Focus on election- '91

Union Parishad and Pourashava Ordinance '91 promulgated

The government Saturday promulgated the 'Union Parishad and Pourashava (Special Responsibility) Ordinance 199-I' to ensure peaceful and neutral parliamentary election, reports UNB.

According to the ordinance, all union parishads and pourashavas will be responsible to maintain law and order in

their respective areas. Government may cancel the union parishad and pourashave if found failing in their responsibility, said a PID

From Page 1 Col 5 workers led by Shamsuzzaman Minto and Jahangir Mohammed Adel brought out the procession from Kakrail, paraded different thorough fares of the metropolis and dispersed at Panthapath near Hotel Sonargaon.

Prisoners

From Page 1 Col 2

sources said. We did not enter the jail today fearing fresh attack by the prisoners," a jail warden told The Daily Star.

He said some 100 prisoners, mostly undertrial prisoners, who took the jailor and some wardens hostage on Friday night, were playing the leading role. There are 3.890 prisoners in the jail.

The female prisoners did not take part in the revolt till Saturday, he added.

However, the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka said normalcy was prevailing in the jail after a meeting with the leaders of the prisoners in the evening. They have returned to their lock-ups and the situation is peaceful," he said.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka, IG (Prison) were present at the meeting.

Another source said about 300 jail guards gheraoed the officials after the meeting with the leaders of prisoners. They demanded punishment of those prisoners who attacked and injured many of their colleagues during the previous revolt and that on Friday night. They also alleged that the prisoners snatched their watches and clothes.

This was the second revolt in Dhaka Central Jail in last two months. The first revolt occurred on December 29 last year in which three prisoners were killed and at least 50 injured in police firing.

The government them granted special remission and general amnesty to the prisoners in order to settle the jail unrest. Around 1,000 prisoners have been released so far the special arrangements, a source said.

German Jazz concert

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in cooperation with the German. Cultural Centre will hold an evening of Gypsy Jazz music on Monday at its Grand Ball Room.

This will be the first ever such concert by the best known Jazz trio "Hans'che Wetss Ensemble" to be held in Dhaka, says a press release.

Varsity teachers' opinions on free polls

No party can win absolute majority

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Fifty-four per cent of university teachers believe that if a free and fair election is held no single party will be able to form a government by commanding an overall majority.

More than five out of every ten University teachers believe that the February 27 elections will be free and fair while slightly more than three of them doubt it will be so.

These are among the findings of an opinion poll conducted by the Coordinations Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) between February 6 and 11.

Under the poll 122 teachers of the universities of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Chittagong, and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were

Betrayers

From Page 1 Col 4

men were now distributing il-

legally-earned money like

anything and resorting to vio-

lence in their bid to grab

power again. But, she said,

their hope will end up like a

fly in the ointment because the

people have already given their

verdict against Jatiya Party by

toppling Ershad from power

through a mass uprising in

to protect its leader Ershad

from punishment as he had

oppressed the people and

snatched their democratic

right during his nine-year au-

tocratic rule, Begum Zia said

She called upon the members

of the law-enforcing agencies

to arrest the accomplices of

the autocratic regime to en-

She said thousands of cer-

Begum Zia said the

tificate cases were filed against

the farmers during the rule of

Carmicheal College would be

made a university college and

women would get priority in

getting jobs with hospitals if

BNP was voted to power in the

ing at Ulipur in Kurigram dis-

trict. Begum Zia said her gov-

crnment would establish a jute

mill there if her party was

against that party which ruled

the country from 1972-75 and

said if it went to power, the

country would again go back to

those dark days when thou-

sands of people died of hunger

and democracy was buried to

She warned the people

Addressing another meet-

sure free and fair elections.

This party will not be able

December last.

Ershad

coming polls.

voted to power.

Begum Zia said Ershad's

The poll shows about eight out of every ten university teachers say the present government is impartial while about two others question the

government's impartiality. A majority of the teachers (about five out of ten) say measures taken by the government to ensure free and fair elections are adequate while about four of them term the measures as inadequate.

