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Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

Cabinet meet

The Council of Ministers met last night at Bangabhaban in a special meeting with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the meeting. Ministers, State Ministers, Principal Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary and the secretaries of the concerned ministries and divisions were present, reports BSS.

Islamic University closed sine die

JHENIDAH, Sept 18: Islamic University was closed today till September 30 following a clash between two rival groups of students over sticking posters, reports UNB. The University authorities asked the students to vacate the halls by 12 noon.

Transport strike

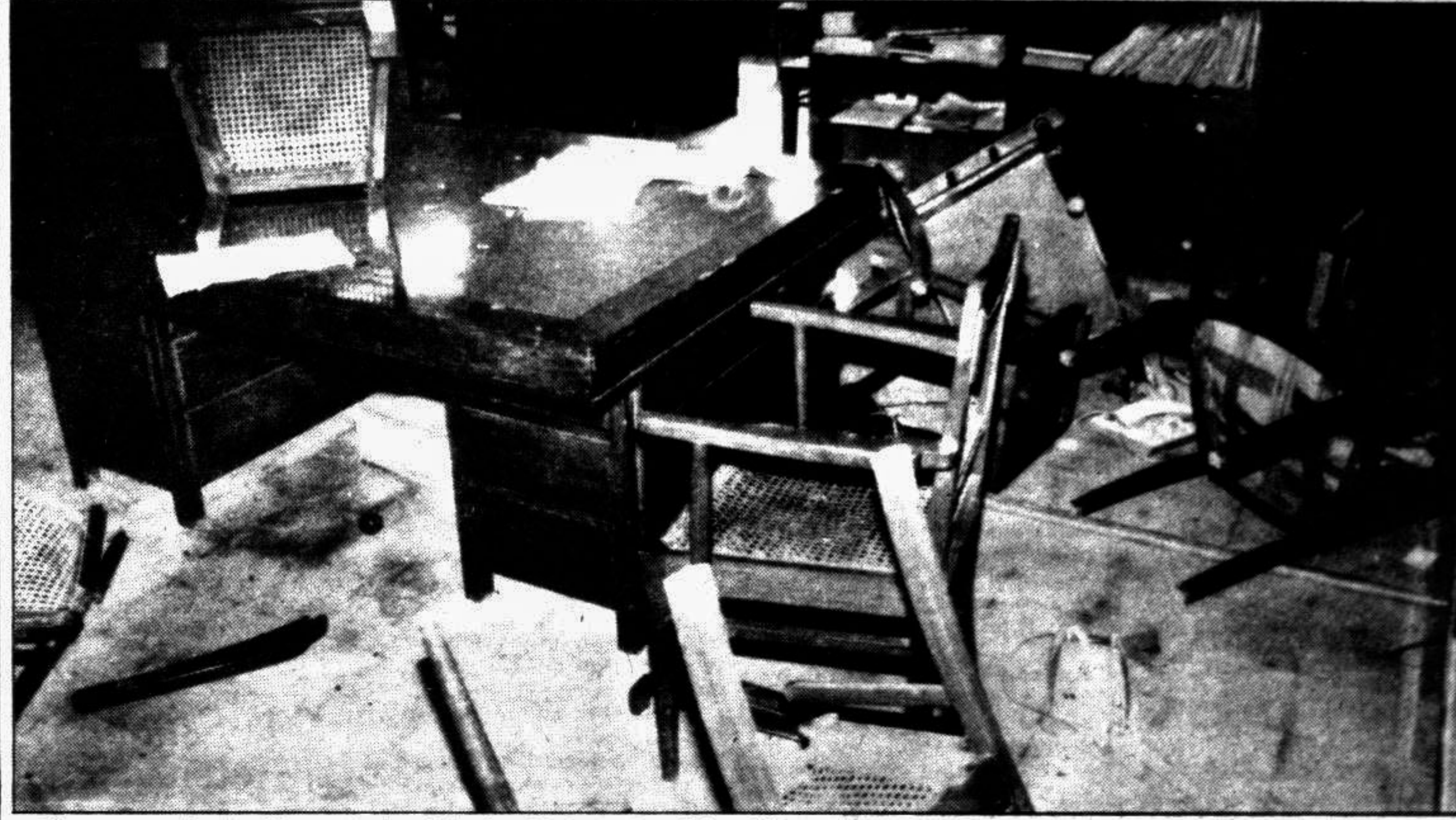
JHENIDAH, Sept 18: Transport workers and owners of the southern part of the country will observe a 24-hour token strike from tomorrow (Thursday) to press home their 19-point demand. The demands, among others, include reduction in fuel oil price. The strike will begin at 6 am Thursday and continue till 6 am Friday.

