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NEWS BRIEFS

BSF men kidnap Bangladeshi

RANGPUR, Dec 9: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Thursday kidnapped a Bangladeshi national and assaulted four others while they were coming to Patgram Bazar from Dahagram-Angorpota enclave, Shamsul Huda Prodhan, Chairman of the enclave Union Parishad said. Shahtul Miah (55) ward number one of Dahagram, was kidnapped in the morning by BSF and was sent to Mekliganj jail, reports UNB.

Girl rescued

By Staff Correspondent
Police rescued a school-girl, earlier kidnapped from the Tikatuli in the city and arrested the kidnapper from Kishoreganj Monday. Feroza Parveen (14), a class seven of the Wari Otris High School, was kidnapped while on her way to school Saturday morning at around 7 am from near her home in the Tikatuli area, police said. Her father, Abul Hossain lodged a case with Kotwali thana.

Parliamentary meets on terrorism held

The seventh meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee on terrorism on the campus was held at the Sangsad Bhavan on Sunday night with Law Minister Mirza Golem Hafez in the chair. The Committee heard the opinions of the leaders of Ganatantrik Chhatra Ojika about the causes of terrorism on the campus and a way and means to end it, reports BSS.

OIC summit opens with Kuwaiti attack on Iraq

DAKAR, Dec 9: Kuwait today denounced Iraq at the opening session of an Islamic summit overshadowed by Arab divisions over the Gulf War. Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah said Iraq had broken every one of the five principles of the 45-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), from respect for the independence of member states to the promise not to use force in disputes. "God decreed victory for us. But the Iraqi regime is still defying international resolutions and conventions and the principles of humanity by keeping in its jails thousands of suspects and prisoners, including hundreds of women and children, whose only sin is that they are Kuwaitis," he said. Sheikh Jaber called on the

summit to discuss measures 'to prevent any aggression by a Muslim country on another, whatever its motives.' He made the first speech to the opening session as the host of the last Islamic summit in 1987, when Arab politics was very different — the Gulf states were then supporting Iraq in an exhausting war with Iran. There were no Iraqis in the magnificent wood-paneled auditorium to hear his attack. Iraq has boycotted the entire conference, charging that it is controlled by countries which allied against it in the Gulf war. Bitterness over the war has proved still too deep for many Arab kings and presidents to risk meeting each other face to face at the summit. Leaders of 13 Arab states,

more than half the Arab members of the OIC, have stayed away. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the presidents of Egypt and Syria, all of whom joined the US-led alliance which forced Iraq out of Kuwait last February, have sent deputies. But two leaders who sympathized with Iraq, Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and King Hussein of Jordan, have come to try to repair tattered relationships with the Saudi Camp. Their presence may explain the absence of some others. The PLO, Jordan and Sudan are keen to soften anti-Iraqi rhetoric at the summit. Delegates said they were campaigning to amend a resolution supporting UN economic sanctions against Iraq
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PM addresses OIC session today

DAKAR, Dec 9: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who arrived here last night to attend the sixth OIC summit is scheduled to address the plenary session tomorrow (Tuesday), reports BSS. Begum Zia later joined other heads of government and state at the summit. The Prime Minister was earlier received by the Senegalese Prime Minister Habib Thiam at the Dakar international airport. Also present at the airport were OIC Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Mohsin and Bangladesh Ambassador to Senegal Mohammad Mohiuddin. Senior officials of the Senegal government were also present to greet the Bangladesh leader. The Prime Minister's en-
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UZ Chairmen's hartal observed partially