The poll shows that this time there has been tremendous enthusiasm among teachers about the elections. More than eight out of every ten teachers say they will cast their votes. More than one teacher out of every ten have not yet decided whether they will cast their votes or not.

55 of the teachers said they did not cast votes in the parliamentary elections of 1973, 1979, 1986 and 1988.

The poll gives an interesting voting trend from 1973 onwards. In the 1973 elections only about two out of every ten teachers (22 out of 122) cast their votes and in 1979 a slightly higher number of the teachers (25) cast votes.

Only 14 of the teachers cast votes in 1986 and in 1988 only six of them exercised their right of franchise.

More than five out of ten teachers say the limit of election expenses Taka three lakh fixed by the government is reasonable while more than four of them term the limit as unreasonable.

Similarly an overwhelming

majority of the teachers believe that there are chances of electoral violence during the peak days of the campaigning.

A majority of the teachers feel that all political parties are not having access to the mass media to project their opinion. However, a sizeable number of them (four out of ten) say the parties having such access.

About seven teachers out of every ten term the importance given by television to big parties in respect of news coverage as unreasonable. More than two of them term this as reasonable.

More than five out of every ten teachers believe that the mass media is playing a helpful role in the elections.

Menon

From Page 1 Col 8 dential form of government through the Fourth the Amendment

Constitution and the Printing and Publication Acts were the contributions of the Awami League.

Nirmal Sen

From Page 1 Col 8 Alliance, while on February 12, they attacked a procession of BNP at his Kotalipara constituency

Nirmal Sen urged Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, who is also contesting from the same constituency. not to create any law and order situation so that election could be held peacefully.

Newspaper

From Page 1 Col 8

It said and noted that all the political parties had called upon the Government to resolve the crisis and to announce the award immediately.

The meeting pointed out that the interim Government was nominated by the political parties. But it was mysterious why the Government was not taking necessary steps to end the crisis when all the political parties expressed their opinion in favour of announcing the Wage Board award.

The meeting felt that certain quarters were active for continuation of the crisis in the newspaper industry to frustrate the process of democratic transition.

The meeting called upon all the Newspaper employees to observe the token strike for 24 hours today to press home their demand for immediate announcement of the award.

The leaders will meet again on February 18 to take next course of action.

The meeting was attended by BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President and General Secretary Zahirul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation Mosharraf Hossain and Bazlur Rahman.

Mizan's call to let Ershad live in peace

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Acting Secretary General A.B.M. Shahjahan in a statement on Saturday warned that none would be spared if something harmful happens to deposed President Ershad in prison. savs a Press release.

They said the government should be responsible for the mass agitation that would spread throughout country.

They urged the Government for proper treatment of Ershad and pleaded that he be left at peace till recovery, the release

Khaleda greets DUJ President, Gen-Secy

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Zahirul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi on their re-election as the President and General Secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Begum Zia in a statement has hoped that the newly elected DUJ office bearers will continue their pioneer role in the struggle for establishing democracy, rule of law and basic human rights in the coun-

Allied ground offensive bar Belayati on Belayati's resauce." But he also felt it could

- From Page 1 Col 6

area of Baghdad.

ground war shifted to Moscow A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said conditions at tached to Iraq's offer were likely to make it meaningless unless Aziz showed willingness to modify them. Soviet Union however, signalled Saturday it hoped Iraq would be ready to modify its terms for a with-

Underlining the pressures on Moscow's policy of broad support for Allied aims, Soviet government ministers joined scientists and Communist Party officials in condemning

the US bombing of Iraq. Foreign Ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands were due in Moscow later on Saturday to give their assessment of the Iraqi move.

Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov, who held talks with Saddam Hussein in Baghdad said the world must not reject

the offer outright. That view was echoed in Iran; where Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadt held talks with Iraturn from Moscow.

Iranian President Rafsanjani is due to send high-level delegation to Baghdad in the next few days with a detailed reply to the last message from Sad dam on Iranian peace propos

Soldiers satisfied

British air crew were on their way to bomb Iraq when they heard on radio of Irag's offer. They hoped in vain to be called back to base.

