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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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Inside today

Article

Gulf war: Imperialism by another name



Noam Chomsky, internationally renowned academic and veteran of the anti-Vietnam war protests, writes on the Gulf war. Page 2

International

59,000 Allied sorties so far



A Turkish belly dancer performs at a hotel which hosts many foreign journalists covering the Gulf war. Page 2

Chinese mission for Gulf peace Page 2

Kuwaitis face food shortage Page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Aquino testifies in court

MANILA, Feb 11: President Corason Aquino, the first Philippine head of state to testify in court, denied today she hid under her bed during a coup attempt in August 1987, reports Reuters.

Iraq to boycott Haj

BAGHDAD, Feb 11: Iraq has decided to boycott Haj in Makkah, in protest at the presence of US and European forces on "the sacred soil of Saudi Arabia," the Iraqi Minister of Religious Property and Affairs said, reports AFP.

French Minister due in Moscow

MOSCOW, Feb 11: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will arrive in Moscow on Tuesday on a working visit, the Soviet TASS news agency reported today, quoting a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, reports AFP.

Turkish minister leaves for Syria

ANKARA, Feb 11: Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kucuktepe Alptemecin left today for Damascus on the first step of a three country tour for talks on the Gulf conflict. Mr. Alptemecin will stay in the Syrian capital for two days, then head on to Cairo and Riyadh, officials said. All three capitals, like Ankara, are part of the Anti-Iraq coalition, reports AFP.

Iraq fires 1 more Scud into Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb 11: Israel fired one Scud missile at Iraq today during the evening rush hour, the army said. There was no immediate information on any damage or casualties, according to a late night Reuters report.

Iraq to conscript 17-year-olds

CAIRO, Feb 11: Iraq will conscript all 17-year-olds into the army, the government announced over Baghdad Radio, reports Xinhua.

Gulf war victory is already won, Saddam tells Iraqis

Allies concentrate on Guard positions

UNDATED, Feb 11: American warplanes, taking advantage of improving weather, flew 2800 missions on Sunday concentrating on Republican Guard troops on the Iraq-Kuwait border and the bridges, highways and railways used to supply them, according to agencies.

Allied pilots reported destroying four mobile missile launchers in Iraq during the

past 24 hours, US military sources said today.

They said two F-15 planes knocked out three Scud

launchers in western Iraq during a daylight raid on Sunday morning.

