

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. 37 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 7, 1397 BS,

DHAKA WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1991

SHABAN 4, 1411 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA. 3.00

## Inside today

### International

Man behind Gorbachev plan



Primakov, a former journalist, knows Saddam for the last 25 years and has been instrumental in formulating Gorbachev peace plan. Page 5

### Article

Child survival and development goals for the 1990s. Page 4

### Feature

#### Development

Afforestation drive helped Gongxian and Golin come out of the clutches of poverty. Page 6

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Outgoing Japanese Ambassador was nostalgic while recounting his Oxford days. Page 3

59 Burmese convicts, freed from Chittagong jail, have been sent back home. Page 2

List of the remaining election candidates. Page 9, 10

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Five Indian ministers resign

NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Foreign Minister VC Shukla and four other government ministers resigned Tuesday. The five ministers submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, UNI said, quoting unnamed sources. The Prime Minister has decided to accept the resignations, it said, reports AP.

### Yeltsin calls for Gorbachev's exit

MOSCOW, Feb 19: Populist Boris Yeltsin, head of the powerful Russian Federation, today called for the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the transfer of power to the Federation Council, made up of the heads of the union republics, reports Reuters.

### Scud hits Israel

TEL AVIV, Feb 19: Israel said Iraq fired 36th Scud missile at it tonight. The attack was the 15th since the Gulf war erupted on January 17. Previous attacks killed four Israelis and wounded more than 300, reports Reuters.

### Kushtia-2 polls now on March 28

Election to the Jatiya Sangsad Constituency Kushtia-2 will now be held on March 28 according to a Gazette notification on Tuesday, reports BBS.

## Moscow expects Iraqi reply within two days: Tareq Aziz visits Tehran

# Bush rejects Soviet plan

65 civilian, 179 military targets bombed



Iraqis walk through rubble at the main market of Fallujah. According to Iraqi witnesses, two allied bombs fell on the outskirts of the market killing 130 during an attack on a bridge across the Euphrates river. —AFP photo

WASHINGTON, Feb 19: President George Bush today rejected a Soviet proposal for ending the Gulf war, saying it falls well short of what would be required, reports AFP.

Mr. Bush did not reveal details of the Soviet plan, which was carried from Moscow to Baghdad today by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. But he said he had seen the proposal and given his rejection to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"As far as I'm concerned, there are no negotiations, there will be no concessions," Mr. Bush said at the start of a meeting in the White House with Congressional leaders.

Of the Soviet proposal, he said: "Very candidly, and I've been frank with (Mr. Gorbachev) on this, while expressing appreciation for sending it to us, it falls well short of what would be required."

Moscow sent details of its peace proposal to Washington on Monday but requested that they be kept confidential pending a response from Baghdad.

Earlier today White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said discussions concerning the Soviet proposal were continuing among US officials "but there's nothing new at this point."

A Pentagon official said the war in the Gulf was proceeding on schedule "as though those talks were non-existent."

Reuter reports from Moscow: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to receive a reply from Iraq within the next two days to his plan for peace in the Gulf.

spokesman for the Kremlin chief said today.

But the spokesman, Karen Karagezyan said, no time limit had been set for Baghdad to react to the proposal, presented on Monday by Gorbachev to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

"There was no fixed time. But we expect a response in the coming days—in one day or two. That is logical, of course," said Karagezyan, a deputy to chief presidential

to the Iraqi capital, while diplomatic sources there said he was expected to head back to Moscow within hours.

### Baghdad serious

According to Tehran Radio report: Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said today that Iraq was serious in seeking negotiations on withdrawing its troops from Kuwait.

"The acceptance of UN Se-

### Highlights

- ★ Tareq Aziz back to Baghdad from Tehran.
- ★ Baghdad serious about withdrawal: Rafsanjani
- ★ Moscow urges Allies to hold off ground offensive.
- ★ Moscow demands end to Scud attack on Israel.
- ★ Velayati in Bonn seeking political solution.
- ★ UK holds talks with US, Germany and rejects Soviet proposal.
- ★ Kohl talks to Gorbachev
- ★ Kuwait takes hard-line
- ★ Jordan welcomes Gorbachev's proposal.

spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko.

