

Arafat offers support for ME peace talks

ALGIERS, Sept 23: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, opening a crucial session of the Palestinians' parliament-in-exile, offered support for proposed Middle East peace talks but demanded concessions from Israel.

Everyone knows that we reject Israeli blackmail and Israeli conditions, he declared. Arafat urged the leaders of the United States and Soviet Union to do every thing possible to resolve the Middle East crisis.

Delegates to the 20th congress of the Palestine National Council are divided on a response to Israeli conditions for Palestinian participation in the peace talks. Refusal to compromise may scuttle a historic chance for creating a Palestinian homeland.

Palestinian hard-liners favour a boycott because of Israel's insistence that the Palestine Liberation Organization, which it considers a terrorist organization, be banned from participation.

Arafat, in his address, pledged to cooperate in making the peace talks a success.

Arafat took the podium, arm raised in a "V" for victory salute, after the council's chairman, Sheikh Abdul-Hamid al-Sayeh, read a verse from the Koran and called for a minute of silence to condole "Palestinian martyrs."

Faisal Husseini and Hannan Ashrawi, Palestinians from east Jerusalem who met recently with US Secretary of State James Baker, had been expected at the conference. But in Israel Monday, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel will prosecute the two if they meet with PLO officials abroad.

Husseini and Mrs Ashrawi

are both abroad, reportedly in London, but their itinerary was not known.

Israel forbids Palestinians from east Jerusalem from contact with the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organization.

CPB

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The decision regarding the document, was taken considering the latest situation in the socialist world and developments in Moscow.

The CPB central committee in its six-day meeting that ended Monday night, discussed preparations for the forthcoming congress.

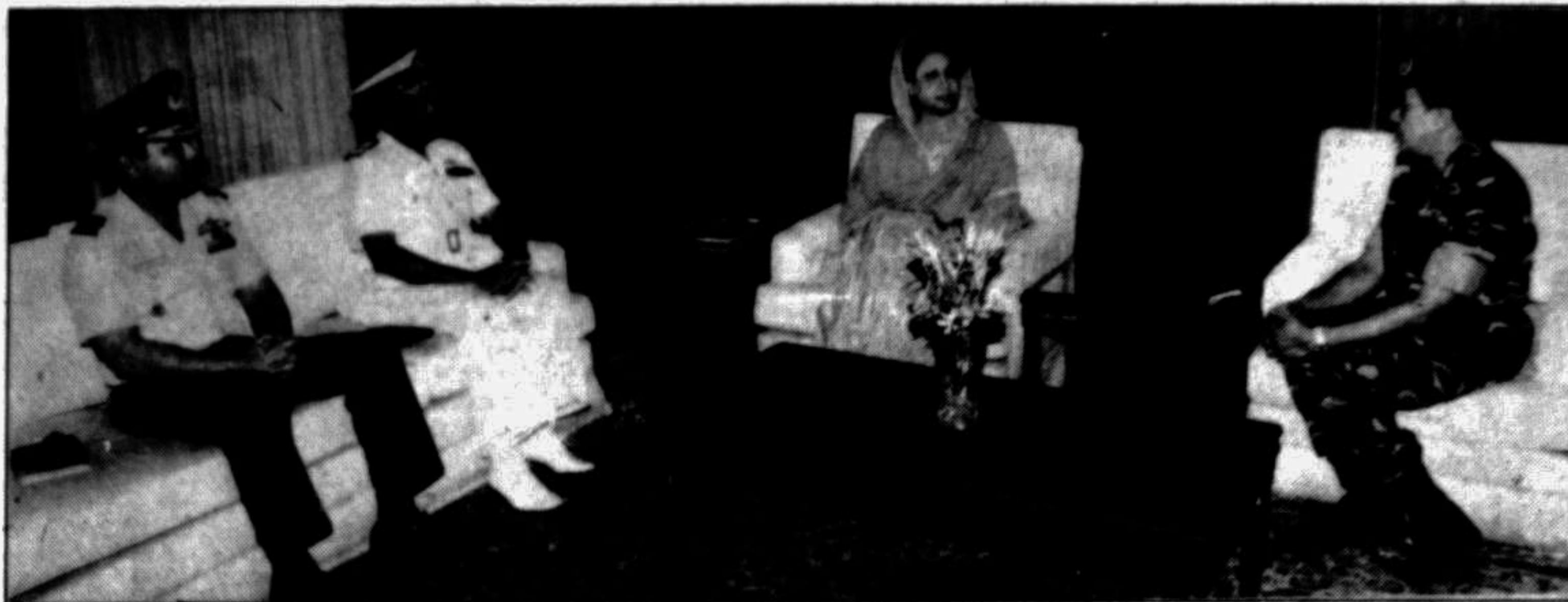
The meeting decided to place a comprehensive 'political resolution', instead of that document. The committee observed that due to the recent developments in Soviet Union, certain chapters of the document deserve re-evaluation and further analysis.

