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# The Daily Star

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## Inside today International



The All-Indian Congress Committee spokesman MJ Akbar is facing considerable difficulty in his Bihar constituency of Kishanganj. Page 5

## Article

The conflict in the Gulf delivered a wrecked Kuwait back to its people, but new horrors have struck the Iraqis, dashed the hopes of the long suffering Kurdish people, and stirred old quarrels among neighbouring countries. Page 4

## Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Dr Azizul Haq of CNRS regrets absence of collaborative research links in the medical field. Page 3

## Feature

Education

Tips on Study Abroad Page 6

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Yang Shangkun ill

BEIJING, Apr 12: Chinese President Yang Shangkun has been taken ill and hospitalized, a visiting dignitary said today. The Chinese president had been taken ill and hospitalized, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namalu said. Yang cancelled a meeting with Namalu scheduled for this afternoon, reports AFP.

### Israelis bomb Palestinian base

SIDON (Lebanon), Apr 12: Israeli warplanes on Friday blasted a base in southern Lebanon manned by guerrillas loyal to Palestinian terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal, police said. At least four guerrillas were killed and nine wounded. A police spokesman said the planes struck at the hilltop base in Salhiyen on the eastern edge of Sidon, 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Beirut, reports AP.

### Tunisia orders Reuter man out

TUNISIA, Apr 12: The Tunisian government has ordered the expulsion of Jonathan Wright, Reuters chief correspondent in North Africa, over a report on human rights. Wright, 37, based in Tunisia since July 1988, was summoned by the information department on Wednesday and given four days to leave the country, reports Reuter.

### Minsk miners begin talks

MINSK, Apr 12: Strike leaders on Friday began negotiations with the Byelorussian government, but warned they would call a republic-wide general strike if worker grievances are not resolved within 10 days.

## Sabri and Itar timings

Day	Last time for Sabri	Itar
27	Saturday 4.10 am	6.24 pm
28	Sunday 4.10 am	6.24 pm

## Backstage parley on form of govt during Eid vacation likely

By Moinuddin Naser

The issue of the form of government will come up for discussion in Parliament after the Eid vacation. Awami League has given a notice to the Parliament Secretariat, to bring a bill seeking reversion to parliamentary system, on a private members' day. The notice was given prior to the inaugural session of Parliament.

Members both from the Treasury and the Opposition benches told The Daily Star that during the Eid vacation the issue will taken up for discussion among the parties concerned.

on this issue, but majority members feel that the issue should be debated in Parliament to evolve an acceptable system. However, the Treasury Bench members opine that if Awami League brings any such bill unilaterally, it may eventually ruin the possibility of reaching a consensus on the vital constitutional issue.

Awami League presidium member Salahuddin Yousuf told The Daily Star that the bill was notified to the Parliament Secretariat before the beginning of the session. As the time bar of 15 days had not been over, the bill could not be tabled on the private members' day on Thursday, he said. The bill will be placed on the first private members' day after resumption of Parliament session.



People retrieving charred household articles after a fire at a Paribag slum in the city last night. Inset — a wailing woman of the slum.

## 400 shanty houses gutted by fire in city

By Staff Correspondent

Flood damages crops on 70,000 acres in Netrokona

NETROKONA, Apr 12: Flash flood caused by heavy rain and onrush of waters from the hilly region during the last week submerged boro crops on about 70,000 acres in three upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, at least 30 per cent of standing boro crops in three low lying upazilas — Khaliajuri, Mohanganj and Madan — have been damaged.

The fire damaged property worth Taka five lakh. Fearstricken slum dwellers took shelter on the footpath with whatever they could save.

About 400 shanty houses were burnt to ashes in a fire at Paribag in city Friday night. Number of casualty could not be immediately ascertained. But over 20 persons, most of them children, were hurt in stampedes.

The area plunged into darkness as power supply was cut off.

Fire Service sources said the fire originated from a kitchen and engulfed the area quickly.

