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NEWS BRIEFS

Eid-ul-Azha June 24

Eid-ul-Azha, a religious festival of the Muslims, will be observed throughout the country on June 24, reports BSS.

JS session resumes today

A general debate on the national budget for 1991-92 fiscal year is likely to begin when the Parliament resumes its session today (Saturday) at 10-30 am after a two-day recess, reports UNB.

Columbia lands

CALIFORNIA, June 14: Space shuttle Columbia landed Friday with its seven astronauts following a nine-day medical research mission that provided new insight into how humans adapt to space, reports AP.

18 killed in glacier collapse

NEW DELHI, June 14: A glacier collapsed in northern India, triggering an avalanche that killed 18 pilgrims trekking to the source of the sacred Ganges river, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says AFP.

Constitution amendment bill

BNP may propose stricter provisions for a stable govt

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

A constitution amendment bill, finalised by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for reversion to the parliamentary form of government, envisages extra provisions to ensure stability and continuity of the government.

Reliable sources say the bill will seek, among others, to make certain decisions of the President — a titular head of state under the parliamentary form — subject to written advice from the Prime Minister.

The proposed bill is expected to be introduced in parliament tomorrow (Sunday) or Monday before the Prime Minister's departure for Beijing Tuesday.

The 1972 Constitution provided that "in the exercise

of all his functions save only that of appointing the Prime Minister... the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister."

Constitutional experts of BNP believe, in the light of the constitutional problems faced by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, more safeguards are needed in the interest of stability and continuity, particularly in exceptional circumstances, within the framework of democracy.

Analysing the decision of the Indian President in 1980 to hold mid-term elections instead of allowing Jagjivan Ram to prove his majority and the present unstable situation in that country, and also the dis-

missal of Benazir Bhutto by the President of Pakistan, they have come to the conclusion that scope for such constitutional problems should be plugged.

Says one of the constitutional experts of BNP, "In our context, we felt it necessary to maintain evidences of Prime Minister's advice to the President on important matters in a written form."

The constitution amendment bill will thus seek to ensure that the President will not dissolve a parliament unless a written advice comes from the Prime Minister.

For more safeguards to ensure stability of the government the bill will seek to fur-

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Aspirin prevents fetal growth retardation

LONDON, June 14: Low-dose aspirin during pregnancy reduces by half the risk of carrying a dangerously small fetus, French scientists reported in this week's Lancet, reports AP.

It is the largest study of pregnant women so far to show benefits of aspirin, long shunned because of fears that it is led bleeding problems in either the mother or fetus, said Dr. Gerard Breart, director of the epidemiology unit on maternal and child health at France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research.

Women not at risk for having fetuses with growth problems in the womb are still advised to avoid aspirin during pregnancy.

Dr. Rory Collins, a senior research fellow in Oxford University's department of medicine, said "It's nice to see such positive results with such a cheap, easy treatment."

Although this study is

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Friendship with China has stood test of time : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said friendship between Bangladesh and China has stood the "test of time," reports BSS.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua correspondent based in Dhaka on the occasion of her three-day official visit to China, beginning June 18, Begum Zia said Bangladesh and China have shared perceptions and hold identical and similar views on many regional and global issues.

The Prime Minister hoped the existing excellent friendly relations between the two countries will further be strengthened and areas of co-operation expanded in the years ahead.

Begum Zia told the Chinese news agency that friendship

between Bangladesh and China is historical and goes back to many centuries. She said since the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries in early 1976, their cordial ties have flourished with exchange of visits at various levels.

In this context, the Prime Minister said the late President Ziaur Rahman was the first leader from Bangladesh to have visited China at the highest level. President Zia visited China twice after which the pace of traditional cooperation between the two countries accelerated and developed, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government and the people of China have always stood

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Two suspects in Rajiv assassination case arrested

MADRAS, June 14: In a major breakthrough, the CBI tonight arrested Nalini and Murugan, suspects in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, near Madras, reports PTI.

The chief of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), Karthikeyan, said that Nalini and Murugan were nabbed by a CBI team on board a state transport bus between Villupuram in south Arcot district of Tamil Nadu and Madras at around 2320 hrs.

JP MPs to boycott JS session today

Jatiya Party MPs will boycott parliament session today (Saturday) to register their protest against the conviction of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, party sources said, reports UNB.

