

Focus on election-'91

BNP trying to instigate coup, says Hasina

Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina on Sunday accused Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of trying to instigate military coup in their bid for power, reports UNB.

"BNP has time and again conspired to stage a coup for going to power... we do not want indiscipline in the army raised by Bangabandhu", she told a huge election meeting at Hazaribagh Park here last evening.

The Awami League President and leader of the 8-party alliance alleged that BNP had been spreading malice against her as she always stood against army rule.

Hasina said her party wants to restore parliamentary form of government in the country and give democracy an institutional shape.

In this regard, she blamed BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia for being vague after the recent victory against autocratic Ershad regime, violating a joint declaration of the three alliances issued at the last stage of the democratic movement.

JS to decide form of govt : BNP leaders

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3 : The BNP leaders here today said that their party left the question about the form of government to the sovereign parliament to be elected by the people on February 27, reports BSS.

They said that when the parliament would be a sovereign one it would be competent enough to decide about what form of government the country would have in the future.

Talking to newsmen at a local hotel today, they called upon the people to be vocal against the leaders of the ousted autocratic government who disrupted all systems and plundered national wealth indiscriminately. The people struggled for long nine years to unseat the Jatiya-Party government and at last they were successful, they said adding.

CEC assured of all help for fair polls

By Staff Correspondent

A 17-member delegation of the Liberty Forum led by Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury called on Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf and two other Election Commissioners, Justice Syed Mesbahuddin Hossain and Justice Naemuddin Ahmed on Sunday.

The delegates exchanged views with the Chief Election Commissioner regarding preparations for holding parliamentary polls.

BCL factions clash with firearms

By DU Correspondent

Several rounds of gunshots were fired Sunday noon from the Madu's canteen premises of Dhaka University following a clash between two feuding groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) student front of Awami League.

A series of chase and counter-chase took place. However, no one was injured.

A tense situation was prevailing in the Jahurul Haque hall of the University following the armed clash.

The cause of Sunday's clash was not known.

BNP pledge

From Page 1 Col 8

development of rural Bangladesh.

There will be no development in the country if darkness in the villages is not removed, the BNP chief said adding that electricity must reach household of the country.

She said supply of electricity in the villages would facilitate establishment of small and cottage industries, irrigation, education for the poor rural people. Besides, she said, criminal tendencies will also be reduced with the expansion of electricity network throughout the whole rural Bangladesh.

Begum Zia said BNP had already taken up a broad-based development programme for the overall development of rural areas and "we are pledged to implement these if voted to power."

The development programmes include alternative employment for rural farmers, Begum Zia said. There would be additional arrangement of recreation for these people under the programme, she added.

Besides, she said other programmes like canal digging, revival of village government, rural medicare, tree plantation programmes, poultry would be taken up under a coordinated plan so that the nation could get no of onslaughts it had suffered during the long autocratic rule.

Assuring the representatives, Begum Zia said, if voted to power, her government would try to solve all problems of the Rural Electrification Associations for the benefit of the rural people.

The Midnight File

Provisional govt in Somalia

ROME, Feb 3 : The United Somali Congress (USC) said here Saturday that a "provisional government of national unity" had been formed in Somalia, headed by deposed President Siad Barre's former Foreign Minister, Omar Arte Qlib.

Interim President Ali Mahdi, appointed by the USC Monday, had approved the composition of the new government submitted by Mr. Qlib, according to radio Mogadishu, monitored by the BBC in London, reports AFP.

Millions of economic felons

BEIJING, Feb 3 : More than seven million tons of coal, three million grams of gold and nearly 80,000 cars were just a few of the items confiscated from economic felons in the past five years, the China daily reported today. During China's seventh five-year plan from 1986 to 1990 the authorities handled 4.26 million cases involving economic irregularities and collected 3.4 billion Yuan (653 million Dollars) in fines and confiscated goods, the official newspaper said, reports AFP.