The place was meant for quarters for fourth class employees of PG Hospital. About 90 PG employees reside in the shanty dwellings.

The fire started at 9:30 pm. Fire Service units reached the spot about 15 minutes later. It took about an hour to bring the fire under control. Firemen were carrying on dumping work till 11:15 pm.

## Police raid Calico Mills, pick up six with arms

PABNA, Apr 12: Police recovered some arms and ammunition and arrested six people from Calico Cotton Mills here on Friday for their involvement, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Indu (28), Faridul Islam (21), Abul Kalam Azad (25), Hatem Ali (23), Asadullah (22) and Ilias (23).

All of them are workers of Calico Cotton Mills and belong to Jatiya Samik League, police said. They were reportedly sacked before the Mills declared lay off in November last year.

Police raided the Mills at about 3 pm and arrested the six with arms and ammunition.

The recovered arms and ammunition are two cut rifles, two pipe guns, four bullets, two kirich and one knife.

## India goes to polls on May 20

NEW DELHI, Apr 12: India will hold its 10th general elections over three days beginning May 20, the Election Commission announced Friday, reports AP.

Other polling days will be May 23 and 26, Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan said.

He said polling in the strife-torn states of Punjab, Assam and Jammu-Kashmir will be held separately and that the dates will be announced later.

The elections were called after Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar quit March 7, the second Prime Minister to resign since the last Parliamentary polls held 18 months ago.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman dissolved Parliament after it became clear that no political party could win a majority in the legislature.

The previous elections, held in November 1989, returned a hung Parliament, which prevented the Congress Party of Rajiv Gandhi from regaining power. His former Defense Minister, V.P. Singh, cobbled together a government by drawing support from a right-wing Hindu party and an alliance of leftist groups.

Singh resigned after 11 months in office when the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party withdrew support, Chandra Shekhar, who broke away from Singh's Janata Dal party, formed the government with the support of Gandhi's Congress.

But the Western-leaning republics want to go a step further. In the statement they called for "a loose grouping of six internationally recognised, fully independent states."

Serbia and Montenegro insist that the international community continue to recognise only Yugoslavia as a whole, a position strongly supported by the West.

The statement, issued after the meeting at a castle 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, said referendums should be held by the end of May in all republics.

A group of experts from all republics would work out the details of the vote and present their findings to the Presidents at their next meeting, for which no date was announced.

The statement noted that Slovenia had already carried out a plebiscite on December 23 that overwhelmingly supported the meeting at a castle 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, said referendums should be held by the end of May in all republics.

## Sink petty differences: Shahabuddin

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on Friday called for taking a vow on the holy night of Lailatul Qadr, the best night for self-purification in this holy month, to adhere to the path of truth and justice avoiding petty differences and past mistakes, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of Holy Lailatul Qadr, the Acting President stressed for reflecting the tenets of Quran and Sunnah in our daily life and said simultaneously, we all have to be active in building a happy, prosperous and welfare-oriented society in the spirit of religion.

Justice Shahabuddin said See Page 10 Col. 8

## Jumatul Wida, Shab-e-Qadr observed

By Staff Correspondent

Jumatul Wida, the last Juma congregation of the holy month of Ramzan, was observed Friday. Holy Shab-e-Qadr, the night of revelation of the Holy Quran, was observed all over Bangladesh last night.

Devotees assembled in mosques in Dhaka city, as elsewhere in the country, in large numbers to say the Juma prayer on the day. Special prayers were offered at all mosques for peace and progress of Bangladesh and the Islamic Ummah.

The programmes of Jumatul Wida included Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfils and religious sermons.

In Dhaka city the largest Juma congregation was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Devotees from all over See Page 10 Col. 6

## Big Five talk safe zones for Kurds

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 12: The day after the Security Council officially declared an end to the Gulf War, the five permanent members of the council discussed setting up safety zones for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq, reports AP.

