The Midnight File

Bosnia for NATO air strikes

quested that NATO launch air strikes against Serb forces in

the hills around Sarajevo, saying they hand not complied

with a NATO ultimatum for surrender of heavy weapons. "I

have to tell you NATO's decision has not been respected by

the Serb side. I think that heavy weaponry that remains

tonight after midnight should be a target for NATO air strikes," Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic wrote in a letter

to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner. The request

British filmmaker Jarman dies

was reported on Bosnian radio, reports Reuter.

SARAJEVO, Feb 20: Bosnia's President today formally re-

Afghan gunmen hold 19 Pak schoolboys hostage

ISLAMABAD. Feb 20: Three masked gunmen from Afghanistan hijacked a bus filled with schoolboys and teachers Sunday and demanded that Pakistan provide money and food for their war-ravaged homeland, reports AP.

After several hours of negotiations, 55 crying young boys and six female teachers were released Sunday afternoon. The gunmen continued to hold 19 more boys and 12 men who work on the school's clerical staff. Pakistan officials said.

Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar, who negotiated with the gunman at the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad, said no one had been hurt and he expected the crisis to be resolved peacefully.

"Everyone is relaxed. I'm not worried," he told journalists after emerging from the Afghan Embassy. "I promised them safe passage (to Afghanistan) and a helicopter."

The three kidnappers were demanding 15 million rupees (dlrs 500,000) and "truck loads of food" for Afghanistan, where heavy factional fighting has led to food shortages in the capital of Kabul.

However, the Afghans also said that they would not release the kids until large amounts of food reach Kabul, an operation that could take

The gunmen said they did not belong to any of the warring Islamic factions in Afghanistan, but they wanted to highlight the suffering of ordinary Kabul residents.

The gunmen hijacked the bus in the northwestern city of Peshawar early Sunday, a school day in Pakistan. The gunmen then forced the driver to travel 200 kilometers to Islamabad, the capital.

The bus was parked just outside the gate of the National Assembly, and Babaar was called on board to negotiate.

One killed in Sylhet clash

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 20: A septuagenarian was killed and 12 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Inathalipur of Daudpur union under Sylhet sadar thana this morning.

According to the police, the incident was a sequel to previous enmity between the groups over land dispute.

Ismat Ali, 75, died on the spot. Six critically injured had been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

A case has been with the Kotwali Thana.

Hearing adjourned

From Page 1 Col 8 the Presiding Officers of the polling centres at the University Laboratory School and College and the Science Annex Building on the Dhaka University campus told the probe body that elections were not held properly at those centres. The Presiding Officers, he added, also failed to convince the probe committee members that balloting at the DU centres took place in a free fair and peaceful manner.

Dr Hossain also quoted the investigation committee report saving a cross section of voters of those three centres, spoke of malpractices in casting votes. The committee also took into consideration the DU teachers' and others' allegations of rigging and the demands for repolling at the said centres. Besides, press reports on violence and false voting at the centres were also consid-

ered, he said. Earlier, Dr Hossain told the court that the EC ordered the investigation after two commissioner candidates, Abul Ahsan Talukder of the BNP and Khwaja Habibullah of the Awami League lodged written complaints of riggings and acts of violence at the Science Annex Building and the University Laboratory School and College centres respectively to the Chief Election

Commissioner. All these created public opinion in favour of fresh polling at the three centres, he said adding, at this stage the EC had to cancel the results and declare fresh pollings.

While concluding his arguments. Dr Hossain commented, in fact no election took place at the DU centres as per rule and, therefore, there was no legal basis of the results sent to the Returning Officer.

The lawyer for the EC also submitted to the court a copy of the probe body report and clippings of press reports in this regard.

Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Kazi Golam Mahbub vesterday appeared for the petitioner. Following the writ the High Court issued a stay order for two weeks on repollings in the three centres on February 8 last. The stay order is restricting the EC from declaring the official results of the DCC polls and thereby refraining the elected mayor and commissioners from taking the oath of office.

Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, while moving for the petitioner, said the election rules did not empower the Election Commission to cancel any result. The EC could only postpone balloting on valid grounds, he added.

In the case of three DU centres, he pointed out, the EC allowed voting and accepted the results but later cancelled the same.

Kazi Golam Mahbub insisted that balloting at these centres took place without any disruption and the results were forwarded to the Returning Officer as per rule. But how could the EC declare the elections null and void through a notification, which he said, was not in conformity with the relevant rules. Khandakar Mahbubuddin

Ahmed and Kazi Golam Mahbub were assisted by Abdul Quyyum, Joynal Abedin, Humayun Kabir Bulbul and Fakhr uddin while Dr. Ahmed Hossain was assisted by K S Nabi, Sudhangsu Shekhar Haldar, Abdul Mannan Talukdar, Nurul Islam Suja, Abul Bashar Bhuiyan, Ruhul Amin Budu, Fazlur Rahman, Enayetur Rahim and Obaidul Hasan Shahin.

AJM: 4 held

From Page 1 Col 5 the mills operated normally,

Only one person was arrested, he said.

He also said the trade union leaders in a meeting Saturday night assured the mills management of their cooperation for the smooth running of the

Too much sex in films

From Page 1 Col 4. it's easier to make moneyon that," Loren said, adding that there was nothing wrong with an element of sex or violence

within a good story. "But violence and sex by itself, for the sake of money, is absolutely appalling," she said.

"We see a lot of violence and sex in the films, on television and in the news. Whenever see this, I think 'poor children' I am really very worried about the (effect it has on) children.

Loren, 59, who has won two Oscars and starred in more than 50 films over four decades made in Italy, the United States, France, Canada and Britain, said she has no

plans to retire. "I never think about it," said the actress, whose films have been featured at this year's festival in a retrospective on her career. "I have no idea when I'll stop. Maybe not

She plans to start working next month in Paris on a film about fashion called 'Pret a Proter' (ready-to-wear) with US director Robert Altman.

"I like to work with Robert Altman," said Loren. "We are on the same wave length. We like to invent things on the set. I am sure there will be a

lot of creative invention on the Her most famous films include the Oscar award-winning 'La Ciociara' (two women) and "The Millionaiess.

Loren has played roles as a resolute woman with powerful eyes, wide smile and statuesque build alongside Hollywood stars such as Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra, John Wayne and Anthony Quinn.

Although she said her favourite actor to work with was Grant, her favourite actor these days is Robert De Niro. "He's very creative, bizarre, strange and is always doing the

unexpected," Loren said. Her favourite actress is Julia Roberts: "I very much like her because I think she's honest She's very much free when she acts. She has a beautiful smile that conquers everyone. She's

got the right image of an ac-

Loren said that although she's duly impressed by the technological advances in the film industry, there is a danger that some producers and directors may be putting too great an emphasis on technol-

ogy and not enough on drama. "I admire the tricks and the people who do these wonders with computers and lasers." she said. "But if I want to see a film, I want to see a good film that deals with emotion, with sentiment, that deals with relationships. I want to be

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tress today."