18 killed in runway mishap

LOS ANGELES, Feb 3 : At least 18 people were killed in fiery runway collision between a US air boeing 737 and a small commuter plane, an airline officials said on Saturday, nearly 24 hours after the crash, that another 19 were missing. All 12 people on board the small skywest fairchild metroliner commuter plane died in Friday night's collision with the twin-engine airliner, a skywest spokesman, Ron Reber said, reports Reuter.

Sikh militants free 20 Hindus

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 : Sikh militants have freed 20 Hindus unharmed after holding them captive for three days in the northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today. The 20 were blindfolded, taken in a truck to the village of Chur Chak and released Saturday night by their captors, who then disappeared, the news agency said, reports AFP.

Troops pullout deadlocked

WARSAW, Feb 3 : Agreement on the pace of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland appeared to have been deadlocked, Poland's former Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, said yesterday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed last year to complete the troops' withdrawal by the end of 1991, reports Xinhua.

Surgeons stumble upon gold

NEW DELHI, Feb 3 : Indian surgeons stumbled upon gold smuggled from Hong Kong inside the stomach of a 22-year-old man shot and wounded by his jilted girl friend, police said today. The man was stable after surgery, but his 18-year-old girl friend was still in a serious condition after she had turned the gun on herself. The police said surgeons operating on the man found eight gold bars inside his stomach and removed them, reports AFP.

Quebec becoming sovereign

MONTREAL, Feb 3 : Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa has for the first time raised the possibility of his mainly French-speaking province becoming a sovereign state within a confederate structure. "After 25 years of fruitless talks, Quebec has no choice but to propose a new pact with the rest of Canada," Bourassa was quoted as saying in Saturday's edition of the newspaper La Presse de Montreal, reports AFP.

Scuds hit Israel

From Page 1 Col 8

In the earliest hours of the war, U.S. and Allied planes and missiles destroyed the city's infrastructure with almost surgical precision. People here quickly learned to live without electricity, running water or telephones.

Six missiles were fired on the capital overnight Friday. Iraqi anti-aircraft defense went into action, and explosions were heard far off. The next morning the horizon was blanketed by a vast cloud of smoke rising from numerous burning sites.

As the day went on, people were seen walking in the streets, lining up for buses or taxis. Crowds formed around restaurants and cafes where radios broadcast music as well as the latest military communications.

Although grocery stores remain open, most other shops open briefly in the morning but close for the remainder of the day.

Store shelves are stocked but prices have shot up since the outbreak of hostilities over two weeks ago.

The Soviet Union is providing Iraq with information that could be used to target Scud missiles and hide them from US satellites, according to a report published in Washington.

US and Allied air attacks have virtually eliminated the threat of missile attack by Iraqi patrol boats, a US military spokesman said today.

Tk. 20,000 reward for information on Niru, Obhi

The government on Sunday announced a reward of Taka 20,000 each for either handing over or providing information leading to the arrest of any of the five absconding persons accused in the Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon's murder case, an official hand out said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

Urs at Atroshi from Feb 16

FAIRFUR, Feb 3 : A four-day annual Urs Mubarak will begin at the Bishwa Zaker Manzil at Atroshi from February 16, reports UNB.

Mahmudul Hasan

From Page 1 Col 2

corruption law against Gen Hasan, Asaf Khan, proprietor of M/s Farmland, Syed Azharul Haq, owner of Bide and co and Kais Chowdhury, owners of M/s Agrotech for misappropriation and causing financial loss, the handout said.

The case in brief is that after the lowest bidder through an international tender for the procurement of 1000 II one cusec engine was rejected for technical reason, BADC recommended to the ministry for the purchase of engines at Taka 27,280.55 from Bangladesh diesel plant, the second lowest bidder. But later, ignoring recommendations of BADC tender committee, the then agriculture minister Mahmudul Hasan ordered to purchase 11,460 pumps without any tender and at a higher price than the market. From M/s Farmland, M/s Agrotech and M/s Bide co to acquire pecuniary benefits for himself or give benefit to others to the tune of taka 5,41,91,329.

Economic recovery

From Page 1 Col 4

litical party from above and then legalised all anti-people ordinances and measures through a subservient parliament. After capturing power, these people ruled the country through corruption, bribery, coercion and letting loose all sorts of exploitation.