The committee's decision for not placing the political document before the congress, virtually keeps the document in abeyance.

This would be the first time that a congress of CPB would be held without a political document.

The political resolution, which has been prepared for the congress, will incorporate future programmes of the party.

The central committee meeting also approved some amendments to CPB's constitution. According to proposed amendments that would be placed at the congress CPB would have a presidium and the party would be headed by a President. A National Council would also be formed with the elected delegates from the lower level of the party.



The chiefs of three services, Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan of Army, Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam of Navy and Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain of Air Force, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat office on Monday. — PID photo



Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Nekmarod, Thakurgaon on Sunday. — AL photo

Ministers to coordinate flood relief activities

Nilphamary diarrhoea situation worsens

Diarrhoea situation remained alarming Monday when 35 more people died in the flood affected districts raising the official death toll to 436 since Sept 1.

According to official sources, diarrhoea situation turned for the worse in Nilphamary where 127 people died of this disease in 22 days. On Monday six persons died in the district while 402 were attacked. A special medical team comprising experts of ICDDR, B rushed to Nilphamary.

Situation aggravated in Gaibandha also where 407 people were attacked with the disease on Monday. Seven deaths were reported on the day raising the death toll to 48 in the district.

Official estimate shows that nearly 25 thousand people in the 24 flood affected districts were attacked with diarrhoea in this month.

In Joypurhat, UNB adds: Diarrhoea claimed three lives yesterday and attacked more than five hundred people in different upazilas of the district.

With these two deaths reported from Kalat and Pantchibi upazilas, the diarrhoeal death toll rose to 17 since the outbreak of the disease in the district.

The situation took a serious turn with recession of flood water, sources said adding that at least 11 persons were killed by the disease during the last three days.

BSS says: One minister and three state ministers have been entrusted with the responsibilities of relief coordination and supervision in the flood-affected areas for further intensification and proper coordination of relief activities, according to an official hand-out issued here last night.

At the directives of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Social Welfare and Woman Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam has been given the charge of the districts of Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain with the responsibilities of Rajshahi, Natore, Naoagan and Nawabganj districts, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman with the charge of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh and State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal with the responsibilities of Pabna, Serajganj and Bogra districts.

The minister and state ministers will coordinate and supervise the relief works run by the local administrations.

Meanwhile armed forces personnel have been sent to the upazila level in the flood affected areas of the northern region to help the local administration in relief works.

One joint-secretary and one deputy-secretary from the Ministry of Relief are on duty now in the flood affected areas, the handout said adding that measures have also been taken to send more officials of joint-secretary and deputy-secretary rank to help and coordinate with the local administration in relief works.

State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan has been supervising government relief works staying in the flood affected areas.

The flood situation in many parts of the district took a serious turn due to heavy rainfall and inflow of water from Rangpur, Dinajpur and Joypurhat.

The waters in Chalanbeel and Gomani rose 3 inches at Tarash point on Monday.

Salahuddin Qader for fresh polls

A prominent parliamentarian and NDP leader Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury favours fresh election in view of country's return to parliamentary democracy, reports UNB.

"After the basic change in the system of government and a fundamental change in the character and authority of parliament, people must be allowed the opportunity within the shortest possible time to give their views through fresh elections," Chowdhury said.

