

Inside Today

Article

Arafat's Fateful Decision

Column : Spotlight on Middle East by Muslehuddin Ahmed Page 4

International

Arafat's opponents call for 'day of wrath' today



Thatcher knew how to use feminine wiles Page 5

Business

Japan will hypnotise world financial markets soon

Ottawa assures to help Dhaka's efforts to enter global economy Pages 6, 7

Feature

Development Problems of Economic Development in Bangladesh: Need for 'Rurban' Approach; Better Deal for Poor People; Synthesis of Vision and Pragmatism; Balance sheet of Human Development-Developing Countries Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Boy Lives in His Fantasy World Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Milad for Hasina's early recovery

The Dhaka district unit of the Awami League yesterday organised a milad mahfil praying for early recovery of ailing party president Sheikh Hasina. The milad was held after Asr prayers at the residence of Nawabganj thana AL president Abdul Baten Mia at 365/1, Dilu Road, Maghbazar, reports UNB.

Ugandan DPM due today

The first Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda, Eriya-Kategaya, arrives here today for a five-day visit. Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sirer will receive him at the Zia International Airport at 4 pm, reports UNB.

JCD, Shibir clash in Satkhira College

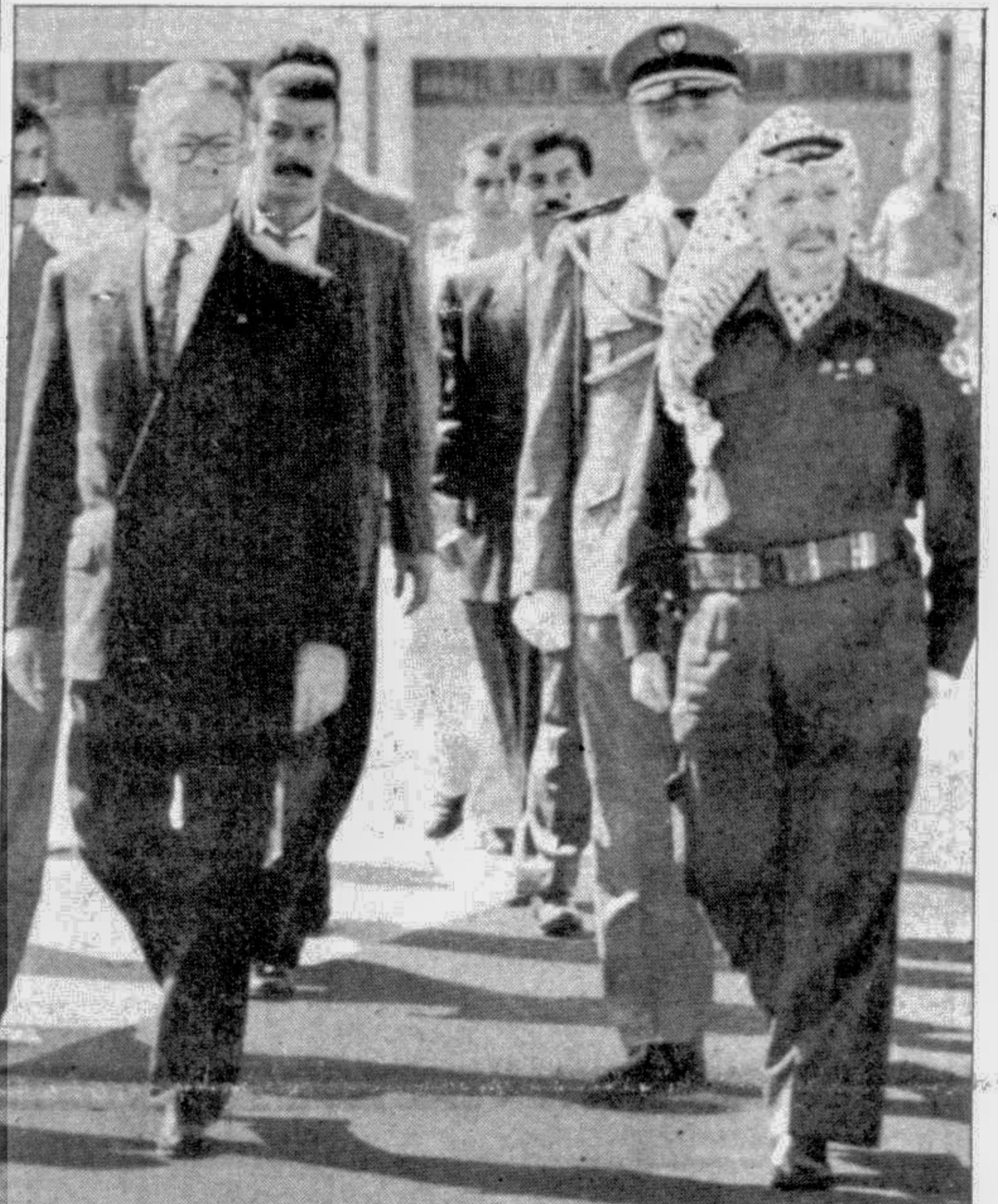
SATKHIRA, Sept 12: At least five students were injured, two seriously in a clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra Shibir in the Satkhira Government College today, reports UNB.

