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The Daily Star



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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina develops complications
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina remained bedridden on the third day Saturday with further complications in her throat and stomach, party sources said. Hasina has been suffering from low blood pressure and fever since Thursday, reports UNB.

Two insurgents held
 CHITTAGONG, June 1: Bangladesh security forces captured two insurgents Rupon and Antar, after exchanging fire with them in Hazachara under Rangamati Hill District Saturday morning and recovered one SMC, some ammunition and documents from their possession official sources said, reports BSS.

Crops damaged in Sherpur
 SHERPUR, June 1: Onrushing hilly water today breached the Kellabari dam on river Vogal causing extensive damage to crops and dwellings in three upazilas of the district. Officials said about 2000 acres of IRR1-Boro and jute in Nalitbari upazila were inundated, reports UNB.

India-Nepal border rocked
 NEW DELHI, June 1: An earthquake measuring 4.6 on the open-ended Richter Scale rocked the India-Nepal border area at 8.20 am (0250 GMT) Saturday, the Meteorological Office here said, reports AFP.

New probe into Ziaul Haq's death
 ISLAMABAD, June 1: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today ordered a new, high-level investigation into the death of military strongman Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in a 1988 air crash, reports Reuter.

Killer wind hits again



Satellite picture of the cyclonic storm taken on Saturday. —Courtesy: Met Office

A cyclonic storm with a maximum windspeed of 100 kilometres per hour hit the coastal belt of Bangladesh from Patuakhali to Chittagong in the early hours of today.
 The storm, the second in just over a month, has been a severe blow to the people of the coastal areas who were devastated by the April 29 cyclone which had a maximum windspeed of 235 kilometres per hour and whipped up a tidal surge 12 to 20 feet in height.
 Low-lying areas of the coastal districts have been inundated both by heavy downpours and tidal surge, six to eight feet in height, caused by the cyclone this morning.
 The cyclone marks a slight deviation from the normal. In the premonsoon season cyclones come over Bangladesh in April and May and rarely occur in the month of June.
 Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury, Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department told the Daily Star last night only in 1982 they had recorded a cyclone in the month of June. That cyclone had, however, recurved after coming over the north Bay and moved straight eastwards before hitting the Burma coast on June 6. Between 1970 and 1990 no more cyclones were observed in the Bay of Bengal

in June.
 Today's cyclone was of a much lower intensity compared to the April 29 cyclone that left an estimated 1.4 lakh people dead and damaged property worth over the billion dollars. But its devastation is feared to be substantial in terms of loss of property.
 Newly erected homes in areas devastated by the April 29 cyclone are mostly temporary and are feared to have been damaged.
 Reports reaching Dhaka from the coastal districts say, coastal people panicked as they got the information that another cyclone was approaching them.
 Volunteers of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, and people engaged by the district administrations spread warning messages and started evacuating people from low lying areas to cyclone shelters and highland areas. Emdad Hosain, Director Cyclone Preparedness Programme told the Daily Star.
 A Met office source said that the fury of the cyclone was likely to be felt in more areas than the one of April 29.
 Whereas the main body of the April 29 cyclone had crossed the Chittagong Cox's Bazar coasts, the main body today's cyclone moved over the coasts from Patuakhali to Chit-

tagong.
 Under the influence of the cyclone it was raining all over the coastal districts from Saturday morning. Storm with windspeed of 20 to 30 kilometres per hour was being felt in the coastal areas of Patuakhali, Khepupara, Bhola, Sandwip, Hatiya and Feni, according to reports received late last night. The sky was cloudy.
 Our Chittagong correspondent reports: five helicopters of the US Joint Task Force were flown to Dhaka on Saturday afternoon as weathermen warned of the approaching cyclone. Sources said steps were also taken to anchor the US vessel Saint Louis, which has been brought to the Chittagong area for relief operations, at a relatively safe place.
 Intermittent rainfall due to the cyclone hampered relief activities in the coastal areas hit by the April 29 cyclone. The district administrations warned the people of the low-lying areas and shifted them to safe places.
 The cyclonic storm was persisting in south-east Bay and adjoining east central Bay in the form of a depression on Friday evening. By Saturday morning it intensified into a deep depression before taking the shape of a cyclonic storm by the afternoon.
 Met Office said, by 9am last