Aziz flew to Tehran on his way back to Baghdad after his talks with Gorbachev. The Iraqi Foreign Minister left Tehran today for Baghdad after talks with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on the Soviet peace initiative, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Mr Aziz left at 3:00 pm local time (1130 GMT), the agency said, adding that he had spent 18 hours in Tehran on his return from a visit to Moscow.

An Iraqi official source in Baghdad had said earlier that Mr Aziz had already returned

security Council resolution 660 and starting negotiations on a withdrawal from Kuwait was a serious step on which we still insist," it quoted Aziz as saying.

Rafsanjani was quoted as saying Iran would continue its efforts for finding a solution to end "this destructive war."

### Primakov

In Moscow, Soviet Middle East envoy Yevgeny Primakov, who was present Monday when President Mikhail S Gorbachev offered the plan to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz. See Page 12 Col. 3

## Govt has variety of means to control press

# Human rights violated during Ershad's rule, says US

By Staff Correspondent

The US government detected several cases of human rights violation by ousted President Ershad and his regime. The report stated that until the fall of Ershad regime, the people of Bangladesh did not get the opportunity to change the government through democratic process.

The human rights report for the year 1990 released by the US government here on Tuesday stated that freedom of the press was muzzled by the past regime. The report men-

tioned that the government has a variety of means to control the press. These include formal and informal censorship, 'guidance' from the Press Information Department, temporary closure of newspapers, control of newsprint and arrest or intimidation of journalists. The Special Powers Act allows the government to ban domestic publications, to hold any newspaper employee responsible for the papers' content and comply journalists to reveal news sources.

During the state of emergency from November 27 to December 5, all publications were subjected to censorship. However, a strike of newspaper employees from the second day of the emergency made this a moot point as no newspapers were published until after the emergency was lifted. (The correct position is that the journalists stopped working from the very first day of the imposition of emergency.) See Page 12 Col. 2

## Smuggled textiles drive out local products from markets

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Widespread smuggling of fabrics and textiles poses threat to country's textile sector. The producers are facing acute marketing problem due to depressed demand for the local products.

The glut of foreign fabrics and yarns which sell at a lower price has driven out local products from the markets.

Textile circles say, about 80 per cent of the specialised textile mills and power looms have already been closed. The government has failed to support the local textile industries, the sources say.

Smuggled textiles, coming through bonded warehouse as

duty-free items for use in the garments industry, sell cheaper in the local markets compared to the locally produced ones. The local industries are burdened with high rates of customs and excise duty, energy cost and high interest on bank loans.

Local entrepreneurs say, 25 per cent of the total cost is earmarked for raw materials import, 40 per cent for meeting the interest of bank loans, 20 per cent for customs and excise duties, 10 per cent for energy consumption and five per cent for load-shedding.

The specialised textile sector got a tremendous boost

from 1982 to 1984. During the third Five-year Plan, 33,600 power looms were set up throughout the country against an expected growth of 25,000 looms. Investment in the sector is around Tk 550 crore to Tk 600 crore so far.

Textile circles say the country has the capacity of producing 300 crore metres of fabrics annually, while total demand in the country is 70 crore metres. If all the units function normally, it is possible to earn Tk 4,000 crore in foreign exchange a year.

Nearly 95 per cent of the specialised textile mills con-

## Ekushey tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The nation observes 'Ekushey' February tomorrow (Thursday) to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs of the Language Movement.

On this day in 1952 Salam, Rafique, Barkat, Jabbar were killed in police firing as they were leading a procession towards the then provincial assembly at the Jagannath Hall premises to press the demand for making Bangla a state language.

They had risen in protest against a conspiracy to impose Urdu as the state language. That was an attack not only on Bangla language and literature, but also a ploy to subjugate the Bengali speaking people.

See Page 12 Col. 8

## Vote to consolidate victory: Khaleda

By Staff correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on Tuesday called upon people to assemble under the banner of nationalist forces to protect country's sovereignty and consolidate the victory, achieved in the anti-autocracy mass upsurge.

The nationalist forces are pledge-bound to uphold country's independence and sovereignty as well as the Constitution, she told an election meeting at Jatrahari in the city on her way to Brahmanbaria.

She said the parliamentary polls would determine whether 'Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem' (In the name of Allah,

the Almighty and Merciful) would remain in our Constitution, or would be dropped.