CU bus driver killed

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: A bus driver of the Chittagong University died on the spot while some 20 students were injured when a bus fell into a road side ditch in front of a mazir adjacent to the university today, reports UNB.

Arafat, Rabin off to US to attend signing ceremony

Palestinian autonomy accord today



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accompanied by Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui (L) walking on a red carpet at the Carthage Airport, outside Tunis, yesterday on way to boarding a plane to Washington to sign the historic peace deal with Israel today. — AFP photo

WASHINGTON, Sept 12: PLO leader Yasser Arafat, packing a pistol on his hip, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, vowing to defend Jerusalem, flew to Washington today to endorse a momentous Middle East peace agreement, report Reuters.

Only hours before Rabin left, Muslim militants shot dead three Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip, where two Arabs died earlier in protests over a pact aimed at ending the centuries-old conflict between Arabs and Jews.

The Qassam military wing of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, which has vowed

More on Pages 4, 5

to fight the agreement, claimed responsibility for the attack on the soldiers.

The violence took place in one of the areas where the agreement would establish Palestinian self-rule. The pact, forged in secret talks and announced last week, also calls for self-rule in the West Bank city of Jericho.

Streets around the White House will be blocked and the top of the Washington monument may be closed tomorrow as security is tightened for the signing of a breakthrough peace accord.

The ceremony will be hosted by President Bill Clinton on the south lawn of the White House at 11 am (1500 GMT 2100 BST) tomorrow.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the agreement would be signed at the 'ministerial' level, not by Arafat or Rabin. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will sign for Israel and Arafat's No 2 on the mission, Abu Mazen, will probably sign for the PLO.

An aide said Arafat, who left his PLO headquarters wearing his olive-green military fatigues, would don civilian clothes for the ceremony, which will be at

See Page 12 Col 1

SEC to protect investors, develop securities market

Star Report

The newly-formed Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is gearing up its operations focused on protecting the investors and developing the securities market.

Formed under the Securities and Exchange Commission Act, 1993, approved by Parliament on June 8 last, the SEC effectively takes over all functions of the erstwhile Controller of Capital Issues.

The Finance Ministry has already appointed Sultanuzzaman Khan, as the chairman and also nominated two of the ex-officio members of the commission. The SEC, meanwhile, has advertised for the position of the capital market.

According to the act: 'It shall be the responsibility and duty of the commission to ensure the proper issuance of securities, to protect the interest of the in-

vestors, and to promote the development of and to regulate the capital and securities market.'

The commission has been authorised to prohibit fraudulent and unfair trading practices, including insider trading in securities, and to regulate the take-over of companies through substantial acquisition of shares or stock and also to regulate the business of the Stock Exchanges or other securities markets.

Regulating the securities market, the SEC Chairman points out, should be seen more in a positive sense rather than in a restrictive and controlling sense.

The SEC should create an enabling atmosphere as well as remove impediments on way to enhancing investment in the historic occasion.

See Page 12 Col 7

Pak Army asked to supervise polls

ISLAMABAD, Sept 12: Pakistan's Election Commission on Sunday ordered the Army to provide security for a general election next month and halt polling malpractices, authorising officers to hold summary trials of suspected offenders, reports Reuters.

The Army has said it would mobilise 150,000 troops as well as 10,000 Navy and 15,000 Air Force personnel — almost half the Armed Forces — to prevent vote-rigging in the October 6 poll and Provincial Assembly elections three days later.

As an additional safeguard, the Election Commission will authorise the officers of the Armed forces detailed on election duty to exercise the necessary powers under the law to deal with electoral malpractices, the official APP news agency said.

