

Rabin refuses to shake hands with Arafat

Four bodies to work out Palestinian self-rule

CAIRO, Oct 6: Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, two old enemies in the struggle for justice in the Middle East, met officially for the first time Wednesday, but could not bring themselves to shake hands again, reports AP.

That did not stop the peace process from moving forward.

After a 90-minute meeting, the Israeli prime minister and the head of the Palestinian Liberation Organization agreed to establish four teams to work out the details of limited Palestinian self-rule.

Both said the meeting was productive and help to further the peace accord, which calls initially for self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho and withdrawal of Israel's army from those areas.

But signs of lingering mistrust remained. Rabin and Arafat talked separately to reporters afterward and Rabin also refused photographers' requests to shake hands with Arafat in front of the cameras.

Arafat said he hopes to be in Jericho by the beginning of next year.

But Rabin only would say that discussions centered on "how to get the wagons moving" toward implementing the accord, signed September 13 in Washington.

"I believe it's a very good beginning toward implementation of the declaration of principles," Rabin said, referring to the Washington accord.

The meeting was useful and positive, and we hope to transfer what we agreed upon on paper easily and smoothly onto the ground," Arafat said.

Wednesday's meeting bro-

ught together the general who was Israel's army chief of staff when the West Bank and Gaza were captured in the 1967 Middle East war and the Palestinian guerrilla leader who fought to take them back.

The meeting comes amid rising tensions in the occupied territories, which are threatening the accord even before Israeli and Palestinian delegations can work out its details.

Israelis are angry at attacks by Palestinian radicals, including a suicide car bombing that wounded 30 Israelis Monday. Palestinians are worried that Israeli army raids against activists could undermine the PLO's credibility as it tries to negotiate.

Below the belt!

By Staff Correspondent

Ten student councillors had their food spiked yesterday, allegedly to prevent them from voting in the council meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit of the Jagannath University College.

One of the victims of the food poisoning was admitted to the Mitford Hospital while the others were released after stomach wash yesterday, medical sources said.

One JCD insider said tension was prevailing on the college campus in the older part of the city after the JUC JCD split into groups ahead of yesterday's council meeting.

All the ten councillors who became ill after having their dinner Tuesday night at the college hostel, belonged to one faction of the JCD, college sources said.

NYT highlights Dkaha's success in preventing infant deaths

The New York Times has highlighted the significant progress made by Bangladesh toward meeting the health goals preventing infant death, reports BSS.

The international daily in its October 3 issue prominently reported the meeting of the UNICEF in New York chaired by Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and said representatives from 60 developing countries reported at the meeting the achievements in the area that will prevent some two million infant deaths a year.

The paper referred to the speech of the Bangladesh Prime Minister and reported the progress made by Bangladesh in this regard as explained by the Prime Minister at the meeting.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, the Chairwoman of the meeting held here on Thursday to review the results, said Bangladesh had raised infant immunisation rates from two percent to 70 per cent over the last five years and expected to reach the 1995 target of 80 per cent on time," the New York Times reported.

The report focused on the 1990 summit meeting on children in which a total of 149 countries were represented, 71 of them by their heads of state or government.

The New York Times highlighted the Prime Minister's statement at the meeting that 66 per cent of Bangladesh's six to ten year old boys were now enrolled in primary schools, against a 1995 target of 68 per cent.

James P Grant, Executive Director of the UNICEF, which sponsored the 1990 summit meeting, told the meeting chaired by the Bangladesh Prime Minister that he hoped that the new figure in the area of child health would allay skepticism that the ambitious goal for the year 2000 would ever be met, the New York Times reported.

Govt college teachers' strike today

Government college teachers will observe a countrywide to-ken strike today to protest terrorist activities in educational institutions and assault on some of their colleagues, particularly the principal of the Rajbari Government College, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the BCS General Education Association on Tuesday, said a press release.

Remittances from

Manpower Minister said Bangladeshi workers in those countries had earned a good reputation and the governments of those two countries had assured him that more Bangladeshis would be employed there.

During his stay in Bahrain, Dhaka and Manama signed an agreed minutes on September 30 on manpower cooperation.

Saying there is a lot of scope for business also, the minister suggested businessmen explore the Middle Eastern markets.

The government had tightened its control over the activities of the manpower agents, Mannan told the newsmen. "Recently licences of 10 manpower agents have been cancelled, show cause notices have been issued against 40 agents and the remaining 350 registered agents are under the review by the ministry."