Parliamentary form of govt comes into force from today : 8 State Ministers to be elevated, 2 may be dropped

Swearing-in of new cabinet today

By Reazuddin Ahmed and Mostafa Kamal Majumder

A new cabinet takes oath at the Bangabhaban at 4 pm today (Thursday) formalising the country's switchover to parliamentary democracy. Reliable sources say, some new Ministers and State Ministers are likely to be inducted in the cabinet, some eight State Ministers likely to be made full Ministers. Two State Ministers may be dropped. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to meet Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at 1-30 pm today to submit the resignation of her cabinet. The Acting President will then formally invite her as leader of the majority party in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) to form a new government. She will then submit a fresh list of Ministers and State Ministers to be sworn in. With the swearing-in of the new cabinet, 16 years of presidential rule—a legacy of the one-party BKSAL rule introduced in 1975, will go. The swearing-in of a new cabinet under the amended Constitution became necessary with the publication of the official results of the September 15 referendum on the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill through a gazette notification on Wednesday. The referendum marked the endorsement of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill providing for the switchover to a parliamentary system. The Bill was unanimously passed in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on August 6 midnight. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her cabinet colleagues were sworn in on March 20 following the publication of the results of the February 27 parliamentary elections. The 31-member Council of Ministers including 19 State Ministers was in power for 183 days under the presidential system in which the President was the Chief Executive and the cabinet was answerable to him. The new cabinet to be sworn in today will be answerable to parliament, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be the Chief Executive, and the President will become a titular head of state. Sources say, Education See Page 12 Col. 3



The ransacked office of the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor. A group of students went on rampage yesterday to retaliate Tuesday night's police action in JN hall and damaged the office. — Star photo

News commentary

New challenges await BNP Govt

By Amanullah Kabir

With the formation of new government today under the amended Constitution, the nation is going to have a new experience of parliamentary democracy for the first time in practical sense. And it is more so for a political party like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which earlier ruled the country twice under the presidential system, of which Begum Khaleda Zia herself was a staunch supporter. Parliamentary democracy that operated for a short time during the Awami League regime immediately after the liberation of the country failed to reach the fruits of the system to the people mainly due to the prevailing political situation at that time and the undemocratic attitude of the then government, which ultimately culminated into one-party BKSAL rule. But this time parliamentary democracy is going to be effected on the basis of a national consensus and the BNP has got the opportunity to prove its worth under the new system. It would, no doubt, be an acid test for Begum Zia and her party as well and a challenge for the political parties as a whole. For successful functioning what parliamentary democracy requires is mutual understanding among the political parties and tolerance of the views of opponents. With the formation of the post-referendum government the dichotomy that has often been blamed for creating a bottleneck in the smooth administrative functioning will be removed. Constitutionally speaking, the BNP has so far functioned as the government of See Page 12 Col. 1

AL warns govt against taking anti-people steps

The two-day meeting of the Executive Council of Bangladesh Awami League ended in the city on Tuesday adopting a number of resolutions on various issues including constitutional amendment, law and order, price of essentials, flood and relief, and by-elections, according to a party press release, reports BSS. Presided over by party chief Sheikh Hasina, the meeting in a resolution congratulated the people for supporting overwhelmingly through referendum the establishment of parliamentary democracy in the country. It, however, warned the government to refrain from taking any step contrary to the hopes and aspirations of the masses. The meeting expressed its deep concern at what it said the "deteriorating law and order situation" in the country and strongly condemned the alleged attack on the life of Sheikh Hasina at a polling centre at Green Road during by-elections on September 11. See Page 12 Col. 1

