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Inside today

International



Nine political parties in India demand resignation of Chandra Shekhar over Tamil Nadu. Page 5

Business

High bank interests discourage farmers. Page 8

Article

Elections: Much on the past, let's talk of the future. Page 4

Sport



Aravinda De Silva dazzles against the Kuwitis. Page 7

Feature

Education

Child literature should serve the needs of the children. Page 6

News briefs

'Banglar Mamata' crew jump ship

OAKLAND (California), Feb 1: Twenty-four members of the crew of the Bangladeshi vessel 'Banglar Mamata' which was to have taken military cargo to the Middle East, have jumped ship in Oakland, a shipping agent said on Thursday.

Iraq's message for Arafat

AMMAN, Feb 1: Iraq has sent PLO leader Yasser Arafat a message outlining 'agreed mutual steps' in the conduct of the Gulf war, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said today, reports Reuters.

DPRK supplies Scuds to Iraq

WASHINGTON, Feb 1: The US State Department 'expressed concern on Friday over reports of North Korea supplying Iraq with Scud missile adding, "we expect North Korea to honour its commitment to abide by the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council", reports AP.

Troops in Moscow streets

MOSCOW, Feb 1: Troops started patrolling Moscow and other major Soviet cities today, a move seen by liberals as a sign of lurch towards dictatorship, reports Reuters.

Allied missiles hit Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Feb 1: A wave of six Tomahawk missiles were fired on Baghdad early today, with at least two of them hitting residential areas and triggering anger from residents, reports AFP.

Clashes spread along 250 km border area Iraq retreats from Khafji

Iraq said Friday the troops who attacked the Saudi border town of Khafji this week had withdrawn to their positions inside Kuwait, report agencies. A military communiqué, carried on Iraqi radio, said, "the units completed their withdrawal to their original positions from which they advanced towards Khafji on the night of January 30-31."

- ★ Over 300 Iraqi soldiers killed in Khafji: Allies.
- ★ 500 Iraqi soldiers taken prisoner.
- ★ Over 100 Iraqi tanks knocked out.
- ★ Battles on Saudi territory a turning point: Iraq
- ★ Iraq downs 20 'air targets' on Friday.

cial word on allied reports that Khafji had been cleared of Iraqi forces.

A British military spokesman said on Friday that more than 300 Iraqi soldiers died in fighting around Khafji, and the US military said more than 500 had been taken prisoner. Iraqi armoured columns struck across the border from Kuwait on Tuesday night and early Wednesday, seized the town some five km (three



An Iraqi gunboat goes up in smoke after being hit by an air-to-surface missile fired by a Royal Navy Lynx helicopter from the British ship HMS Cardiff. —AFP Photo

Many candidates yet to submit statements

By Staff Correspondent

A good number of candidates have not yet submitted statements of their assets and liabilities and sources of election expenses. The deadline fixed by the Election Commission for submission of statement expired on January 28. An Election Commission source in Dhaka said they were still awaiting reports from returning officers. The reports are being mailed to the Chief Election Commissioner, the source said.

Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Justice M. A. Roul has stated that non-submission of statement of assets and liabilities and sources of fund for

election expenses would be considered a corrupt election practice. And the election tribunal will set aside election of such candidates. The commission has raised the maximum limit of election expenses from Taka one lakh to Taka three lakh for each candidate, and personal expenses from Taka one thousand to Taka five thousand by amending the Representation of People Order, 1972. The measure is intended to check unlimited spendings to buy votes with a view to ensuring free and fair elections. The Chief Election Commissioner has said that control of muscle

power will be easier if unlimited spendings are not allowed. The Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi told the Daily Star that only a couple of candidates out of 37 in the district did not submit statements by January 28. There are five constituencies in the district. The Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur said one or two candidates in his district might not have submitted statements. In Chandpur 57 candidates are contesting in four constituencies, he said. The Deputy Commissioner of Feni said all but one candidate in his district have submitted statements. See Page 10 Col 6

Ekushey programmes begin

By Staff Correspondent
 More than 200 children brushed colour on their canvas on Friday morning marking the first day of February, the historic month of Language Movement. With the painting show titled 'Mass upsurge-90' Bangla Academy started its traditional series of programme in memory of the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952. The paintings showed imaginative power of the children as well as their consciousness for democracy. Meanwhile, different cultural groups organised different cultural programmes on the first day of February. Group Theatre Federation organised a week long 'fourth