"Nothing would have pleased me more than to have called off and come home." said a British navigator Chris Coulis.

Elsewhere throughout the huge multinational force, soldiers, sailors and airmen greeted the announcement with relief - until they realised the war was far from

Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, joint commander of British forces in the Gulf. described Baghdad's offer as *the same old recipe dished in a slightly different

be the first move in a push to find a way out the war.

-AFP photo

UN Council

Iraq's proposal for a conditional withdrawal from Kuwait dominated discussions Friday as the UN Security Council met for a second day of closeddoor debate on the Gulf war.

Ambassador Ricardo Alar con of Cuba called on his colleagues in the 15-member Council to respond to Irag's overture, and he used the occasion to introduce three draft resolutions to end the war. diplomats present at the session said.

Iraq ready to fight

Away. Iraq's Ambassador to France said Friday, Iraq is ready to fight on if the US-led coalition spurns its stated willingness to negotiate a withdrawal from Kuwait.

Bush's mistake

In New Delhi, the Times of India said Saturday US Presi-

dent Bush made 'a horrible mistake by rejecting Iraq's conditional offer to withdraw from Kuwait.

The newspaper, which usually reflects the views of the establishment, accused Washington of seeking to establish its dominance in the Middle East.

"It would be a horrible mistake if the Iraqi offer is dismissed as a mere hoax," as Bush did, the newspaper said in a front page editorial.

China Xinhua reports : A Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed the hope Saturday that Iraq's indication of troop withdrawal from Kuwait 'will be accompanied by specific measures and translated into practice.

Gaddafi In Cairo, visiting Libyan

leader Muammar Gaddafi said Saturday that he was joyful at lrag's conditional offer to leave Kuwait and considered there was no longer any reason for continuing the Gulf war.

The Midnight File

44 parties to contest Nepal polls

KHATHMANDU, Feb 16: Forty-four parties have been registered for Nepal's first party-based elections for three decades, Election Commissioner Surya Prasad Shrestha said today. He said in an interview he had turned down three applications for the May 12 polls in which 10.7 million people will be eligible to vote, reports Reuter.

19 killed in Jammu avalanches

JAMMU, Feb 16: At least 19 people were killed and 17 injured after avalanches and hallstorms struck the northern most Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir in the last few days, an official spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Cargo ship sinks with 23 crew

TOKYO, Feb 16: An Indonesian Freighter with 23 Indonesian crew sank in a storm off Japan's Pacific coast today, a cost guard spokesman said. The spokesman said four crew members of the 4,756-tonne Indobaruna 2 were plucked from the sea but died later, reports Reuter.

Seven killed in Pak blast

QUETTA (Pakistan), Feb 16: At least seven people were killed and 12 injured when a bomb exploded near a petrol pump in Chaghi district in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, officials said today, reports AFP.

Soviet troops seek asylum

BERLIN, Feb 16: About 550 Soviet soldiers and their dependents stationed in former East Germany have requested political asylum in newly united Germany, a newspaper said Saturday, reports AP.

Philippine-US meet fails

MANILA, Feb 16: Philippine and US negotiators failed today to forge a draft agreement on US military bases because of a wide gap between their proposals for compensation. They set a further round of discussions in Washington before the end of February to address the money problem, reports AFP.

Court adjourns

the drawing room of former

leader of the opposition, had

in its dock an armed chair that

was to be used by the accused

some personalities from cul-

tural fronts were invited to at-

tend the court proceedings. A

large bevy of photographers,

waiting in front of the house to

snap the former President

were not allowed to enter the

haman Majumder and Rezaul

Karim were present at the co-

urt to assist the Defence Cou-

Hasan Artf and Amtrul Kabir

Chowdhury -- and assistant

Public Prosecutor Farid Ahmed

were present to assist the At-

torney General Aminul Haque.