Election officials said earlier these powers would include

4 more bombs explode in India : 2 killed

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: At least four bombs exploded across India Sunday, killing two people, injuring three others and damaging a strategic road bridge, news reports said, reports AP.

The explosions in southern and northeastern India came a day after car bombs killed eight people in New Delhi.

A bomb went off in a railroad reservation office in the southern Indian city of Secunderabad Sunday, killing two railway officials and injuring two others, United News of India reported.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has called for a new election and alleged rigging of the 1990 polls that swept Sharif to power three months after she was sacked as Prime Minister by Ishaq Khan. She also urged army supervision of the estimated 33,000 polling stations on election day.

Bhutto had alleged that in 1990 then President Ishaq Khan, aided by the Army, organised the rigging of that election in which her party won 45 of the 217 national assembly seats.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The blast killed the chief reservation inspector and a clerk.

Press Trust of India reported three blasts in the northeastern Manipur state. The area, 1,200 kilometres northeast of New Delhi, is inhabited by over two dozen tribes, many of them have been converted to Christianity.

The blasts occurred in the towns of Thoubal, Imphal and capital Imphal. There was also no claim of responsibility. The blast at Thoubal blew up the Itampi road bridge that links the strategic state with Burma.

The blasts in Secunderabad and Manipur came a day after a car bomb exploded in central New Delhi in an apparent attempt to assassinate a top politician. He escaped with minor injuries, but eight people were killed and 36 injured.

JS session begins

Opposition slates delay regarding pending bills

By Staff Correspondent

Treasury and Opposition benches.

During the debate yesterday, the Opposition members accused the government of lacking the political will to decide on the issues. They blamed Law Minister Mirza Golam Haq in particular for his reluctance to resolve the problems.

The Law Minister, on the other hand, denied the allegations and told the House that in most cases the Opposition members were responsible for the delay.

The debate began when Awami League (AL) MP Shudhanshu Shekhar Halder

See Page 12 Col 3

Kurds kidnap 6 Bangladeshis in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (Turkey), Sept 12: Kurdish rebels holding seven Westerners hostage in southeastern Turkey have abducted two Iranians and six Bangladeshis, a local official said Sunday, reports AP.

The death toll in four days of fighting rose to 54, when 17 rebels and a police officer died in overnight clashes, officials said.

The Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK, is waging a guerrilla war for self-rule. More than 7,000 people have died since the fighting began in 1984.

The government recently has mounted an offensive. Turkey's chief of general staff, Dogan Gunes, vowed in a statement to the national newspaper Sabah on Sunday to 'finish off the PKK by next spring.'

The guerrillas have staged bombings at resorts in western Turkey and abducted foreign travellers to undermine the tourism industry.

See Page 12 Col 3

Industries minister resigns

By Staff Correspondent
Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan resigned yesterday on health grounds, said a government announcement.

He tendered the resignation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, which was later accepted by the President.

Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan has been given the Industries Ministry portfolio.

When contacted last night, sources close to Shamsul Islam Khan told this correspondent that his resignation was purely on health ground and there was no political reason behind it. 'He has been suffering from heart ailments and diabetes and is not in a position to discharge duties as a minister,' the sources added.

Shamsul Islam Khan, an industrialist, was elected to Parliament from a Manikganj constituency.

This is the second resignation from Begum Khaleda Zia's cabinet.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda resigned last May.

Ratan Sen murder

All 15 accused acquitted

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 12: All 15 accused in the sensational murder case of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) leader Ratan Sen were acquitted here today for want of evidence.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Toha Mollah delivered judgement of the case in a packed court room at 3.40 this afternoon.

See Page 12 Col 6

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka Notice

Grim statistics

By Staff Correspondent

Six of the country's medical colleges suffered eight months of unscheduled closure from November last to June 30 this year because of recurrent violence and political unrest from time to time, the Health Minister informed Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question from Shamsul Huq of the Awami League, Chowdhury Kamal Ibo Yousuf said the Chittagong Medical College was closed for the longest period — two months and 16 days, from September 14 last year — followed by the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College which was closed for two months and 10 days from May 3 this year.

He said the Mymensingh Medical College was closed for 55 days due to three consecutive violent incidents in this year, March, while the Dhaka Medical College and Rangpur Medical College suffered from unscheduled closures of 22 days each.

All assessee concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 1st quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1994-95 under this system by September 15, 1993. Simple interest @ 12% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

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National Board of Revenue

See Page 12 Col 6