All the 26 JP members of parliament also boycotted the budget presentation session Wednesday protesting the judgement against the former President by the Special Tribunal.

Deposed President Ershad was sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment after the one-man Tribunal chaired by District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka Mohammad Habibullah found him guilty of illegal possession of fire arms.

Former State Minister Advocate Fazle Rabbi MP said the JP Parliamentary Party would meet today (Saturday) evening to adopt its next course of action.

JP protest day June 19

By Staff Correspondent
Jatiya Party has decided to organise demonstrations, rallies and processions all over the country on June 19 demanding release of deposed President H M Ershad.

The Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party will also abstain from the session of the Parliament today (Saturday) to press home the demand.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the party's central committee on Friday. A total of 82 out of 101 members of the central committee were present at the meeting, said a JP press release.

Moudud Ahmed, acting chairman of Jatiya Party, while addressing the meeting urged the government to maintain

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Rooms of DU halls ransacked, set ablaze

5 hurt in midnight gunbattle

By Staff Correspondent

A four-hour gunbattle and acts of arson and ransacking by two rival student organisations at the Jagannath hall Thursday night left four students injured, two with bullets.

Over 150 shots were fired, crackers were exploded and 28 rooms belonging to the rival groups were ransacked during the clashes which continued from 10-30 p.m to 2-30 am.

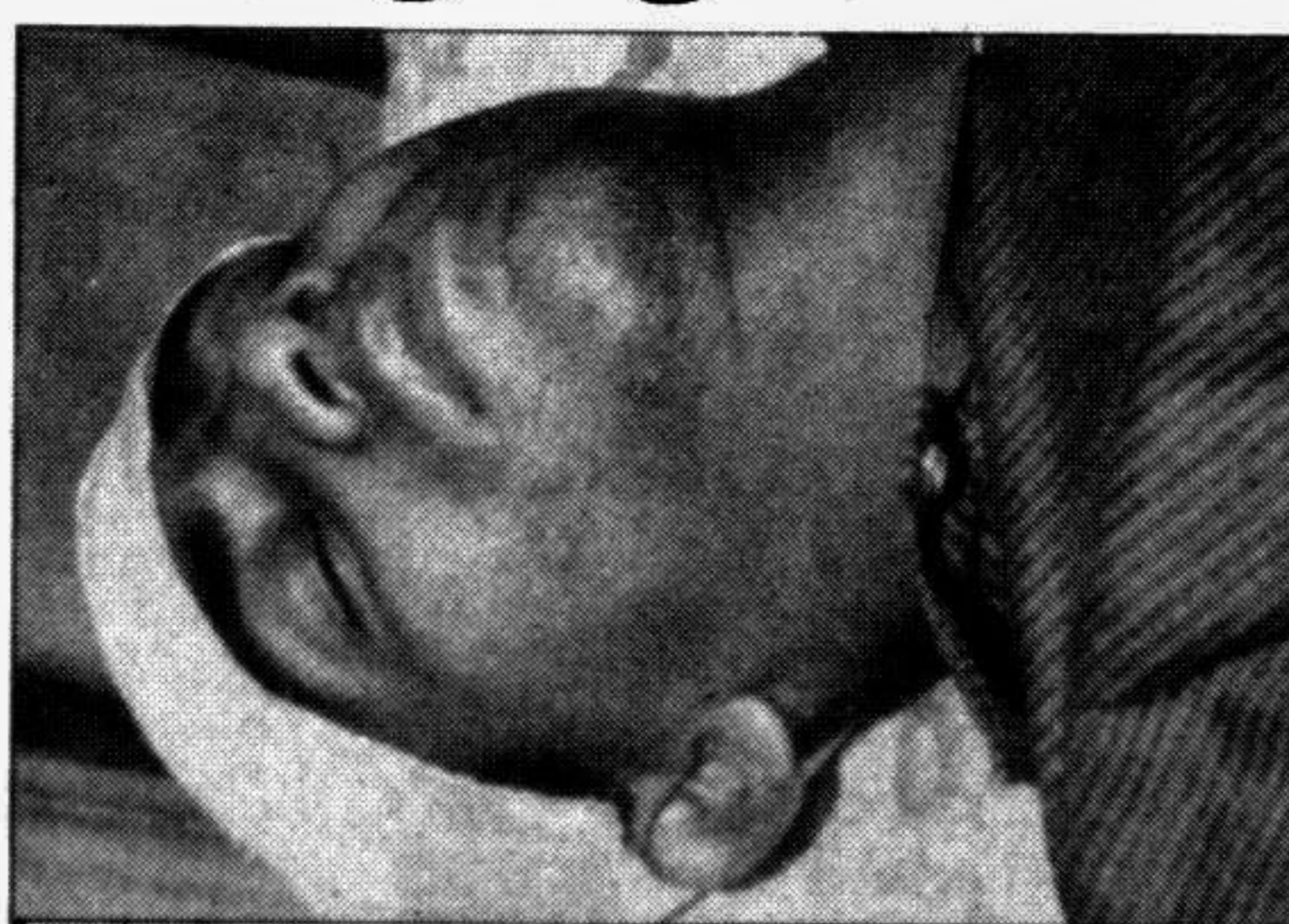
Inmates of the rooms were beaten, some of the rooms were set on fire and the October Memorial Museum of the hall was ransacked during the clashes between the activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League (S-A) and the pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League (N-S).

