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# The Daily Star

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## Inside today

### Article



Yuri Gagarin made the world's first manned spaceflight on April 12, 1961, and on April 12, 1981 the American space Shuttle made its first manned orbital flight. At the next Bush-Gorbachev summit new super-power cooperation in space is likely to be announced.  
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### International

Thailand's deposed Prime Minister Chatchai Choonhavan arrived in Bangkok Thursday from London to receive a royal decoration granted by King Bhumibol Adulyadej.  
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### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



BBC is trying to improve its audibility for 8.3 million listeners in Bengali and English in Bangladesh.  
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### Parliament proceedings

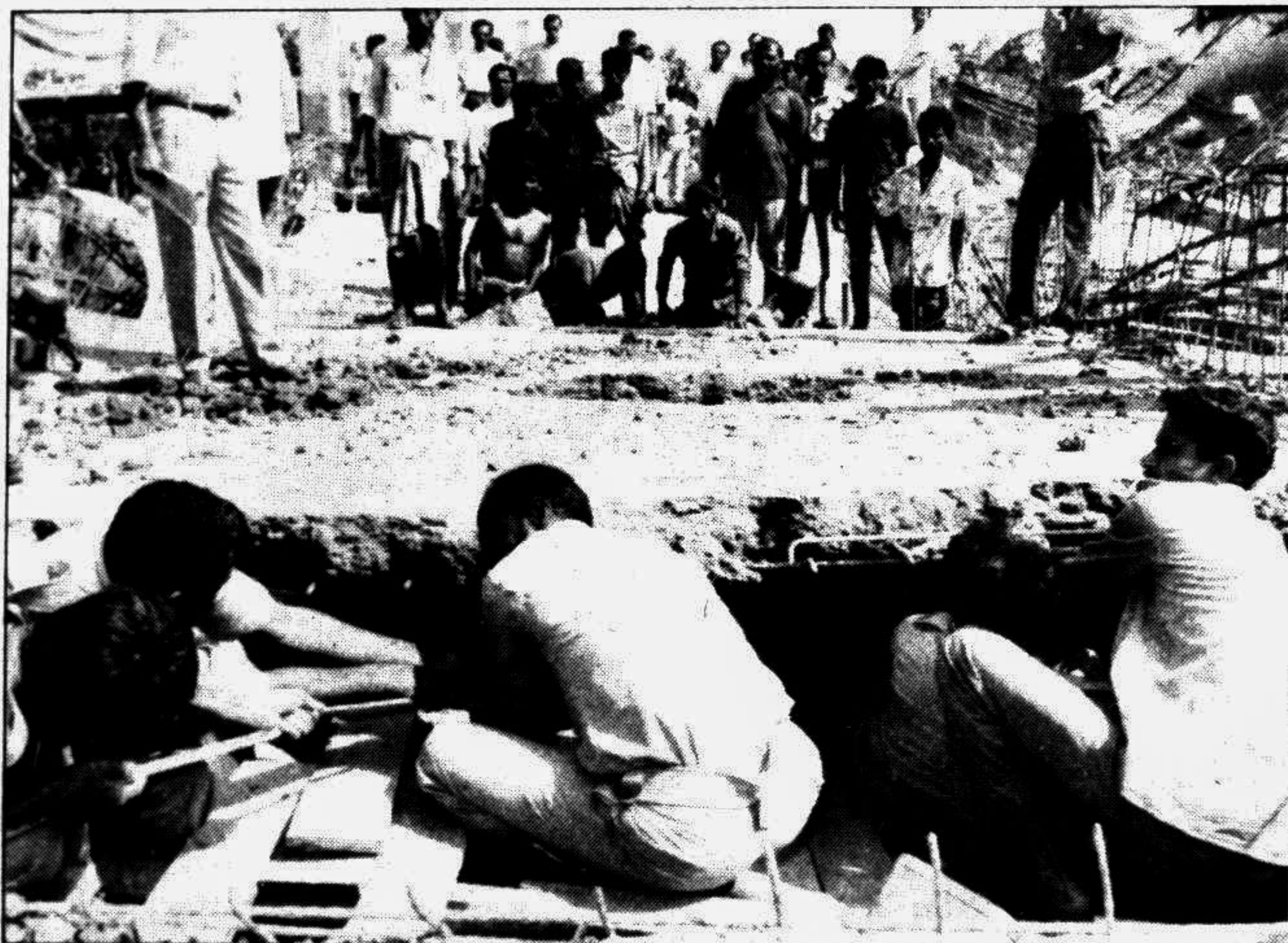
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### Weekend Magazine

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## Rescue operation at Sripur continues : 13 bodies recovered so far

# Many more trapped under rubble



TWO FACES OF A TORNADO : Detritus of Mita Textile Mills at Sripur, left, and the agonies of losing the loved ones, right. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The death toll in Wednesday's roof-collapse of Mita Textile Mills at Sripur of Gazipur district rose to 13 with eight more bodies recovered from the debris Thursday.