Protest against police action in JN Hall

Students ransack offices of DU VC, pro-VC, damage cars

By DU Correspondent

Agitated students of the Dhaka University went on the rampage Wednesday protesting Tuesday night's police action in the Jagannath Hall. They damaged the cars of the Registrar, Abu Zahid Shikdar and the former Provost of Mohsin Hall S M A Fayez in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence. The angry students also pelted stones at the Vice-Chancellor's residence and the office at the Registrar's building. The office room of the Private Secretary of Vice-Chancellor and the office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor were ransacked by them. The window panes of the building were broken following a massive stone barrage of the angry students. Earlier, the Awami League student front Chhatra League (S-A) brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus protesting Tuesday night's swoop on the Jagannath Hall. The BCL (S-A) rally addressed by Shahe Alam, Mamtazuddin Mehdidi, Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamaruzzaman Ansari termed Tuesday's police action as a repressive measure of the government against the opposition as was taken during the autocratic Ershad regime. The rally said that the JCD itself sheltered armed hoodlums in the organisation and as such the massive assault on the students and teachers of the Jagannath Hall in the name of arresting the accused in Dr Milon murder case was not justified, it added. The rally however, demanded punishment to the persons involved in the attack and compensation to the injured. Meanwhile, the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a protest rally against what it called unruly acts of the BCL (S-A) activists. See Page 12 Col. 5



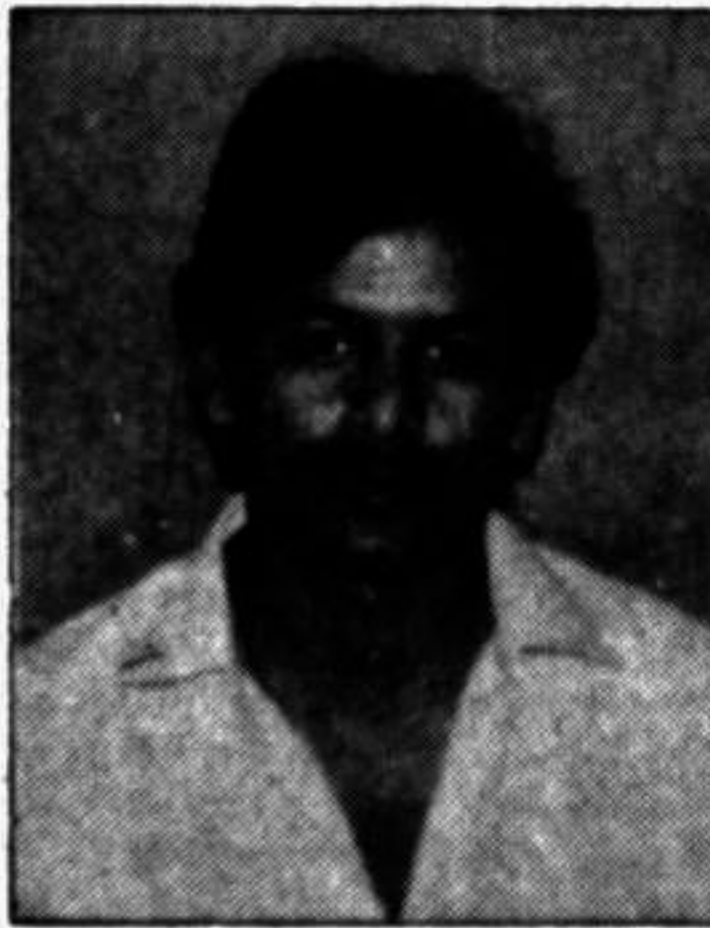
One of the two cars damaged in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence. — Star photo

Death toll rises to 201

Diarrhoea spreads in northern districts

By Staff Correspondent

With the fall of water level in major rivers, flood situation in most of the affected areas improved further on Wednesday. But the situation deteriorated in Gaibandha, Kurigram, Bogra and Naogaon while it remained unchanged in Shariatpur, Sirajganj, Chandpur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Natore and Pabna. Meanwhile, diarrhoea has been spreading fast in the 16 districts of the northern region. Sixteen more deaths from diarrhoea were reported from the affected areas increasing the death toll to 201. The diarrhoea affected northern districts are: Rajshahi, Naogaon, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Jajpurhat, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Panchagar and Thakurgaon. The worst affected area is the greater Rangpur district. In Gaibandha, seven deaths from diarrhoea were reported while another two people died in Lalmonirhat. Official sources confirmed another death in Jessore. Over ten thousand people have been affected by diarrhoea in the flood-hit areas since September 1, according to an unofficial estimate. The scarcity of drinking water is acute in the flood affected areas where diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases are spreading. Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports: 33 persons died of diarrhoea so far in the flood affected areas of the district. About 700 people have been attacked with the disease. There is scarcity of medicine and saline for which the treatment is being hampered. Our Kishoreganj correspondent adds: Four people died of diarrhoea in Inna and Bajitpur Wednesday. So far, 38 people died of this disease in the flood affected areas of the district during last 15 days. There is scarcity of drinking water, saline and medicine in the affected areas. See Page 12 Col. 8



