



Tens of thousands of Albanians refugees pack the docks in Brindisi, Italy Friday after arriving from their homeland. — AFP photo

# Democratic Kuwait

From Page 1 Col 7  
Air Force Secretary Donald Rice said Friday that it "might make sense" for the United States to leave combat aircraft permanently based in Saudi Arabia or other Gulf nations.

US officials travelling with Baker said he received a "commitment" from the Saudis on Friday to pursue an Arab-Israeli settlement as well as economic reconstruction and a permanent security forces for the war-ravaged region.

Israel for the first time said it would agree to a regional peace conference. US officials were cool to the idea.

Baker arrived today in Kuwait, ten days after it was liberated from Iraqi occupation and began talks immediately.

## JUCSU VP hurt

By Staff Correspondent  
Ashrafuddin Khan, Vice-President of Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU), was injured in a road accident at Manohardi upazila of Narasingdi district Saturday afternoon, hospital sources said.

Ashraf along with other Jatiyatadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders including DUCSU Vice-President and MP-elect Amanullah Aman were returning Dhaka after attending anniversary of death of late JCD General Secretary Mahbubul Haq Bablu at his Manohardi house.

## Speaker

From Page 1 Col 7  
after the oath-taking ceremony.

The Sangsad Bhavan is now being made ready to hold the first session of parliament on April 5, he added.

## May polls

From Page 1 Col 4  
Chandra Shekhar formed a new party, the Janata Dal—Socialist, with a less than half of the old party's legislators. Chandra Shekhar, with only 54 Parliament seats, formed a government with the support of Congress 211 members.

Shastri's defection was disclosed dramatically while Congress General Secretary H.K. Bhagat was outlining the party's election plans. Asked to prove his assertion that Congress was "a national magnet," Bhagat signalled to an aide who produced Shastri from an antechamber.

Bhagat said Congress will contest most of the 544 seats in the Lok Sabha, the law-making house of the people. He said the campaign will begin with nationwide tours by Gandhi next week.

Chandra Shekhar remains prime minister until a new government replaces him.

The President will decide the election issue after Parliament approves an interim budget and an extension of federal rule over the troubled state of Punjab, where Sikh extremists are fighting a separatist campaign. Both issues will be taken up on Monday.

India's political crisis prompted the International Monetary Fund to suspend consideration of a two billion dollar loan and to a drop in India's international credit rating, the Observer newspaper reported Saturday.

with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Prime Minister and post-war Martial Law Administrator.

Baker landed at Kuwait airport, which bears the scars of an intense tank battle between US Marines and Iraqi troops during the final hours of the lightning ground war.

## Country divided

From Page 1 Col 8  
Rajshahi districts: Seat-7-Naogaon and Natore districts; Seat-8-Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts; Seat-9-Jhenidah, Magura and Narail districts; Seat-10-Jessore and Satkhira district; Seat-11-Bagerhat and Khulna districts; Seat-12-Patna, Baranua and Bhola districts; Seat-13-Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts; Seat-14-Tangail district; Seat-15-Jamalpur and Sherpur districts; Seat-16-Mymensingh district; Seat-17-Netrokona and Kishoreganj districts; Seat-18-Manikganj district and the upazilas of Dohar, Nawabganj, Keraniganj, Dhamrai and Savar under Dhaka district; Seat-19-Dhaka district except the upazilas of Dohar, Nawabganj, Keraniganj, Dhamrai and Savar; Seat-20-Gazipur and Narshingdi districts; Seat-21-Narayanganj and Munshiganj districts; Seat-22-Rajbari and Faridpur districts; Seat-23-Cox's Bazar, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts; Seat-24-Sunamganj and Sylhet districts; Seat-25-Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts; Seat-26-Brahmanbaria district and the upazilas of Devidwar, Homna, Chandina, Daudkandi and Muradnagar under Comilla district; Seat-27-Chandpur district and Comilla district except the upazilas of Devidwar, Homna, Chandina, Daudkandi and Muradnagar; Seat-28-Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts; Seat-29-Chittagong district; Seat-30-Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts.

The book contains more than fifty articles written by intellectuals, philosophers, literateurs, journalists and political leaders of the country on the life and work of late President Ziaur Rahman.

The book, the first of its kind, has three articles written by the late President himself one article of late Khandaker Abdul Hamid and excerpts of different speeches of Ziaur Rahman and also the diary he wrote during the War of Independence.