night the cyclonic storm was centred at 270 kilometres south of Khulna town. The maximum sustained windspeed within 54 kilometres of the cyclone centre was 80 kilometres per hour rising to 100 kilometres per hour in gusts or squalls.
 Met Office advised the maritime port of Mongla to hoist danger Signal No7 and to ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Danger Signal No 6.
 River ports of the districts of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Barguna, Pirojpur, Bhola, Noakhali, Feni, Lakshmipur, Chandpur, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar were advised to hoist Danger Signal No 3 (three).
 Met Office said under the influence of the cyclonic storm these districts, their offshore islands and chars were to experience moderate to heavy downpour and their lowlying areas to get inundated by storm surge of six to eight feet in height.
 By last midnight the cyclone reached upto 175 kilometres south of Khulna town. Khulna and its adjoining areas were experiencing strong winds under peripheral effect of the cyclone.
 An emergency meeting of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme Implementation Committee was held at the Met Office on Saturday night. The cyclone was centred at 270 kilometres south of Khulna town. The maximum sustained windspeed within 54 kilometres of the cyclone centre was 80 kilometres per hour rising to 100 kilometres per hour in gusts or squalls.
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Inquiry report on damage to planes, vessels submitted

The two-member Commission of Enquiry constituted earlier to probe into the damage of aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force and vessels of the Bangladesh Navy during the recent cyclone and tidal surge in Chittagong, submitted its report, reports BSS.
 Justice Latifur Rahman, the senior member of the commission, submitted the report to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his official residence in Dhaka on Saturday evening.
 The Acting President thanked the members of the

British copter sinks in Bay

CHITTAGONG, June 1: A British helicopter ferrying relief to cyclone survivors ditched in the Bay of Bengal this morning but all five people aboard were rescued, Commander of the US Task Force said, reports UNB.
 Maj Gen Henry Stackpole said the accident took place off Cox's Bazar near the British Royal Fleet Auxiliary's 23,000-ton supply ship 'Fort Grange' where the helicopter was based.
 "There were no injuries and the five people are back on the 'Fort Grange'," he said. "I'm just gratified there was no loss of life."

Sabotage rather than an accident, says Gen Beg Sporadic explosions continue after blast at army ammunition depot

NEWSHERA (Pakistan), June 1: Sporadic explosions continued here Saturday as thousands of people, without power and water following a powerful blast at an army ammunition depot, fled this northwestern city, reports agencies.
 Rockets, mortars and artillery shells littered streets and roads around the Badrashi ammunition depot in

quarters of an armoured division.
 Nowshera district, witnesses said, a day after the blast that claimed 14 lives unspecified number of casualties.
 Authorities closed schools and colleges indefinitely and declared the area a "danger zone."
 Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and top military officers including army chief General Mirza Aslam Beg travelled to the garrison city, also head-

