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NEWS BRIEFS

Mostafiz leaves
for NY today

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman leaves here for New York today to attend the 48th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The UNGA session will begin from Monday (September 21) at the UN headquarters in New York, reports BSS.

OIC standing body
meets tomorrow

The three-day sixth meeting of the OIC Standing Committee on Technological Cooperation will begin in Islamabad tomorrow. State Minister for Science and Technology Prof MA Mannan left Pakistan last night to attend the meeting. Mannan is leading a three-member delegation, which include Deputy Scientific Adviser Ahmed Al-Faroq and High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan Anwar Hashim, reports BSS.

Rabiussani moon
sighted

The Rabiussani moon was sighted yesterday, according to an Islamic Foundation press release. The National Moon Sighting Committee, which met here yesterday evening with Religious Affairs Minister Karamat Ali in the chair, reviewed the reports received from the district and divisional offices of the Islamic Foundation and also from the Met Office about the sighting of the Rabiussani moon yesterday, reports BSS.

Three Indians
pushed back

LALMONIRHAT, Sept 17: The Bangladesh Rifles pushed back 10 Bengali-speaking Indian Muslims through Srimangal border of Patgram thana of the district Thursday night. These Indian nationals were pushed in Bangladesh territory by the Border Security Force on Wednesday night through the same point. BDR sources said, a patrol team of the BDR arrested the people in Bangladesh territory, reports BSS.

Two killed in
Mymensingh

Mymensingh, Sept 17: Two people were killed on the spot when a running bus hit a tempo at Kazir Shimla on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at 8 tonight. Witnesses said two passengers of the tempo, including a woman were killed and four others injured when the bus hit the tempo from behind. Identity of the victims was not immediately known, reports BSS.



Palestinian Maher el Tabbah, 25, and his bride Nermine, 18, walk with bridesmaids holding a Palestinian flag through Gaza City yesterday. They are the first Palestinian couple to marry on the occupied Gaza Strip since the signing of PLO-Israel accord. — AFP photo

PLO diplomatic office in US next month

TUNIS, Sept 17: The Palestine Liberation Organisation, honoured along with Israeli leaders with a peace prize today, said it would open its diplomatic office in the United States next month, reports Reuter.

Despite the international plaudits over the historic accord, the PLO came under fire from Palestinian radicals — who denied they had agreed a truce with the organisation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But PLO officials loyal to Chairman Yasser Arafat said they were winning the battle for the hearts and minds of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

In the occupied territories there is now more support than opposition. Arafat has been bombarded with phone calls of support, said one official at PLO headquarters, which keeps in close touch with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The peace accord paved the way for a resumption of US-PLO contacts severed by Washington in 1990.

Seeb Erakat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the Middle East peace talks, said the PLO will open an official Palestinian mission in Washington next month.

In Amman, the radical Islamic group Hamas denied it had reached a truce with the

PLO but called on its followers in the Israeli-occupied territories to avoid inter-Palestinian clashes.

"There was no agreement at all between Hamas and the PLO," Hamas representative Mohammad Nazzal told Reuters. "This is a fabrication by Yasser Arafat."

A statement released in Tunis on Thursday and signed by US secretary of state Henry Kissinger awarded the prize, worth 800,000 French francs (143,000 US dollar) and named after the president of Ivory Coast.

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Nazzal denied that the Tunis document was authentic.

A Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Gosha, said the group had sent a senior delegation to Syria to rally Arab support for efforts to foil the peace accord.

Nayef Hawatmeh of the Damascus-wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine told a news conference in Damascus that the United States and Israel were piling pressure on Syria to silence opposition to the deal.

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