The running battles at night spread to the Shahidullah hall in the morning when a room was set on fire and another BCL (S-A) activist, Delwar Hossain was injured. He was taken to DMCH.

BCL(S-A) workers-Bikash and Ashim, who received bullet wounds and BCL(N-S) members Sukumar and Proshanta, also wounded in Thursday night's clashes were undergoing treatment at the DMCH. Hospital sources said the condition of all the four were improving.

According to eye witnesses

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Two of the five students injured in Thursday night's gunbattle on the Dhaka University campus under treatment at the Medical College Hospital. — Star photo

DU atmosphere council meets today

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council will meet today to review the campus situation and suggest steps to foster understanding among student bodies to improve the situation.

Meanwhile, the DU authorities have urged all student bodies not to hold any meeting or procession on the campus today to avoid any further clash or misunderstanding, said a press release yesterday.

86 AL MPs for Kader Siddiky's release

By Staff Correspondent

Eighty-six MPs belonging to Awami League demanded immediate and unconditional release of freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddiky. The demand was made Friday in a joint statement signed by Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and other MPs.

The statement said that Kader Siddiky carried out a "historic responsibility" by protesting against the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He had to take political asylum in a friendly country where he stayed for 15

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CU teachers divided over taking alternative classes

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 14: The crisis at the Chittagong University took a new turn with a section of the teachers deciding to hold "alternative classes" and another opposing the move.

Sixty teachers, supported by All-Party Students Unity, will take classes of the final year students of Honours and M A of all departments at the MES College of the port city from tomorrow following the continuous closure of the University for over five months.

Meanwhile, the government sent two high officials to Chittagong on Thursday to study the latest situation of the university. The officials held meetings with local political leaders, teachers and students and sought their opinion on the campus situation. They left Chittagong for Dhaka the same day.

Some teachers of the university termed the move for alternative classes, as a violation of the university act. They said any such move needs decision of the academic council of the university.

In separate statements Bangladesh Adarsha Shikkak Parishad President Prof Nurul Karim and General Secretary

Mr Abu Taher and 41 students of Marine Science Institute of the University said that there was no justification for holding classes of university students outside the campus. They termed the move as an insult to other teachers.

The teachers and the students demanded implementation of inquiry commission report on December 22 incident of Chittagong University to put an end to the stalemate.

Teachers and students of the university have been divided over the demand for removal of the present Vice-Chancellor.

Islami Chhatra Shibir, Sammilita Chhatra Oikya Parishad and Sangrami Chhatra Oikya on Friday held rallies against the decision of the teachers to hold classes outside the campus and also urged the government to resolve the crisis.

They also declared a three-day protest from tomorrow against the siege of the campus by All-Party Students Unity (APSU). APSU is continuing the siege for the sixth consecutive day.

APSU and CUCSU have called for a half-day hartal on June 16 in the town to protest the terrorism on the campus.