The government introduced The Ministry of Religious hopes and aspirations. the 'Ekushey Padak' in 1976 in Affairs has urged the manage-Paying rich tributes to the memory of the language marmartyrs the Prime Minister ment authorities of all tyrs of 1952. mosques of the country to arsaid people and the students of The recipients are Monirrange Qurankhwani and milad this country had achieved a uddin Yusuf (posthumous). mahfil today seeking salvation great victory on the day in Rabeya Khatun(Literature) 1952 by foiling the intrigues of the departed souls of the Shaheed Mofazzal Haider against the Bengali language. martyrs of the great language Chowdhury (Education, posth-Terming Ekushey as a glomovement. umous), Reazuddin Ahmad rious day in our national life. Similarly arrangements (Journalism), Mohammad Asafshould also be made for special Begum Zia said the Language uddowla (Music), Ustad Fazlul Movement had not only given prayers at temples, churches, Hug (Music-posthumous). Dipagodas and other religious Bangla the dignity of a state lara Zaman (Drama), Rafilanguage but also led to the institutions of the country qunnabi (Fine Arts) and Jewel seeking divine blessings for struggle for the nation's sepa-Aich (Magic). rate identity, flourishment of the departed souls of the marits own culture and the libera-Zero hour, Bangladesh People's League will bring out procession from Awami League chief and From Page 1 Col 4 leader of the Opposition its office at Nilkhet at 8 am to Parliament Sheikh Hasina in mark the Day. in the heart of the Bengali It will place wreaths at the her message called upon the people to take a renewed Central Shaheed Minar after Prime Minister Begum pledge on the Shaheed Day to offering Fateha at the grave-Khaleda Zia was the first to day today. save democracy and establish yard of the martyrs at the place her wreath at the altar of non-communal politics in the Azimpur graveyard. the Shaheed Minar one minute In the afternoon at 4 pm, a past midnight Sunday. Hasina urged the people discussion on the language She was accompanied by also to take a fresh vow to promovement will be held at its her cabinet colleagues and tect the mother tongue from party office. front ranking leaders of the the hands of the evil forces. The Shilpakala Academy has Today is a public holiday. also arranged similar pro-DUCSU president and Vice-Newspapers have brought grammes and will place Chancellor Prof Emajuddin out supplements and Radio wreaths at the central Shaheed Ahmed followed the Prime and Television are putting out Minar at pre-dawn Monday. Minister to place a wreath. Leaders of the Dhaka special programmes highlight-A discussion on the laning the significance of the day. guage movement will be held University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and other stu-Series of Pak proposals dent organisations were the next to pay tributes. Political party leaders, professional groups, diplomats

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20: Pakis-

tan Saturday submitted a series

Kashmir issue to India and said

it was ready to discuss a date

for another round of bilateral

talks, a Foreign Ministry

informal exchange of ideas be-

tween the two governments

after talks last month, the first

in 15 years, ended in dead-

through the Indian embassy

here and the Pakistani mission

in New Delhi, Islamabad

"expressed its readiness," to

discuss the "rescheduling of

the talks after Ramadan," the

Muslim fasting month which

ends mid-March, and after

receiving the Indian response

New Delhi issued its pro-

posals three weeks ago setting

out measures to make the bor-

der in Kashmir a "line of peace

both sides to disengage along

the disputed Siachen Glacier

and broadening the scope of an

existing agreement barring at-

tacks on each other's nuclear

tan has offered "specific"

suggestions for peace along

the Line of Control, which di-

controlled parts of Kashmir.

vides the Indian-and-Pakistani

balance of forces between

Pakistan and India in Jammu

and Kashmir as envisaged in

the ceasefire agreement and

These included "achieving a

The spokesman said Pakis-

India called for troops on

the spokesman said.

and tranquillity.

facilities.

In the proposals sent

The proposals are part of an

spokesman said, reports AFP.

of counter-proposals on the

on Kashmir to India

UN Security Council resolu-

strengthening the "size and

presence" of the UN Military

Observer Group for India and

Pakistan (UNMOGIP) so it can

patrol both sides of the fron-

posal on the "non-use of nu-

clear capability against each

other," the spokesman said it

was "incomprehensible" be-

cause Pakistan "does not pos-

it intend to produce them."

sess nuclear weapons nor does

OIC for relief

for quake-hit

Indonesians

nisation of the Islamic

Conference (OIC) today urged

its member states to send ur-

gent relief supplies to help

Indonesia deal with the after-

math of an earthquake which

killed some 200 people, re-

OIC Secretary-General

Hamid Al Gabid in his appeal

urged member states and

Islamic organisations "to take

the initiative of sending urgent

relief supplies to the govern-

it confront this disaster."

based in Jeddah.

ment of Indonesia so as to help

The 51-member OIC is

The known death toll in

Wednesday's quake has risen

to about 200 and the number

of injured to 2,749. The quake

hit an area around the remote

mountain town of Liwa on

southern Sumatra Island.

ports Reuter.