hadat Hossain told The Daily

Star that he would file another

Writ Petition at Appellate Di-

vision of Supreme Court

against the verdict by the Di-

vision Bench vacating the rule

against government to start

the arms case at a Special Tri-

Metropolitan Police (DMP)

filed the case with cantonment

police or. January 5 accusing

Ershad of possessing eight

unauthorised guns and 174

The case was filed under

Sections 19-A and 19-F of the

Arms Act 1878. The recovered

arms included one nine bore

pistol with 100 bullets, two 7.6

bore pistol with 74 bullets,

four double barrel guns and a

According to the Arms Act

1974 the president can keep

only pistols which are not

powerful than the point 22 or

vides for imprisonment for life

as maximum punishment f.

have been filed against the de-

posed president. Ershad has

been under detention under

Special Powers Act since he

fell from power on Decem-

One Habibur Rahman

Bacchu also filed a case on

December 14 with the Ramna

police accusing Ershad for

killing his brother while

deputy director of the Bureau

of Anti-Corruption Salehuddin

Ahmed filed another case on

January 8 with the

Cantonment police accusing

him of abuse of power, accu-

med Hussain of Bureau of Anti-

Corruption filed yet another

case on January 26, against

Ershad, one former minister

and some officials for selling

F-27 planes in running

condition and for buying three

ATP planes by misusing The

state power and misappropri-

ating a huge amount of public

Deputy Director Moham-

mulation of illegal wealth.

The Arms Act 1878 pro-

So far at least four cases

point 22 pistol.

point 32 ones.

convicted.

Defense Counsel Kazi Sha-

nsel, Kazi Shahadat Hossain.

Advocates Mofizur Ra-

Deputy Attorney Generals --

A team of journalists and

during the trial.

Tribunal room.

From Page 1 Col 5 llaq appearing for the State submitted that he had been informed over telephone by the Home Secretary that the accused (Ershad) was suffering from hypertension, dysentery and asthma and that the attending physician had advised him rest for three days.

He also suggested the formation of a medical board.

At the brief 20-minute sitting, the Special Tribunal chaired by District and Sessions Judge Dhaka, Mohammad Habibullah ordered for the immediate constitution of a three-member Medical Board comprising specialists on Medicine, Cardiology and Chest Diseases to physically examine Ershad and submit its report to the Tribunal by February 18. He also fixed the next date for

hearing on February 20. At a stage during the sitting Ershad's lawyer Shahadat Hossain submitted that his client had a nervous breakdown after hearing the verdict of the High Court Division last Thursday discharging the stay order on trial by the Tribunal.

Assistant Commissioner. (Prosecution) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Stidha Barua who was to escort the former President to the Tribunal appeared before the Judge at one stage and informed him that the accused was very sick

and was unable to come. Security was stepped up and barbed-were fences erected around the house and at cross roads where the Tribunal was set up. Paramilitary forces guarded the house. Machinegun nests were set up on

adjacent buildings. The court room, set up in

Aid flow From Page 1 Col 7

down in last two months up to January, insiders in Economic Relations Division (ERD) said. Morcover, some on-going aid programmes in energy sector are facing problems with disbursements held up by world Bank. Slow implementation of development projects has also caused problems for project aid disbursements.

The available indications suggest lingering uncertainities about aid flows for the current fiscal year.

While disbursements are most likely to be short of the target, the 14 per cent rise in debt servicing payments will further reduce the availability of foreign aid in net terms.

The gradual decline in the share of grant to total foreign aid over the years has caused the debt servicing payments to rise. Besides the Medium and Long-Term (M<) debt, borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other short-term loans have also increased, requiring additional payments for meeting the obligations under the

same.

Out of 26.09 billion Dollars committed by the donors or development partners since independence until June 1990. Bangladesh received 20.73 billion Dollars. Disbursements represented 79.6 per cent of the total commitments. The central bank figures showed that 46.5 per cent of cummulative aid commitments since independence till June last were grants and the rest 53.5 per cent. loans. On the disbursement side, 51.3 per cent were M< loans and the remaining 48.7 per cent, grants.

(Details on Business Page).

Taka 12 crore is being prepared by Mr AU Ahmed on charges of occupation of two of

Earlier on December 13 JSD leader Hasanul Haque Inu also filed a G D with the Motifheel police accusing Ershad of seizing of power tilegally by ousting an elected government trampling the Constitution.