3rd round of voting today: Indian troops patrol strike-bound Kashmir valley

Army called out in Punjab

NEW DELHI, June 14: India called army out in Punjab today on the eve of third round of voting starting tomorrow and eight days ahead of polls in this trouble-torn state, report agencies.

Sikh militants who have vowed to disrupt balloting in the northern state have already assassinated over 20 candidates.

The government declared the federally-ruled frontier region a disturbed area giving police and security forces sweeping powers of detention without judicial process in a crackdown on the Sikh separatists.

Indian troops in battle fatigues today patrolled the Kashmir valley, where a strike to protest a massacre of civilians by security forces paralysed life for the third straight day.

Army soldiers and paramilitary troops stepped up patrols in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar and 32 other towns in the valley after Muslim militants staged hit-and-run attacks late Thursday.

News reports said the strike, joined today by some 135,000 federal and state civil servants, closed shops, businesses and government institutions. All transport went off the roads throughout the picturesque valley.

The army has taken up position in all 12 Punjab districts to back up the civil administration and police to ensure peaceful conduct of state and parliamentary elections, state Chief Secretary Tejinder Khanna told a news conference.

Troops have started conducting flag marches in sensitive areas, he said.

The army deployment and the state administration's decision to issue special police powers followed warnings today by four Sikh militant organisations to voters and contestants of the controversial polls.

"The army can be used in case any situation is created by elements opposed to the (June 22) elections," PTI quoted him as saying.

The Defence Ministry in New Delhi said Chandigarh was empowered to call out the military and that the local General Officer Commanding (GOC) had been instructed to assist the state's civil administration in case of need.

"There is a large army corps at the disposal of the Western Command (Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan) and the GOC can deploy it wherever he wants," a Defence

Ministry official said in New Delhi.

The Chief Secretary said the three more districts, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar and Kapurthala — hotbeds of Sikh militancy — were declared disturbed areas, effectively extending police detention powers to the whole of Punjab.

Nine districts had previously been declared disturbed. The entire state has been put under a heavy security cover," Punjab police chief DS Mangat said, adding that besides the army and state police, 125,000 paramilitary personnel would be deployed ahead of the elections.

Meanwhile, an exit poll conducted during earlier rounds of voting indicated that no clear winner would emerge and India could go through a spell of political instability as

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UN set to take control of Dohuk

DOHUK, Iraq, June 14: As the UN prepares to take control of Kurdish refugee efforts, the US commander in the allied security zone in northern Iraq says he's satisfied with the resettlement of more than 200,000 Kurds in this city just outside the zone, reports AP.

US soldiers were to withdraw Friday from Dohuk and transfer control to UN personnel, about three weeks after entering the city 25 miles (40 kilometres) from the Turkish border.

Securing the city of 285,000 was key to encouraging the return of about 2 million Kurds who fled to Turkish and Iranian borders after their March uprising was crushed by Iraq in the wake of

the Gulf war. US Army Major General Jay Garner, commander of combat troops in the allied zone, told reporters Thursday that he was pleased with the humanitarian operation in Dohuk.

Almost all of the city's residents returned after an allied work force numbering less than 100 entered Dohuk on May 24. Although the city was just outside the allied security zone, only a small Iraqi police force remained in the city.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has an office in Dohuk, and about 50 UN security guards are in the city to guard UN property and personnel.

In Kuwait, another change of command was underway as

the last remaining US unit to see combat in the Gulf war handed over duties to fresh troops.

As the emirate tries to wipe out traces of the Iraqi occupation, the Kurds are anticipating help from the Baghdad government that crushed their postwar rebellion.

Iraq has agreed to help the Kurds harvest 120,000 tons of wheat around the allied-occupied zone, a US official said Thursday. It was the first agreement between the government and Kurds since the failed uprising.

An accord on autonomy for the estimated 3.5 million Iraqi Kurds is being discussed but there were some unresolved points, said Iraqi Deputy Prime

Minister Tariq Aziz.