DUBAI, Feb 20: The Orga-

Referring to Indian pro-

Pakistan has also proposed

tions of 1949," he said.

tier, he said.

Pledge for stronger democracy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia seen amidst the recipients and representatives of posthumous recipients of the

From Page 1 Col 5

Ekushey Padak '93 at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

PM: Ekushey

From Page 1 Col 3

the first bold step towards the

democratic struggle of the na-

rious day in our national his-

tory and will ever remain in-

scribed with blood-stained let-

ters." she said, recalling that a

student-mass unity voiced the

demand for recognising

mother-tongue Bangla as state

language and sacrificed their

lives in establishing their right

to speak in their own language.

came at the culmination of this

the Ekushey Padak had been

introduced for recognition of

the contributions in the field

of education, literature and

culture to immortalise the

memory of the great Language

state recognition widens cre-

ativity and hoped that many

others also would come for-

ward to contribute to these

tributed to nine people the

Ekushev Padak-93 which car-

ries Tk 20,000, a gold medal

were awarded posthumously.

Three of the recipients

and people from all walks of

life will converge at the Cen-

tral Shaheed Minar throughout

the day to pay tributes to the

Vietnamese FM due

in June likely

ter Ngoy Manh Cam is

expected to visit Bangladesh in

June, diplomatic sources said

diplomatic mission in capital

Hanoi last year with the hope

to establish a good trade link

in Dhaka just after liberation in

1971, but closed it down in

late 70's due to financial con-

Dinkal editor,

reporter

granted bail

lisher of the Dainik Dinkal Prof

Majidul Islam, Acting Editor

Sayed Jafar and Senior Staff

Reporter Mokhlesur Rahman

Choudhury were granted bail

by the Additional Chief Metro-

politan Magistrate when they

appeared before his court here

The court had issued war-

rant of arrest against the three

on a case, filed by Alhaj Moqbul

Hossain, editor of the Dainik

Al-Amin and a businessman.

for publishing a report titled

'Mona Propertyr Nepathye —

Sonargaor Badiuzzamanke

Aubangali Safiye Koti Takar

Sampatti Atmasat' in the

Dainik Dinkal on February 14

yesterday; reports BSS.

Managing Director and pub-

Vietnam opened its mission

with the country.

straints.

Bangladesh opened its

here yesterday, reports UNB.

Vietnamese Foreign Minis-

valiant sons of the soil.

Begum Zia yesterday dis-

The Prime Minister said

Movement.

fields.

and a citation.

victory, Begum Zia observed.

Independence of the nation

The Prime Minister said

"Ekushey February is a glo-

ple to work unitedly to safeguard the independence of the country and materialise the hopes and aspirations of the martyrs of the language move-

President Biswas, paying rich tributes to the martyrs. said Ekushey is the guiding principle of our nationality. As a nation, we are indebted to the language martyrs, he said.

Referring to the glorious history of the nation's language and culture, the President said the people of this country cherish great love for their mother tongue.

President Biswas also underscored the role of the litterateurs, linguists, poets and intellectuals in developing the country's language and culture.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hoped the spirit of great Ekushey would inspire the nation towards developing the Bangla language, promoting democratic ideals and values and attaining self-reliance in all sec-

She said the sacrifices of the martyrs for the cause of the language could be made meaningful by fulfilling their

To mark the day, various political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes which include placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, processions milad mahfils, cultural func-

tions and discussion meetings. The Dhaka University authorities which conduct the Ekushey programmes, have, however, advised all not to hang any portrait, poster or banner at the altar of the Shaheed Minar and not to bring out processions or hold rallies in and around the Shaheed Minar and the Doyel Square, Chankharpool, TSC and Plassey areas for maintaining the sanctity of the occa-

The DU authorities have also urged all concerned not to stick any commercial poster around the Shaheed Minar. A large number of Rover Scouts of Dhaka University has been deployed to maintain disci-

pline at the Shaheed Minar. The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) will bring out a silent procession from the Aparajeya Bangla today at 7.00 am on the occasion of the historic Shaheed

at the auditorium of the academy at 10 am.

