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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 International

### No surrender: Saddam



Saddam vows no surrender and says in an unyielding speech the Gulf war is heading for the mother of battles.

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### Margot Fonteyn dead



Dame Margot Fonteyn, the prima ballerina whose infectious smile and timeless grace thrilled dance lovers for 45 years, died of cancer Thursday.

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### Feature

#### Education

The Indian state of Kerala is heading towards achieving the target of full literacy by the end of 1991.

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### Article

#### New Idea in South Africa



"Majoritarian rule"—as Constitutional Minister Gerrit Viljoen has named it—is not the only route to a non-racial democracy.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Ozal sacks Defence Minister

ANKARA, Feb 22: Turkish President Turgut Ozal today sacked Defence Minister Husnu Dogan, the Anatolia news agency reported. The President had accused Dogan of treachery for publicly opposing the candidacy of his wife Semra Ozal as head of the ruling conservative Motherland Party in Istanbul last week, reports AFP.

### Five Tamil rebels shot dead

COLOMBO, Feb 22: At least five Tamil guerrillas were shot dead by security forces in Sri Lanka's embattled northeastern region as fighting continued, a military spokesman here said today, reports AFP.

### Population in China 1.143b

BEIJING, Feb 22: China, the world's most populous country, added 16.29 million people in 1990, bringing the population to 1.143 billion, the state statistical bureau said, reports Reuters.

### Cong (I) leader killed

NEW DELHI, Feb 22: Suspected separatist militants today killed a leader of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in the northeastern state of Assam, the United News of India (UNI) news agency reported, says Reuters.

# Soviet peace proposal termed conditional, rejected Bush's ultimatum to Saddam

## 8-point peace plan

WASHINGTON, Feb 22: President George Bush today gave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein until noon Saturday to begin a massive and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, reports AFP.

He also accused Iraq of carrying out a scorched earth policy in Kuwait, including trying to destroy that country's oil products capability, prior to a possible withdrawal.

After examining the Moscow statement Thursday on a Soviet-brokered 8-point peace proposal and extensive consultations with allies, he said, I had decided that the time has come to make public with specificity just exactly what is required of Iraq if a

ground war is to be avoided. The coalition will give Saddam Hussein until noon Saturday to do what he must do: begin his immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. We must hear publicly and authoritatively his acceptance of these terms, he said.

He did not say if he meant noon Washington time or noon Baghdad time.

Earlier, a US senior administration official said, the Soviet-Iraqi proposal to end the Gulf war calls for a conditional withdrawal from Kuwait, which is unacceptable to the United States.

The main conclusion is that the Soviet proposal represents a conditional withdrawal

which is clearly beyond the scope of the UN resolutions," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity following a meeting of President George Bush with his senior national security advisers.

"The Soviet call for lifting of economic sanctions and lifting the UN resolutions amounts to a conditional withdrawal that would be unacceptable to the United States," the official said.

The official did not indicate whether the plan could serve as the base for future negotiations.

Administration officials were communicating the results of the nearly two-hour meeting, which ended at

midnight, to coalition partners, the official said.

The Soviet Union says Iraq has responded positively to its peace plan, which includes an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but public reaction by the United States has been cool.

The White House said Bush had 'serious concerns' about Soviet's eight proposals Cable News Network (CNN) said the senior administration official had listed two of the unacceptable items as the demand for the lifting of economic sanctions and the dropping of most of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Tass reports from Moscow: Bush told Soviet President

Mikhail Gorbachev today he had doubts over Moscow's Gulf peace plan.

"The US President voiced doubts about the possibility of using the opportunity made available by the reply from Baghdad," Tass said.

Gorbachev telephoned Bush at 4.00 am Moscow time (10:00 GMT) after 2-1/2 hours of talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

In Moscow Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov said today that Moscow's plan to end the Gulf war was 'really taking shape' and US-led forces would bear responsibility if they dashed it by launching a ground war.

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## Allies have launched ground war: Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 22: An Iraqi military communique said today that Allied forces had launched "the ground battle" across the Saudi-Kuwait border at 9.15 am (0615 GMT), reports Reuters.

The Army's 58th communique of the Gulf war said, "yes, it has indeed begun."

Baghdad radio interrupted its programmes to read the communique.

The communique added: "We announce to the world...the American administration, its allies and agents are responsible for this grave development which will finish off the chances of peace which were welcomed by Iraq."

