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.

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA. 3.00

- Inside today -



With four gold medals each, Golam Ambia and Firoza Begum emerge as the country's fastest man and woman. Ambia also set a new national and SAF Games record. Page 7

Weekend Sports

Page 11

International

Massive Allied blitz

Allied forces intensify air raid on Baghdad's troops hitting rocket launches, supply lines and Republican Guard

positions. Page 5

Metropolitan

Technology wins over tradition

Modern mechanised sow and drills have replaced traditional crescentshaped hand sow in conch shell trade. Page 3

Magazine



The first thing fed to me was music', says sitar virtuoso Irshad Khan, in an interview to The Daily Star, taken by S. Bari. Page 9

Business

Fair bidding suggested by business firms for international procurements under external aid or credits. Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Gorbachev meets Kuwaiti FM

MOSCOW, Feb 14: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. who has launched fresh diplomatic moves to try to end the Gulf war, met Kuwait's Foreign Minister today.

Velayati to visit USSR

MOSCOW, Feb 14: Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will travel to the Soviet Union on Friday to meet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a stepped up Kremlin diplomatic effort to mediate the Gulf conflict, reports AP.

84,000 killed in Gulf war

CAIRO, Feb 14: An Egyptian opposition newspaper reported Thursday that 84,000 people were killed in the first 25 days of the Gulf War. Al-Wafd, quoting unidentified Arab diplomatic sources, reported the dead included about 12,000 non-iraqi Arabs. reports AP.

US warplanes crash: 2 killed

RIYADH, Feb 14: Two American airmen were killed Thursday when a EF-111A "Raven" electronic jamming and radar-detection jet crashed, the US Air Force said, reports AP.

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1991

The Baily Star

Baghdad buries the dead as Washington reviews target list



Baghdad residents wailing for the dead as a woman searches for relatives among the bodies recovered from the air raid shelter bombed by Allied warplanes on Wednesday.

Outrage in Arab world

The US bombing of an air raid shelter in Baghdad causing hundreds of civilian. deaths sparked Arab outrage on Thursday as Baghdad buried 20 of an estimated 1000 people killed, and Washington reviewed its list of strategic targets in Baghdad which could hold up the air campaign to wipe out the Iraqi command's ability to communicate with troops on the Kuwaiti front.

reports agencies. In Baghdad rescue teams, supported by bulldozers and cranes, sifted for a second day through the wreckage in the Al-American district, retrieving more charred or mutilated bodies of people killed Wednesday in the bloodiest attack of the month-old war.

The trial of ousted presi-

dent H. M. Ershad for possess-

ing illegal arms is due to start

tomorrow (Saturday) before

Special Tribunal No1.

hammad Habibullah.

Rescue operations had stopped after sundown Wednesday when Allied air raids on Baghdad resumed. Officials said these raids, considerably less intense than those of the previous night, targeted mainly the downtown telecommunications center and damaged nearby houses and business centers.

A few hundred meters, (yards) away, a group of 5,000-6,000 Iraqis marched to the neighborhood's cemetery to bury the dead.

As a military band played somber tunes, units of the para-military Popular Army fired their AK-47 automatic rifles into the air.

The coffins, draped in the Iraqi flag, were lowered into a

Trial of Ershad under

Arms Act begins Feb 16

Supreme Court Correspondent

High Court Division compris-

ing Justice Abdul Bari Sarker

and Justice Habibur Rahman

A Division Bench of the

was discharged.

War highlights

- UN Security Council to hold closed-door meet
- Guard positions take more hits
- * French Jaguars strike tank battalions
- US air power destroying Iraqi military power:
- Iraq vows vengeance on battlefield 65,000 sorties till yesterday
- Ground war now very likely
- Iraq fires Scuds at Saudi town
- Iraq willing to talk unconditional peace
- Glimmer of hope: Primakov

were not surrendered by the

former President or his rela-

tive Mustafizur Rahman, the

committee recovered the ille-

gal arms. They in fact went

Iraqi army most effective when not taking orders

TK 12 cr damage

suit against

Ershad likely

By Moinuddin Naser

crore will be filed against de-

posed president Ershad on

charges of illegal occupation of

two houses and harassment of

Dr Kamal Hussain and other

their owners by misusing state

lawyers will move the case on

Sunday next on behalf of Mr A

U Ahmed, an independent

candidate from two con-

Khulna Two.

stituencies - Khulna One and

In the primal statement of

the case which is now being

framed by the lawyers, it was

stated that during the Ershad

APSU demand

Ershad's trial

before polls

By DU Correspondent

dents Unity (APSU) on

Thursday reiterated their

demand for shifting the de-

posed president Ershad to the

Central Jail and said the stu-

dents could not withdraw from

The student leaders were

addressing a rally, organized by

APSU in front of Baitul

Mukarram Mosque as part of

their countrywide programme

to observe the 'anti-autocracy

The rally, presided over by

streets until his trial.