Ambassadors of the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union discussed a possible UN resolution which would guarantee safety for Kurds from Iraqi attack and permit distribution of humanitarian aid, Western diplomats said.

The five were considering ways to protect the Kurds short of establishing a UN enclave which would set a precedent and bolster Kurdish claims for a separate state.

They suggested the UN Secretary-General might designate safe areas in northern Iraq where Kurdish refugees could receive humanitarian aid from UN and other international relief agencies.

The diplomats said they hoped the prospect of another UN resolution would deter Iraq from any attacks on Kurdish areas and said that there might be no need for a resolution if the Kurds were safe.

UN officials Friday had no immediate reaction to an Associated Press report of an attack on Kurds inside a US-protected zone in Iraq before the formal cease-fire went into effect. UN officials said they sought official confirmation of the report.

On Thursday evening the Gulf War ended officially not on the battlefield, but in a sunlit room at the United Nations when Iraq's Ambassador accepted a Security Council let-

ter noting Baghdad's capitulation. "It is a pleasure for me to hand this to you," the President of the Security Council, Belgian Ambassador Paul Norderaeme, said Thursday. "The formal cease-fire," Norderaeme added, "is therefore effective."

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari later told reporters "I am happy to have it, and to express my gratefulness to the president of the council." In exchange for the official end to hostilities, Iraq pledged that it will pay war damages and scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

Soon after, the British Ambassador, Sir David Hannay, said he would begin efforts Friday to draft a new Security Council resolution requiring safety zones in northern Iraq for the Kurds. Hannay said it would deal with helping Iraqis avoid going across borders in their flight from the Iraqi army.

Hannay said he would discuss the idea with Ambassadors of the council's other Big Five on Friday, and individually with other council members. He said a resolution on safety zones would only be necessary if Iraq's government does not allow a broad relief campaign that is being organised.

Meanwhile, the United States stepped up relief efforts Friday for desperate Iraqi refugees on Turkish border, airdropping baby food and sending ships filled with food, officials said.

Eight UN, two French and three British planes dropped supplies in the sixth day of the US-coordinated air drop, he said. A US Navy CH-53E See Page 10 Col. 1

## 2 killed in clash with Sarbahara Partymen : 8 held, 5 rifles seized

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Apr 12: Two persons were killed in a clash between members of Sarbahara Party and the local people on Thursday.

Police arrested eight persons with five rifles. Police said, about 25 Sarbahara Partymen came to Khaser Hat village of Kalkini Upazila at about 8 a.m. They fired at the people who were chasing them. The firing continued for about an hour.

Shariatpur police encountered the armed Sarbahara Partymen and arrested seven of them. Police recovered four rifles from them. Police later arrested another person and recovered a rifle.

An armed man was killed in mass beating. The mob gouged out eyes of another Sarbahara Party member. A villager was killed in the firing.

## Dhaka asks US to write off \$440m loan

WASHINGTON, Apr 12: AHS Ataul Karim, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA called on Mr Edward Madigan, US Secretary of Agriculture here on Thursday, reports BSS.

The Ambassador apprised the agricultural sectors of the recent democratic transition in Bangladesh.

The US Secretary of Agriculture appreciated the recent reforms in agriculture sector in Bangladesh and enquired about the implementation of flood control action plan.

Bangladesh Ambassador requested the US government to write off accumulated PL-480, Title 1 loans of Bangladesh which now stand at about 440 million dollars.

The US Secretary of Agriculture assured the Ambassador that the proposal for waiving the PL-480 debt of Bangladesh was now under the active consideration of the US government.