The Minister also blamed some foreign recruiting agencies for jeopardising the Bangladeshi agencies and workers. "We have reports that some foreign agencies send false work permits against which they earn a handsome commission," the minister pointed out.

For the convenience of job-seeking Bangladeshis, the government banks - Agrani, Sonali and Janata - have been providing loans since May last while the workers are allowed to carry bigger amounts of foreign currency.

The minister said, a desk has been opened at the Zia International Airport for the workers' guidance since many of them were harassed by the airport authorities during departure and arrival.

He informed newsmen that Agrani Bank had opened a branch in Malaysia so that the workers need not go to the 'hundi-dealers'. The minister informed that the nationalised banks were planning to open more branches in the Middle East.

He also observed that some employers were dissatisfied over the Bangladeshi workers because some of them often broke the laws and move from their original jobs in breach of contract in order to find better opportunities.

About 10 lakh Bangladeshis are presently working in the Middle East while over one lakh are in Malaysia.



Priyanka, 18 months old, sitting in her grandmother's lap gets medication from a nurse yesterday at a hospital at Latur. The baby was rescued by a French rescue team who dug her up from a collapsed house after she had spent five days underneath three metres of rubble. —AFP photo

Jute sector reforms

Jute mills and is also seeking an assurance from the government of meeting the enhanced costs of the project because of the wage increase.

"We have to discuss how many more jute mills need to be closed or privatised and how will the government handle the increased volume of separation costs," the WB source pointed out. "The Bank is not overly anxious to lend to the jute sector unless there is a clear indication that the project would succeed."

The planned project stipulates the closure of nine jute mills and the privatisation of another 18 of the BJMC's 31 mills.

However, the Jute Ministry source noted: "We have already implemented a number of cost saving measures in the (public sector) jute mills." He said 16,000 workers were retrenched during the past year-and-a-half, the staff level at the BJMC head office was reduced by 200 from 800, seven general managers were given early retirement, four poorly operating mills have been closed and the utility costs at the mills also, have been reduced.

In addition, the government also would up the loss-making Bangladesh Jute Corporation last month. "These moves will more than offset the additional cost imposed on the project due to the wage hike," the government source added.

Elections in Pakistan

From Page 1 Col 5 1990 ballot, but he resigned in July to settle months of disputes with Ishaq Khan, which had paralysed the country.

Neither leader was able to strengthen Pakistan's shaky economy and ease staggering social problems that include crushing poverty, 75 per cent illiteracy and escalating drug trafficking.

Still, their parties are easily the two strongest out of more than a dozen contesting the polls.

It was not clear, however, whether either party would be able to capture a majority in the national assembly. Without a majority, the biggest vote-getter could find it difficult to build a stable coalition government with the numerous smaller parties.

Hundreds of supporters mobbed Bhutto Wednesday when she arrived to vote in the dusty, southern village of Naudero, her hometown. She spent 15 minutes sitting inside her jeep before police could pull the crowd off the vehicle.

Supporters pressed up against her as soon as she got out, and a relaxed Bhutto, wearing a white flowing dress, smiled and offered her hand to people in the crowd. She voted in the women's section of the segregated polling stations, then promptly folded her ballot the wrong way.

"I can't believe I folded my own ballot wrong," Bhutto said with a smile as she fixed her mistake.

Sharif prayed at the Data Sahib shrine, a huge mosque in the eastern city of Lahore, before voting. Hundreds of supporters threw rose petals on his white jeep as he arrived at the polling station and chanted, "Long live Nawaz Sharif."

"People thought there was only one political party in Pakistan," Sharif said in reference to Bhutto's party. "But now I think we have changed all that."

Both Bhutto and Sharif after casting votes confidently predicted an outright majority for their parties.

Lord Siva saw Killari calamity in advance

KILLARI (India), Oct 6: Lord Siva, the cosmic destroyer, foretold the imminent calamity symbolically, at least to the devout residents of Killari, reports PTI.

The imposing Neelakanteswar Temple, which hugs the town, had a unique feature with water gushing out from a crack of the Siva Linga in the sanctum sanctorum throughout the season.

The devotees interpreted the mystic phenomenon as a symbolic blessing of the Lord and a good omen for the town.

The water flow suddenly reduced last year and then came the moderate earthquake which shook the town in October 1992.

Residents took it as a bad omen.

