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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.

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The State Acquisition and Tenancy Act has been amended through an ordinance promulgated yesterday. Page 8

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 200 Bangladeshis cross into Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 9: More than 200 Bangladeshis and Somalis fleeing the Gulf war in Iraq crossed into Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported today, says Reuter.

### Poll suspended in Munshiganj-3

By Staff Correspondent  
Election in Gaibandha constituency which was postponed earlier following the death of a candidate will now be held on February 27. Poll in another constituency - Munshiganj-3 has, however, been suspended as a candidate died on Friday.

### Quake in Solomons

MENLO PARK (Calif), Feb 9: A major earthquake with a magnitude of 6.9 on the Richter scale occurred early Sunday morning in the Solomon Islands of the South Pacific, the US Geological Survey said, reports AP.

### Shekhar, Rajiv meet Venkataraman

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: The Prime Minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar and the Congress President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today held separate meetings with the President.

## Iraq claims 'significant' Allied losses in Saudi Arabia

# Cheney discusses timing of ground war in Kuwait

RIYADH, Feb 9: US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney is leaving little doubt that a US-led ground offensive against Iraq will be used to evict Saddam Hussein's huge army from Kuwait, the only question is when, report agencies.

Cheney met Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of US forces in the Gulf, in the Saudi capital Saturday. Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are here to discuss the prospects for a land campaign.

In a pep talk to US armymen on Friday, Cheney stressed that even in a ground war, the massive air bombardments will continue. He said Iraqis will suffer air strikes "in the days and weeks ahead."

However, he rejected the idea that the war might be won by extended bombing alone, arguing that ground and amphibious forces will be required to flush Iraqi troops from dug-in defences in Kuwait. Cheney and Powell have side-stepped questions on when the ground war will begin.

Cheney and Powell are to return to Washington Sunday to report to President George Bush on the military situation

and prospects for opening a ground war.

In rousing remarks to airmen and women at an air base in western Saudi Arabia, they used their first wartime visit to the region to stress they have

- ★ Cheney, Powell mum over ground war timing, return to Washington today.
- ★ One-eighth Iraqi ground forces destroyed.
- ★ 8 more Iraqi soldiers surrender.
- ★ Scud hits Tel Aviv injuring 25.
- ★ Bombings on Basra continue.
- ★ Skirmishes on Kuwaiti border.
- ★ 1000 French sorties on Saturday.

no plans for a drawn-out confrontation.

"We hope to get this wrapped up as quickly as possible. We don't want to go

home before the job's done, and it's not done yet," Cheney told flyers and crews of an F-111 fighter-bomber wing.

Cheney and Powell also met the head of the exiled Kuwaiti government, Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in the south-western city of Taif.

After receiving an update on the war, the Emir requested that Kuwaiti ground forces be included in the liberation of their homeland, something Cheney and Powell view as "essential," a US Defence Department official said after the session.

Meanwhile, Iraq said today it inflicted "significant" Allied losses in men and equipment after it fired rockets across its border with Saudi Arabia. Allied forces made no mention of any such attack.

"Our heroic units directed a series of strikes with field missiles at enemy positions across our border with Saudi Arabia, causing significant losses in men and equipment on the enemy side," said the Baghdad Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

It said the Scud missile attack on Israel which injured 25 people and damaged houses and cars early today was to

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Iraqi women wearing 'chador', traditional Iraqi dress, walk past buildings destroyed by allied air raids in a Baghdad street earlier this week. —AFP photo

## Another big haul of gold

By Staff Correspondent  
One thousand nine hundred and sixty bars of gold were recovered from the roofs of the toilets of two Bangladesh Biman aircraft at Bina International Airport early Saturday.

A customs press release said the 196 gold bars were worth about Tk. One crore and 57 lakhs. None was arrested in connection with the haul.

## 50 injured as BCL, Shibir clash at Ctg

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: At least 50 persons were injured, seven of them seriously, when Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League (H-A) workers clashed in front of Agrabad T & T Colony here today.

Seven seriously injured persons admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital are: Mansur Ahmed (22), Zillur Rahman (15), Shahjalal (19), Abdul Latif (22), Formanullah (21), Shaheen (16) and Sohel (20).

The clash occurred when a group of Chhatra League (BCL) workers attacked a Shibir procession. A series of crackers were exploded. Firearms and cut rifles were used in the clash.

