

If you miss your copy of the Daily Star today, please don't hesitate to call the Circulation Manager immediately on Tel: 246023-4 (PABX), 863035, 863036. The Daily Star is at your service day in and day out.

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.

VOL 1 NO. 35 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 4, 1397 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 1991

SHABAN 1, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside today

International



A member of the exiled Kuwaiti government beams a smile as thousands of Allied troops move closer to front. **Page 5**

Article

Future directions of development

Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad discusses the need for simultaneous approach to democratic order and economic emancipation. **Page 4**

Metropolitan



Of sticks, twigs and leaves

Tale of a destitute woman who earns her bread by collecting wastes, twigs and leaves. **Page 3**

Feature

Travel & Leisure

An exclusively male collectors' market for the playthings of the past has emerged in the West. **Page 6**

NEWS BRIEFS

Palestinians' food blocked

AMARI CAMP, Feb 16: A convoy of Israelis on Friday brought sacks of food to Palestinians suffering from a month-long curfew, but soldiers banned them from distributing it.

Institutions closed from February 25

All educational institutions in the country barring the universities and the medical colleges will remain closed from February 25 to 28 because of the elections, a Government handout said Saturday night, reports BSS.

Medical aid to Iraq

TEHRAN, Feb 16: A 50-tonne load of medical aid donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was dispatched to Iraq today via the Iranian border post of Khosravi, the Iranian news agency IRNA said, reports AFP.

Ground war 'inevitable'

AMMAN, Feb 16: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, just back from Baghdad talks with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, said today a ground war was inevitable in the Gulf. He urged U.S. President George Bush to avert a catastrophe, reports Reuters.

Scuds fired at Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb 16: Iraq fired two missiles at Israel today, chief army spokesman Nachman Shah said. Air raid sirens warning of the attack sounded and the army told all Israelis to don gas masks and shelter in sealed rooms against a possible poison gas attack, reports Reuters.

World leaders split over Iraqi offer to quit Kuwait

No ground war till Kremlin talks

Highlights

- ★ Gorbachev gets US understanding not to launch ground offensive until Kremlin's talks with Tareq Aziz on Sunday.
- ★ Washington sees chance of uprising against Saddam.
- ★ Iraqi offer is an important beginning: Moscow.
- ★ World must not reject Iraqi offer outright: Primakov.
- ★ Rafsanjani is sending high-level team to Baghdad.
- ★ Allied soldiers are frustrated by US reaction.
- ★ Iraq is ready to fight on if US spurns its willingness.
- ★ Security Council debates Iraqi proposal.

NEW YORK, Feb 16: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has obtained a US undertaking that the Allies will not launch their ground offensive against Iraq until after Kremlin talks next week with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, the New York Times reported today, according to AFP.

The paper said Mr Gorbachev had made the request for a delay to the United States, Britain and France before the surprise announcement Friday by Iraq that it was prepared to withdraw from Kuwait under certain conditions.

The paper, quoting US government officials, said Washington had agreed to the request.

Mr Aziz is due to arrive in

Moscow Sunday.

The Washington Post meanwhile said President George Bush's call on Friday for the Iraqi people to overthrow President Saddam Hussein was inspired by information obtained by US intelligence services.

A senior US official quoted by the Post said the US government had information indicating that there was a strong desire within parts of the Iraqi military hierarchy, political leadership and civilian population to stop the war.

The Washington Post said there was no indication that Saddam Hussein was more vulnerable to a coup today than he was before, but it said that 'there is at least a little bit of a better chance today than there

was two weeks ago' of seeing an uprising against the Iraqi leader.

World divided

Meanwhile, Reuter reports, world leaders are divided over whether Iraq's conditional offer to quit Kuwait is a peace overture or a ploy to delay a ground attack by the Gulf Allies.

The New York Times, quoting administration officials said Bush had agreed to a Soviet request to delay a ground attack until after Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz held talks in Moscow on Monday.

Reuter Correspondent Maamoun Youssef reported disappointment among residents of Baghdad that the proposal from the ruling Revolu-

tion Command Council (RCC) had been rejected.

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Beasmeritnykh welcomed the statement as 'an important beginning'. The proposals also won the support of Iran and Yemen, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Foreign Ministers of eight Arab states aligned against Baghdad, meeting in Cairo on Saturday, reaffirmed demands for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and called for new security and economic cooperation arrangements after the war.

Iran-Soviet move

The focus of last-minute diplomatic moves to avert a See Page 10 Col 3

Ershad suffers nervous breakdown

Court adjourns without hearing in arms case

By Staff Correspondent

The trial of ousted President H. M. Ershad charged with the illegal possession of arms did not begin on Saturday as the former President could not be produced before the

Special Tribunal set up to hear the case.