The NDP leader said people elected us to the legislature under the previous Constitution. "People and the present government were fully aware that it (parliament) was not as competent under law to exercise the executive authority before the passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill."

The present government was also preparing for presidential election under the old presidential system, he pointed out.

Chowdhury said it will be morally and politically the correct position for the present government to seek mandate of the people to govern under the changed circumstances.

"They (BNP) must realise this is a minority government... BNP commands only 142 of the 300 directly elected MPs. It is in the interest of the government to try and improve its position or allow others to improve their positions."

Menon

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election of President, he said this provision infringed upon the sanctity of franchise.

In reply to a question, he, however, said he had not yet decided whether to join the October 8 presidential election.

Jamaat

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami, MP, Monday said the next President of the country should be acceptable to all in the context of historic changeover.

Nizami, also leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party said putting up candidate from the opposition to contest the election would be a futile exercise since the ruling party commands an absolute majority with 170 MPs.

Suranjit

Ganatantrik Party leader Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Monday urged all political parties to unanimously elect an acceptable personality as President who will not only be the head of the state but "a symbol of unity of a democratic nation."

113 held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police rounded up 113 persons on various charges from the city during the 24 hours ending at 6 pm Monday. All the arrested persons were sent to the court. Besides, the traffic division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recorded 73 cases in connection with violation of traffic rules.

No break in DESA deadlock

By Staff Correspondent

Energy Minister Dr. Khandaker Musharraf Hossain and other officials discussed launching of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) issue Monday with the union leaders of Power Development Board (PDB).

The meeting between the two sides held at the Energy Ministry continued for over three hours, but ended without any understanding.

The Minister and the union leaders will meet again tomorrow (Wednesday) for a settlement of the issue.

DESA, a new government organisation, was scheduled to be launched on September 21. But it could not go into operation because of the resistance by employees and workers of the PDB.

The workers' unions already announced that they would go for a 72-hour strike followed by more action programmes if DESA was launched.

During Monday's meeting, the Energy Minister also discussed other demands of the unions. However, the DESA issue dominated the meeting on which union leaders remained firm in their stance.

Meeting sources said that both sides agreed to come to a conclusion on Wednesday when they meet again.

Bush

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of destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Ambassador Rolf Ikenus of Sweden, told the Council during a closed-door briefing that "an early assessment by the inspectors indicates that Iraq was engaged in a nuclear weapons development programme."

Early Iraqi authorities forcibly removed boxes of documents from a UN team hunting for evidence of nuclear weapons-making today after detaining the team members for five hours.

Team leader David Kay said the team made a snap inspection at an undeclared site in central Baghdad and found a large amount of documentation on the Iraqi nuclear programme.

"This documentation was in considerable depth with regard to the programme in general as well as with regard to the production of physical nuclear material and nuclear weapons development."

Growth

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reforming the parastatal sector, improving the external competitiveness of the economy and making the environment more conducive to private sector participation."

The devastating cyclone caused extensive damages to agricultural production and storage facilities in the area struck by it. Vital public infrastructure was crippled, hampering immediate relief efforts and, later, economic recovery. The damage to infrastructure and production will have a negative effect on the country's macro-economic situation, it said.

About the situation in 1989 and 1990, the report stated, that the short term overall or macro-economic indicators deteriorated in late 1989 and into 1990 despite an upturn in foodgrain production.

Expansionary domestic policy led to a surge in imports and foreign exchange reserves fell sharply to 450 million US dollar (equivalent to 1.5 months of imports) in March 1990. In response, the government initiated a short-term programme to stabilise the balance of payments and the budget. These efforts which included a flexible exchange rate policy, were successful in restoring financial stability and improving external competitiveness," it added.

The report took note of some "prompt" policy response taken by Bangladesh to the Gulf crisis, both in terms of increasing petroleum prices and in restraining current expenditures while at the same time resettling displaced workers.

Related stories on Page 6

The Midnight File

Armenia declares independence

MOSCOW, Sept 23: The Armenian parliament today declared the republic's independence from Moscow, raising to 13 the number of Soviet republics that have broken with the Kremlin. Tass news agency said, reports Reuter.

