding of presidential election was a constitutional obligation.

Replying to a question he said that there was no involvement of armed forces in the recent changeover.

Mizan Chowdhury said that Jatiya Party fielded more than 270 candidates including 174 former MPs to contest the parliamentary elections. He

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## Mid-term reforms review by IMF

Star Economic Report

The visiting seven-member delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Sunday continued their discussions with the government officials including those of Bangladesh Bank on its on-going reforms programme.

The discussions are at the concluding stage, official sources said.

The IMF team, led by Christopher Brown, Adviser for Asian region, arrived in Dhaka on February 1. The team will leave for Washington this week.

The discussions between the members of the IMF team and the government and central bank officials centred on the mid-term review of reforms agreed earlier for the first year under Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility

(ESAF) support for fiscal 1990-91 to 1992-93.

ESAF arrangement has been made effective from August. Bangladesh received funding support, equivalent to 258.75 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR) for disbursements in three equal annual instalments. One SDR is now equal 1.29 US dollars.

The first loan of 43.125 million SDRs was made available on August 31 under the first annual arrangement.

The disbursement of second loan of the same amount in 1990-91 is to be released by the Fund on March 31. But, the release is conditional on fulfilment of some specific criteria set under the ESAF.

The current discussions are being held to assess the performance of the Bangladesh

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## Zia govt plundered foreign aid: Hasina

GOBINDAGANJ (Gaibandha), Feb 10: Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina today made scathing attack on the Zia regime accusing it of wasting foreign aid, reports UNB.

Hasina told an election meeting here that at least Tk 50,000 crore in foreign currency had been plundered during the Zia regime. She also implicated Ershad with the aid misuse.

Credit burden to the tune of 4,000 US dollars per head was inflicted upon the people during the period, she alleged. She, however, didn't point out how the foreign aid was bungled.

Reiterating her party plan to end recurrence of undemocratic rule in the country, Hasina said martial law is not a constitutional process, it destroys politics by seizing power illegally.

"Zia coming to power through this illegal means conspired to destroy politics but couldn't succeed," she said in her blistering criticism of her party's main rival in coming polls.

She said the people had been under autocratic rule in the last 15 years, resulting in massive corruption bribery and a total lawlessness in the country.

Hasina urged the electorate to vote consciously for peaceful transfer of power through ballot and to end military rule in the country once for all.

"Vote for Boat (her party's election symbol) to establish a parliamentary form of government for ensuring people's rights," she told the big rally held at Gabindaganj College ground this afternoon.

Presided over by Fazlul Karim Chisti, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Awami League candidate from Gaibandha-4 constituency Prof. Shah Jahangir Kabir, local NAP leader Nurul Islam and BAKSAL leader Umme Kulsum Reza.

Nurul Islam and Umme Kulsum later withdrew their candidature in favour of the Awami League candidate in presence of Hasina.

Hasina also called upon those who had not yet withdrawn their candidature defying party decisions for united participation in election under the 8-Party Alliance to step aside immediately.

Giving a resume of three and half years of Awami League rule, she said communication system was developed and damaged schools, colleges and madrasas were renovated.

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## Shahabuddin warns against poll malpractices

COMILLA, Feb 10 : Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said Sunday that there would be no room for use of illegal arms, gangsterism and electoral malpractices in the parliamentary polls, reports ISS.

Strict rules and laws have been framed to deal with election offences, he said while addressing the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts under Chittagong Division.

Justice Shahabuddin urged the officials engaged in the electoral process to implement the orders and instructions strictly.

He said any official found guilty of an election offence would be severely dealt with by the Election Commission instantly, for which it (EC) had been given adequate powers for the first time.

The acting president said necessary security measures had been devised to ensure

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## 7-hour strike in newspapers today

By Staff Correspondent

A seven-hour token strike will be observed by newsmen, press workers and employees of country's newspapers and news agencies today in protest against an amendment to the Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act 1974.

This was decided at an emergency meeting of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation (BNPWF) and Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation (BNEF)

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## US Embassy clarifies stand

The United States Government neither supports nor opposes any individual or party in the coming elections (in Bangladesh), a statement issued by the US Embassy said, reports UNB.

The statement was issued in response to press reports suggesting political partiality by the US Government following a recent meeting of the US ambassador with the Acting President.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Plan for post-poll Sangsad session

An inter-ministerial meeting was held at the Sangsad Bhaban Sunday to make arrangements for holding the post-election session of the Jatiya Sangsad in a befitting manner. The meeting, presided over by the Parliament Secretary, Mr Abdul Awal, took a number of important decisions after discussing in detail the steps to be taken for successful holding of the session, reports BSS.

### Munshiganj-3 poll on March 14

The election in Munshiganj-3 constituency will now be held on March 14 in view of the expiry of a candidate there. Election Commission sources said, now the last date for filing of nominations in Munshiganj-3 has been fixed on February 16. The scrutiny will be held on the following day, reports BSS.

### US ship catches fire

NEW DELHI, Feb 10 : Fire hit a US ship of the southern Indian coast, killing at least one sailor and leaving five more missing, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. The blaze roared through the engine room of the Stonewall Jackson on Saturday as the ship sailed 450 kilometres (270 miles) off the port of Cochin in Kerala state, the news agency said, reports AFP.

### Israel to join land attack

TUNIS, Feb 10 : A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said today Israel was preparing to join an imminent Allied land attack against Iraq by marching its troops across Jordan.



APSU lathi procession in demand for trial of former president Ershad in Dhaka Sunday. — Star photo

## Reforms of nationalised banks need Tk 1650 cr

Reforms of Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) will involve a total amount of over Taka 1650 crore.

The government will bear the cost in fiscal 1990-91. No cash payment will be needed for this. Bonds with maturity in 15 years bearing 7.5 per cent rate of interest a year will be issued to the NCBs.

Official sources said the NCBs would require support

By Moazzem Hossain

for meeting their shortfall in funds for provisions made for their bad, doubtful and sub-standard credits and loan operations. Besides, raising the capital base to at least five per cent of total deposits with the individual NCB will require additional support by the government.

Under the financial sector reforms programme supported by both World Bank and

International Monetary Fund (IMF), the banks are to make provisions upto 100 per cent of bad debts, 15 per cent of doubtful debts and 10 per cent of sub-standard debts. Besides, one per cent of total outstanding credits by individual banks is to be covered under provisioning arrangements.

The reforms have been made effective from January.

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## BDR fire on Indian intruders: One killed

On intruding Indian miscreant was killed and several others were injured Saturday when Bangladesh Rifles opened fire in self defence and to control the situation at Shalmar, a border village of Chapainawabganj district, reports BSS.

According to a BDR press release issued in Dhaka yesterday, the intruding Indian miscreants numbering 120 to 125 attacked several cowboys at noon Saturday when they

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