"Iraq from its side will continue...defending its land and sovereignty and will deal the

biggest blow", the communique said. The announcement came on the 37th day of the Gulf war amid reports from Moscow that Iraq had given a positive response to an eight-point peace plan brokered by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baghdad radio said Iraq had beaten back an attack Thursday led by a British armoured division.

It said its front-line troops destroyed most of the British equipment and forced its soldiers to flee. But it did not say where the fighting took place.

It also said three Allied planes and two helicopters were shot down. Allied planes had carried out 23 raids on Iraqi civilian targets including "residential areas, herdsman's

tents, bridges, culverts, flocks of sheep grazing in the countryside."

British and US gunners said Thursday they had fired the biggest artillery barrage of the war. All the artillery in Britain's 1st armoured division opened up along a 16 km (10 mile) front along the Saudi border, firing 1,300 shells and 144 rockets.

The Iraqi communique said: "They opened up...with all weapons."

Iraqi forces "repulsed the aggressors inflicting substantial casualties, destroying most of the weapons of the attacking force, and compelling the remaining force to flee."

According to AP in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the US Central Command's Chief Information

Officer said there was no basis for a news report that the Allied side had launched the ground war.

In Washington, Capt. Sam Grizzle, a Pentagon spokesman, said: "We have absolutely no indications that a ground war has begun."

Another report from Riyadh said Allied and Iraqi troops fought on Saudi Arabia's northern border early today. US planes attacked Scud missile launchers in eastern Iraq.

US military sources said two American marines were wounded and 70 Iraqi soldiers captured in the fighting.

Artillery fire was exchanged when marines engaged an Iraqi patrol shortly after midnight. At least one Iraqi tank and four other vehicles were

destroyed. A US patrol vehicle was damaged.

Allied planes carried out daylight bombing raids on the Baghdad area for the first time

Correspondents in the Iraqi capital said first explosions from a 45-minute raid echoed across the city shortly after sirens wailed at 10.30 am (0730 GMT).

The targets appeared to be on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Allied planes also bombed the outskirts of Iraq's second city Basra, starting fires visible 20 km (12 miles) away in Iran, Tehran Radio said today.

The radio said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation that two raids took place near the village of Shalamchah on the Iran-Iraq border.

- ★ UN Security Council goes into a session to discuss Soviet plan
- ★ Moscow's plan is really taking shape: Primakov
- ★ Responsibility will lie with those who start the war: Moscow
- ★ Britain rejects Soviet peace plan.
- ★ It's a unique opportunity for peace: Perez
- ★ Iraq's acceptance of Soviet plan is a step to right direction: France
- ★ Soviet plan a positive step: China, Cuba, Yemen, Ecuador
- ★ Too many conditions along with plan: Saudi Arabia
- ★ Saddam will have to leave war materials behind: US
- ★ Iraq is bidding for time: US soldier



Sheikh Hasina (left) and Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by party leaders and workers, placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.



— Star photo

## Hasina firm to root out politics of killings

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 22: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her firm determination to root out the politics of killings and conspiracy for establishing people's rule if her party was voted to power, reports BSS.

"We believe in the philosophy of the father of the nation that the people, not bullet, are the source of all power in a democratic system of government," she told a massive public meeting here during her electioneering tour of four districts, including Dhaka.

The Awami League chief addressed big public meetings at Demra, Chanpara, Kanchan,

Paiksha, Kaliganj, Ghorashal, Arahazar, Madhabdi, Fatulla, Adamjee and Narayanganj during her day-long electioneering tour of Dhaka, Gazipur, Narshingdi and Narayanganj districts.

Nominees of Awami League and eight parties were introduced in the meetings by Sheikh Hasina who called upon the people to elect her candidates to ensure the basic rights which she said were snatched away during the rules of 1975-90 governments.

The candidates also addressed the meetings in their respective constituencies.

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## People do not want famine: Khaleda

CHHAGALNAIYA, Feb 22: Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia Friday called upon the people to exercise their right to franchise prudently to safeguard the independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Begum Zia expressed her belief that people would resist the betrayers and corrupt persons in the coming polls by electing BNP.

She was addressing a big public meeting at Chhagalnaiya Pilot High

School ground.

She said people did not want a repetition of the 1974 famine. They also did not want

to see the country sold away. She said people would not vote for those who could not even ensure food for the children during their tenure.

She said people wanted 'Bismillah' Rahmanir Rahtim' enshrined in the Constitution and to protect independence.

