

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. 40 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 11, 1397 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1991

SHABAN 8, 1411 HIJRI

18 PAGES PRICE TAKA 4.00

Soviet envoy briefs closed-door meeting of UN Security Council

Iraq yields to US terms

US conditions

WASHINGTON, Feb 23: Following is a list of conditions according to Reuter, set forth by the United States, after consultations with its allies, that Iraq must publicly accept by noon EST (1700 Gmt) today (Saturday) to avoid a ground assault by coalition forces to remove Baghdad's troops from Kuwait. The conditions were announced by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater at a briefing shortly before 1 p.m. EST (1800 Gmt) on Friday.

1. Iraq must begin large scale withdrawal from Kuwait by noon EST (1700 Gmt) Saturday, February 23.

2. Iraq must complete military withdrawal in one week. See Page 10 Col 2

New Soviet peace plan

MOSCOW, Feb 23: Following are the points, according to Reuter, of a new Gulf peace plan formulated in Moscow during talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz:

1) Iraq agrees to carry out Resolution 660 of the United Nations Security Council that is to withdraw its forces immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait to positions they occupied on August 2, 1990;

2) The troop withdrawal will start the day after a ceasefire encompassing all military operations on land, sea and in the air; See Page 10 Col 2

★ Iraq responds positively to some of the US terms: Vorontsov.

★ Saddam presides over a meeting of Iraqi leadership.

★ Gorbachev warns Tariq Aziz of ground war consequences.

★ Moscow appeals to Allied leaders for a last-minute solution.

★ US dismisses Iraq's acceptance of revised Soviet peace plan.

★ Bush wants Iraq leaving its arms in desert.

★ Bush anxious to prevent Saddam portraying himself as a moral victor.

★ Rafsanjani accuses US of seeking to go beyond Iraq's eviction from Kuwait.

★ Iraq denies US allegation of scorched earth policy in Kuwait.

★ Kuwait expresses doubts over Soviet peace plan.

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 23: Iraq has reportedly accepted the US conditions for its withdrawal from Kuwait, diplomatic sources said here Saturday, reports AFP.

The acceptance was reportedly transmitted by Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov to the United Nations during a closed-door session of the Security Council, the sources said.

Vorontsov told the Council meeting that Iraq had responded favourably to some of US President George Bush's conditions to end the Gulf War, according to Iranian and Canadian diplomats.

The Council began a formal closed-door meeting on the Gulf War shortly before a noon EST deadline for Iraq to begin withdrawing from Kuwait expired.

The diplomats, who spoke to reporters briefly during the closed-door Council session, said Vorontsov had read a list of conditions that coincided with those required by the United States.

He then told the Council that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz had responded positively but it was not clear immediately whether this included all the conditions, the sources said. US Ambassador Thomas Pickering has asked for clarification.

Three hours before the 1700 GMT deadline, Iraqi President Saddam Hussain kept the world guessing whether he would order the start of the large-scale retreat demanded by Washington. Baghdad Radio and Iraq's See Page 10 Col 6



President George Bush during talks with Congressional leaders in the White House at which he dismissed the Soviet peace plan.

Inside today International



The United States is dropping Napalm bombs - one of the most controversial weapons of the Vietnam war behind Iraqi lines. Page 5

She breathes more oxygen



Five years and more than a million visitors after a museum dedicated to the reign of Marcos and Imelda was opened, curious crowds still come to gawk at her fabled shoes. Page 5

Feature

Travel and Leisure

By the shores of Lake Geneva. A travel story by S. Bari. Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Hans'che Weiss ensemble that won resounding applause for its gypsy strains. Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Scud fired at Israel

JERUSALEM, Feb 23: Iraq fired a missile at Israel Saturday, as the allies ultimatum to Baghdad was about to expire, the Israeli army spokesman, Brigadier General Nahman Shai said, reports AFP.

Iraq executing Kuwaitis

RIYADH, Feb 23: The US military today accused Iraqi troops of systematically executing Kuwaitis in the occupied Emirate. "This is terrorism at its finest hour," Brigadier General Richard Neal told a military briefing in Riyadh, reports Reuter.

Ground assault authorised

WASHINGTON, Feb 23: The US military command in the Gulf has been given the authority to launch a ground assault against Iraqi troops, a senior Defense Department official said Saturday, reports AP.

200 Indian bombs recovered

KHULNA, Feb 23: Sonadanga police recovered 218 Indian-made bombs called "chocolate bombs" from one Obaidullah from the Sonadanga bus stand in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

True democracy near, city residents say

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

The establishment of a truly democratic government, favouring the fall of the Ershad regime, now appears to be very near and only leaders known for their dedication to the cause of the people can only hope to be victorious in the February 27 elections.

This was the opinion of a large section of people who were surveyed in the metropolis by The Daily Star on Saturday.

People from various sections of society including rickshaw pullers, shop keepers, office-goers, industrialists, bankers, teachers and insur-

ance men came under the survey.

Most of the respondents were of the opinion that under the neutral government, elections will be free from ballot-dacety and rigging. But they think sporadic clashes at the polling stations may mar the sanctity of the polls. A small number of them however believe that free and fair elections are not possible.