At least five shops including a sweetmeat shop were looted, ten election camps were ransacked and about 100 election symbols of 'boat' and 'scale' were damaged as the clash spread all over the Agrabad area.

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## Saddam sends reply to Iran's peace plan A critical Gorbachev sending personal envoy to Baghdad

MOSCOW, Feb 9: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today that military action by Allied forces in the Gulf risked exceeding the UN mandate to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait, report agencies.

In a statement carried by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, Gorbachev said the Soviet leadership remained committed to Security Council resolutions aimed at ending the Iraqi occupation.

But he added, "The logic of

the military operations, the character of the military actions, is creating a threat of going beyond the limits of the (UN) mandate."

He said he was sending a personal envoy to Iraq to meet President Saddam Hussein.

President Gorbachev called on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today to show proof of "realism." "At this critical moment" Mr. Gorbachev said, "I am making a public, insistent appeal to the President of Iraq

that he weigh once again all that is involved for his country, and to show proof of realism which would allow him to work toward a sure and fair settlement."

Moscow was Baghdad's main ally and weapons supplier until the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, after which it stopped all arms shipments. It is supporting the Allies diplomatically but has not sent troops to the Gulf.

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## Kamal's poll camp set on fire

A group of unruly elements set on fire an election camp of Awami League leader Dr. Kamal Hossain at West Mirpur and ransacked four others in Mirpur on Friday, reports UNB.

Dr. Kamal's election campaign office sources blamed the BNP workers for burning the election camp late Friday night and ransacking others.

A protest meeting was held at Mirpur on Saturday with local Awami League leader Hasan Ali in the chair.

Speakers at the meeting said the coming elections could not be foiled by resorting to vandalism. They asked the party workers to exercise restraint in the face of all provocations.

The meeting over, a protest procession paraded different areas in Mirpur.

A case has also been filed with Mirpur Thana, the sources said.

## BNP will revitalise economy: Khaleda

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday said her party will revitalise the country's economy ravaged by the nine years of autocratic rule of the Ershad regime, reports UNB.

Addressing a series of meetings in New Market, Dhanmondi, Sobhanbag, Ziga-tola, Rayer Bazar and Mohammadpur area, she said Ershad had pushed the country on the brink of destruction by resorting to largescale corruption, plundering of national wealth and misuse of power.

Begum Zia, during her day-long election campaign in her own constituency (Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur), assured that if voted to power, BNP will undertake programmes for the welfare of the common people. Her party will focus on the problems of the poor, dis-

tressed and slum-dwellers, the BNP leader said as her audience shouted, "Good days will come, vote for sheaf of paddy."

Addressing a meeting of the Jatyatabadi Mahila Dal at its Dhanmondi election coordination office, the leader of the Seven-Party Alliance pledged to retain 30 reserved seats for women in parliament if BNP returns to power.

She also assured the people of the constituency that her party would look into the problems of the area.

Rights of the members of the Hindu community will be protected by BNP, Begum Khaleda said adding that some political parties were trying to capitalise the minorities to serve their purpose.

"Hindus and Muslims will live together in this country",

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## Yugoslavia's survival as state looks bleak?

BELGRADE, Feb 9: Yugoslavia's prospects of surviving as a state looked bleak today after talks between the state presidency and leaders of the six republics stalled for the second time in two weeks, reports Reuter.

The third round of talks on a long-running crisis over the country's future broke up because Croatian leaders stayed away and Slovenian President Milan Kucan walked out.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman refused to come to

Belgrade because of an anti-Croatian rally outside the government building where the talks were held, Tanjug news agency said.

Slovenia and Croatia have threatened to secede unless the Yugoslav federation is turned into a loose alliance of sovereign states.

Yugoslavia switched to parliamentary democracy last year after 45 years of communist rule but bitter ethnic quarrels have brought it to the verge of collapse.

The communists were defeated in all republics except tiny Montenegro and the biggest republic, Serbia, where the formerly Communist Socialist Party of Serbia retained power. Serbia advocates strong central rule.

About 10,000 women supporters of a federal state shouted anti-Croatian slogans outside the talks on Friday. They demanded the resignation of the right-wing Croatian leaders, accusing them of breaking up the country.