Editor Ruhul Amin himself published the book, which is available in all main book stalls of the country.

Among the prominent writers are Principal Dewan Mohammad Azfar, Dr. Mirza Nurul Huda, Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prof. Syed Ali Ahsan, and journalists Rezauddin Ahmed and Sanaullah Noor.

He took a helicopter trip over the badly damaged Kuwait city, shrouded in black smoke from hundreds of oil wells set ablaze by the Iraqis, on his way to meet Sheikh Saad.

Forty foreign journalists and two US soldiers who were released Friday after being captured during the final hours of the lightning ground war.

A correspondent at the scene said officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross accompanied the 42, who arrived from Baghdad by bus.

## Zia memorial book presented to Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent  
A book styled 'Ziaur Rahman Smarak Grontho' (Ziaur Rahman memorial book) was presented to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia by its editor Ruhul Amin on Saturday at her residence.

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Aman is the lone student leader who won the parliamentary polls defeating a formidable Awami Jubo League candidate Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

A total of eleven student leaders, 7 of them sitting and 4 former ones, who played vital role in the mass upsurge of '90 that toppled Ershad, contested the 5th parliamentary polls held on February 27.

Aman was elected with a big margin of over 31 thousand votes over this nearest rival Mostafa Mohsin Montu in Dhaka-3 (Keraniganj) constituency.

## Move to carry Canadian wheat in old ship

By Staff Correspondent  
A move is underway to carry part of a three-lakh-tonne Canadian grant in wheat to Bangladesh in an old ship, having no crane facilities, informed sources said on Saturday.

As per terms, wheat under the grant is to be carried to Bangladesh from Canada and the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is responsible for the carrying, the sources added.

The BSC's chartering committee headed by its Managing Director contacted a Hong Kong-based shipping firm to provide two ships to carry 70,000 tonnes of the grant by February 25. However, the sources said the Hong Kong firm managed to put forward only one ship to carry 35,000 tonnes of wheat by the stipulated date.

The sources alleged that moves are now being made to carry the balance of the 70,000 tonnes of wheat in an off-listed vessel.

## Acting President

From Page 1 Col 4  
to democracy.

National Committee for Resisting Aggression has called upon Acting President to invite BNP to form the council of ministers.

A press release of the committee said forces rejected by the people in the elections were now trying to grab power. It said the quarter was misinterpreting the speech of Acting President on March 1.

The committee also demanded of the interim government to publish a white paper on present economic situation as demanded by the BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

It condemned the recent editorial in Indian daily 'Anandabazar' calling upon the people of Bangladesh to raise demands for merger with India. The committee demanded ban on entry of the paper into Bangladesh.

BSS adds: Shahid Zia Smriti Sangsad General Secretary Dr. M. Mahbubullah today called upon the caretaker government to hand over power to majority party immediately.

Making an oblique reference to the leaders of Awami League he also called upon them to help the majority party in forming government from the floor of opposition in parliament.

In a statement Dr. Mahbubullah expressed grave concern saying that a woman leader of a party along with her accomplices were hatching conspiracies so that BNP could not form government though it won mandate of the people in the recent parliamentary election.

He also expressed concern over what he said delay in handing over power to BNP raising constitutional complications. He observed that there was no constitutional bar to hand over power to BNP.

Our Chittagong Correspondent adds: Twenty seven teacher of Chittagong University in a statement Saturday requested the Acting President to form the cabinet with the Parliament Members of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

According to the Article 58(1) BNP had the right to form the cabinet as the majority party in the parliament, the statement added.

The teachers expressed grave concern over the controversy on the matter which was creating hindrance to the transition to democracy.

## Finance Ministry

From Page 1 Col 8  
Ministry Abdul Karim has been appointed Managing Director of the Bangladesh Shipha Bank.

Another OSD Additional Secretary of the Establishment Ministry Kazi Raquibuddin Ahmed has been appointed Director General of the Bureau of NGO Affairs at the presidents Secretariat.

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## Pay Commission report submitted to President

The National Pay Commission Report-1991 was submitted to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his office here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Chairman of the Pay Commission Saber Reza Karim handed over the report to the Acting President.

Justice Shahabuddin thanked Chairman and members of the Pay Commission for the hard work they put in to complete the report.

Finance Adviser Kafiluddin Mahmud, Principal Secretary to the Acting President Khurshid Alam and members of the Pay Commission were present.