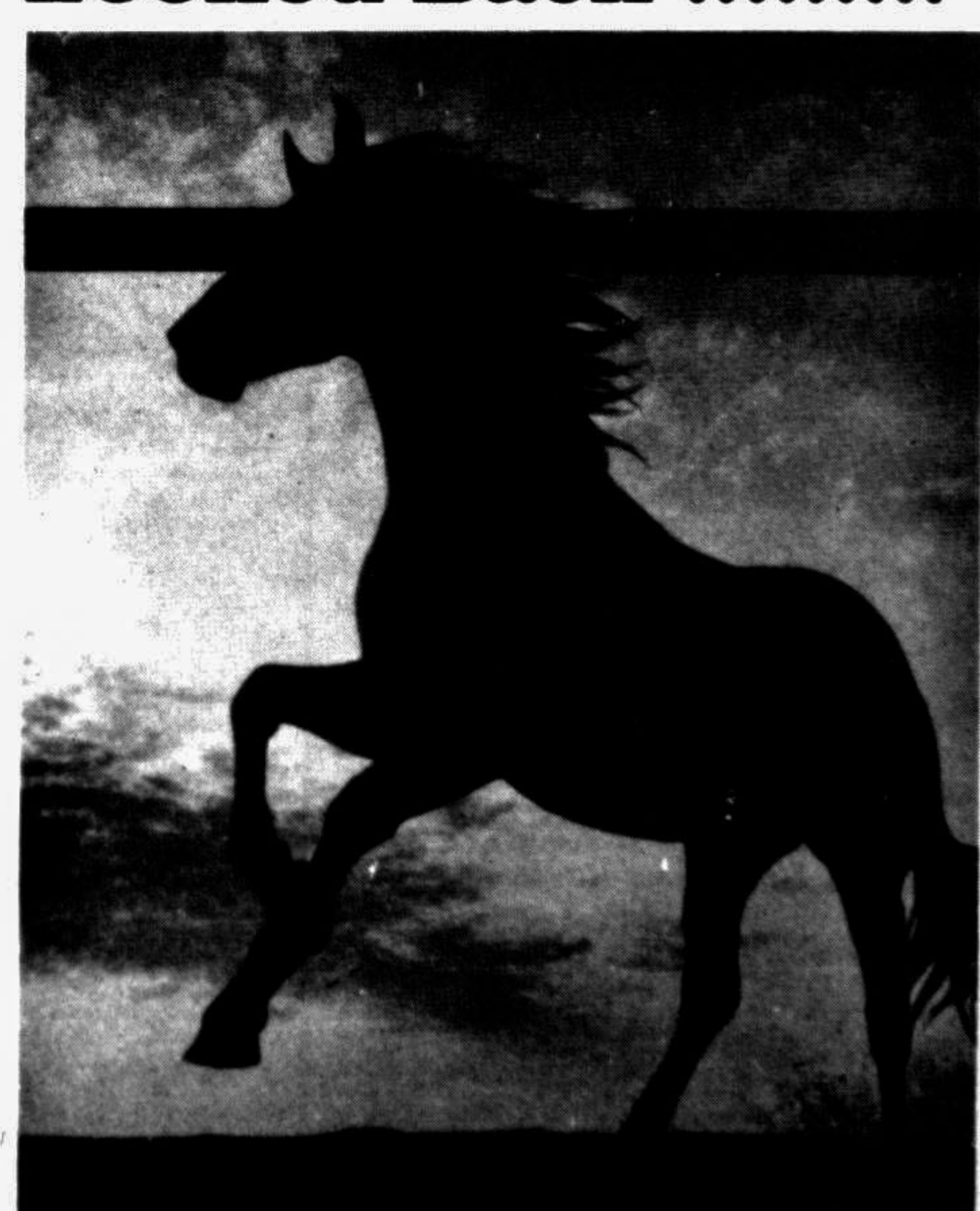
Kurdish leaders say a main obstacle is the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which the Kurds want included in the autonomous zone. The Iraqis claim it is an Arab city.

US troops planned to be out of Dohuk by midnight, turning over all humanitarian services to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. An agreement with Baghdad allows up to 500 UN guards in northern Iraq.

Since May 21, nearly 4,000 allied troops have been withdrawn from northern Iraq and southern Turkey, including 2,300 Americans. Just under 18,000 troops are left. But the Dohuk withdrawal would be

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Green Delta Never Looked Back



Green Delta started its business in 1986 as a private sector insurance company, with a pledge to serve the national economy providing personalised service to suit individual need. There on Green Delta never looked back. Through relentless efforts and uncompromising strive for perfection it has become the model insurance house with in a short span of time.

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