Late president Ziaur Rahman first started this process and ex-president Ershad simply followed in his footsteps, she added.

Sheikh Hasina, however, pointed out that problems that had accumulated over the last 15 years of misrule, looting and plunder could not be solved overnight. "We have no Alauddin's lamp to solve all

these problems quickly. It will take at least another 15 years to take the economy back on its track. We want to utilise foreign aid in the productive sectors for building a self-reliant economy", she said.

She replied in the affirmative when a newsmen asked whether her party, if voted to power, would constitute a commission to probe into misappropriation of huge wealth and state money by corrupt politicians under former President Ershad's government. "We will not only try the corrupt ministers and others under Ershad but also those under Zia's government," she asserted.

Ex-president Ershad, Sheikh Hasina said, handed over power to the neutral government in accordance with the guidelines announced by the three alliances. The guidelines clearly stated that the interim government would hand over power to the elected parliament which would be sovereign and the government would be accountable to it.

The Awami League chief said deviating from the guidelines of the three alliances a certain party was now taking ambiguous stand on the system of the future government.

When Hasina's attention was drawn to the demand for bringing back Bangladeshi troops from Saudi Arabia, she said it was beyond her comprehension why they were sent in a hurry and why the demand is being raised for their return. "The whole matter is confusing to me", she said.

Hasina thanked the members of foreign media for their cooperation and sending news abroad with great risk during the autocratic regime of ex-president Ershad.

Earlier, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury thanked Sheikh Hasina for attending the briefing session and sought the cooperation of the political leaders in the discharge of their responsibility.

Polls can't be fair with Ershad detained: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Sunday said that former president H.M. Ershad had been detained as part of the conspiracy to fail the JP victory in the polls.

Addressing a meeting of the Rangpur JP leaders at Gulshan, Dhaka, Mr Chowdhury challenged that if the former president was released before the polls the election results would be surprising to all. He said it was contradictory to democratic norms to detain the leader of a major political party and claim neutrality in polls.

The polls can't be considered free and fair if the JP chief is detained Mr. Chowdhury said.

Meanwhile, the convenor of Central Election Coordination Committee of Jatiya Party Ismail Hossain Bengal in a statement condemned the demand of the Nagorik Committee to ban politics of Jatiya Party and termed as 'unexpected' and 'provocative'.

200 killed in Afghan quake

KABUL, Feb 3 : At least 200 people may have been killed in Afghanistan in Friday's earthquake that rocked 18 of the mountainous country's 30 provinces, officials and aid workers said today, reports Reuter.

"It was one of the most powerful earthquakes for many years to hit Afghanistan. But we have no means to reach the remote areas to assess the damage and casualties", Foreign Ministry Spokesman M. H. Mukammel told reporters.

"Reports are still coming in, and it may be many days before we know the real extent of the tragedy," he said. Many quake-hit areas were buried under deep snow, hampering rescue efforts, he said.

In Pakistan officials in the north west frontier province capital of Peshawar said they expected the death toll to exceed 200 on the Pakistani side of the border and it could go much higher.

Afghan President Najibullah has set up a special commission to coordinate rescue and relief efforts, Mukammel said.

Aid workers and unofficial sources says more than 200 people may have died and

many more injured near the Afghan-Pakistan border, close to the epicentre of the earthquake, about 112 miles (180 km), northeast of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Officials said the quake, which registered 6.8 on the Richter scale, killed at least four people in the capital.

A number of homes and buildings collapsed in snow-covered Kabul and long vertical cracks could be seen on the walls.

PDB

From Page 1 Col 4

the-proposed launch of DESA are learnt to have produced naught.

A cabinet committee has recently been formed to suggest measures overcoming the deadlock in the power sector. It is due to report to the government soon.

The Energy Ministry was trying to contact the leaders of major political parties in resolving the matter politically in consultation with workers and employees of the board.

But, sources said, such contacts were yet to be established because of political leaders' busy schedules for election campaign.