Preliminary reports from

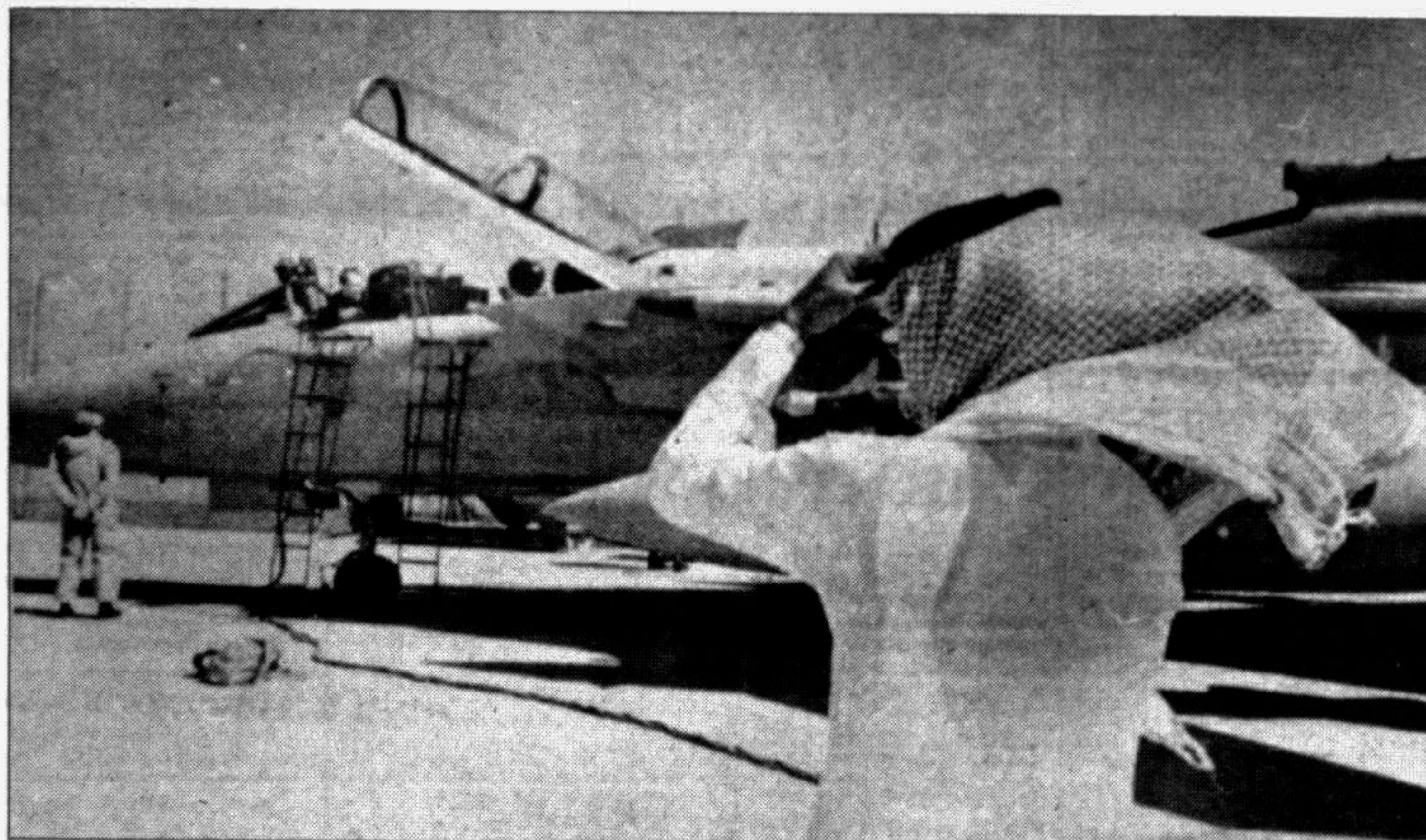
- ★ Fierce aerial action
- ★ Artillery exchanges
- ★ Ground war when time is right
- ★ Scud launchers destroyed
- ★ World wants to hear about pullout: Bush
- ★ Iraq's fighting power reduced: Cheney

pilots said a fourth was destroyed and a fifth possibly damaged in eastern Iraq before dawn today, the sources said.

The first three launchers were apparently aimed at Israel and the other two at Saudi Arabia.

The fierce action in the air, and sporadic exchanges of artillery along the Saudi border, came as Cheney headed back

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A Saudi Arabian watching a British ground crew preparing a Tornado F-3 fighter-bomber for a mission over Kuwait on February 10. — AFP photo

Perez slates US for milk blockade of Iraq



Nellie Jesmine won the women's shot put gold medal on the inaugural day of the 19th national athletics meet at the Army Stadium yesterday. Story on Page 3. — Star photo.

LONDON, Feb 11: UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in an interview published here today, deplored the loss of life among civilians, particularly children, in the Gulf conflict and implicitly criticised a refusal by Washington to allow supplies of milk to Iraq, reports AFP.

"It is important to preserve the lives of children... the grownups can have political ideas but the children have none, we should not expose them to starvation", Mr. Perez de Cuellar told The Independent newspaper.

A delegation from the World

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Zaker Party for Islamic rule

By Staff Correspondent

Zaker Party (ZP) will work for the establishment of parliamentary democracy based on Islamic values, Pirzada Amir Mohammad Faisal said on Monday while announcing the ZP election manifesto.

Replying to a question at a press conference in Dhaka he said that Zaker Party stood for immediate repeal of the Special Powers Act which, he said, was contrary to the fundamental rights of the people.

Zaker Party also wanted trial of Ershad in accordance with the law of the land. None is above the law and the law should take its own course, he told a questioner.

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AL will halt politics of killing: Hasina

DINAJPUR, Feb 11: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Monday said her party would halt politics of killing and conspiracy by consolidating democracy if people gave their verdict in its favour in the election, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to carry forward the banner of democracy and freedom as autocracy had met its logical conclusion.

She said the people had fought autocracy for the last 15 years to restore their democratic rights which was snatched away by the generals at gun point.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing eight massive public meetings and dozens of way-

side gatherings at different places in greater Dinajpur district on the 4th day of her five-day electioneering in the northern districts. She addressed public meetings at Fulbaria, Birganj, Pakerhat, Nilphamari, Domar, Dimla, Jaldanga and Kishoreganj.