- PID photo

A musical soiree participated by renowned artists will

follow the discussion. The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (EJAZ) last night paid tributes to the Shaheeds of the historic language movement on the eve of Ekushey February

The members of the committee also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the peace of the souls of the Shaheeds of the language movement and expressed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved

BSS from Chittagong adds: Ekushey February, commemorating the events of the great language movement of 1952 and sacrifices made during the movement, will be observed in the port city and elsewhere in the district today in a befitting

Political parties, trade unions, student organisations and socio-cultural associations have chalked out elaborate programmes on the occasion which include procession in the morning, placing of floral wreath at the Shaheed Minar discussion on the significance of Ekushey and Bangla lan guage, cultural functions, milad mahfil and special prayers.

City branches of the BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party will hold discussions at their respective offices while the Bangla Academy and Chittagong University will also hold similar programmes.

Local newspapers and periodicals will bring out special supplements highlighting the occasion and local station of Radio Bangladesh will broad cast special programmes.

Another report from Khulna says, day-long separate programmes have been chalked out by various political, sociocultural, trade and other organisations in the city in observance of the 43rd martyrs

The programmes include hoisting of national flag at halfmast, processions, placing of floral wreathes at the Shaheed Minar, holding of milad mahfil and discussions on the significance of the day.

Khulna centre of the Bangla Academy held a discussion at its office Saturday on the contribution of the people of Khulna in language movement.

No-confidence motion against Koirala

KATMANDU, Feb 20: An opposition communist party Sunday moved a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, already facing demands for his resignation from his own party members, reports AP.

In the biggest political crisis for Koirala's 32-month-old government, Parliament's decision-making lower house will meet on Thursday to vote on the no-confidence motion.

The government has "failed to safeguard democracy and the constitution," said Bharat Mohan Adhikari of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), which moved the

Adhikari did not elaborate, but the move appears to be an attempt by the opposition to take advantage of the instability in the governing Nepali Congress Party.

Goods train derails

KUSHTIA, Feb 20: Railway communications in the western zone remained disrupted for nearly 12 hours stranding thousands of passengers, after a goods train derailed at Jagati station, reports UNB.

Local people and railway sources said the derailment occurred at about 2 am (Saturday night) and the communications were restored at 2 pm today after a relief train salvaged the derailed carriages from the line.

The sources closed to the station said at least six wagons of the goods train were derailed because of weak sleepers and dock pins on the

LONDON, Feb 20: Derek Jarman, the iconoclastic British filmmaker whose homosexuality frankly influenced his work. died Sunday after a long battle against AIDS. He was 52 Jarman died at St Bartholomew's Hospital in central London, a spokesman there said. Although prolific as an author and painter. Jarman was best known as the director of about a dozen films that helped energize independent low-budget British cinema in the 1970s and 80s, reports AP.

JS probe body meet the issue in their party forum.

"However, we are not opti-

mistic about the ruing party's

positive attitude towards the

investigation," Nasim, a mem-

ber of the probe body, said.

Replying to a question, the AL

leader said: "If the treasury

bench members once again

refuse to change their previous

stand on the investigation, we,

shall most likely demand the

subject be debated in the

Islam Miah, who is also a

member of the probe body.

while talking on the subject

last night hinted that there

had been no major policy

change regarding the terms of

was really necessary was to

begin the investigation with

the terms specifically sug-

gested by the House. "Once the

investigation begins, many

documents of the ministry

could be called for by the

committee," the minister ob-

over the opposition members'

reluctance to begin the inves-

tigation under the terms of

reference suggested by the

House. "The committee cannot

go beyond its jurisdiction

when Parliament had asked it

to investigate the specific alle-

gation of corruptions," the

minister informed The Daily

Star that the treasury bench

members on the committee

would also discuss the subject

in their party forum before at-

tending the next meeting of

Replying to a question, the

minister said.

the committee.

