### Peace procession

From Page 1 Col 5 treatment at Sadar Hospital. alleged that musclemen of Jatiya Party attacked them. Their conditions were critical. hospital sources said.

Sentor police officials who visited the spot said tension was prevailing in the area. Ashrafuzzaman of Awami

League filed case accusing

Jatiya Party for the incident. Former Mayor of Khulna city is contesting the election from the area on Jatiya Party

#### Sandbag export

From Page 1 Col 8

level was then set at about 23 per cent above KEBICO's ruling Minimum Export Price (MEP). Before this, sandbags could be sold at MEP. But the price level, according to traders, was hiked for sandbags in an arbitrary manner.

The ministry by its intervention in the competitive international market wanted to sell sandbags at premium prices because of the opportunities created by the Gulf crisis. But, a sizeable market was lost in the process, the sources said.

Traders said the jute industry lost potential business amounting to millions of sandbags. The initial price level set by KEBICO was much above the prices offered by India for

KEBICO's present offering level for sandbags is 10 per cent above the MEP. The price was lowered after one particular local company managed to obtain its approval to sell sandbags at that level when the general offering level for others was still 23 per cent above the MEP. The company sold 10 million sandbags which other traders alleged was "an unfair advantage" or patronage

Concerned circles observed that even the latest price level for sandbags was higher than the international rates.

Meanwhile, the Jute Ministry on Tuesday asked the tute mills in both public and private sectors to indicate their own prices to KEBICO for

export sales of sandbags. Bangladesh has so ar exported 25.1 million pieces of jute bags to the Middle East since October last, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Negotiations for exporting another 25 million pieces are at the final stage.

#### Khaleda supports newsmen's demands

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday called for fulfilling the just demands of the newspaper employees, for speedy resolution to the problems created out of the amendment to the Newspaper Employees (conditions of Services) Act of 1974, reports BSS.

Begum Zia, in a statement. said with the promulgation of the news ordinance, an unstable situation has been prevailing in the newspaper industry. The journalists of the

newspapers and news agencies and other employees in the meantime have demonstrated in the streets for meeting their just demands, she said.

The BNP chief said the journalists had played a glorious role in the "ousting of autocrat Ershad". They must have been consulted before doing something about such a sensitive law in the present national contest, she opined.

She said the unilateral promulgation of a ordinance has created a new situation in the whole newspaper industry.

#### Tribunal

From Page 1 Col 8 against him shall not be

quashed.

Meanwhile the office of the Special Tribunal, which will try the ousted president for possessing illegal arms has been set up at the official residence of the former leader of the opposition in parliament at Gulshan. The former leader of the opposition ASM Abdur

Rob has vacated the house. The house located in front of Gulshan Club has been chosen for the tribunal office for security reasons. An official source told the Daily Star that it would be a security risk to take Ershad to the district

court One member Special Tribunal has been set up to try Ershad under the Arms Act. I convicted, the ousted president may be awarded life imprisonment.

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## Focus on election-'91



Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a campaign rally in Cantonment area yesterday.

BSS adds: Fifteen thousand

members of Bangladesh Sarak

Paribahan Sramik Union led by

its President Arzu and General

Secretary Belayet Hossain on

Tuesday joined Bangladesh

Nationalist Party (BNP) being

imbued with the ideals of Sha-

heed President Ziaur Rahman

and the leadership of Begum

Khaleda Zia. BNP sources said.

Zafar's detention:

Govt asked to

show cause

Supreme Court

Correspondent

High Court Division issued a

Rule Nisi on the Government

to show cause why Lt Col

(Retd) Zafar Imam should not

be brought before the Court so

as to satisfy itself that he is not

being detained without any

Rahman and Mr Justice Abdul

Hasib issued the Rule on Tues-

day, upon a petition filed by

Mrs Noor Mahal Begum wife of

able within one week.

moved for the petitioner.

The Rule is made return

Sheikh Awsafur Rahman

Mr Justice FHM Habibur

lawful authority.

Mt Imam.