## Whose sickle?

By Staff Correspondent  
How many candidates are to contest the elections with 'sickle' as their symbol? The Election Commission itself finds it difficult to determine the number.

This also explains why the Commission has not yet succeeded in announcing a complete list of candidates and their symbols, said an official source on Saturday.

Sickle, the official symbol of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League, (BKSAL) found new claimants when February 12 an electoral alliance 'Gonotantrik Oikya Jote' (GOJ)

## APSU lathi procession today

By Staff Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) has decided to lead a 'lathi procession' today (Sunday) from the Dhaka University campus towards Gulshan where the deposed President HM Ershad is now detained.

The procession will be brought out at 11 am demanding trial and immediate shifting of the Ex-President to jail and arrest of his associates.

Ousted through a mass upsurge in December 1990, the former President was interned at a posh house at Gulshan for 120 days on January 12 under the Special Powers Act.

In support of the lathi procession a rally was held on the DU campus Saturday. Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) joint convener Fazlul Haq

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## Proceedings against 7 ex-ministers

Star Report

Government is drawing proceedings against seven ex-ministers for their failure to surrender within the stipulated time as it was announced earlier.

Government in an order asked 11 former ministers of the Ershad government to surrender by January 31, otherwise, the order mentioned "they shall be sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment or pay fine or both."

Only four ex-ministers surrendered within the deadline while seven other former ministers are still absconding.

The ex-ministers who were ordered to surrender include (former prime minister) Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anwar Hussain Manju, Nazim Rahman Manju, Anisul Islam Mahmid, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, Sardar Amjad Hussain, H.M.A. Gaffar, Zafar Imam, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Kazi Feroj Rashid and Ruhul Amin Hawlader.

Meanwhile, the government has attached the belongings and immovable property of Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Nazim Rahman Manju, Anwar Hussain Manju, Anisul Islam Mahmud.

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## Vote to ensure people's sovereignty: Hasina

BOGRA, Feb 9: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today promised her party would ensure people's sovereignty in the statecraft ending once for all recurrence of military rule in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing a mammoth rally at Altafunnesha School ground here this afternoon on the second day of her five-day election campaign in the northern region, Hasina accused Zia and Ershad regimes of introducing politics of coup, killing and conspiracy trampling people's will.

These regimes polluted politics by bribing, shattered economy through corruption and patronised terrorism, throwing the nation into ruins, Hasina told the meeting.

Recalling a well-quoted remark of Ziaur Rahman: 'I'll make politics difficult for the

politicians', Hasina said this conspiracy didn't succeed as recent democratic mass upsurge once again proved people are much stronger than bullet and conspiracy.

Hasina urged the people to take a correct decision in electing their true representatives in the February 27 election for transition to democratic dispensation.

If it wins, Awami League will guarantee people's basic needs and their economic freedom through establishment of parliamentary democracy against "the Zia-Ershad model of government".

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh had undertaken a massive uplift scheme for overall development of the northern region, but he was killed by the conspirators before implementation of these

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## Pak minister in city to discuss Gulf issue

Bangladesh and Pakistan will discuss the Gulf war and means of peace at a meeting in Dhaka, officials said.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Production Islam Nabl arrived here Saturday as a special envoy of his country to exchange views with Bangladesh officials on the critical Gulf situation and other matters of bilateral interest.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed received him at the airport.

Nabl is accompanied by his wife Nilfar Nabl, Member of the National Assembly Malek

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## ADB offers \$55m emergency aid

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Saturday offered 55 million US Dollars in emergency assistance to Bangladesh in view of a severe repercussions of the Gulf war on the country, reports UNB.

The money was pledged by a visiting delegation of the Manila-based multilateral bank at a meeting in Dhaka with the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury.

Meeting sources said the ERD side, however, termed the offer

"extremely inadequate" compared to the extent of damage caused to the Bangladesh economy by the Middle East crisis and requested for larger compensatory assistance.

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## Newspaper Employees Act amended

The Acting President Friday promulgated an ordinance entitled 'The Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) (Amendment), 1991', by amending the Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act 1974, an official handout said Saturday, reports BSS.

Under the ordinance, the words "three months" would replace the words "one month" in sub-section (1) of section 11 of the 1974 Act, the handout added.

The Newspaper Services Condition Act, 1974 under Section-11 had clear provision that the Government is bound to announce the award within 30 days from the date of submission of Wage Board decision.

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