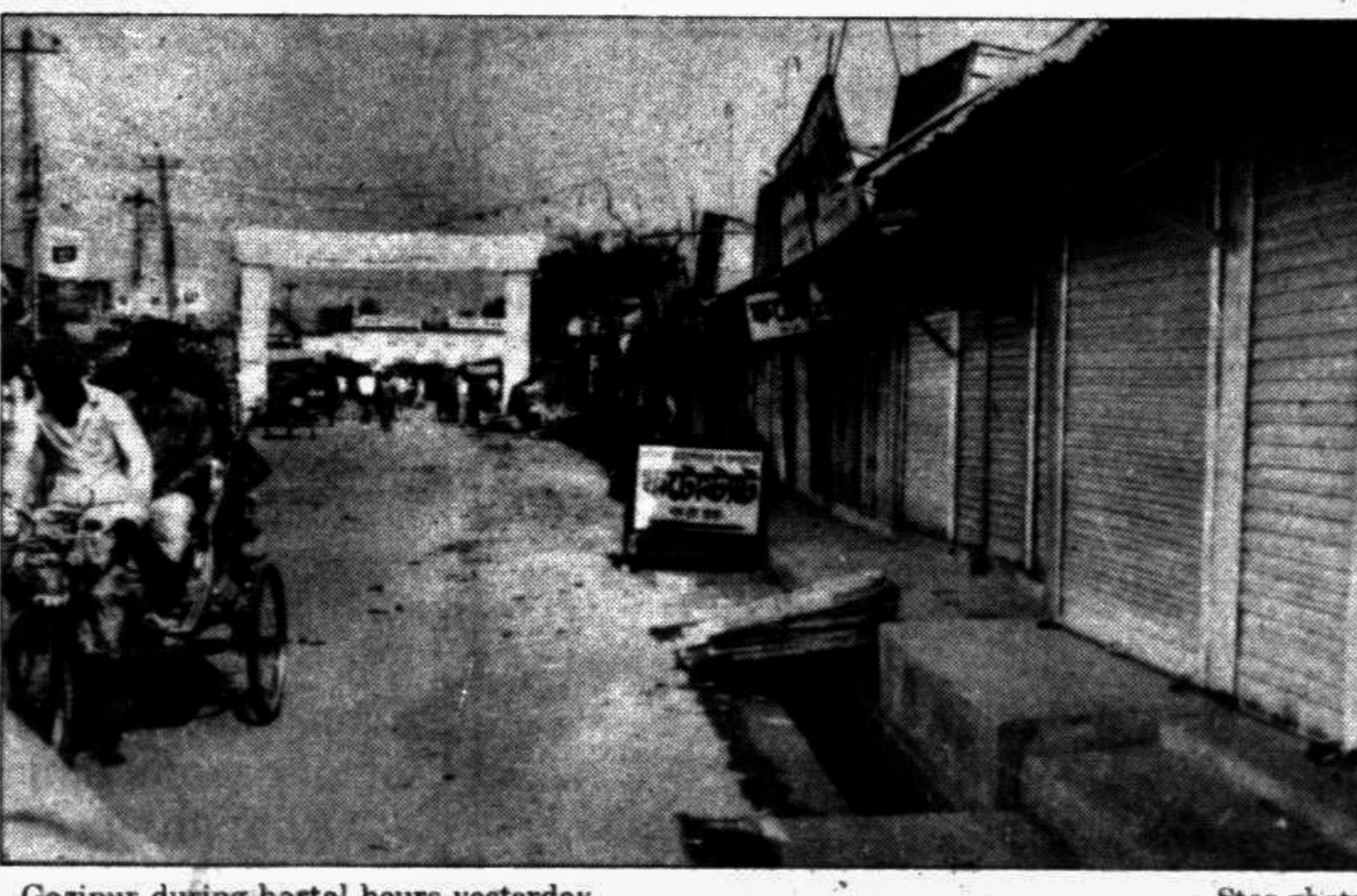
By Staff Correspondent
The half-day hartal called by the Upazila Chairmen Samity to protest the government ordinance abolishing the upazila system was partially observed throughout the country yesterday (Monday). Barring a few untoward incidents in different parts of the country the 6 am to 12 noon hartal was reportedly observed almost peacefully. The upazila system was introduced in 1985 under the Local Government Ordinance 1982 during the rule of deposed President Ershad. The incumbent government promulgated an ordinance on November 23 abolishing the upazila system. The last upazila election was held in 1989. The Upazila Chairmen Samity, before going for a country-wide hartal yesterday, observed a series of programmes demanding the repeal of the ordinance. Yesterday's half-day hartal was, however, not successful in Dhaka city and the areas surrounding it. But according to reports received from the different districts, the hartal was observed either completely or partially throughout the country. The Upazila Chairmen Samity, however, hailed the people for what it called making the hartal a grand success. In a statement to the press yesterday the Samity expressed its hope that the government would repeal the 'illegal ordinance' and come forward to help give democracy an institutional shape. Meanwhile, two chairmen of the now defunct upazila parishad — Ahsan Ullah Master of Gazipur Sadar upazila and Abdur Rab Talukder of
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Ershad's detention found valid

By Supreme Court Correspondent
A single Bench of the High Court Division Monday rejected a Writ petition challenging the legality of deposed President Ershad's detention. Delivering his judgement Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury who presided over the single Bench said that the Court found the grounds of detention to be valid for public safety and public order. Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury said that the order of detention against Ershad was passed 'legally and with lawful authority'. BSS adds: The Judge said that the grounds on which the detaining authority wanted Ershad's detention have 'substance and nexus with the detention order'. Ershad's past activities show that he is a potential threat to society, he

who, in turn, appointed Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury as the third Judge to hear the matter afresh. Ershad was arrested December 12, 1990 and put under detention. Mustafizur Rahman, brother-in-law of Ershad, filed the Writ petition on January 29, challenging the detention and the Division Bench issued Rule upon the government the same day. Two of three Judges of the High Court Division discharged the Rule. Kazi Shahadat Hossain, M Monsur Ali and Sheikh Rezaul Karim appeared for the petitioner. Attorney General Aminul Haque, Deputy Attorney General A F Hasan Arif and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the state.