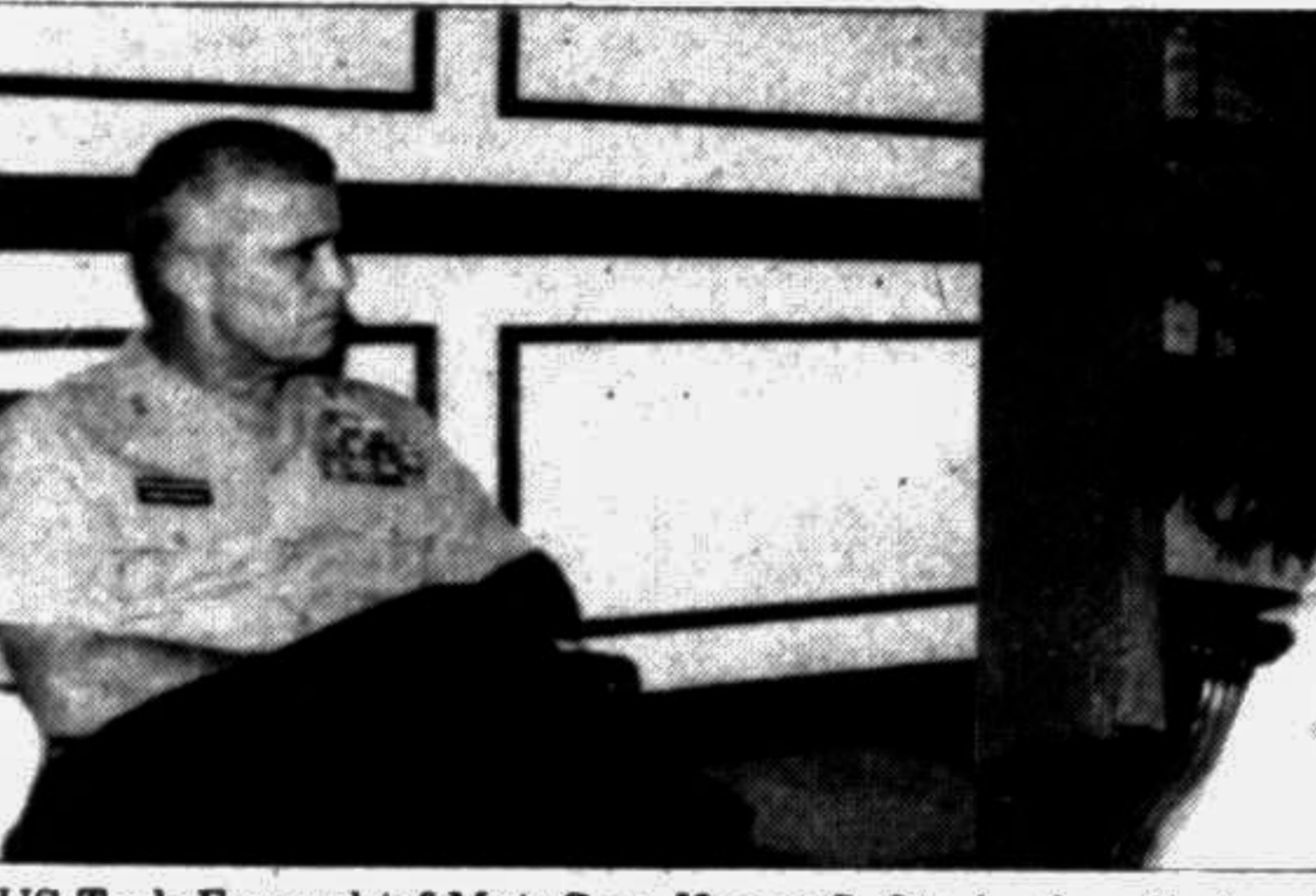
of explosions at an arms depot looked like sabotage.
 Gen Beg, speaking after visiting 30 of the more than 60 people injured in Friday's blast at Nowshera Garrison, said he believed an inquiry would probably indicate sabotage rather than an accident.
 "Form all considerations it is an act of sabotage he told Reuters. "Nobody was handling

Tension on DU campus further mounts Chancellor urged to hold politicians' meet

By DU Correspondent
 Tension is mounting on the Dhaka University campus with intensified rivalry between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) amid stray incidents of clash between them in different parts of the country.
 Both JCD and BCL are increasing their strength to face the elections to the DU Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the hall unions, due on July 18.
 Leaders of different components of now-defunct All-Party Students Unity (APSU) believe that fresh violence may take place on the campus at any moment. Armed activists including outsiders are roaming different residential halls regularly, eye witnesses said. Till Saturday, JCD activists were consolidating their strongholds at Mohsin Hall, Suryasen Hall, Jasimuddin Hall, Mujib Hall and Zia Hall while BCL (S-A) at Salimullah Hall, Zahurul Huq Hall and Jagannath Hall. It was gathered.
 See Page 10 Col. 7