If you vote for those who were responsible for the '72-'75 misrule, "Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem" would no longer be there in the Constitution, the BNP chief, whose husband late President Ziaur Rahman included it from the Holy Quran in the Constitution, cautioned people.

She briefly described nine years' autocratic rule by ousted President H. M. Ershad who, she said, pushed the nation on the brink of destruction and

See Page 12 Col. 1

## Ershad broke promise to support Saddam, says Atrashi Pir

By Staff Correspondent

The Pir Shaheb of Atrashi Hazrat Shah Suhi Hasmattullah Faridpuri has said during the last days of his rule former President Ershad did not follow his suggestions.

Talking to newsmen on the occasion of the annual Urs at the 'Biswa Zaker Manzil' at Atrashi (Faridpur) on Monday the Pir Shaheb said Ershad had promised to support Iraqi President Saddam Hussain, but later did the contrary.

The Pir Shaheb said he is hopeful about victory of nationalist forces in the February

See Page 12 Col. 1

## BNP, JP rule a black chapter: Hasina

KOTALIPARA (Gopalganj), Feb 19: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today said if voted to power, her party will prosecute deposed President Ershad on charges of corruption, possessing unauthorised arms and violating Constitution, reports UNB.

She also accused Zia's government of protecting the killers of her father by enacting laws.

The Awami League chief was addressing three big rallies at Mollar Hat, Bhangan Hat and Kotalipara on the 5th day of her six-day election tour to southern districts.

"Corrupt Ershad must be tried", Hasina said adding that those who captured power by

violating Constitution, resorted to massive corruption and illegally amassed huge wealth must be tried.

Describing the rule of BNP and Jatiya Party as a black chapter in the history, Hasina said if the parties with election symbols sheaf of paddy or plough are voted to power, the democratic rights achieved through ouster of the Ershad regime will be confined to barrack again.

Hasina asked the administration to remain neutral in the coming election so that people could freely exercise their franchise.

She called for electing her party candidates in at least

See Page 12 Col. 8

## Another big gold haul in 10 days

By Staff Correspondent

Airport security on Tuesday made another 860-tola gold haul, valued at Tk. 68 lakh 80 thousand at Zia International Airport.

Airport authorities said the gold bars were found hidden inside a commode in the transit lounge on the second floor of the airport building. No one was arrested.

The haul was made at 5:30 pm after airport security received secret information.

The authorities said that the gold may have been brought by some passengers of a Thai flight which arrived during the day and was kept in the toilet presumably to be picked up by someone.

## Condemned cell prisoners threaten hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

The prisoners of condemned cells of Dhaka Central Jail gave an ultimatum to the authorities to accept their demand of commuting death sentence.

A statement signed by five prisoners said that if their demand is not met by March 10, they will go for programmes like indefinite hunger strike and self-immolation from March 12.

The signatories to the statement are Abul Khair, Alex Peter (Sri Lanka), Shahjahan Mian, M. Abdullah (Pakistan) and Md. Aslam.

## Tk 12 cr damage suit against Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

A renowned businessman Mr A.U. Ahmed filed a damage suit of Taka 12 crore on Tuesday accusing former President Ershad, his wife Raushan Ershad, Rajuk Chairman Rahmatullah, former Home Secretary Mohammad Ali and former Works Secretary Ayubur Rahman for taking illegal possession of his two houses.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, A.K.M. Shafiqullah, Rathanuddin Chowdhury and Hasna Ahmed are conducting the case.

## NGOs face fund-raising problems to oversee polls

By Moinuddin Naser

A section of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) has taken up a Taka 60-lakh scheme to monitor the parliamentary election on February 27.

The organisations are now trying to obtain funds from various donor agencies to implement the scheme.

Many of them have already received funds from different donors while others are still continuing their efforts in this regard.

One of the main obstructions being faced by the NGOs in their fund-raising drive is that the donors want certificates from the Election Commission stating that the fund-seeking organisations are officially authorised to oversee the polls.

However, the Election Commission has so far turned down all applications by these NGOs on the plea that the Election Commission has nothing to do in matters related to

helping poll observers.

Meanwhile the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) has so far received Taka six lakh from the Ford Foundation.

The CCHRB has also organised a group of 2500 poll-watchers from 39 NGOs and has trained them.

The Human Rights Implementation Committee (HRIC) has also received Taka four lakh from the Asia Foundation. See Page 12 Col. 6