A Division Bench of the

-Star photo

# Women's rights

From Page 1 Col 7 that during 1972-74 period. the women of the country were forced to starve and wear nets while during the nine years of autocratic rule by the Ershad repression on the women soared to highest point. Sogera Morshed and Mahiya Islam were killed by the armed miscreants and the university girl students were tortured by the police when they took to streets to protest the illegal rule.

Being a woman, I know you have to face many difficulties in the society, Begum Zia told the gathering women in an emotion-choked voice and urged them to vote for her in the coming polls. 'In return' she said, 'I will ensure bright future for you and your chil-

BNP, if elected to power. will resume all the programmes launched during its

Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal Chief of the area Farida Khatun chaired the meeting while BNP local leaders Delwar Hossun and Ahmed Faruk and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal lcader Arif Ahmed also addressed the

## Systems loss

Others are using old meters totally unserviceable or faulty which causes suffering to the consumers and also incurs fi-

From Page 1 Col 7

nanetal loss to the PDB. These faulty as well as outdated meters are considerably responsible for the high system loss", says a PDB source. He mentioned that a study was conducted in 1987 by Korea Power Engineering Company (KOPEC) to assess the condition of power meters and to suggest ways for reducing the system loss. The KOPEC was appointed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through World Bank.

The KOPEC report recommended for replacement of 90 percent of PDB's meters since these were too old to function properly Afterwards. World Bank provided a fund of 16 million US dollars for the procurement of new meters for

But the PDB is yet to utilise the funds since the board could not fulfil the condition attached to it. The condition was to procure the meters through international tenders where to local manufacturers would get .15 percent price preserence. But there is a government directive on PDB to buy locally manufactured me-

Substantial reduction of system loss was one of the major conditions of World Bank for financing the power sector. A World Bank team, which visited Bangladesh recently, has already made it clear that the bank would not provide more funds for the power sector if the conditions were not met.

#### Cr PC

From Page 1 Col 5 approval of higher court for

raising the case again for cases dismissed in this process. Provision has also been made for giving bail to accused

of unbailable reopened case. Besides, a new Section 35-A had been incorporated in the Code by providing arrangements for consideration while ordering conviction by the Court on certain conditions in the period of 'hajatbash'.

#### Editor : S. M. Ali

annul the much talked about Special Powers Act which

## AL-BNP clashes

Eye witnesses said that both the parties used arms, cocktails and lethal weapons.

was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injury and nine of other injured persons who are BNP supporters were sent to Munshigani Sadar Hospital.

From Page 1 Col 4 Referring to the third responsibility of the government, he said establishment of a disciplined society guaranteeing the security of life and property of the people and human rights was the main purpose behind the formation of a gov-

# 10 injured in

From Our Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Feb 12 : At least 10 persons were injured at a election campaign clash between Awami League and BNP activists at Char Dumuria and Kangshapur village under Molia Kandi union.

AL activist Shafi Beg (45).

#### Jamaat

He reiterated that his party wanted the administration of the honest people to punish the criminals and protect the

# Don't cast vote

From Page 1 Col 7 trict on the last leg of her five day electioneering in the northern part of the country. Hasina was accorded a

#### hearty welcome as she arrived Poll funds: Many yet to submit statements

By Staff Correspondent

Eight to ten per cent candidates did not submit statements of their assets and liabilities, and sources of election funds within the stipulated time which expired on January 28, reports reaching Dhaka from the districts say.

Returning officers, however, expect to receive some statements soon as many candidates staying away from their constituencies are reported to have sent their statements by post.

Violators of this amended provision of the Representation of the People Order, 1972 are liable to punishment which may include, besides declaring their elections void. jail terms for two to seven

The Representation of the People Order, 1972 requires a candidate to submit the statements within seven days following the withdrawal of nominations. The last date of withdrawal of nominations was January 21.

The Election Commission may take cogizance of violation of the law upon applications filed by candidates abiding by

The Representation of the People Order 1972 says the Election Commission may appoint as many election tribunals, as may to necessary to try such cases. 'A tribunal will consist of a person who is or has been a district and sessions judge or an additional district and sessions judge, the order says.