Begum Zia said BNP was determined to protect the Constitution and establish real democracy.

She said the people were now united under the flag of BNP as they have seen BNP government had saved the dying millions through its pragmatic development programme.

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## Electioneering ends Monday amidst hopes and despair

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Political parties will end their hectic electioneering on Monday midnight. The 48-hour-long ban on election meetings and processions will be effective within 42 hours from this morning.

Chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to close her hustings by addressing a meeting at Manik Mia Avenue tomorrow. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will end her electioneering by addressing a meeting at Panthapath, west of Sonargaon Hotel, on Monday afternoon.

Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia began election campaign for the third week of January. During this period both the leaders addressed on an average over a dozen meetings everyday to draw support for their candidates.

During the hustings the leaders of two major parties

made election pledges which include poverty alleviation, agricultural development, industrialisation, exemption of agricultural loans and land tax.

Besides, both the parties promised changes in future to give democracy an institutional shape.

Awami League and BNP ruled the country in the past. The leaders of both the parties accused each other of misrule during their periods. The accusations at times turned into mud slinging. The political parties however showed utmost tolerance. Even then there were some incidents which claimed at least nine lives. According to administration, the number of violent incidents was less than those in the past.

The administration has taken precaution to check violence on the election day. The political parties agreed to a

code of conduct with the Election Commission. But many parties violated it which led to commotions in different areas.

The administration has taken up steps to ensure free and fair polls. Army started moving to upazila headquarters from Friday. They will help the civil administration maintain law and order but will not go to any polling centre, according to official sources.

Paramilitary forces, police and Ansars will be on guard at polling centres. In the metropolitan cities, special arrangements have been made to deploy additional contingents of paramilitary forces.

Election Commission earlier amended the Representation of People Order, 1972 limiting the election spending of each candidate to Taka three lakh and making it

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## Mizan's statement downright false, says Press Note

In a Press Note Friday night the Government denied and rejected all the allegations made by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party in a public statement on February 20 at Rangpur as downright falsehood and politically motivated, reports BSS.

The Press Note: "Attention of the Government has been drawn to a public statement of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury,

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## ELECTIONS 1991

The Daily Star will bring out tomorrow a bi-colour 12-page tabloid-size supplement on Parliamentary Elections 1991.

This special number will contain interviews of AL, BNP, Jamaat, 5-party Alliance and CPB leaders, highlights of manifestoes, major election issues, post-election scenario by legal experts, basic facts about elections and many other informative and interesting features.

Please ask your hawker today for your copy tomorrow.

## Ekushey vow to realise dreams of martyrs

The nation paid homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement and took a fresh vow to materialise their dream of an exploitation-free democratic society as it observed Shaheed Day (Ekushey February) on Thursday.

The day was observed in a changed political situation marked by election enthusiasm.

The programmes of the day started with the placing of wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed immediately after midnight on Wednesday.

Streams of barefoot processions converged at the Shaheed Minar. The processions also visited the mazzars of the shaheeds at Azimpur graveyard and placed wreaths.

The day's programmes also included discussion meetings, seminars,

symposia, poetry recitation sessions, children's painting competitions, musical soirees and cultural functions. A three-week-long 'Ekushey Granthamela' (book fair) organised by Bangla Academy in collaboration with Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association has been on since

February 5.

The day was a closed public holiday. National newspapers brought out special issues while Radio and Television put up special programmes.

Most political parties placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar Thursday morning.

Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP chief, placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at 1-30 a. m. amidst slogans by her supporters. She was accompanied by party leaders and workers.

Later BNP chief and other leaders went to the Azimpur graveyard and offered fataha there.

By Staff Correspondent

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by party leaders and workers, came to the Shaheed Minar at 11.35 am, and placed wreaths as her supporters filled the air with slogans.

Leaders of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the All-Party Students Union (APSU), other student organisations and different socio-cultural organisations also laid wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and visited the graveyard.

Different groups were seen presenting musical programmes and reciting poems

on the streets. Mobile musical groups also held their programmes at street corners.

The election enthusiasm added a new dimension to the observance of the day this year. Volunteers from political parties were seen working unitedly to maintain discipline at the Shaheed Minar.

Bangla Academy organised a seminar on "mass upsurge-90" on the occasion Journalist Ataus Samad read out the keynote paper at the seminar which was presided by noted educationist Prof. Ahmed Sharif. Barrister Ishtiaq

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