Another damage suit of his houses and harassment.

introduce one-party rule. Student leaders

From Page 1 Col 4 tense situation was created when the body arrived. At one stage. Chhatra League activists set ablaze a house belonging to

a Shibir activist. Later, police were deployed at the village to avert further violence. Police made no

Meanwhile, at least 60

persons were wounded in preelection violence in different parts of the country on Friday. Clashes took place at three places of Khulna and Netrakona districts among the

workers of Awami League, BNP and Jattya Party (JP). According to reports from our correspondents on Saturday night, 50 persons were injured in clashes between the workers of AL and

injured BNP workers were admitted to the Khulna 250bed Hospital while 18 others

were given first aid there. Police on Friday morning arrested three BNP workers in connection with the clashes. Witnesses said tension

started when two processions

of the AL and BNP coming

BNP at Daulatpur Upaztla of Khulna district Friday night. Fifteen of the seriously

from opposite directions Editor: S. M. Ali

C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Naznd Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toyubee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 246023-4(PABX), 863035, 863036. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifieel

crossed one another shouting provocative slogans through the Nuton Raster Mor at Kashipur on Friday night. The BNP processionists damaged nine election camps of AL on their way to Fulbart, where they attended an election meeting. Later, the AL workers attacked the BNP workers with lethal weapons while they were returning from Fulbart.

A BNP activists was seriously injured and an election camp of the party was damaged following a clash between the activists of BNP and JP on Friday night at

Tenga village of Netrokona. Identified as Giasuddin, the BNP activist was admitted to Netrokona Sadar Hospital Doctors there stated his condition as critical

an argument between activists of the two parties. Besides, workers of the AL and earlier formed Gonotantrik Oikya Jote (GOJ) consisting of the components

The clash ensued following

of the Eight-party and the Pive party alliances clashed near Senhati Star Jute Mills in Khulna on Friday. Four of the Al. workers and nine of the other party were injured.

nian Foreign Minister Ali Ak-

Several rounds of gunshots the scene fired about five were fired. The attackers are reportedly rounds of gunshots and asmembers of the same organization and the incident took place following a dispute over came out of his room. sharing of tolls, they allegedly collected from a contractor in-

Two JCD workers

stabbed at DU hall

By DU Correspondent

Two activists of Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD) were

stabbed by a group of young-

men at Mohsin Hall of Dhaka

University on Saturday at

about 7 a.m. They were taken

to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital where one of them

stalling telephone lines in the

dragged them out of the room.

was admitted.

Dhaka University campus. room of the general secretary of Mohsin Hall Students The injured persons, Shameem and Mirza Galibur Rahman, were sleeping at Room, No. 469 of Mohsin Hall. A group of about 15 persons

stabbed them and attempted to cut the veins of their hands and legs.

Injured JCD workers in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. -Star photo

Galib managed to escape and Shamim jumped from the third floor and fell down on the roof of the adjacent onestoried canteen. Shamim got his legs fractured. The attackers while leaving

saulted another member of JCD, Nure Alam, when he Shameem and Galib are not students of Dhaka University and they were sleeping in the

Provost of the hall informed Ramna police about the incident and police visited the spot

at about 10.30 a.m.

Hasina From Page 1 Col 7 boat in the coming polls.

Hasina, in the rally, introduced AL candidate from Madaripur-1 constituency Ilvas Ahmed Chowdhury Madaripur-2 Abdur Razzak, Madaripur-3 Syed Abul Hossain and Shariatpur-1 candidate Hemayetuddin Auranga.

Earlier, she addressed 12 wayside rallies at Duttapara, Pulia, Shalidia, Maligram Tekerhat and Mostafapur. She also addressed three public meetings, including one at Bhanga in Faridpur district

Message from Gaurnadi adds: Sheikh Hasina today accused BNP of unleashing terror at different places across the country to vitiate the atmosphere of peaceful election. She was addressing a rally at

Gaurnadi College Maidan. "The character of this political group," she said," is known to the people as its leader General Ziaur Rahman seized power by means of state terrorism."



Iraqi civil defence workers near houses destroyed in an Allied bombing raid on a residential