PDB Chairman Shamsul Islam replaced Parjatan Corporation Chairman Habibur Rahman, the brother-in-law (Sister's husband) of ousted President Ershad.

'Scarcity due to hoarding' No diesel price cut in Boro season

By Staff Correspondent

Present stocks of crude and refined petroleum oil are "quite comfortable" and the pipeline arrangement for imported supplies can meet requirements until mid-April, Energy Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed told newsmen on Sunday.

About 80,000 tons of crude oil are at hand with Eastern Refineries Limited (ERL). One lakh tons of Arabian light crude were loaded for shipment at a Saudi port on January 31 and the vessel will reach Chittagong port by February 13. Next loading of another one lakh tons of crude mubane will be at a port in the U. A. E. on February 8 and arrivals of the same are due for February 24.

Reviewing the current stock position, the secretary said the present stocks valued at Taka 400 crore in foreign exchange. He added that supplies were being maintained to the retailing points at "adequate" levels.

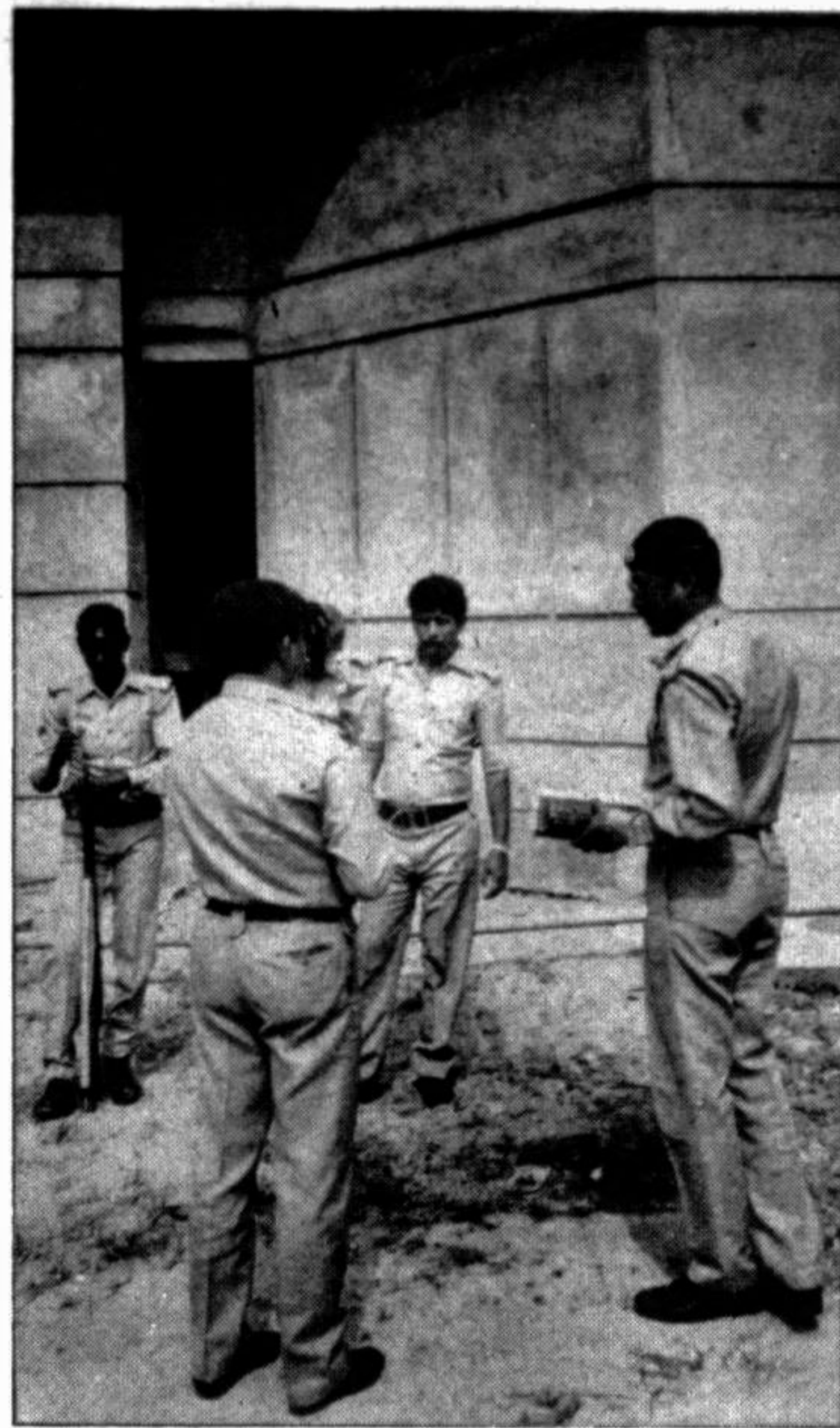
About scarcity of diesel and its high prices at different places, he noted that it might be due to "hoarding both at farmers and dealers levels". The off-take in January was 95,000 metric tons of diesel compared with 99,000 metric tons the same month last year.

