

Safe zones for Kurds

From Page 1 Col. 7
Super-Stallion airlifted 2.7 metric tons (3 tons) of German supplies into northern Iraq, he said.
In addition, 20 trucks left Inckrik or the border area carrying US army rations, Kirchoffner said.
In addition, 20 trucks left Inckrik or the border area carrying US army rations, Kirchoffner said.
Meanwhile, two US ships, the USS Santiago and the US Syrus, were steaming toward Turkey's southern port of Iskenderun carrying 3.5 tons of bulk food, he said.
Turkey said today the United States planned to set up refugee camps inside northern Iraq and on the Turkish-Iraqi border.
The United States, in accordance with UN Resolution 688 and within the framework of the Turkish government's permission, will start a large-scale operation to help Iraqis massed on the Turkish-Iraqi border, a Foreign Ministry statement said.
"This operation... envisages setting up temporary settlements in Turkish-Iraqi border regions and northern Iraq to help meet the most urgent needs of Iraqis who are living in extremely difficult conditions", the statement said.

President George Bush said Thursday the United States would not use US troops to guarantee the security of Kurdish refugees in Iraq.
"I'm not going to involve any American troops in the civil war in Iraq," he said. "I want those kids to come home."
Bush made the comment at the end of two hours of talks at the White House with Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer, the current President of European Community's (EC) Council of Ministers, and European Commission President Jacques Delors.
Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday blamed the United States for turmoil in Iraq and said the West feared a democratic government in Baghdad would jeopardise its interests.
Rafsanjani also said Iraqis had sent Iraq food in defiance of a UN embargo and helped it "all the way, except in weapons."
Rafsanjani told a large gathering of Muslim devotees gathered for Friday prayers in Tehran that the United States is responsible for "what happened and is happening in the region."
His comments were made available to The Associated Press in Nicosia.



FUTILE WAIT: Biman passengers from Doha and Muscat bound for Sylhet or Chittagong are queuing in front of Biman counters to get boarding cards recently. Hundreds of Bangladeshis, living in M-E, buy direct tickets to their destinations. But on arrival at Zia International Airport, most of them do not get seats in available domestic flights to Sylhet or Chittagong and have to avail train or road transports to their utter disadvantage. —Star photo

Hasina : Security

From Page 1 Col. 7
ensure law and order... and I don't think she has any moral right to retain this ministry", Hasina said. "It would have been prudent to keep the Home Ministry with the Acting President for security of the people."
The Awami League President blamed the pro-BNP Chhatra Dal activists for "dastardly killing of Sharif in broad daylight and said armed hooliganism unleashed by the BNP activists across the country had once again exposed their "terrorist character".
General people are passing their days in nightmare and utter frustration in the wake of soaring prices of essentials in one hand and free-style terrorism on the other, she added.
Referring to Wednesday's parliamentary debate on shifting ousted President Ershad to Dhaka Central Jail, Hasina wondered why Prime Minister Begum Zia was yet to send Ershad to central jail from the Gulshan sub-jail even after passage of 72 hours.
"Begum Zia sought my opinion in the House and I told her to send Ershad to central jail within 12 hours. But 72 hours have passed, and yet Begum Zia could not send him to Dhaka Central Jail," she said.
People want to know the reason behind it, Hasina said. "Is it because of any clandestine deal or understanding between Begum Zia and Ershad?"
The rift party hosted by the Awami League unit Ward No 17 was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abudus Samad Azad MP and party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP. Tofael Ahmed MP and Mozaffar Hossain Palu were among others present.

The Awami League chief also accused BNP of betraying the nation by breaching its election pledge on exempting interest of agriculture loans up to taka 10,000.
This party blurred the electorate with false promises only to capture power, Hasina said, adding that the BNP also betrayed with the anti-austerity movement by retreating from the November 19 joint political declaration of the three alliances.
The joint declaration categorically spelt out a sovereign parliament, transfer power to the elected parliament and an accountable government which implied parliamentary system, she observed.
Hasina asked her party workers to mobilise all their mite in strengthening the organisational network at the grassroots level to face the future challenge of restoration of genuine democratic rule and implementation of the unfinished task of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib.
She said Awami League would continue its efforts ceaselessly so that people could live with their just democratic and economic rights.
Referring to Wednesday's Sripur disaster where as many as 13 people have been killed in roof-collapse, Hasina demanded an enquiry committee to probe the incident and giving adequate financial compensation to the affected families.
Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami and leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party has condemned the killing of Shariful Islam Sharif, General Secretary of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute Students Union and a leader of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A).
In a statement on Friday the Jamaat leader said, such an incident was unexpected and unwanted at the time of transition to democracy. He demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Sharif.