Launching of DESA deferred

By Staff Correspondent

The newly formed Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) could not start functioning from Friday as per schedule. According to the condition of World Bank, DESA was supposed to work as an independent organisation from the first day of February this year. A high level source told the Star that the launching of DESA might be deferred for some time for which the authorities have started negotiat-

ing with the donors. They have also discussed the issue with the political leadership of the country. Dhaka Electric Supply (DES), a subsidiary of Power Development Board (PDB), has been performing the task of distributing electricity to the consumers in the greater Dhaka district including the metropolitan area. World Bank was insisting on separating DES from PDB for See Page 10 Col. 5

Don't cast vote for betrayers: Khaleda

BAGERHAT, Feb 1: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people not to cast vote for those who, what she said, betrayed the nation, snatched away people's rights and sold out country's independence, reports UNB. "Don't vote for the betrayers and enemies of independence", she told a huge public meeting at the outer stadium here this afternoon, on the fourth day of her five-day election tour to the southern districts. Presided over by local BNP President Zahidur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by former Home Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman (BNP-nominee for Bagerhat-2) and Advocate

Muzaffar Hossain. Earlier, hundreds of enthusiastic party supporters carrying portraits of late Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia, converged at the venue of the meeting to listen to their leader. Begum Zia said, "people have branded a political party as a national betrayer as it participated in 1986 election under Ershad disregarding commitment to the people". "This particular political party signed an agreement of slavery with a neighbouring country and introduced one party rule for making the country a subservient state", the BNP chief said adding that the people fought war of independence. See Page 10 Col. 4

BNP's boycott helped Ershad's stay: Hasina

NATORE: Feb 1: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said, if voted to power her party and alliance would set up heavy industries in North Bengal to bring about uniform and balanced industrialisation in the country, reports BSS. Sheikh Hasina, on the fourth-day today of her election-tour to the greater Rajshahi district, was addressing six public meetings at Natore old bus stand, Singra College ground, Nandigram, Haibatpur, Gurudaspur and Banpara. She also addressed a number of wayside meetings including those at Taktabazar, Chawkbaidhyana, Chatni, Basudevpur, Naldanghabazar, Ahmedpur, Lakkhipur, Bhubanpara, Baghtipara and Nandigram. See Page 10 Col. 4

Among others Messrs Sankar Gobinda Chowdhury, Muhammad Shahjahan Ali, Abdul Quddus, Momtazuddin and Shahidul Islam Duda, all Awami League nominees from different constituencies of the districts also addressed the meetings. In this connection she said, in the post-independent Bangladesh Bangabandhu nationalised all heavy industries and made the employees and workers the owners of those national assets. She regretted that after the killing of Bangabandhu, the Zia government handed over those to the private section on nominal prices in the name of de-nationalisation. Most of those industries are now closed and See Page 10 Col. 4

200 killed as quake jolts northern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 1: At least 200 people were killed and hundreds injured in northern Pakistan by a severe earthquake that jolted the country and neighbouring Afghanistan early today, government officials said, reports Reuters. Sixteen people died in remote Chitral district bordering Afghanistan, 12 in the Bajaur area, nine in the Malakand area and 11 in Swat district, the officials said. Hundreds of houses had either collapsed or

damaged. The death toll was likely to mount, they said. Relief teams had been sent to the stricken areas but access to remote mountainous regions was difficult. The epicenter of the quake was placed by the U.S. National Earthquake Information Center in Golden Colorado and the Indian Meteorological Service at between 112 and 190 miles (180 to 306 kilometers) northeast of Kabul, near the borders of the Soviet

Union and Pakistan. The quake struck at 3:34 A.M. local time when most residents of Kabul blanketed with two feet nearly a meter of snow, were sleeping. Men, women and children ran into the streets as the walls of some mud houses cracked, snow-laden roofs collapsed, and in some cases whole walls slipped away, witnesses said, adding that many other houses were leaking. In the city center Soviet-built steel frame cement gov-

ernment buildings appeared to have survived intact, though tiles had crashed off some old stone houses, the witnesses said. Cracks appeared in the streets, and residents picked their way warily over the snow for fear of falling into them, they said. In New Delhi witnesses and residents reported similar panic with residents of high rises rushing into streets as the tremors woke them.