The mysticism of the temple further baffled the people when the water totally dried up about a month back and then thundered the devastation which somehow spared only the sanctum sanctorum.

Starting at the landmark of the town, now in a shambles, Neelakantappa Kone (68) says with philosophical resignation, "We now feel that our Lord was weeping for us and his tears dried up."

So are the tears of the survivors.

Karnataka rocked

BANGALORE (India), Oct 6: Four districts in Karnataka - Bijapur, Gulbarga, Raichur and Bidar - experienced fresh tremors measuring upto 4.2 on the Richter scale in the early hours today, according to meteorological sources here, reports PTI.

Voltage drops

Meanwhile, a number of citizens complained that electric lights, especially tubelights in many households were damaged in the last few days. Other electrical appliances including air conditioners, TV sets, and refrigerators had also been affected.

In addition, the power distribution infrastructure under the DESA, even in normal times is also unable to meet the city's demand of power. While the demand exceeds 650mw, the DESA distribution stations are capable of supplying only about 450mw. As a result, 20 per cent of the power transformers in the city are heavily overloaded.

The PDB produces around 1650 mw of power in the country, while the demand remains above 1800 mw.

Industries Ministry

From page 1 col 7 banks would have to take more responsibility for the country's industrialisation as partners of the entrepreneurs.

"A long-term banker and the borrowers are equally responsible for the failure of projects," he added.

Regarding the poor performance in rehabilitating the sick industries, he said the government has strengthened the monitoring of the rehabilitation process. It has created a review committee to recommend measures for rehabilitation of specific projects, he said.

He, however, said the government cannot tell the banks to give money to the entrepreneurs; it can only give the restructuring proposals through the review committee. But there is a special fund in the Bangladesh Bank for rehabilitation of the sick units, he added.

The minister also assured the industrialists that the process of rehabilitation would be accelerated.

"We have stability in the economy and a stable macro-economic policy. Now the challenge is to put our micro policies in the right direction," the minister said.

The meeting, presided over by A M Subid Ali, president of the BCI, was addressed among others by senior vice-president Sharif M Afzal, vice-president Brig Zahed Latif, Salman F Rahman, BSCIC chairman Maniruzzaman Chowdhury and Tamizuddin Huq.

HSC results

From page 1 col 7 869) and Mohammad Matlur Rahman (Raj No-870) of the Rajshahi College shared the second position securing 745 marks. Jahangir got distinction in Statistics and Matlur in Accounting and Statistics.

Md Zahid Hossain of the same college (Raj No-991) placed third with 743 marks and a letter in Statistics.

Among the girls, Fahmda Bari of Rajshahi College (Raj No-708) topped the Science Group with a total of 939 marks.

Mosammat Raushan Ara Islam of the Rani Bhabani, Womens' College, Natore (Nat No-1166) stood first among the female candidates in the Commerce Group securing 699 marks.

The Midnight File

Fighting leaves 5 dead in Sarajevo, Mostar

SARAJEVO, Oct 6: Five people were killed and at least 15 wounded in shelling attacks today in Sarajevo and Mostar, reports here said. Two people were killed and five wounded this afternoon when a single mortar shell fell among a group of people enjoying a sunny day in the yard of a school inhabited by refugees in downtown Sarajevo, eyewitnesses and hospital officials said, reports AFP.

26 militants killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Oct 6: Army soldiers looking for Muslim militants gunned down 26 separatist rebels in Kashmir on Wednesday, the police said. In an encounter near the village of Bandipura, 65 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of capital Srinagar, troops shot and killed 21 militants, said police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi. The soldiers recovered six AK-47 rifles and ammunition, he said. There were no casualties among the troops, he said. Independent confirmation of the incident was not possible immediately. Five other militants were killed in search operations in and around Srinagar, he said, reports AP.

US embassy, USIS closed Oct 10

The American Embassy, the United States Information Service (USIS), and the American Cultural Centre Library and Students' Counselling Service will be closed on October 10 in observance of the Columbus Day - an American national holiday - a USIS press release said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Columbus Day is celebrated each year to commemorate the discovery of the new world in 1492 by Christopher Columbus. The US Federal Government observes the day on the second Monday in October.

Columbus Day helps link the peoples of Europe, North America, and South Asia.

Moscow

From Page 1 Col 5 provincial leaders who opposed him during the crisis.