A candidate will be guilty of 'corrupt or illegal practice' if he makes a false statement, meets election expenses from sources other than those mentioned in his statement, or is guilty of bribery, personation or undue influence among others.

face in a motorcade. Hundreds of slogan-shouting workers of Awamt League, riding motor eveles, escorted their leader to

Cross section of people who stood on both sides of the road, profusely garlanded the Awami League President and showered petals on her. A smiling Hasina waved back to her enthusiastic supporters.

Outlining her party's pledge, Hasina said the World Bank and other donor agencies have assured her party to offer all necessary help and assistance in building the Jamuna Bridge if Awami League is voted to power.

She declared that if elected, her government would set up a cement factory in Joypur-

Presided over by District Awami League President Meer Shahid Mandal, the meeting was also addressed by Abdul Jalil, Advocate Moni Chowdhury and Ahad Chow-dhury.

Introducing Akbar Ali Mandal, the Awami League nominee for Joypurhat-1 constituency, to her audience, Hastna said he was chosen as a joint candidate of the Eight Party Alliance.

The candidate who is contesting the polls with the symbol "sickle" do not represent the alliance, she said. Aminul Huq Ruhu, a central committee member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), is in the electoral fray from the constituency. He is contesting the polls with "sickle" symbol He was earlier nominated by short-lived democratic coalition of 8-Party and 5-Party alliances.

Hasina, already behind schedule by several hours, also spoke briefly at Panchbibi. Khetlal, Akkelpur, Punat, Jamalganj and Battalf.

She left here tonight for Naogaon.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will address the rally of Village Doctors Association at Bangabandhu Avenue at 2 pm today (Wednesday).

Sheikh Ilasina will also address a public meeting at Dhanmondi Maidan at 3 pm while she will address a meeting at 4 pm at Madhubagh and another meeting at 5 pm at Siddique Bazar, Dhaka.

# The Midnight File

#### Gorbachev proposes disbanding of Warsaw Pact structure

PRAGUE, Feb 12: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a message to Czechoslovak Prestdent Vaclav Havel proposed disbanding the military structure of the Warsaw Pact by April 1. the Czechoslovak CTK news agency reported yesterday Observers noted that Gorbachev's proposal was put forward not long before the scheduled summit meeting of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, reports Xinhua

#### Democracy aid for Haiti

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The United States announced on Monday it was donating 82 million dollars to help Haiti complete its transition to democracy. A statement from the Agency for International Development said the sum represented a significant increase over the 54 million dollars provided in 1990, reports Reuter.

#### Syrian crude oil for Jordan

DAMASCUS, Feb 12: Syria has agreed to sell Jordan crude oil and refined products at market prices in an effort to help Amman make up for the loss of Iraqi supplies, officials and oil industry sources said on Tuesday. Iraqi oil exports to Jordan of about 60,000 barrels per day (BPD). transported by road, had covered Jordan's needs after Saudi Arabia cut off supplies last September, reports Reuter.

#### 4m hit by Chernobyl N-blast

PARIS, Feb 12: A Soviet diplomat said on Monday more than four million people, including 800,000 children, had been affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Vladimir Lomeiko, Soviet Ambassador to the UN's cultural agency UNESCO, said in a speech the effects of radiation from the 1986 nuclear explosion had spread far from the site of the power station that exploded, reports Reuter.

#### 24 swept away by floods

QUETTA. Feb 12: At least 24 people were feared dead after being swept away by floods in Pakistan's south-western Baluchistan province after the heaviest rain for several years. Five bodies were found while rescuers were still searching the Nihing and Kaichkor rivers in the Mekran region. Mekran Commissioner Irfan Kast said on Monday, reports Reuter.