Earlier on March 20 this year, a two-Judge Division Bench of the High Court Division gave a split judgement on the Writ petition, challenging Ershad's detention. Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil had found the detention illegal while Justice Kazi Shafuluddin differed with his colleague. The Judges referred the matter to the Chief Justice



Gazipur during hartal hours yesterday. —Star photo

Firing, arson as Masum arrested BCL students go on rampage around DU

By DU Correspondent
At least two vehicles were set afire and several damaged by agitating Chhatra League (S-A) activists protesting the arrest of their leader Masum Ahmed Masum Monday in connection with the killing of Mahbubur Rahman, a JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League leader on June 20. Several shots were also fired from the Dhaka University campus during the agitation.

Police lobbed several tear-gas shells in the TSC, Plassey and Nilkhet areas to disperse the agitating students. Masum, a BCL leader and the General Secretary of the Zahurul Huq Hall students union was arrested by a special squad of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Monday at about 6:30 pm from the Kataban area. Police alleged that he was
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The BCL activists—Kazi Shyamol, Zafar Ahmed and Didar Alam — were killed in a bloody clash between the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and BCL on Sunday at Faridabad of Hathazari upazila.
See Page 12 Col. 2

Slavs declare union dead

MOSCOW, Dec 9: Boris Yeltsin met Monday in the Kremlin with Mikhail Gorbachev to brief him on the powerful new Slavic commonwealth and said there would be a role in it for the Soviet President, reports AP. Earlier on Sunday Yeltsin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Byelorussian leader Stanislav Shushkevich declared that the Soviet Union has 'ceased to exist' politically and that they were creating a 'Commonwealth of independent states' open to all Soviet republics. Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who also attended the meeting with Gorbachev, said he believed

that the Soviet President 'still has not exhausted his possibilities' as a leader. Nazarbayev, along with Gorbachev, was briefed by Yeltsin for 80 minutes about the 'commonwealth of independent states' formed Sunday by Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia. The Kazakh leader ruled out any potential union by the five predominantly Muslim Soviet republics to counterbalance the powerful Slavic commonwealth. The pact makes no mention of any role for the beleaguered Gorbachev, perhaps hammering the final nail in the coffin of his once-omnipotent Kremlin government and his proposal to reform the country as a loose confederation of sovereign states. Both Nazarbayev and Gorbachev spokesman Andrei Grachev said Gorbachev might continue to have a role to play. Grachev told Soviet journalists that Yeltsin raised the possibility of 'having the post of president' among the commonwealth's leaders. Nazarbayev said the week-end agreement took him by surprise. Gorbachev had no advance knowledge, either, and was not even informed until after Yeltsin telephoned President Bush. Bush has made no public comment on the situation.
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Nari Pakkha, a women's organisation holding a discussion on Begum Rokeya at the auditorium of National Museum in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Tributes paid to Begum Rokeya

By Staff Correspondent
The birth and death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain was observed on Monday with a call to materialise her dreams of removing discriminations from the society by establishing women's rights. Monday was the 111th birth and 59th anniversary of death of Begum Rokeya, a trailblazer in awakening of back ward womenfolk. Different socio-cultural and women organisations held various programmes in observance of the day. The Bangla Academy organised a seminar titled 'Social Reformer — Begum Rokeya' at the conference hall of the academy on the occasion. Noted educationist and litterateur Dr Nilima Ibrahim
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Fund crisis stifles growth of CEPZ

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: A fund crisis has stagnated the growth of the Chittagong Export Processing Zone that witnessed an encouraging response from foreign investors. The fate of its third phase development project had become uncertain and could lead to a problem in accommodating the intending foreign investors here, an official of the EPZ said. An estimated Taka 200 crore could be needed to complete the development and expansion work of the EPZ under the third phase project scheduled to be started from July 1990, the official added. The authorities could not begin the work in the scheduled time due to non-availability of require funds. Meanwhile, 85 per cent of the developed plots in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone have so far been occupied while only 15 per cent left out. Official reports said the authorities developed 102 plots under the first phase and 100 plots under the second phase of which 169 plots had so far been leased out to the investors, the reports added. If the third phase development project could be covered it would provide another 167 additional plots to tackle the upward trend in foreign investment in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. The first phase development project of the CEPZ
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AIDS vaccine being tried in Bangladesh?