Acting President of Tajikistan forced to resign

MOSCOW, Sept 23: Parliament in the conservative Soviet central Asian republic of Tajikistan today forced its Acting President to resign and overturned a ban he imposed on the Communist Party. Deputies at an emergency session replaced Acting President Kaddreddin Aslonov with former party boss Rakhman Nabiyev in the first republican communist backlash since the Soviet party was suspended after last month's failed coup, reports Reuter.

Brother-in-law of Indian minister abducted

SRINAGAR, Sept 23: Suspected Muslim militants in Kashmir have abducted the brother-in-law of an Indian cabinet minister. Tasduq Dev, described as a 20-year-old student, was seized by gunmen from his house on Srinagar's airport road late Sunday. Police identified him as the brother of the wife of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, reports AFP.

'US forces should stay in the Philippines'

MANILA, Sept 23: Military leaders in southeast Asia say US forces should stay in the Philippines for 10 more years to avoid creating a power vacuum in the region. Philippine military chief General Lisandro Abadía said today. Abadía was speaking to reporters after returning to Manila from Bangkok where he had talks with Thai and Indonesian military chiefs, reports Reuter.

Hasina

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and boosting agri-production to alleviate poverty should be the undertakings of democratic government, she said.

Addressing a function welcoming local leaders and workers of JSD (Inu) in her party, Hasina said for the progress and prosperity of the country, all democratic forces should be united.

"Enemies of independence are gradually growing in force due to disunity of democratic forces."

She alleged 'certain anti-liberation quarters are out to distort the history of our liberation war... new generation is being kept at bay from the real history.'

All patriotic people must be united to implement the ideals and objectives of the historic war of independence, she told the gathering at the town hall here.

Presided over by local Awami League President Kazi Omar, the function was also addressed, among others, by party General Secretary Begum Shajeda Chowdhury, MP, Ajarul Islam, MP, Abdur Rouf, MP, and local JSD leader Prof. Afzar Hossain.

Among those who joined AL today are local JSD (Inu) President Tarekul Islam and former Sadar Upazila Chairman and freedom fighter Jainal Abedin.

Two killed in city incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and another injured in separate incidents in the city Sunday and Monday.

According to our DMCH correspondent one person, Rahman (25), died on the spot after he falling from the roof of a house at Malitola Monday at 5.30 pm. The owner of the house is Joinal Abedin.

DU VC

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He was ready to resign if anybody could guarantee that terrorism would go along with his resignation, he said.

He sought cooperation from all quarters to restore academic atmosphere on the campus.

The function, presided over by Korban Ali Joardar was addressed among others by Prof Wakil Ahmed, pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA), Khairul Anwar Mukul, Rezwanur Rahman, Reswanul Haq Raza, Nazmul Ashraf, Fakrul Alam Kanchon and Jonayed Hallim.

The programme was concluded with a cultural function.



বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ

মিরপুর রোড, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫

প্রযুক্তি প্রদর্শনী

স্থান : বি. সি. এস. আই. আর. প্রাঙ্গণ
সময় : ২৫শে সেপ্টেম্বর হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯টা হইতে ২টা পর্যন্ত।
দেশীয় প্রযুক্তির সম্প্রসারণে আপনাদের সহযোগিতা কামনা করি।

বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বি. সি. এস. আই. আর. পাইলট প্রাক্টে
উৎপাদিত নিম্নলিখিত পণ্য সামগ্রী সীমিত পরিমাণে বিক্রয় করা হইবে:-
(১) প্রোটিন, ভিটামিন ও আয়রন সমৃদ্ধ সুস্বাদু খাদ্য "স্পিকুলিনা"
(২) ইডাট্রিয়াল গ্রেড "জিংকঅক্সাইড"
(৩) দূষিত পানি পরিশোধন হাকনি (গ্রামাঙ্কলে ও বন্যার্তদের জন্য উপযোগী)।
শিল্প স্থাপনে অগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান অথবা ব্যক্তিগতকৈ নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

সদস্য উন্নয়ন

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