Search for bodies

From Page 1 Col. 8
no fresh recovery.
The inhabitants of the area still believe that more victims remain trapped under the debris, but Fire Service personnel ruled out any possibility of finding more bodies from the rubble.
The roof of the under-construction mills caved in trapping construction workers Wednesday afternoon when a nor-wester lashed the area.
The Fire Service personnel along with the Titas Gas technicians assisted by the local administration resumed search Friday morning and ended at 4.30 pm on the day but failed to find any more bodies.
During the first two days of search, 13 bodies and 13 severely injured labourers were recovered. The injured persons are going under treatment at the hospitals in Gazipur and Dhaka.
UNB adds : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Friday thanked the local people and labourers and the workers and engineers of Spic-Cepag, a foreign construction firm, for helping in the rescue operation of the tornado victims in Sripur.
Begum Zia also appreciated the active cooperation of members of the Armed Forces, Fire Service, local administration, ansars and doctors and employees of the health complex in the rescue operation and treatment of the injured.
It is the moral responsibility of us all to come in aid of the affected at the time of any disaster, she reminded.

Flood
From Page 1 Col. 2
been totally submerged.
Local people and upazila officials said fresh croplands in low lying areas of the three upazilas were still being engulfed by water gushing in from the river Surma through the canals of Chirang, Kalni and Dhanpur.
Talking to UNB, Deputy Commissioner of Netrokona AHM Abul Quasem confirmed inundation of huge croplands in the haor areas.
About 53 per cent of boro crop in haor areas of Khalajuri and Mohanganj upazilas have gone under water, he said.
Meanwhile, according to an unofficial report received here today, three people were washed away when an embankment on the Surma breached at Ajmirganj in Khalajuri upazila on Tuesday.
DC Netrokona, however, expressed his ignorance about the incident.

Y'slavia

From Page 1 Col. 5
ported independence.
Slovenia intends to become a "sovereign and independent state," it said.
No date was given but France Bucar, Speaker of the Slovenian parliament, earlier said Slovenia was determined to leave Yugoslavia by June 26.
Slovenia's President, Milan Kucan, declined to fix a date for his republic's departure from the federation though. "There is time," he said. "We would like to do it in agreement" with the other republics.
Croatia and Slovenia, where center-right governments ousted Communists last spring, have previously rejected Serbian proposals for a countrywide referendum.
They claim Serbs — by far Yugoslavia's largest nationality counting more than 9 million — would have an unfair advantage in a vote.
Croatian President Franjo Tudjman told a news conference later: "If Slovenia makes such a decision, then we in Croatia have also decided we do not want to remain in Yugoslavia."
Croatia and Slovenia are the most prosperous and Westernised republics in the Balkan federation created in 1918 and divided by political rows and nationalism since the demise of communist rule in free elections last year.

Tsering, Hasina talk regional cooperation

By Staff Correspondent
The visiting Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dawa Tsering called on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at Bangabandhu Bhaban Friday morning.
During the meeting they exchanged views on bilateral and international issues. The existing economic and political situation in Bangladesh also came up in their discussions.

Backstage parley

From Page 1 Col. 5
on the form of government from the Opposition Bench will ultimately complicate the issue and Awami League will be given a chance to agitation without achieving anything fruitful.
Dr. Kamal Hossain an Awami League presidium member, said the Members of Parliament should utilise the Eid vacation for informal discussion on this issue.
Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said BNP has not yet closed the door for discussion on this issue. He said top BNP leaders told him that they are considering the issue seriously. He said, placing any such bill by any of the parties unilaterally will foil the issue.
Prior to the formation of the government, the Five-Party Alliance leaders discussed this with BNP. At that time, Sheikh Razzak Ali, now Deputy Speaker told the Five-Party leaders that he hoped they would be able to reach a consensus on the parliamentary form of government.
But now many of the BNP leaders have become tightlipped. The Five-Party Alliance, Otkya Prokriya and United Communist League in a recent meeting discussed the issue of the form of government. Many of them now see the issue as a contradiction between two groups of the bourgeois class. They opined that there is no difference between the two systems so far the interests of the common people are concerned.
Jamaat-e-Islami, which has given unconditional support of BNP to form the government is now thinking about the issue seriously. Jamaat which has changed its stand and now wants a compromise between the parliamentary and presidential forms, also expressed their keenness to debate the issue. Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami said a balance between the power of Parliament and the presidency can give a better government to the nation.
Salahuddin Yousuf said, it has now become clear that BNP does not want any change in the Constitution. So, it would not be wise for Awami League to give up the chance to create an atmosphere for movement on this issue in future, he said.
On the other hand, Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta, who has been hammering on this issue from the very beginning of the session, told The Daily Star that any bill