Education Week begins today

The Education Week 1991 begins today. The theme of the week this year is "Education and Democracy", reports BSS.
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the week at a function of the Shilpakala Academy, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and State Minister for Education, Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan will be present as the special guests.
 A seminar on "Education and Democracy" will be held at 11-30 am immediately after the inaugural function. Prof. Shamsul Haq, Chairman of the University Grants Commission will present the main paper.
 In a message on the eve of the Education Week Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed stressed the need for congenial academic atmosphere in the interest of



US Task Force chief Maj. Gen. Henry C. Stackpole called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office on Saturday. —PID photo

Task Force service truly praiseworthy, PM tells Stackpole

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has thanked US President George Bush for sending the Task Force to Bangladesh right after the Gulf war saying its service to the distressed people was truly praiseworthy, reports BSS.
 She made the remarks while talking to the US Task Force chief Major General Henry C. Stackpole who called on her at her Sugandha office Saturday.
 The people of Bangladesh will remember the services of

BNPPP talks form of govt on June 10

By Moinuddin Naser
 The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) is likely to sit again June 10, before the budget session of parliament, to decide on the form of government.
 According to party insiders the debate on the issue initiated on May 19, could not be concluded as the chairperson of the Party Begum Khaleda Zia had kept silent about it.
 In the meeting most of the parliament members excluding a few, expressed their support for a parliamentary form of government.
 BNP proponents of a parliamentary system told The Daily Star that it would not be wise to go for another general election to elect a president this year as it would involve additional expenditure.
 Moreover they said that the percentage of the votes polled by the BNP during the last parliament elections was not encouraging enough to take the risk of a presidential election.
 On the other hand the op-

Appellate Division hears Ershad's case transfer today

By Staff Correspondent
 The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will today (Sunday) hear the petition for transfer of Ershad's arms case from the Special Tribunal.
 Meanwhile, Judge of the Special Tribunal Mohammad Habibullah has again adjourned proceedings at the Tribunal till June 3, after a petition by the Defence informing the Tribunal that hearing on the transfer of the case was pending.
 See Page 10 Col. 3

JU JCD rival factions to mend fences

By JU Correspondent
 An attempt to reconcile the existing feud between two rival factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Jahangirnagar University unit, is likely to become fruitful in a day or two.
 JCD and JUCSU leader, Lutful Kabir said that the previously formed six-member reconciliation committee met for the fifth time on Friday and claimed success in bringing an end to the feud between the two JCD rivals.
 The JCD leader said that the party would not withdraw