#### Newspaper chain on auction

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: Pakistan's largest chain of stateowned newspapers will be auctioned in the government's privatisation drive, a spokesman said on Monday. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Information Adviser Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said present owners of privately-run newspapers would be barred from buying the National Press Trust papers, reports

#### Soviet nationals' expulsion

STOCKHOLM. Feb 12: Several Soviet nationals, most of tl em diplomats, are about to be expelled from Sweden accused of spying and recruiting agents for Soviet military intelligence. Swedish national radio reported Monday. The Soviet nationals had spied on Swedish defence and defence industry, the radio said, reports AFP.

# US rules out

From Page 1 Col 5 of civilians have been killed in 26 days of aerial bombing by

the multi-national forces. A military communique broadcast by Baghdad Radio said 28 civilian targets were hit and 35 military positions

on January 17. Despite the relentless Allied air pounding -- 69,000 sorties, including the 2,900 flown in the past 24 hours under favourable weather conditions, according to the Pentagon -- a defiant Iraq

vowed to fight on. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said on arrival in Algiers late Monday from Tunts that Iraq "is ready to engage in the land battle at any moment".

Iraq's air force is being decimated by Allied bombing and is unlikely to be capable of mounting a challenge against the US-led coalition forces; a British military spokesman said on Monday.

Group Captain Niall Irving told a news briefing that Iraqi aircrast concealed in bunkers were being subjected to relentless Allied raids.

He said British planes came under "heavier than usual" ground fire from SAM missiles and anti-aircraft batteries on their latest missions.

Reports said Allied air strikes hit Iraqi fuel depots in the Sabhan area on Sunday. It said Iraqi troops confis-

cated all supplies in Kuwait's petrol stations last week. US Marines are using the Israeli guided aircraft in the Gulf war, said the President of the Israeli Aeronautical Industry and former Comman-

He said that the pilot-less aircraft were being used for guiding US ships in their bombing of Iraqi positions in

der of the Air Force in Tel

Kuwait. Iraqi occupation troops are moving from exposed positions into fortified Kuwait apartment blocks, a London-based Kuwait group reported today.

Is said the Iraqis "have fortified their new positions and sealed off windows with concrete, leaving only small openings for their weapons".

It also said the bodies of six Kuwaitis, including a woman and all showing signs of torture, were found on Sunday. Extled Kuwaits say Iraqi

troops have killed several people during searches of homes for food and communications equipment. in another development,

Syria has decided to send its troops now stationed in Saudi

ground battle begins, a report

Syria had previously maintained that its forces in Saudi Arabia would only defend that

According to Radio Dubai, Syria has criticised Baghdad's Scud missile attacks on Israel saying they had helped win money and sympathy for the Jewish state. Vice President Abdul Halim

Khaddam addressing a meeting of Ministers, officials and trade unionists said, a settlement of the Gulf crisis was impossible until lraq withdrew from Kuwait.

Khaddam said that Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Israel enabled it to get weapons. money, moreal backing and international sympathy. Soviet President Gorba-

chev's personal envoy Yevgeny Premakov arrived in Baghdad early Tucsday for talks with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on a Soviet diplomatic mission to end the war.

to Baghdad and held talks with the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Malaki. He told newsmen after the talks that the Soviet Union supported the Iranian peace

Premakov made a stop-over

in Tehran Monday, on his way

the Gulf. He said the current Soviet diplomatic effort could be coordinated with steps taken by

initiative for a settlement in

#### NAM MOVE

Non-aligned foreign ministers, meeting in the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, discussed a draft proposal to send a NAM mission to Iraq seeking a peace settlement.

Radio reports said the draft document calls for simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi and multi-national forces from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and stationing of a UN peace-keeping force in Kuwait.

If the document is finalised by the 15 foreign ministers, it would despatch a small nonaligned group to Baghdad and Kuwaii to explain the proposal.

Iraq is not attending the

non-aligned meet in Belgrade

and no reason has been given for Iraqi absence. SAUDI DENIAL

#### Meanwhile Saudi Arabia de-

nied on Monday it had dropped a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Gulf peace plan before the Gulf war began under pressure from the United States.