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder
Are human immune-deficiency virus vaccines being tried on humans in Bangladesh? The answer is in the affirmative, at least according to a private television channel which put a programme on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the United States in November. The Daily Star has been asked by an eminent scientist of the subcontinent to check the information with the health authorities in Bangladesh. The scientist who specializes in health impact of environmental degradation was recently on
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Janaza today State burial of Aatur Rahman Khan demanded

The namaz-e-Janaza of elderly politician and former Prime Minister Aatur Rahman Khan will be held today (Tuesday) after Asar Prayer at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, reports BSS. Khan died of heart attack in Dhaka on Saturday at the age of 87. The burial of the late leader has been delayed for the return of his eldest son from abroad. His body has been preserved at the mortuary of Birdem. Meanwhile, leaders of various political parties and eminent personalities from different walks of life have urged the government to make the arrangement of burial of the late
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Shyamoli's bail rejected

By Staff Correspondent
The body of Hafez Mukhter Hossain will be exhumed today (Tuesday) from Aliganj graveyard in Narayanganj for fresh autopsy, police said. The bail petition for Mary Janet Shyamoli was rejected by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Monday as the fresh autopsy of Mukhter's body had not been completed till then. But the magistrate put a fresh date on December 14 for Shyamoli's bail hearing. Shyamoli was not produced before the court Monday. The body of Mukhter will be exhumed in presence of two magistrates from Dhaka and
See Page 12 Col. 7

Shopowners' token strike begins from today

Shops in the capital will open two hours late from today (Tuesday) as traders are beginning a tokens strike to protest planned raids on markets in search of contraband, reports UNB. The 9 am to 11 am strike will continue till December 16, said the City Central Market Convening Committee, which has called for the daily two-hour shutdown also to press a five-point demand. Its demands include stoppage of harassment of shopowners in the name of raid, identification and exemplary punishment of the real smugglers, end to illegal toll collection and sanction of short-term loan for boosting trade and industry. The government has announced a countrywide anti-
See Page 12 Col. 3

Chinese support to population control assured

China will extend all-out support and cooperation to the programme initiated by the present government to combat the population boom, visiting Chinese Minister for Family Planning Madam Peng Pei Yun said when she called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban Monday, reports BSS. Madam Peng said that she had a very fruitful discussion on matters of mutual interests with particular emphasis on population problem with the leaders and officials of the
See Page 12 Col. 2

Arabs, Israelis return to talks but more bickering feared

WASHINGTON, Dec 9: Israelis and Arabs are finally ready to get down to peace talks. But the weeklong delay appears to foreshadow further procedural bickering that could sidetrack substantive negotiations, reports AP. Barring unforeseen hitches, three delegations of Israelis and Arabs will face each other across rectangular tables at the State Department on Tuesday morning — six days after the United States opened up the negotiating facilities. Arab delegations were here, but Israel's negotiators arrived only on

Sunday after saying they needed more preparation time. Both sides informed the State Department over the weekend that they would attend the talks Tuesday. In response to Israel's insistence on three completely separate sets of talks — Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian — each delegation will enter through a different entrance. The talks will be held on three different floors, said officials from both sides. But the Palestinians are demanding separate talks with

Israel, without their Jordanian partners, in a bid to emphasize their independent identity. "We have two separate parties and two separate nationalities within one framework for coordination," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawt. "Coordination does not mean melting everyone together," she said. Israel, for its part, insists on one delegation composed equally of Palestinians and Jordanians, said Elyakim Rubinstein, who heads his country's team to those talks. Rubinstein said the joint

team might break up into sub-committees deal with different issues — some relating only to Palestinians and some only to Jordanians. But even on the subcommittees, Israel will insist on representation for both Palestinians and Jordanians although it wouldn't have to be equal, said other Israeli officials. Another looming problem is that of a future venue for the talks. Israeli officials say they might stay here only until Friday. "We're happy to be in this hospitable city," said Yossi Ben-Aharon, the senior Israeli

negotiator for talks with Syria. But, he added in brief arrival remarks, the talks should have been in the Middle East and "We still hope they'll come to the region eventually." The united Arab position is that the talks stay in Washington, said Haidar Abdul Shaif, leader of the Palestinian delegation. "When and if there is progress in the negotiations, we can consider moving them elsewhere." "We're not going to be in the room unless we are invited in the room by both parties," Secretary of State James A. Baker said Sunday on the CBS

television network's "Face the Nation" programme. The Palestinians have invited a US note-taker to sit in. But Israel doesn't want any Americans involved out of concern about being pressured to make concessions. The Palestinians plan to demand an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The Israeli government should decide whether they want to stop the settlement process or they want to stop the peace process," said Ghaasan Al-Khatib, a Palestinian negotiator.