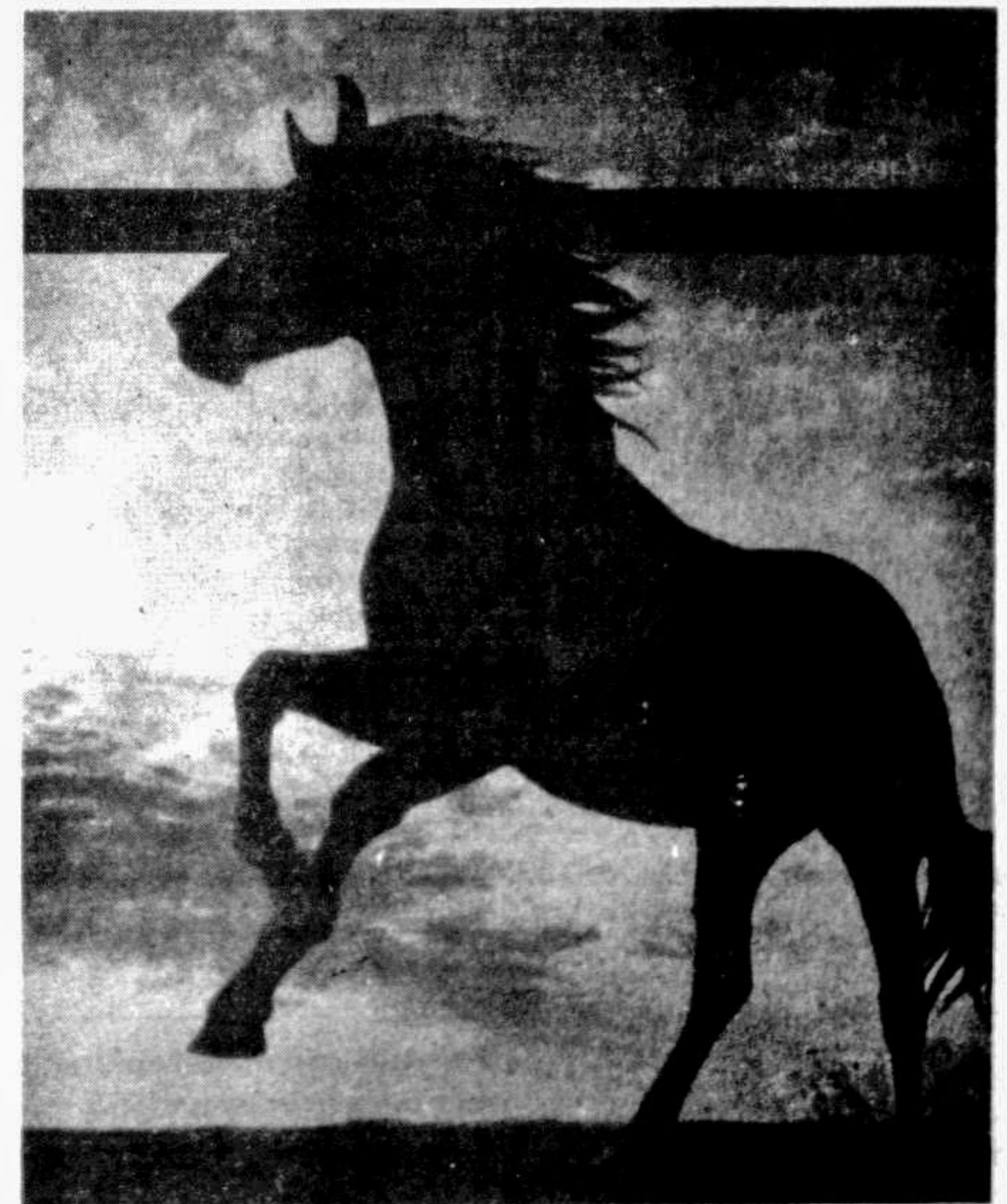
Five-party video-taping Code violations

By Nazmul Ashraf
 The Five-party Alliance has made elaborate arrangements to record specific acts of violations of the election rules and the code of conduct by all other political parties. The alliance will file cases with the election tribunals against the candidates violating rules soon after the polls, the alliance sources said. They said the alliance will record audio-visual evidences of extravagance in terms of using of transports, erecting arches, organising feast for voters and colourful polls campaigns carried out by the candidates. The work on video taping of the violations by some candidates in different areas of the Chittagong city has already begun. An alliance leader said they have detected a number of cases of over expenditure in those places. Such evidences will also be collected at some other places. See Page 10 Col. 3

Election manual being readied

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder
 An election manual describing election offences and punishments prescribed for each case will soon be distributed among returning officers, assistant returning officers and law enforcing agencies. The manual being prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs is meant for helping election officials and law enforcing agencies take on-the-spot decisions to ensure free and fair elections, an Election Commission source told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, the 16-point code of conduct formulated at the initiative of the commission, is also being sent to election officers and law enforcing agencies. The commission has already sent 10 copies of the code to the head offices of each political party fielding candidates in the election. The manual and the code will help local officials and law enforcing agencies to identify violations of election laws and the code and take steps in time to keep the situation under control. See Page 10 Col. 2

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