Huda calls for talks on Dainik Desh

State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda said in Dhaka on Friday night that the problem between the management of the Dainik Desh and the journalists be solved through mutual discussion.
He told BSS he had already taken the initiative for discussing the issue with both the parties to arrive at an amicable solution to the problem.
Editor of Dainik Desh, Anwarul Islam, in a statement on behalf of the management, welcomed the initiative of the State Minister to solve the problem through discussion between the parties.
UNB adds : Editor of Dainik Desh strongly protested a news item which appeared in some national dailies on Friday accusing its management of hooliganism.
It was reported that owner of the Dainik Desh AKM Mayeedul Islam Mukul, Editor Anwarul Islam and Adviser Taheruddin Thakur with the help of goons attacked some 15 journalists who went to the newspaper's authorities for discussing the problem arising out of non-payment of salary and Eid bonus.
The news alleging attack on the journalists was concocted, Editor Anwarul Islam said in a press statement.
He claimed that the journalists were terminated and the daily was closed as per the law.
Dainik Desh Editor hoped that the conscientious people would realise the correct situation in the daily.

DUJ calls 24-hour strike today

A 24-hour strike will be observed in all newspapers and news agencies of Dhaka from 8 am today (Saturday) demanding arrest of Owner, Editor and Adviser of Dainik Desh and exemplary punishment to them, reports UNB.
Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) announced the programme at a protest meeting held at the Jatoya Press Club on Friday against Thursday's attack on journalist leaders by hired goondas of the Dainik Desh authorities.
Owner of the daily AKM Mayeedul Islam Mukul, Editor Anwarul Islam and Adviser Taheruddin Thakur with armed goondas attacked the leaders who went to discuss the problem of unpaid salary and Eid bonus Thursday, DUJ alleged.
The meeting demanded that armed hoodlums of the Dainik Desh authorities be arrested immediately and exemplary punishment given.
Presided over by DUJ President Zahurul Huq, the meeting was addressed, among others, by BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, Press Club President Mozammel Huq, former Secretary General of BFUJ Syed Zafar, DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, and Syed Abdul Khair, Masud Nizami, MA Aziz, Abul Kalam Azad, Altaf Mahmud, Sheikh Mohiuddin, Kazim Reza and Delwar Hossain.
The meeting also demanded immediate solution of the problems in Dainik Desh, Bangladesh Observer and Dainik Naba Avijan and drew the attention of the democratic government in this regard.
It said the anti-democratic forces and known associates of autocracy were out to vitiate the democratic atmosphere by creating planned anarchy in the newspaper industry.
DUJ will hold a rally at the Press Club premises at 11 am today (Saturday) and bring out a protest procession against vandalism by the owner-management of Dainik Desh.

Rapid reaction force of Nato

BRUSSELS, Apr 12: Nato's top military commanders have agreed to set up a new European rapid reaction force that would be able to deal with potential threats now the cold war is over, alliance sources said today. Chiefs of Staff from Nato nations, meeting at the alliance's Brussels headquarters, agreed to ask defence ministers to formally approve the plan at a meeting next month, reports Reuter.
Jumatul Wida
From Page 1 Col. 5
the city through the mosque.
In observance of the Holy Shab-e-Qadr devotees said prayers throughout the night last night. People also visited mazars, and graves of near and dear ones at Azimpur, Banani, and Postagola graveyards to pray for salvation of soul of the deceased.
The Baitul Mukarram National Mosque organised the "Akehril Munaajat" of Khatme Tarabi in the night. Khatib of the mosque Moulana Obaidul Huq led the prayer. Devotees prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the Muslim world in general and Bangladesh in particular during the night.
"In the beginning they treated us very well," the man who identified himself as Jansson said. "Now the militants are desperate. Please do something quickly about us."

The Midnight File

Turkey lifts ban on communism
ANKARA, Apr 12: Turkey scrapped bans on communism and the Kurdish language on Friday and conditionally freed about 43,000 of its 46,000 convicted prisoners. President Turgut Ozal, who inspired the new legislation to deflect criticism of Turkey's human rights record, signed the catch-all bill hours after parliament passed it in a 13-hour overnight session, state radio said, reports Reuter.

Perez de Cuellar leaves for France
UNITED NATIONS, Apr 12: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday left for a week-long trip to France where he will address the European Parliament, UN officials said. The officials said that Perez de Cuellar would address the Parliament Tuesday in Strasbourg, France, reports AP.