Sheikh Hasina also addressed a gathering of cross section of people at Shaheed Smriti Memorial at Kaliganj where the Pakistani occupation forces had committed mass killings during liberation.

At Dinajpur, Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of Phulbaria thana Awami League General Secretary Shahjahan Akbar who was killed in a

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64 election tribunals to be set up

By Moinuddin Naser

The Election Commission is likely to appoint 64 tribunals, one each in 64 districts, before parliamentary polls for adjudication of election disputes.

According to Election Commission sources, any aggrieved candidate can submit a petition to the Election Commission within one month of the official announcement of results for redress. The Commission will send the petitions to the respective tribunals.

As per Representation of the People Order the tribunals will be headed either by the district and session judge or by the additional district and session judge.

The source said no person other than a candidate could bring any complaint before the commission as per existing laws.

During submission of complaints the petitioner shall have to deposit a sum of Taka 1000 with a bank or government treasury in favour of the commission as cost of the petition. Again the tribunal may ask the petitioner to deposit additional amount of money by way of security.

As per law a person found guilty of corrupt practices, liable to be punished with rigorous imprisonment which may extend up to seven years and shall not be less than two years.

The tribunal after hearing of the petition may issue an order rejecting the petition, declaring the election of the candidate void, or declaring the petitioner or any other candidate duly elected or the election as a whole void.

The Clause 63 (1) of the representation of the People Order makes it clear that the tribunal shall declare the election of the candidate void if it is satisfied that

a) The nomination of the candidate was invalid, or

b) The candidate was not, on the nomination day, qualified for or was disqualified from being elected as a member, or c) The election of the candidate has been induced by any corrupt or illegal practice or d) A corrupt or illegal practice has been resorted to by the candidate or his election agent or by any other person in connivance with the candidate or his election agent.

Election Commission sources said, under this clause irregularly submitted nomination papers should also be brought before the election tribunals for trial.

Again, any person aggrieved by a decision of the tribunal may appeal within 30 days of the announcement of the decision to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

The Election Commission sources said, in these tribunals the aggrieved candidates could also submit their complaints against excess spendings by the rival candidates or by the candidate declared elected during the polls campaigns. The government has by now limited the maximum election expenditure upto Taka three lakh.

There is no provision in the People Order for drawing proceedings suo motto by the Election Commission for breaking any rule unless the violation is challenged by any candidate.

Hearing in arms case against Ershad stayed

Supreme Court Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court on Monday stayed further proceedings of the arms case against former President Ershad for one month.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Abdul Bari Sarker and Justice Habibur Rahman Khan issued Rule Nisi upon the Deputy Commissioner Dhaka to show cause why the arms case pending against Ershad before the Special Tribunal No. 1 in Dhaka should not be quashed.

Former President Ershad filed a Criminal Revision for quashing the proceedings in Special Tribunal Case No. 60 of 1991 pending against him in Senior Special Tribunal No. 1.

Dhaka.

The petitioner took the defence that under Rule 3 of the Arms Rules 1924 read with schedule 1 provision 1 (a) the petitioner as President of Bangladesh was totally exempted from the provision of Sections 13 to 15 of the Arms Act, 1878, under which he has been charge-sheeted.

The petitioner took further grounds that the arms were not personally his but were received from different Heads of states as gifts from time to time in his official capacity and that the arms were not recovered from his possession or his custody.

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Ershad must know what jail is: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia Monday demanded Ershad be shifted to jail and put on the dock immediately.

Khaleda Zia, who was addressing a big campaign rally at Maghbazar in the capital in the evening, also called for immediate arrest of absconding former ministers and armed miscreants to ensure peaceful polls on February 27.

The BNP Chief criticised the authorities for delay in shifting Ershad to jail and said he should be sent somewhere worse than the jail. "Ershad should know what the jail is", she commented.

Khaleda Zia also criticised the authorities for dilly dallying in finding specific charges of corruption against the deposed president although there were various agencies to do the same. "Ershad must be tried for his corruption and crimes wherever he stays", she said and added that the associates of Ershad were again out to foil transition to democracy. They were now attacking the nationalist forces including the BNP, she added.

Begum Zia cautioned those attacking the nationalist forces including the BNP workers in different parts of the country

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to partial strike by journalists, press workers and employees today's issue of the Daily Star consists of only four pages. Our regular pages have been changed to accommodate national and international news. We apologize to our readers for not being able to give them the full paper.