For three of four days last month, the daily off-take crossed 5,000 metric tons far exceeding the normal demand around this part of the year, he added.

The Energy Secretary said at the press briefing that there was no shortage of diesel. The current stocks are enough to meet requirements for next three weeks and more imported supplies are being lined up, he added.

He noted that fresh arrivals of over two lakh tons of crude from the Gulf would be available for processing at ERL and this would help maintain "steady supplies".

The imported crude oil of over two lakh tons will pose no storage problems, he said while stating that the ERL has a capacity to store 1.95 lakh tons. In addition, 40,000 tons can be kept as floating stocks in two available lighterage ves-



Policemen stand guard outside the Gulshan residence of former Premier Kazi Zafar Ahmed. The police in their raid on Saturday failed to attach the property as it is in his wife's name. —Star photo

Hawladar's detention challenged

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court Sunday issued a Rule Nisi on the government to show cause within seven days why Ruhul Amin Hawladar should not be brought before court so that it may satisfy itself that he has not been detained without any lawful authority.

A Division Bench comprising Mr. Justice FHM Habibur Rahman and Mr Justice Abul Hasb issued the rule.

Ruhul Amin Hawladar, a minister of Ershad's cabinet, was detained after the fall of the Ershad government.

Khan Salfur Rahman with Md. Mustafa moved the petition on Hawladar's behalf while Fakhru Islam, A.A.G. was present in the court.