Soviet troops clash with Georgians
MOSCOW, Apr 12: Soviet Interior Ministry troops, using armoured cars and helicopters, clashed with Georgian nationalists after armed assailants attacked a group of Soviet soldiers, a news report said Friday. The Soviet troops destroyed an anti-aircraft installation used against Interior Ministry helicopters, arrested 19 ethnic Georgians and confiscated a number of weapons in the Thursday incident, a report by the independent Interfax news agency said, reports AP.

US plans to close 25 bases in Germany
HEIDELBERG, GERMANY, Apr 12 : The United States plans to close 25 military bases in Germany as part of US force reductions in Europe, US military headquarters in Europe announced here today. The military installations will be closed down, reduced or re-grouped by 1995 when dismantled military areas will be handed over the German authorities, reports AFP.

Ferry with 140 burnt to cinder
LIVORNO, ITALY, Apr 12: The ferry that turned into a floating grave for 140 people, a jumble of twisted bodies, burnt to a cinder, is piled at the end of a lounge. One couple died in each other's arms, reports Reuter.

Fleeing Tamil Tigers killed in air strike

COLOMBO, Apr 12: Air force planes bombed and destroyed two trucks carrying fleeing Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's curfew-bound northwest, killing an unspecified number of rebels, officials here said today, reports AFP.
Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) travelling in the two vehicles Thursday fired at Air Force helicopters in Vidattattivu, in Mannar district, drawing fire from fixed-wing aircraft, a military officer said.
We believe all those in the two lorries were killed after fixed wing aircraft that were called in by the helicopters bombed the vehicles, a military spokesman here said.
The trucks were completely destroyed, the spokesman said, adding that the rebels were escaping from a massive military offensive against them in the region.
The attack came as security forces overran a strategic rebel-held coastal area in Adampan and Bappamattol, further south, the spokesman said.
Troops swept through the areas without any resistance.
There are no losses on our side, LTTE casualty figures cannot be confirmed but the fact is that they are running from the area in large numbers, the spokesman said.
Meanwhile, in the east, Air Force aircraft accidentally fired at three fishing boats near Kalkudah in coastal Batticaloa district, killing one fisherman and injuring three, the spokesman said.
The aircraft had mistaken the boats for LTTE craft, the spokesman said.
In neighbouring Thoppigala, security forces continued "mopping up" operations against rebels after recovering the bodies of 70 rebels killed in combat, he said. Seven soldiers were also killed in the raid.
"Our forces destroyed the main LTTE base in Thoppigala also seven satellite camps. We seized about 30 weapons including heavy machine guns," the spokesman said.

Khaleda calls for united efforts Khondakar Delwar Hossain appointed Chief Whip

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Friday called for putting united efforts for building a happy, prosperous and welfare oriented society and taking solemn pledge to rid it of unrest, injustice and corruption, reports BSS.
In a message to the nation on the occasion of Lailatul Qadr, the Prime Minister said all should be active for reflecting the teachings of Islam — peace, equality and fraternity — in our day to day life.
She said the holy Lailatul Qadr has come to us with the message of blessings from the Almighty in this month of self-restraint and self-purification. On this holy night the Holy Quran was revealed with the message of salvation for this world and world after and that is why the night is called Lailatul Qadr or the night of great honour and dignity, she said.
This appointment was also effective from April 9, the press release added.

Hasina visits Sripur
GAZIPUR, Apr 12: Awami League President and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina on Friday visited Sripur to see for herself the death and destruction caused due to Wednesday's roof-collapse of a textile mill, reports UNB.
At least 13 people were killed and scores of others injured when the roof of the under construction building of Mita Textile mills caved in Wednesday afternoon.

Hasina call to follow Allah's path

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina on Friday called for establishing truth and justice in all spheres of national life following the path shown by Almighty Allah, reports UNB.
In a message on the occasion of holy Lailatul Qadr, she said "Lailatul Qadr is the greatest of all nights, more revered than thousands of nights, when the Holy Quran was revealed by Allah. Let's pray to Allah for His divine blessings guiding us in the path of truth and beauty."
Hasina said exploitation, repression, injustice and bluff are sins in the eye of Islam. But a section of vested interest, she added, is engaged in civil race for their personal gains forgetting the teachings of Islam and the "akherat" (the world hereafter).
Islam is the religion of peace and teaches equality, harmony and brotherhood, she said. "We may have the blessings of Allah only if we avoid injustice, untruth and inhumanity."
The Acting President said Islam is a religion of peace and it has prohibited all things that are wrong, in human and harmful for humanity. Falsehood, wrong doings, creation of indiscipline, chaos in society and all kinds of deception are severe crimes in the eye of Islam, he added.