### of Journalists at the National Press Club auditorium yesterday. Wage war with pen

From Page 1 Col 7 ued in this region after the partition of the country. he

added. Principal Azraf said it was clear that we had not yet been able to imbibe the spirit of full freedom in our mind and despite giving lip service to democracy, true democratic consciousness was still far off.

Dewan Moha imad Azral said the journalists needed courage and patience for passing through the path of truth and justice. "If they follow the true path, victory must go to them", he said.

He said the journalists would have to wage war with their pen when the independence of the country is endangered by the autocracy. A real and ideal journalist would be he who dared to take such a heavy responsibility, he said.

BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, in his speech, regretted that despite the caretaker government repealing several ordinances as per demands of many pressure groups it had imposed a 'black law,' for the journalist community by amending the Newspaper Employees (condition of services) Act, 1974.

He called upon the three political alliances to pressurise the caretaker government to withdraw the amended Ordinance and announce the Wage Board award soon.

BFUJ Secretary General Dainik Meillat, Dainik Sangram Amanullah Kabir said the caretaker government was yet to

curbs people's right and freedom of speech.

Regarding the role of journalists during the recent mass movement, the BFUJ leader said the journalists contribution to the movement had glorified their position in the society.

DUJ President Zahirul Huq. in his presidential speech said. the Acting President has lost his neutrality to some extent by amending the Ordinance in a bid to curb the rights and

privileges of the journalists. Terming the review committee to examine the Wage Board report as a farse he said if the government did not stop activities that go against the interest of the community, it would not get full cooperation from it:

### SESSION

The business session of the 16th Annual Conference of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) began at Jatiya Press Club auditorium in Dhak. Tuesday afternoon with Fazlul Karim, a senior member of the Union in the chair. The session approved the

proceedings of the last Annual Conference 1990. The DUJ General Secretary. Ruhul Amin Gazi read out the

annual report-1991. The session also heard the unit reports of Daily Azad, Dainik Bangla, Dainik Desh, Naba Avijan. The Sangbad.

and Banglar Bani. The session was adjourned till 10.00 am today. try.

#### Wage Board award or review not acceptable: BSP

Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf addressing the inaugural session of the annual general conference of Dhaka Union

Anwarul Islam, Secretary General of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP), on Tuesday said that the Parishad would not accept the journalists' Wage Board award given by the Ershad regime or any review relating to it unless there was a study of the financial crisis in the newspaper

industry, reports BSS.

In a statement of behalf of BSP. Mr Islam termed the Wage Board award a controversial one as it was a onesided decision of the Ershad regime. "Twenty-five per cent dearness allowance was implemented before the full award was given without caring about the financial crisis in the newspaper industry," the BSP Secretary General said pointing out the Parishad's demands for decrease in the price of newsprint, withdrawal of taxes and duty on newspapers and increase of advertisement bud-

He appealed to the journalists and employees of the newspaper industry to help usher in an elected government which would make a judicious solution to their prob-He hoped that the journal-

newspaper industry would play a constructive role in this hour of transition to democracy keeping in mind that their upon the journalists, press salary structure could not be ensured by harming the indus-

workers and employees to make the Federation programmes a success

### Wage Board From Page 1 Col 8

Mosharraf Hossain and Bazlur

Rahman Milon respectively

-Star photo

president and secretary general of BNPWF. Jahangir Kabir and Mir Mozammel Hossain respectively president and secretary general of BNEF in a joint statement Tuesday also called for repeal of the Ordinance amending Section 11 of the Newspaper Employees (Conditions of service) Act 1974. Otherwise, the statement warned, the government would have to bear the responsibility of stalemate

The statement termed the formation of the committee to look into the Wage Board award as a means to buy time.

that appears inevitable in the

industry.

The Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) Act 1974 clearly states the modalitics for forming the Wage Board, formulating recommendations and announcing the award, the statement said and added: fresh consultation on the recommendations framed by the Board constituted under the Act amounted to ignoring the Wage Board, it-

The statement also called ists and employees of the upon the Acting President not to step into the trap laid by what it called conspirators. The statement also called

Arabia into Kuwait when the