Obhi wants assurances before his surrender

Star Report

Golam Faruk Obhi, one of the accused in the Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case, said that he would surrender to the law enforcing agencies if he got assurances that the law would not be influenced by any quarter. He said that accusing him of killing Dr Milon was a political farce. "My name and the names of associates were falsely See Page 12 Col. 7

No security for Hasina outside metropolis

The authorities issued a new order on Wednesday withdrawing personal security to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina during her stay outside the Dhaka metropolis. Awami League sources said, reports UNB. After the fall of Ershad in December, Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed ordered Special Branch security to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. The six-member security team comprised one Inspector and five Sub-Inspectors of Police. The latest order was conveyed to the Bangabandhu Bhaban Wednesday morning on the eve of Hasina's tour to flood-affected northern districts beginning today (Thursday). Sources in the Awami League said the personal staff of Sheikh Hasina contacted senior Home Ministry officials but there was "no satisfactory" reply from them. The authorities, however, informed that two security men could be provided for the See Page 12 Col. 8

DU VC, others meet AL chief

Hasina wants raid of all halls at a time

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina Wednesday suggested "simultaneous raid of all the 14 residential halls of the Dhaka University" to flush out terrorists. She made the suggestion when the members of the Dhaka University Education Atmosphere Council (DUEAC) led by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Mian called on her at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the evening. The meeting with Hasina followed a similar DUEAC meeting with the Prime Minister and BNP Chief Khaleda Zia and violent incidents in Jagannath Hall following police raid there the day before. Both the meetings were aimed at finding out ways and means to eliminate terrorism from the institution. "Let us see how the armed terrorists stay at the DU halls and create violence on the campus after such a raid", she said. Hasina urged the government to take "sincere and effective" steps to root out campus violence and assured all cooperation to the government See Page 12 Col. 7

Police seek students' help to nab Milon's killers

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Wednesday called upon the people of all walks of life especially the students to assist the police in arresting the accused persons involved in the case of Dr Milon's killing, reports BSS. The DMP also requested all quarters not to give shelters to See Page 12 Col. 2

Baltic states, Koreas get entry into UN

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 18: The General Assembly on Tuesday admitted seven new members whose entry into the United Nations would have been unthinkable at the height of the Cold War, reports Reuters. The new members reflect the dramatic changes that have come with the end of the Cold War. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania recently regained their independence, 51 years after annexation by Moscow. South Korea was no longer barred by repeated Soviet vetoes. The United Nations waged war from 1950 to 1953 against communist North Korea. For many years afterwards, North Korea opposed separate UN membership for the two

Korean states on grounds it would perpetuate their separation. The federated states of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are two Pacific island nations previously administered by the United States as part of a UN trust territory. The admission of the seven new members marked the biggest single influx since 1960, when 17 countries were admitted to the world body. Six joined in 1962 and six in 1975. At its opening session in the morning, the Assembly elected as President Saudi Arabia's veteran UN ambassador, Jerusalem-born Samir Shihabi, 66. After a hard-fought campaign involving intensive lobbying, he obtained 83 votes out of the 150 valid votes cast, handily defeating the Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Michael Somare, who garnered 47. The third candidate, Yemeni UN envoy Abadalla Saïch Al-Ashtal, received 20 votes. Shihabi's candidacy for the high-profile post of Assembly President came as something of a surprise since Saudi Arabia has tended to shun the limelight at the United Nations. It has not served on the Security Council and does not seek the chairmanship of Assembly committees. The new President will be responsible for shepherding the Assembly through a packed agenda of some 145 items. The session was gavelled to order by the outgoing President, Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Guido de Marco. The slightly built, bespectacled Shihabi, who entered the Assembly hall wearing a dark business suit, changed to Saudi ceremonial robes and hobbled before delivering his acceptance speech from the Assembly podium.

Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No-51 by the side of Dhaka-Mymensingh Road, at Zoarshahara Commercial Area, Dhaka measuring 669.24 Sq metre, (10 Kathas) will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction.

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The auction will be held on 30-9-91 in the conference room of the 3rd floor of Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 A. M.

Chairman, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha, Dhaka.

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