He expressed his surprise

The minister felt that what

Works Minister Rafigul

House this time.

reference.

terms of reference surfaced when the opposition members demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged corruptions of the ministry while the treasury bench members refused to entertain the idea. The treasury bench members argued that the Parliamentary Standing Committee was there to monitor the activities of the ministry on a regular basis. The Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad provide for setting up special parliamentary committee to investigate specific charges put forward by any legislator against any ministry or minister. The ruling party members have been insisting on investigating the specific charges Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League brought against the Irrigation Minister

Majid-Ul-Hug. On the other hand, the opposition members of the committee have been rejecting the treasury bench interpretations, since the first meeting of the probe body, arguing that the approach towards the investigation was too mechanical

to be accepted. However, the committée resolved at its last meeting that it would meet again only to inform the Chairman of the Committee, Speaker Shaikh concerned were interested to discuss the matter any further.

respective party forums.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League told The Daily Star yesterday

Razzak Ali, whether the parties The parties were supposed to discuss the issue, before informing the chairman, in their

that they were yet to discuss Hosokawa shuffles

Cabinet Feb 28 TOKYO, Feb 20: Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa plans to announce his first cabinet reshuffle on February 28 to rebuild the

fragile six-month-old govern-

ment, local newspapers said

today, reports AFP. The Asahi and the Mainichi newspapers said that Hosokawa was considering replacing several positions including his chief cabinet secretary and political reform minister.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii might lose his job following allegations that an industrial group gave him 10 million yen (95,000 dollars) in secret donations, Asahi said.

Food poisoning: Condition of students improve

By DU Correspondent The October Smriti cafete-

ria at the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University which was shut down Friday following an incident of food poisoning resumed supplying food yester-

Meanwhile, the students affected by food poisoning were improving. The hall authorities have

asked the canteen keepers to keep the kitchen and dining premises clean.

The authorities also directed the hall tutors to keep vigil on the canteens and food supplied by the canteen owners. They have already taken steps to clean the water Reservoir at the hall premises, hall sources said.

The Provost of the hall talking to this correspondent yesterday said they had taken steps to stop the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

Anwarul Islam's qul held By Staff Correspondent

The qulkhwant of Anwarul Islam Bobby, founding editor of The Morning Sun, was held at his Gulshan residence yesterday, after Asr prayers.

Ministers, political leaders, journalists, relations, friends and admirers attended the qulkhwani.

Bobby Islam, who is also the founder of The Daily Life in Chittagong and the medical journal The Pulse, was suffering from blood cancer. He died at a Dubai hospital on February 15 while on way to London for treatment.

His body was buried at the Banani graveyard on Friday.

One killed in gunfight with Savar police

SAVAR, Feb 20: An unidentified young man was killed in a two-hour-long gunfight between police and suspected dacoits at Chowtail village in Dhamrai thana Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police suspected the dead, aged about 30, was a dacoit. A police squad from the Dhamrai thana, led by SI Qudrat Ali, went to the village at about 2 am to arrest several accused of a dacoity case when

the gangmen opened fire on them, police said. The squad returned fire, gunning one of the gangmen

Police also rounded up from the scene three unidentified miscreants.

The Police Super and the Additional Super of Dhaka district visited the village today. A case has been filed in this connection.

Financial system

From Page 1 Col 7 report on the steps to privatise the NCB. In the review report, the

donors urged the government to take 'concrete' steps to privatise Rupali Bank including solving its over-staffing prob lem, restructuring the bank and reducing its number of branches and finding realistic solutions to the problem of bad debts.

The report was also critical of the government's muchtouted debt recovery programme. "Efforts at debt recovery and bringing defaulters to book have yielded no tangible results."

The spread between the lending and deposit rates continues to be too high, the report said, reflecting bank inefficiencies and the cost of non-

performing loans. "Interest rates no longer reflect the true cost of borrowing from the NCBs as poor management practices and rent-seeking lead to high transaction costs. NCB losses are high and their financial health unsatisfactory."

The report further added that the 'default culture' and the practice of 'insider lending has also affected the private bank's performance. It suggested further liberal-

ising the interest rates by removing the floor on deposit rates and the bands on lending rates to preferred sectors and also rationalising the government savings schemes.

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