Judges split over Moudud's detention

Two Judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court were yesterday divided in their opinion whether or not the detention of Moudud Ahmed, a former Vice-President was legal. Moudud was arrested on December 20 and detained, since then, under the Special Powers Act of 1974, reports BSS.

Justice Mohammad Ismail Uddin Sarkar in his judgement held that the detention of Moudud was valid according to law.

Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman would not subscribe to this view. In a separate judgement, he held that the detention of Moudud Ahmed was illegal.

As a result, the case goes to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who, in turn, will constitute a one-Judge-Bench to hear the case.

Corruption case against Sheikh Shahid

A corruption case has been filed Monday, against former Works Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, for alleged financial gain through deception and causing financial loss to the Government of Taka 45 lakh, an official handout said tonight, reports BSS.

The case has been filed with Ramna Thana under Bangladesh Penal Code 406/420 along with Clause 5(2) Corruption Resistance Law No 2, 1947.

The handout said, according to the statement of the case, House No 144 at Shantnagar measuring three bighas 16 kathas was declared an abandoned property by the Government after independence.

The Government rented a part of the house to Ramna Dry Cleaners and some other shops

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24-hour strike in newspapers, news agencies on Feb 17

By Staff Correspondent

Newsmen, press workers and employees of country's newspapers and news agencies observed a seven-hour token strike Monday in protest against an amendment to the Newspapers Employees (Condition of Services) Act 1974 and plan a 24-hour token strike on February 17.

Demanding repeal of the ordinance, the leaders of the press urged the Acting President to announce the final Wage Board Award immediately. They also announced new programmes at a rally in National Press Club premises.

The programmes are: four page issue of all newspapers today (Tuesday), 8 inch blank space on the 8th column of the first page to be enforced from today, a token strike on February 17 if government fails to take step according to their demands.

Bangladesh Federal Union

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Body formed to examine Wage Board report

The Council of Advisers in a meeting held on Monday at Bangabhaban with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair has decided to form a committee consisting of three Advisers to examine the Journalist Wage Board report in consultation with the parties concerned, reports BSS.

The committee is to make recommendations for consideration of the Council of Advisers, according to an official handout.

The meeting also took the decision for disposal of forfeited fixed engine or any other contrivance or forfeited fishes.

Row over royals' role

LONDON, Feb 11: Britain's tabloid newspapers today stocked a controversy over the royal family's role in the Gulf war, with one declaring that the monarchy was facing its biggest crisis in 50 years, reports Reuters.

"Queen in crisis," blared a banner headline in Today newspaper.

"Queen fires a patriot-she defends royals after Gulf war slur," screamed The Sun.

The furor erupted after the Sunday Times, one of Britain's most respected newspapers, launched a blistering attack on the royal family's behaviour since Iraq occupied Kuwait last August, accusing some members of "upper-class decadence and insensitivity."

Today, in its front-page story, said Queen Elizabeth "is today facing the biggest royal crisis since the abdication more than 50 years ago." King Edward VIII was forced to give up the throne in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

The Sun quoted the queen as saying: "All members of the royal family are behind British forces every inch of the way."

It did not say when or where she made the remark and Buckingham Palace was not immediately available to comment.

The Sunday Times editorial, in a scathing reference to the queen's heir, Prince Charles, and here husband, Prince Philip, said they had taken up arms "but only to go hunting Birds."

It lambasted Prince Andrew for taking time off from his royal navy duties to play golf in Spain and criticised his wife, the Duchess of York, for going

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Khmer Rouge rocket attack on Battambang

BANGKOK, Feb 11: Khmer Rouge guerrillas have launched a heavy rocket and artillery barrage on Cambodia's western provincial capital of Battambang, setting parts of the town on fire, the group's clandestine radio monitored here said today, reports AFP.

The Khmer Rouge said they fired more than 90 rockets on the town on Friday and Saturday night, hitting the military headquarters of the 5th region

and several administrative buildings.

On Saturday the Khmer Rouge reported destroying eight government tanks in heavy fighting which began on February 2 on Route 10, a key road linking Battambang with the Khmer Rouge-controlled gem-rich border district of Pailin.

AP add from Ptehuok: Non-communist guerrillas have begun a major U.S. financed de-

velopment programme in war ravaged countryside long neglected by Cambodian governments.

Anticipating a peace settlement, the guerrillas are switching their emphasis from fighting to building a political base for elections.

Guerrilla officials say dozens of village schools are being built, a 100,000-dollar jungle hospital will be the most modern.

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