The rescuers suspended their activities Thursday evening after a 12-hour operation since Wednesday evening. The rescue operations will resume this (Friday) morning. Till Thursday, the number of the construction workers trapped under the collapsed roof was 26. They include 13 dead and 13 severely injured.

The roof of the under-construction mills building caved in when tornado lashed the area Wednesday afternoon trapping the labourers.

The members of Fire Service along with the technicians of Titas Gas recovered five bodies and 13 critically injured persons till Wednesday. The fire fighters continued their rescue operations till 6.30 pm Thursday recovering eight more bodies.

They said there may be some more bodies under the debris. But local people believe many bodies are still trapped under the rubble.

Bodies recovered Thursday  
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## Misuse of govt funds

### Another case against Ershad

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has instituted a case against former President Lt Gen (Rtd) Hussain Muhammed Ershad with Tejgaon thana for misusing local currency and hard earned foreign exchange to the tune of Taka 1 crore 14 lakh 83 thousand 8 hundred 44.40 of the government by approving unnecessary, foreign visit for his wife Begum Raushan Ershad, reports BSS.

The ex-president approved the visit of his wife to attend different seminars abroad as head of various delegations with VIP status with ulterior motive by abusing his power  
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### Transfer of Ershad to Central Jail to be delayed

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President Ershad's transfer to the Central Jail from Gulshan sub-jail has been delayed by at least one week as accommodation facilities are yet to be completed.

According to official sources, though a cell has been readied for Ershad at the Central Jail, it is yet to be equipped with modern facilities. The Government will also have to arrange special security measures for Ershad at the Central Jail.

The official sources however said, the deposed president would be shifted to the Central Jail before Eid-ul-Fitr.

### Dainik Dosh management assaults journalists

About 15 journalists including BFUJ and DUJ leaders were assaulted by "hired goondas" when they went to discuss the Dainik Dosh situation with the newspaper's authorities on Thursday, reports UNB.

A protest rally will be held at the National Press Club today (Friday) at 10 am. All DUJ unit members have been requested to attend the rally.

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) in a press release said the attack came when the journalists of Dainik Dosh and BFUJ and DUJ leaders went to  
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## Private member's resolution rejected by voice vote No more loan exemption in any sector, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Thursday rejected by voice vote a resolution, calling for exempting interest payments on agricultural loans upto Taka 10 thousand.

Finance and Planning Speaker **Abdur Rahman Biswas** Thursday adjourned the House at 4.30 pm till 2 pm on April 21, reports BSS.

Minister Saifur Rahman told the Sangsad that the available resources of the government would not permit any new interest exemption measure for agricultural loans.

Winding up two and a half hours' discussion on private members' day, the minister

said, the government had already announced its decision to write-off all outstanding agricultural loans upto Taka five thousand. The decision was taken to redeem the election pledges of BNP, he added.

He said the implementation of the decision on agricultural debt relief would involve about Taka 1000 crore. Besides, the land holdings upto 25 bighas have been made tax-free, he added.

The resolution, calling upon the Government to waive interest charges on all agricultural loans upto Taka ten thousand, was moved by independent member Nurul Islam  
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Reazuddin Ahmed

Opposition MP Suranjit Sengupta probably drew the displeasure of the Awami League again on Thursday when he said, "persons in Mujib coats fit better in the Opposition Bench".  
Suranjit, who found Awami  
See Page 12 Col. 7

## Khaleda visits tornado-hit Gazipur

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday rushed to Sreepur Upazila of Gazipur where an under-construction textile mills collapsed as tornado hit the area Wednesday, reports BSS.

The district administration told the Prime Minister that nine people had been killed and 14 others injured when Mita Textile Mills collapsed under the impact of tornado which lashed the areas at 4 pm Wednesday. The persons, killed and injured in the accident are construction workers who took refuge in the mills building. The Prime Minister was informed that medical teams were working in the area.

Begum Zia was told that because of architectural defects the under construction mills collapsed during the tornado. Begum Zia went to the local Sadar Hospital to see the condition of the eight injured persons admitted there. She talked to the victims who narrated her how they were injured.

## Moudud bailed out

By Staff Correspondent

Former vice-president and Jatiya Party MP Moudud Ahmed was released from Dhaka Central Jail on Thursday after the Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court vacated the stay order imposed earlier on his conditional bail granted by the High Court Division.