Injunction on shifting of Ershad sought Supreme Court

Correspondent

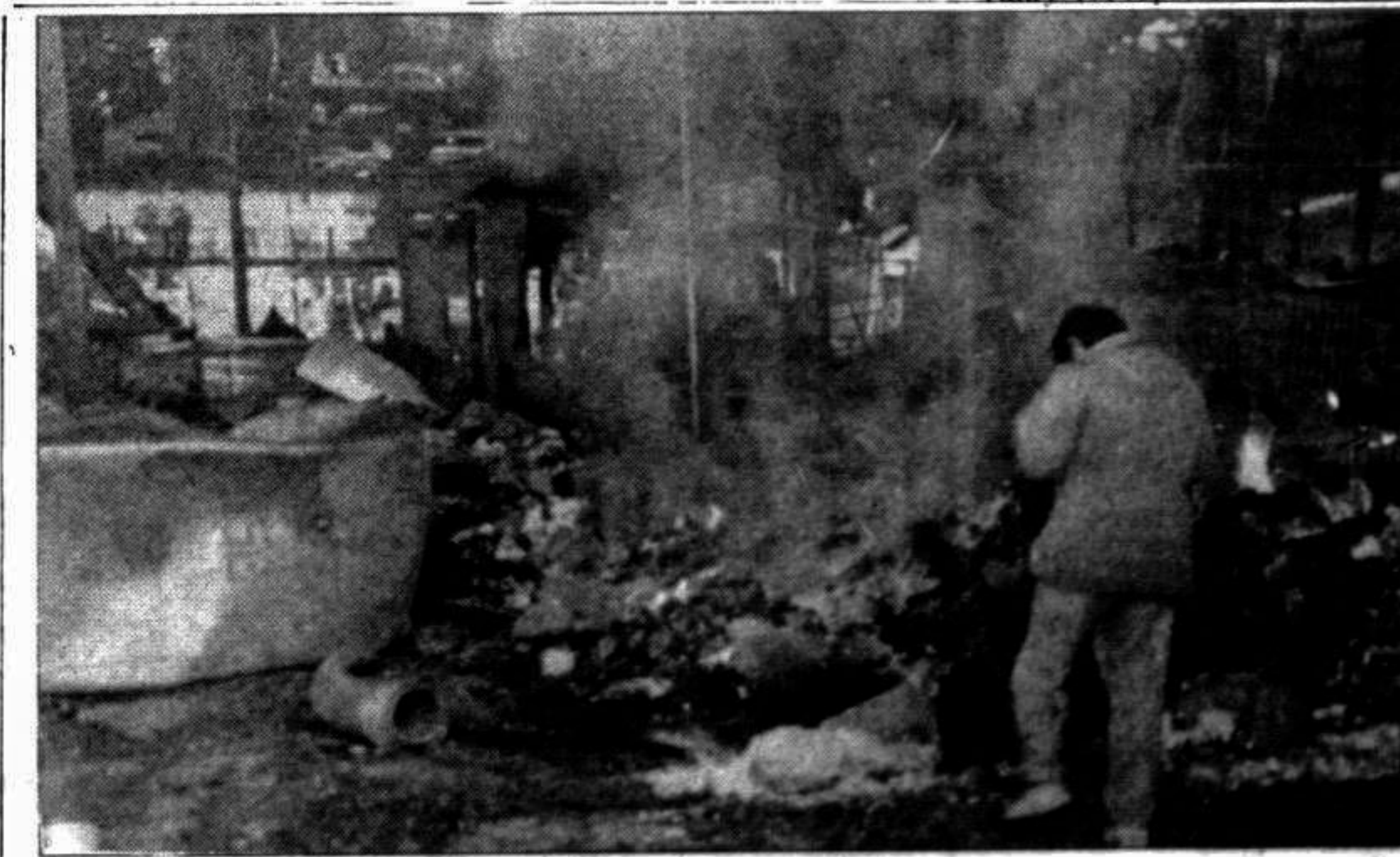
An application was sworn in by Mustafizur Rahman in the detention case of H. M. Ershad ousted President. In the application the petitioner prayed for a showcase upon Government as to why it should not be restrained by way of an injunction from shifting the detenu from his present place of detention to Dhaka Central Jail till the disposal of the Writ Petition filed challenging the detention order of the detenu is disposed of. The petitioner further prayed for maintaining status quo.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain is expected to move the petition before a Division Bench of the High Court Division, comprising Mr. Justice Abdul Jalil and Mr. Justice Kazi Shafiquddin today.

Three killed in road mishap

From DMCH Correspondent

Three persons were killed when a micro bus collided with a truck at Ghor, Dhamrai on Sunday noon. Tarek (40), driver of the minibus and Shaheen Begum (40) died on the spot while Poni (6) died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



BAGHDAD : The interior of an Iraqi milk factory in a Baghdad suburb, still smouldering after a US bombing raid. —AFP/UNB photo

Monir, Khuku

From Page 1 Col 5

the condemned prisoners also boycotted breakfast and started hunger strike.

The jail sources said about half of the prisoners refused lunch Sunday. "But we are supplying them food timely", the sources added.

The Inspector General of Prison visited the striking prisoners Sunday.

There are over 25 condemned prisoners in the jail.

Khaleda begins two-day poll tour in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3 : BNP chairperson and seven-party alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia will arrive here tomorrow on a two-day election campaign tour of the district, reports BSS.

Party sources said that she would address at least five public meetings tomorrow at Bannakhali, Satkania, Chandanish, Anowara and Paltia.

The BNP chairperson will address six public meetings on Tuesday at Hathazari, Patickchhari, Double Mooring, Mirsarai, Rangunia and Chandraghona.

Editor : S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 246023-4 (PABX), 863035, 863036.