Most of the persons interviewed said the main contestants in the coming elections will be from the Awami League and BNP. Some of them said Jamaat candidates will also fig-

ure prominently in the elections.

The respondents say a sense of awareness has been prevailing among the people at this stage of electioneering and this trend will continue upto the elections. There is little scope for manipulation of the election results as the people are quite alert and the army and law enforcing agencies will act accordingly without being biased. This will be possible as a caretaker and neutral government is in power now, they added.

N A M Eskender Vice- See Page 10 Col 3

Thai government overthrown



Coup leader Thai Supreme Commander General Sunthorn Kongsompong — AFP photo

BANGKOK, Feb 23: Armed forces commander Gen. Sunthorn Kongsompong said his forces took over the government Saturday. Military commanders reportedly detained Prime Minister Chatchai Choonhavan and ministers of his elected coalition government during the apparently bloodless coup, reports AP.

Troops seized the government-run media. No fighting was reported. An announcement by the rebels, read over radio stations, said the government was dissolved. Martial See Page 10 Col 4

Preparations for polls complete

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs have completed all preparations to hold the February 27 elections in a congenial atmosphere.

By February 20, the Election Commission despatched See Page 10 Col 8

Election Special

Today's 18-page issue of The Daily Star includes 16-page bi-colour tabloid-size election supplement. The price has been fixed at Tk. 4.00.

Allied planes pound Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Feb 23: Allied planes pounded Baghdad in one of the heaviest nights of bombing of the Gulf War, reports Reuter.

Correspondents said blasts shook the city all through the night until dawn today.

The raids began around 8 pm (1700 GMT) on Friday and lasted until dawn today.

Civilians spent the night in air raid shelters throughout the city. Blasts shook buildings across Baghdad and dawn showed columns of black

smoke rising from several areas.

Allied aircraft pounded Basra and other southern Iraqi cities today, setting off blasts heard across the border in Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

It said the planes bombed Basra, Faw al-Amarah and Tammima from 1 pm to 6.30 pm (0930 GMT)—two hours before the expiry of a US deadline for Iraq to start pulling out of Kuwait.

According to AP: Iraq

claimed it inflicted heavy casualties on Allied armoured units.

Iraq's Military Command said in a communique that its forces inflicted heavy casualties and repulsed allied armour advances Friday night. It also said Allied warplanes carried out 39 attacks on civilian targets and 210 on military targets overnight.

Baghdad was hit by bombs and missiles three times Friday night and twice Saturday morning. Iraq fired anti-aircraft guns and what appeared

to be Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles at the warplanes. See Page 10 Col 7

Late News

WASHINGTON, Feb 23: President George Bush said today he regretted that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein made no move to withdraw from Kuwait by a 1700 GMT deadline, and that military action would proceed "according to plan", reports Reuter.

6 Bangladeshis killed in Allied bombing

Six Bangladeshis working in Iraq have been killed in bombing by the Allied forces, according to a message received in Dhaka on Saturday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as 1) Rashedul Alam, s/o Abdul Jabbar, 2) Amir Mohammad, s/o Shahed Ali, 3) Mohammad Naser, s/o Mohammad Abdul Kayum, 4) Mohammad Didarul Islam, s/o Mohammad, 5) Abul See Page 10 Col 7

BNP, AL final showdown tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

After over a month of hectic electioneering Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia will stage demonstrations of strength in two separate mass rallies in the metropolis to- See Page 10 Col 6

None can check victory: Khaleda

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said the victory of her party could not be stopped if polls are held peacefully.

She was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Circuit House maidan here Saturday evening.

Begum Zia said if any party or quarter try to destroy the BNP victory by resorting to terrorism, workers of her party would give proper reply through countrywide agitation after February 27.

Begum Zia warned that the

Acting President would be held accountable if he fails to maintain neutrality during the polls.

Raising scores of allegations of attacks on her party workers at different constituencies, she urged the government to take stern action against the armed hoodlums.

"People do not want famine anymore nor do they want to wear fishing net again", she said.

The BNP chief said the post-independence regime See Page 10 Col 2

AL not born in Gen's pocket: Hasina

MYMENSINGH, Feb 23: Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina said here today that the rights of the people had been confined to cantonment by the previous regimes during the last 15 years, reports BSS.

"If vote for the boat we will bring back your rights and ensure that power will be transferred through ballots and not by bullets," she added.

Addressing a huge public meeting at the Circuit House Maidan here, Sheikh Hasina said Awami League was not born in out of the pockets of the Generals.

She said both BNP and Jatiya Party owed its origin to

the cantonment. General Zia took over power and formed a political party so did General Ershad, she told the gathering.

"If you vote for boat we will give you democracy which will protect all your fundamental rights," she maintained.

Referring to the allegation by the chief of another political party regarding the 1972 Constitution, Sheikh Hasina said "those who undermine the country's Constitution in fact undermine the country's independence."

She said Awami League demanded repeal of the fifth and the Seventh amendments to See Page 10 Col 2

FREE AND FAIR
ELECTION
IS THE KEY
TO
DEMOCRACY

Quality in process is the
Key to Quality printing

SHARUP
OFFSET PROCESS
222, FAKIRPOUR, 1st LANE, DHAKA-1000