Leaders of All-Party Stu-

See Page 12 Col. 4

A damage suit of Taka 12

mass grave as the crowds shouted anti-American slogans.

Women in the funeral procession wailed in grief as other marchers, seeing western reporters, shouted "death to Bush," "death to the assassins".

Hundreds of other people. awaiting news of missing relatives, clung to the gates outside the bombed shelter as relief teams sifted through smoking debris and searched inside the refuge for more bodies.

The US-led allies called the loss of civilian life tragic but suggested Iraqi President Saddam Husseln could be to blame and said there would be no let up in their bombing.

Iraq and its sympathisers in See Page 12 Col. 4

Allied raids unabated

DHAHRAN (Saudi Arabia). Feb 14: The allied air war pressed on Thursday despite the hundreds of civilian deaths claimed by Iraq in a US air strike on a Baghdad bunker. US officials say the bunker was a military command center. reports AP.

Aided by clear skies, allied aircraft hammered entrenched Iraqi forces in Kuwait. B-52 Stratofortresses bombed targets including a missile-repair point and struck at suspected missile launchers in western

Warplanes continued to See Page 12 Col. 7

Conspiracies on, warns Khaleda

NILPHAMARI, Feb 14: Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and leader of the Party combine, today said only her party deserved the right to seek votes from the people as BNP had retrieved democracy from the shackles of one party

rule, reports BSS, UNB. Begum Zia was addressing a massive election meeting at the local Pourashava maidan here on the first day today of her electioneering tour to the north-western districts. BNP candidate Ahsan Ahmad also addressed the meeting which

was presided over by BNP

leader Mafizul Islam. Begum Zia also addressed two public meetings at Jaldhaka and Parbatipur besides several wayside rallies in the districts.

Begum Khaleda Zia said democracy can only be restored in the country by BNP, not by those who killed it and introduced one-party rule.

"Your vote is important in preserving the name of Allah in the constitution," she said.

She said a conspiracy was also being hatched against the country's independence, sovereignty and Constitution and asked the people to remain See Page 12 Col. 5

Some out to create trouble: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina has said some quarters estranged from people are out to create anarchy and rig polls slated to be held on February

addressing a big campaign rally in Tejgaon industrial area, Dhaka, Thursday afternoon. Sheikh Hasina urging peo-

Sheikh Hasina was

ple to thwart what she said the design of troublemongers appealed for vote for boat, the poll symbol of her party. She also said that the con-

spirators killed Bangabandhu

he had just started the Second Revolution . With the killing of Sheikh Mujib the hopes and aspirations of Bangalis were buried, she added.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when

Sheikh Hasina said Zia Ershad government looted Taka 50,000 crore the country received as grants and assis-

She also pledged that voted to power she would cut municipal tax and raise civic facilities in the capital.

She said that Awami League

See Page 12 Col. 3

Call for

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Thursday urged the officials to discharge their responsibility with sincerity.

honesty and efficiency in conducting the Jatiya Sangsad

He was addressing the senior officials of the Election Commission, administration. police, and BDR of Rajshahi dt-Vocational Teachers' Training

move forward and capture en-

ailed financial sector Star Economic Report Planning Adviser Prof agement" that frequent inter-

Frequent intervention has

Rehman Sobhan said here on Thursday the major responsibility of the new political government would be to take effective steps to put the country's ailing financial sector to served.

Without removal of the legacy of indiscipline in the banking sector and financial institutions, the overall economic management cannot be improved, he added.

The Adviser told an open discussion on "financial man-

most food and consumer goods

will double or triple as the

government eliminates state

subsidies to producers, but

wages also will rise, the

tia reports, says AP.

Wednesday.

government newspaper lzves-

Wages, pensions, children's

welfare payments and other

incomes will be increased to

compensate for the entire in-

crease in food prices and about

half of the other price hikes,

the newspaper reported

of the Soviet state committee

on labour and social issues,

Vladimir Shcherbakov, head

vention by the political and other vested interests was mainly responsible for the existing "crisis" in the banking sector. It is not merely management inefficiency, he ob-

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Finance Association at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Prof Rehman Sobhan described the 1980s as the dark chapter in the banking sector

Moscow plans 200 pc price rise

sumers would also be fully

compensated for the higher

costs of children's goods.