Justice Latifur Rahman, Judge of the Vacation Bench who stayed the bail on April 7, after the hearing on Wednesday rejected the appeal of the Attorney General for stay of operation of the judgement of the High Court Division.

The High Court Division on April 4 granted a bail on condi-

tion that Moudud Ahmed submit his passport and the deed of his house to the Judicial Treasury of the government.

His release was delayed till April 6 as he failed to submit his original house ownership deed to the court.

Attorney General Aminul Haq moved the application on behalf of the state while senior Advocate Abdul Malek appeared for Moudud.

The former vice-president along with former chairman of BCIC and former Industries Secretary Mosharraf Hossain and ex-deputy prime minister Dr M A Matin is an accused in a corruption case.

Moudud Ahmed was received by his wife and relatives and a small number of party workers at the jail gate at around 3-30 pm and was greeted with two bouquets of flowers.

He got in his car and without saying anything headed for his Gulshan house.

The public enquiry commission on Haripur petroleum agreement has submitted its  
See Page 12 Col. 8

## Crackdown on feuding prisoners in Chittagong jail: 35 injured

CHITTAGONG Apr 11: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and BDR took advantage of a clash between convicts and under-trial prisoners today to bring the situation in Chittagong jail under control following a crackdown on unruly prisoners, CMP sources said, reports BSS.

Thirty-five prisoner, both convicts and under trial, were injured during the crackdown.

Police and BDR men recovered lethal weapons including swords, iron rods, GI pipes, iron darts, blades, choppers, bamboo sticks and three tons of brick bats and pebbles during a search inside the wards and on the roofs. Two kg ganja, bomb making accessories, acid and sedatives were also recovered from the possession of some prisoners.

About one thousand police including two hundred BDR men were engaged in the operation led by Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Deputy Commissioner CMP (Detectives and Crimes).

All the prisoners are now in their lockups, the police said. Most of the prisoners responded peacefully to a loud speaker announcement by the police asking them to go back to their respective wards and cells.

The raid was made at the request of jail authorities when the convicts and the under trial prisoners were engaged in clashes Thursday morning. Later 18 under trial prisoners were removed to Panchalaish police station here following crackdown.  
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### Press Note

A huge number of indigenous weapons were recovered from Chittagong Jail Thursday morning during a joint raid conducted by the members of the law enforcing agencies including BDR, Police and Jail Security Force, a Press Note issued in Dhaka on Thursday said, reports BSS.

The recovered weapons included 34 kirich, 74 MS rods, 109 GI pipes, 14 iron angles, 199 swords and ramda, 13 balams, one pot of acid, one KG ingredients for manufacturing cocktails and about one thousand bamboo and wooden sticks. One KG ganja was also recovered.

The Press Note said, the  
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## Student leader shot dead

By Staff Correspondent  
Shariful Islam Sharif, General Secretary of Tejgaon



Polytechnic Institute Students Union and a Leader of Chaitra League (S-A) was shot dead by  
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## Rural industrialisation : Bangladesh to follow China's example

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Bangladesh is keen to develop rural industries drawing upon the Chinese experience.

It was agreed at the sixth session of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission, which concluded on Thursday, that China would provide Bangladesh with technology and expertise to implement development projects.

China has achieved a tremendous industrial growth recently as village-based industries have flourished there. One informed source told The Daily Star on Thursday that the Chinese experience in this particular area would be

implemented in principle in Bangladesh.

With the growth of its rural based industries, China has provided 100 million jobs to its rural population.

The annual TEC meeting, held in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and understanding was chaired by the ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury.

The Chinese side was led by Wang Wen Dong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. Both sides discussed mutual economic cooperation and expressed satisfaction over the successful implementation of

decisions reached earlier.

Three main areas of cooperation came up for comprehensive discussion at the JEC meeting.

Cumulative trade imbalance was discussed in detail. The trade imbalance with China stood at 900 million US dollars. Bangladesh requested China to reduce the trade imbalance. China agreed in principle to narrow the gap.

China has agreed to buy more urea and negotiations will be held soon. The Chinese government has already bought some urea from Bangladesh.

The two sides also agreed to take steps to increase the

volume of trade further.

Both China and Bangladesh will make concerted efforts to implement the protocol fully before its expiry on June 30, 1991. The two sides also agreed to negotiate barter trade protocol No. 13 and sign the agreement before the expiry of the last protocol.

Under the protocol, Bangladesh will export raw jute, jute goods, tea, leather and tobacco to China. On the other hand, China will export coal, petroleum products, chemicals and a number of other goods to Bangladesh.

In the area of project assist-  
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