Just after the sitting of the Tribunal at a house in Gulshan at 10:30 a.m. Defence Counsel Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hos-

sain submitted that his client (Ershad) was in the state of a complete nervous breakdown accompanied by high blood pressure, asthma and stomach sickness.

He pleaded that the trial be put back for seven days as his client being an old man needed time to recover.

Attorney General Aminul See Page 10 Col 7



A lawyer, defending former President Ershad in the arms case against him, leaves the building at Gulshan which houses the Special Tribunal set up to hear the case. —Star photo

130 more killed in Allied air raid

FALLUJAH (Iraq), Feb 16: One hundred and thirty people were killed in this western Iraqi town when Allied aircraft attacked a bridge across the Euphrates river, witnesses said today, reports AFP.

They told foreign journalists, escorted by an Iraqi Information Ministry official, that two of the Allied bombs fell on the outskirts of the market, killing 130 and injuring 87.

During the attack Thursday which cut the bridge, one of four British Royal Air Force Tornado fighter-bombers was shot down by Iraqi anti-air Defence units, according to witnesses.

The raid on Fallujah, an agricultural town 60 kilometres (40 miles) west of Baghdad, occurred at 4:20 pm (1320 GMT), they said. One of two bridges spanning the Euphrates in Fallujah was attacked, with part of its superstructure falling into the water. But bombs also fell just outside a nearby market crowded and with shoppers.

Today, residents still picked their way through the debris, trying to salvage their possessions. 'Look what Bush did' shouted one of the victims. 'For him Kuwait starts here.'

Iraqi positions abandoned

Meanwhile, Reuter reports from Northern Saudi border: Iraqi forces appear to have abandoned a number of forward positions after heavy Allied air raids in the past 10 days, military officers said today.

'The bombing was so heavy that we think they left,' said one officer at a Sandbagged emplacement a stone's throw from occupied Kuwaiti territory, soldiers at the camp

scanned the empty desert through binoculars.

One officer said it was unlikely the Iraqis had dug in to shelter from air raids but others said some of them might still be in place.

21 more bodies

On the other hand, relief teams have recovered all the bodies from the Amriya bomb shelter in Baghdad that was destroyed in an Allied air raid Wednesday, official Iraqi radio reported Saturday.

The radio, quoting a military communiqué monitored by the BCC, said another 21 bodies had been found.

Air raids on

In the meantime with preparations for a possible land offensive moving into high gear, Allied forces backed by helicopters attacked Iraqi border positions late Friday, hitting vehicles, radar vans and some outposts, US military officials said.

But Allied strategists were not abandoning the air campaign, as French Jaguar fighter-bombers mounted raids on infantry positions in Iraq and artillery units in Kuwait, according to a French military spokesman in Riyadh.

In southeastern Iraq, Allied air forces pounded four cities overnight in a series of strikes that continued until 0300 GMT Saturday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

US officials said warplanes on 'Scud-busting' missions late Friday knocked out one fixed missile site and four possible launchers in western Iraq.

But they also reported that a US Air Force F-16C fighting Falcon crashed somewhere on the Arabian peninsula in what was described as a non-combat loss.

The Ordinance amending the Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act '74 must be withdrawn immediately.

And the final Wage Board award must be announced without further delay.

Repeal all black laws including Special Powers Act '74.

Twentyfour-hour token strike will be observed in all newspapers and news agencies of the country on February 17. No newspapers will come out the next day.

Newspaper strike today

The newspaper employees will observe a 24-hour long token strike Sunday to protest against the 'rigid' attitude of the Government regarding immediate announcement of the newspaper Wage Board award, reports BSS.

The strike call was given by the central leaders of journalists, workers and employees federation connected with the newspaper industry after a meeting held in Dhaka Saturday with BFUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed in the chair, according to a press release.

The meeting watched with regret the serious situation arising out of the Amendment Ordinance to the newspaper employees (services condition) Act, 1974. As a result uncertainty has been created about the announcement of the final award of the Wage Board. See Page 10 Col 6

Prisoners still in control

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Central Jail was under control of the revolting prisoners for the second day on Saturday, Jail sources said.

The agitating prisoners were pressing for bringing back one of their leaders, who pioneered the previous revolt, from Myemensingh Jail and their release within 10 days, the See Page 10 Col 1

Nation will reject betrayers: Khaleda

RANGPUR, Feb 16: Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, today expressed the hope that the nation would reject the national betrayers and the corrupt elements through voting the nationalist force to power in the coming polls, reports BSS.