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# Titas Gas considers to withdraw meters

By Inam Ahmed  
Thousands of landlords have not received any Titas Gas bills since the introduction of meter system in 1987. This is mainly due to an unplanned introduction of meters, Titas Gas sources said.

"The authorities installed gas meter in my house in 1987," said Mrs Shirin Ahmed of 16/C, Tallabag. "But I have not got any bills till now. Meanwhile, several of my tenants have been changed. So, if the bill comes, which is usually higher than the normal bill of Taka 195 for a double-burner oven, I will have to pay the extra charge as penalty."

The problem is the same for most landlords. They are worried about the extra bills.

When contacted, Titas Gas sources said the scheme to set up meters was not well planned.

The Titas Gas authorities imported one lakh meters for domestic use in 1987 at a cost of 27 lakh dollars. It installed the meters despite the lack of logistic support. At present it has only 80 meter readers, but they are not sincere in performing duty, sources said, leading to delay in the billing process.

Titas Gas sources said the authorities had not provided the readers with calculators for quite sometime. The readers do not have any supervisors. These are attributing to the billing jam, they pointed out.

The plan to instal meters was lobbied because the number of houses is much higher than meters. One landlord complained, "It is not fair to fix meters in a section of the houses while the majority do not have any meters."

The Titas Gas authorities are now seriously considering withdrawal of the meters due to the high cost of maintaining the meter system. Sources said, it is profitable to fix gas consumption at a flat rate because a section of the readers indulges in malpractices. They alleged that the landlords make underhand arrangements with the readers to keep the bill low.

However, the existing 80 readers will be absorbed by the organisation in other jobs.

The sources said the landlords who would prefer to keep the meters, would be free to do it.

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# The Midnight File

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## Amir new Pak law minister

ISLAMABAD, Mar 9 : Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today appointed a new law minister who will have the job of steering a controversial Islamisation Law through parliament. Amir Hussain, a former law minister, was named as Minister of State for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, reports Reuter.

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NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Thirteen Indian children between six and 18 years are carrying AIDS virus for no fault of theirs, local press reported today. So far, 149 blood samples have been screened at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD). Of these, 13 are confirmed HIV (Human Immuno Deficiency Virus) positive cases, a Health Ministry official said. AIDS is transmitted through sexual contact, from the mother to the foetus or through infected blood or infected syringes, reports Xinhua.

## Severe flood in southern Iran

NICOSIA, Mar 9 : Severe flooding has hit six provinces in southern Iran and relief aid is being flown to help victims. The Iranian news agency IRNA reported today. It said some 750 villages with a total population of more than 200,000 had been affected, reports Reuter.

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## Six rebels held in Manila

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## Tremor hits western Australia

SYDNEY, Mar 9 : An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter Scale hit the outback western Australian gold mining town of Kalgoorlie today, police said.

The tremor in Kalgoorlie, about 550 km (340 miles) east of Perth, lasted about three seconds. It caused minor damage but there were no injuries, said Sergeant Michael Foley, reports Reuter.

## Repolling results

From Page 1 Col 3  
February 27 when the situation went beyond the control of the concerned presiding officers.

In Chandpur-1 (Kachua), Awami League candidate Alhaj Mesbahuddin Khan has been unofficially declared elected securing a total of 25,730 votes against his nearest rival BNP candidate Principal Abul Hasnat who got 25,232 votes. Repolling was held in two centres of this constituency.

Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of NDP was unofficially declared elected from Chittagong-6 (Raosan) where repolling was held in seven centres.

He secured a total of 48,645 votes while his nearest contender Abdullah Al Harun of Awami League got 32,105 votes.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports that the AL candidate boycotted Saturday's repolling since his demand for repolling in a total of 21 centres of this constituency was not met.

Adequate security measures were taken by the authorities during repolling in Raosan.

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Several units of the elite Republican Guards which had been sent to put down unrest in Kut have joined the "popular forces", the spokesman added.

He also reported that 10,000 Republican Guards deserted their ranks in the town of Najaf south of Baghdad, home to a Shiite holy shrine.

Anti-government disturbances and fighting between insurgents and army troops have been reported since the first days of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

The United States had confirmed that unrest spread to dozens of towns but could not substantiate reports of insurgent victory in several communities.

Another report says: An Iraqi opposition leader Saturday called on the United

## Rebels seize Basra Radio

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