The price increases are ap-

parently intended to reduce

the gap between the cost of

producing goods and the

wholesale price. In many

cases, the production costs for

basic consumer goods are now

higher than the wholesale

price, and the state pays sub-

sidies to the producer to cover

price hikes were elaboration

on an announcement made

The remarks about the

the difference.

clothes and footwear.

MOSCOW, Feb 14: Prices of told Soviet television that con-

and called upon the politicians to recognise the seriousness of the problem for establishing discipline. He urged them to let the professionals run the financial institutions.

He said there is no dearth of professional hands in the banking sector. The problem in the sector did not originate from lack of professionalism. Intervention by political and vested interests has caused progressive crosion of professionalism, he added.

See Page 12 Col. 1

January 29 Anatoly Komin,

deputy chairman of the State

price committee. Komin said

in a national television inter-

view that prices would rise

Gorbachev and includes the

leaders of the 15 Soviet Te-

indicate when the price hikes

might be introduced.

The newspaper did not

compensation.

publics.

Shahe Alam, was addressed by, See Page 12 Col. 3

Lankan forces regain vast

areas in fierce fighting COLOMBO, Feb 14 Hundreds of heavily armed troops backed by air cover captured several rebel-held areas in northeastern Sri Lanka in

considerably--possibly by as much as 200 per cent-- but that people would receive He gave no date for the increases, saying the proposals fierce ground battles today, a required the approval of the senior minister and officials Federation Council which is here said, reports AFP. headed by President Mikhail S.

Soldiers supported by helicopters penetrated defences of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Mullaitivu and Vavuniya regions in overnight operations, the spokesman said.

State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters here Thursday that se curity forces had "gained good successes" in Vavuniya region where he said battles were still raging. He had no details of casualties in the latest fighting.

However, the military spokesman said about 11 soldiers were wounded in Mullattivu in overnight operations.

"Our troops faced stiff resistance but we managed to

emy-held areas. We believe Tiger losses to be high," the spokesman said. He said ground troops mov-

ing through mine-infested jungle terrain picked up LTTE targets and destroyed them as helicopters blocked guertllas sending reinforcements.

He said operations to clear three jungle areas of Vavuniya district were underway Thursday and civilians had re-See Page 12 Col. 1

Repeal all black laws including Special Powers Act '74. Twentyfour-hour token strike will be ob-

amending the Newspaper

Employees (Condition of

Services) Act-'74 must be

Board award must be an-

nounced without further

delay.

And the final Wage

withdrawn immediately.

Ordinance

served in all newspapers and news agencies of the country on Febru-ary 17. No newspapers will come out the next day.

Hartal today killed in BDR firing at Rajshahi RAJSHAHI, Feb 14: One

person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between BDR and people at Guripara in the city today, police and witnesses said, reports UNB. Political parties have called

a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city tomorrow protesting the death, they alleged, in BDR fir-The dead was identified as Harunur Rashid, an employee

of Bogra Income Tax Office. He succumbed to bullet wounds at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital A mob, BDR complained, snatched three rifles from

them. Two of the guns were later recovered, BDR stated in See Page 12 Col. 3

Freedom Party to scrap 25-yr pact with India

Freedom Party Thursday declared its Election Manifesto opting for a bicameral legislature to ensure broad-based people's participation in the legislative affairs, reports UNB. The manifesto said mem-

bers of the Lower House or Congress will be directly elected by the people while the Upper House or Senate will be constituted through nomination of representatives on the proportion of votes received by the political parties in the general election.

Freedom Party Chief Coordinator Chowdhury Mohmmad See Page 12 Col. 1

conducting polls with sincerity

Elections, reports BSS. vision at the auditorium of the Institute at Bogra. The meeting

See Page 12 Col. 1

The tribunal will sit at the Khan heard the matter for two there for a different purpose. official residence of the former The general clemency deleader of the opposition in clared by the government Aminul Haq, Attorney Genparliament A. S. M. Abdur Rob eral, concluded his submission. would not be applicable here. at Gulshan. The tribunal will be He submitted that after the He said elemency was declared presided over by district and removal of Ershad from Sena by an executive order and was Bhaban to his Gulshan resisessions judge, Dhaka, Monot published in an official dence, proper authorities On Thursday, the Rule issealed the residence. There-He further argued that prosued on February 11 upon the fore the possession remained tection given under the Arms application for quashment of Rules, 1924 gives certain dewith the former President. He Ershad's trial under Arms Act further submitted that arms See Page 12 Col. 8