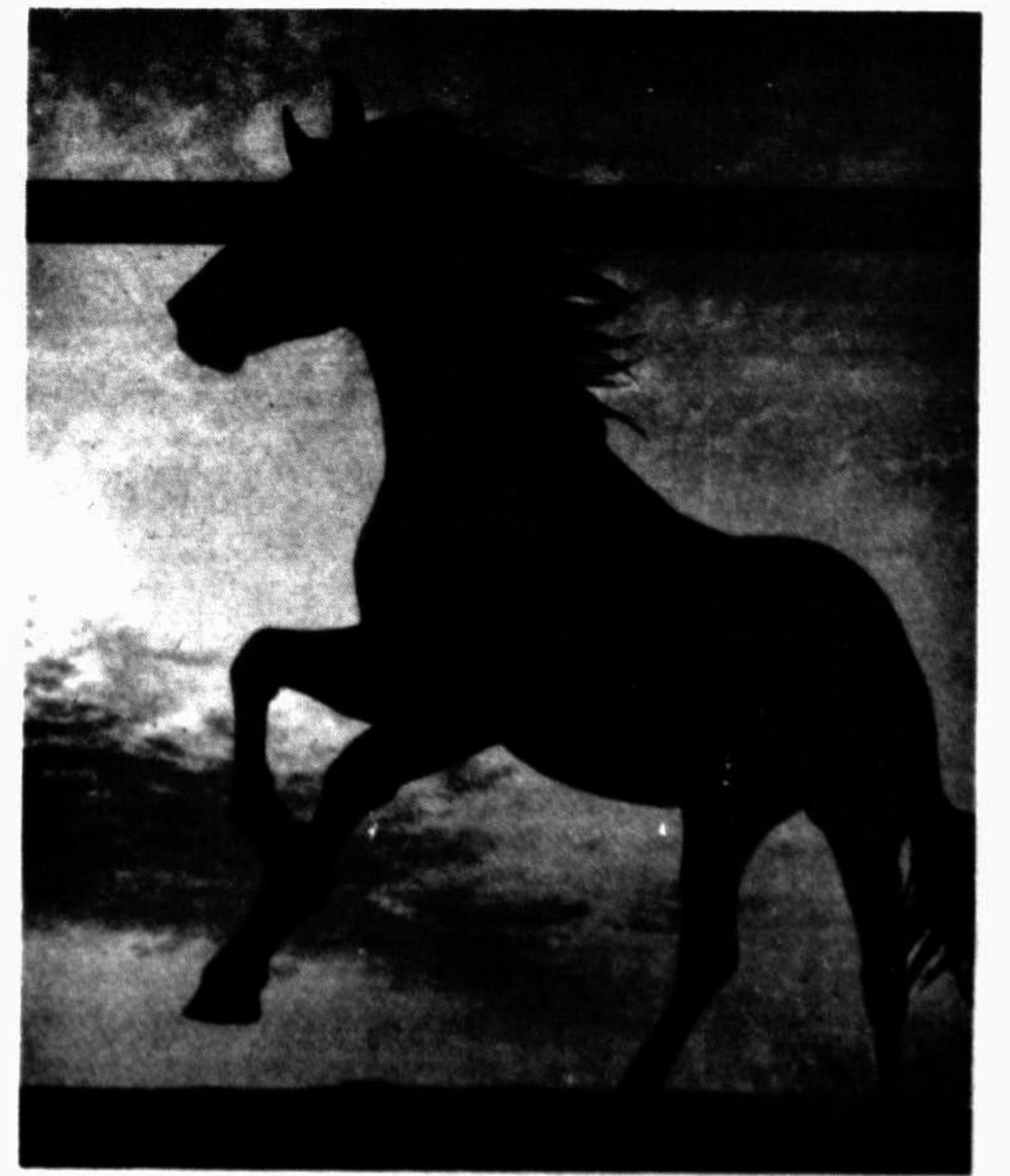
## Sripur roof collapse

## Search for bodies ends

By Staff Correspondent

The Fire Brigade rescuers ended their search Friday for bodies from the rubble of collapsed Mita Textile Mills at Sripur of Gazipur district with See Page 10 Col. 1

## Green Delta Never Looked Back .....



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