The government says the crackdown on opposition is necessary to end the threat of violence. But some Russians are concerned what it could mean for the future of democracy in Russia, fearing Yeltsin may be tempted to impose his will rather than seek consensus.

Yeltsin's opponents are not likely to fade. Hundreds rallied in St. Petersburg to support a Russian nationalist TV commentator whose programme was canceled Tuesday.

"Yeltsin is a murderer!" the crowd chanted. Yeltsin's disbanding of the Russian Parliament and his attack on hard-line lawmakers have the unsavory elements of a dictatorship in the making, says the son of a former Soviet Communist leader.

Sergei Khrushchev, son of Nikita Khrushchev, whose 1962 confrontation with President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis brought the nuclear war to the brink of nuclear war, issued the warning at a news conference Tuesday.

"It's a possibility," the 58-year-old Khrushchev said. "Eventually he'll have no opposition from the parliament (and) no opposition from the constitutional court."

Yeltsin may not set out to create a dictatorship, but with the fundamentals already taking shape, it may be hard to keep it from happening, Khrushchev said.

"Once it starts, you can't stop," said Khrushchev, whose father was ousted from power in 1964. "The people who surround Yeltsin, they're pushing him toward a dictatorship. Because, like the Bolsheviks in 1917, they are feeling that they are losing the support of the people."

She also demanded an immediate court order against the activities of the parishad.

She further alleged that reports being carried out by a section of the press were belittling her at home and abroad, harming her daily activities and affecting her mental peace.

Advocate Zahurul Islam pleaded for Nasrin. He was assisted by Advocate Quamruzzaman Mahbub.

Some senior navy personnel, government officials and Korean nationals were also present at Chittagong port jetty to accord reception to the visiting naval team today.

Officials said the visit was in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and South Korea.

The flotilla of three ships may be tempted to impose his will rather than seek consensus.

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PM: Economic diplomacy

From page 1 col 7

She particularly mentioned that Bangladesh could make the best use of its opportunity in different states of Central Asia for creating markets of its goods there.

The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh Ambassadors and High Commissioners should pursue diplomacy in the light of the changed scenario in Bangladesh and in the international arena suiting the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country.

Begum Zia termed her meeting with the envoys as 'significant' and said this kind of meeting would be held in future in other countries.

This is the first time that such a meeting took place. This practice is being followed in many countries.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told the BSS Correspondent that the meeting was intended to review Bangladesh's foreign policy, find out new direction of diplomacy and build the image of Bangladesh abroad in the light of the rapidly changing international scenario.

At the beginning of the meeting Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman made an introductory speech saying Bangladesh would pursue its diplomacy in congruity with the changed international circumstances. He asked the envoys to project Bangladesh and work for helping the country attain economic progress.

The Foreign Minister said such meeting with the Prime Minister would help sort out the problems they are facing abroad and find new direction of expanding trade.

All the attending envoys took part in the discussion and apprised the Prime Minister of ex-

isting trade relations of Bangladesh with the countries of their accreditation and prospect of its further expansion.

They said Bangladesh regained its image after establishment of democracy in the country and steps taken by the present government in political, social and economic fields.

The envoys said Bangladesh commanded respect in the European countries during President Zia's tenure. After his death the image was faded, they said.

The envoys said the speech of the Prime Minister would provide them a direction and inspiration in carrying out their duties.

The Prime Minister said there was now an accountable and transparent government and Parliament in the country and added everybody would have to be answerable for their activities.

Referring to the changes in the countries of East Europe, and the signing of the historical peace accord between PLO and Israel, the Prime Minister said that Bangladesh would pursue her diplomacy and economic activities with the aim of reducing the country's dependency on foreign aid and turning it a self-reliant nation.

Begum Zia gave a brief resume of her government's socio-economic development programmes and said that the nation would get rid of poverty if this programme could be continued.

Prime Minister arrived here last night on her way to Dhaka after attending the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK Dr A F M Yusuf was at the Heathrow Airport to receive the Prime Minister. Begum Zia will leave London for Dhaka tonight.

NOTICE

In order to avoid anticipated traffic rush on Airport Road since morning today (Thursday, 7 October) valued passengers are requested to report at Zia International Airport by 10 A.M. to avail the following scheduled flights in time:

Table with 3 columns: Route, Flight No., Flight Dep. Time. Includes routes like Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Rajshahi, Dhaka-Cox's Bazar, Dhaka-Riyadh-Jeddah, Dhaka-Bombay, and Dubai-Athens.



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