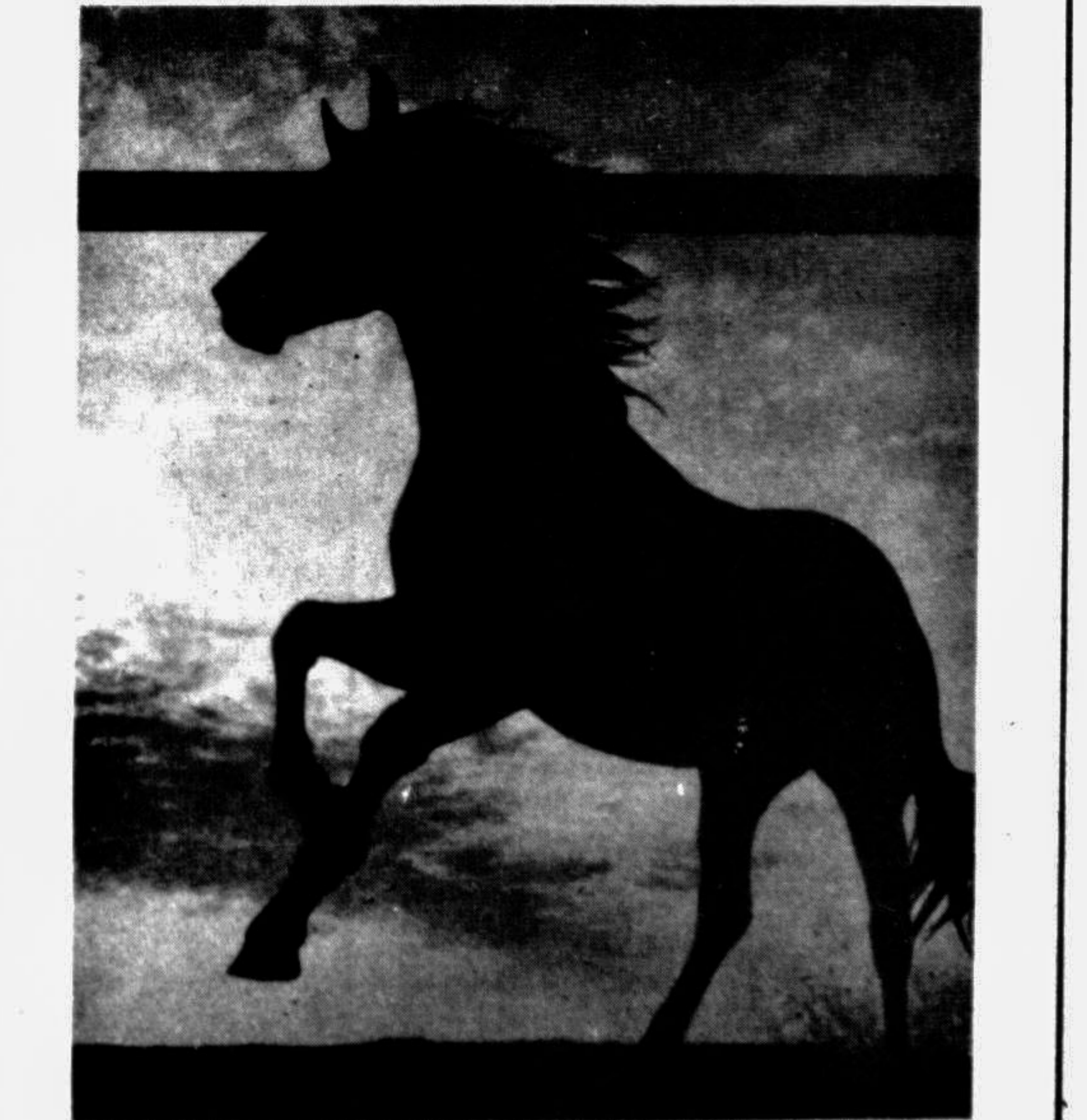
US, USSR agree on arms cut

LISBON, June 1: The United States and the Soviet Union today agreed on the interpretation of a treaty on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe, opening the path to a US-Soviet summit in Moscow and a general disarmament pact, reports AFP.
 We have an agreement in principle that will solve those issues, US Secretary of State James Baker said after meeting for more than three hours with his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh. Their talks focussed on arms cuts in Europe in a bid to clear up problems holding up the

conclusion of the START arms treaty.
 The START treaty is due to be signed at the next US-Soviet summit.
 Baker said the Lisbon agreement would now be submitted to the 20 other signatories of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which was signed last November in Paris and under which each side will get rid of thousands of tanks and artillery pieces.
 Washington has accused Moscow of seeking to modify the ceiling on the amount of heavy weaponry for its land-

based forces.
 The dispute is holding up progress towards agreement in the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (START) on a treaty which the two sides are hoping will be ready for signature by Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit later this year.
 The Baker Bessmertnykh talks took place at the US embassy here.
 Baker would not comment on whether the summit will be held before the end of the month but he said "It is the intention of both countries to work very hard to that end."

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