Addressing a big election rally at the Town Hall premises here, Begum Zia said her party was the only nation-

alist force which could set the nation in the right direction toward development by implementing the unfinished task of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The BNP chief also addressed a series of public meetings at Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts on the third day of her electioneering tour of the north-western region of the country. See Page 10 Col 2

No election if Ershad not freed: JP

Jattiya Party processionists held a meeting blocking the busy Myemensingh Road near Titas Gas head office at Kawran Bazar on Saturday where they warned that election would be foiled if Ershad was not released shortly. 'There will be no election keeping Ershad in detention,' the speakers emphasised, reports UNB.

The processionists damaged two motorbikes and an autorickshaw in the city. See Page 10 Col 1

BNP betrayed accord: Hasina

MADARIPUR, Feb 16: Sheikh Hasina, chief of Awami League and leader of the Eight-party Alliance, today said the surge of popularity in favour of 'boat' indicated that Awami League would form the next government to consolidate democracy in its true perspective, reports BSS.

'If voted to power, my government will consolidate democracy for transfer of

power through constitutional means,' she said, adding that parliamentary system of government would have to be installed to ensure constitutional changes in the Zia-Ershad style of government. The Awami League chief said parliament needed two-thirds majority for such a change and called upon the people to give their mandate in favour of See Page 10 Col 5

3 student leaders killed

Star Report

Two prominent student leaders of Gournadi Upazila in Barisal and another student leader in Chittagong were killed on Saturday. Another Awami League leader was also wounded in bomb explosions in Barisal.

Khurul Hasan Tipu, President of Gournadi Upazila Chhatra League, and H.M. Kamal, President of Gournadi College Unit Chhatra League, succumbed to splinter wounds at Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Local Awami League leaders blamed BNP's student wing Chhatra Dal for the killing. They said BNP activists hurled bombs at the victims at Ghugrail village in Chandshi

union of the upazila while they were having tea at a tea stall. In another incident, Kalladaman Guha, President of Gournadi Thana Awami League, was injured in a bomb explosion near Gournadi bus stand on Thursday. He was admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

A tense situation was prevailing in the Upazila.

Chittagong

A Chhatra League leader was killed by miscreants in broad daylight on Chatterwari Road near Chittagong Medical College Hostel on Saturday morning. Mohammad Helaluddin (26), President of Fatikchhari

Union of Bangladesh Chhatra League (H-A) was attacked when he was going towards Kazi Dewri in a rickshaw. The assailants blocked his rickshaw and hit him on the head with Chinese axes and other lethal weapons.

Helal died on the spot and the assailants fled in a microbus, police said. Panchalaish police recovered the body half an hour after the incident sent it for post-mortem.

Chhatra League blamed Islamic Chhatra Shibir for the killing. Helaluddin's body was taken to his village home in Fatikchhari in the evening. A See Page 10 Col 1

Increased debt servicing burden will affect aid flow

By Moazzem Hossain

services produced in the economy.

The increased debt servicing burden will reduce the availability of foreign assistance in net terms in current fiscal year. The net disbursement figure represents foreign aid availability in gross terms minus debt servicing payments.

According to official sources, the gross disbursements in 1990-91 are projected at 1730 million Dollars including 260 million Dollars in food aid, 460 million Dollars in commodity aid and 1010 million Dollars in project aid.

This amount is 80 million Dollars lower than last year's gross aid disbursements of 1810 million Dollars.

In first five months up to November in the current fiscal year, 720 million Dollars of foreign aid were disbursed, representing about 41 per cent of the projected amount for the year.

The disbursed amount was 98 million Dollars for food, 524 million Dollars for project and 97 million Dollars for commodity aid. Disbursements slowed See Page 10 Col 7

AL introduced presidential form of govt: Menon

Five-Party leader and Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon on Saturday said the demands for parliamentary form of government and an answerable parliament were not the demands of any single political party but of the entire people of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing an election rally for Five-Party Alliance nominee Paresch Chandra Saha in Muktagacha, he said the presi-

AL violating code of conduct: Nirmal Sen

By Staff Correspondent

Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal has lashed out at Awami League for violating the code of conduct in the election campaign.

Announcing the 21-point programme of the party on Saturday at a press conference, acting first secretary of the party Nirmal Sen alleged that leaders and workers of Awami League were not following any role in different constituencies.

Citing examples of the irritating activities of Awami League workers Nirmal Sen said, on February 10 Awami League workers attacked a procession of the Five Party See Page 10 Col 6