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Inside Today

Sport



West Indies beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the second semifinal of the Hero Cup at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, yesterday to reach the final

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IMF, WB still Pushing Controversial Economic Policies on the South

Charles Afugre writes from Penang

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Lanka fears Tamil attack on opposition politicians

Top Sikh militant shot dead

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Business

Invitation to invest in tourism yet to get desired response

India to allow 12 new private banks this year

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Dhaka Day by Day

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Opposition sans Jamaat boycotts Sangsad

By Staff Correspondent

The Opposition parties in Parliament, barring the Jamaat, yesterday began boycotting the Jatiya Sangsad demanding withdrawal of the Speaker's ruling allowing a privilege motion against Sheikh Hasina.

The Speaker Wednesday allowed a two-hour discussion on the privilege motion and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina threatened resign unless the decision was reversed.

None of the Opposition MPs except the Jamaat entered the House yesterday.

The leaders of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Workers Party, Ganatantri Party and Shahjahan Straj, MP, in a joint meeting held in the Sangsad Bhaban, decided to continue

boycotting the sittings until the ruling was withdrawn.

The solitary members of the Islami Otkya Jote (IOJ) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) were not present either in the House or at the joint Opposition meeting.

The Jamaat parliamentary party yesterday decided to observe the situation before taking any decision on the issue.

Meanwhile, the boycotting Opposition, in a joint press conference in the evening, accused the ruling party of creating the crisis by submitting the privilege motion against the Leader of the House moved earlier.

The Opposition also accused Speaker Shaikh Razzak

All of being biased against it. They claimed that the ruling relating to the motion against the Opposition leader had been delivered under the influence of the ruling party, and in breach of the JS rules.

While addressing the press conference, the Opposition leaders hoped that the Speaker would rescind his decision for the sake of democracy.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League, Munirul Huq Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party and Shahjahan Straj addressed the news conference.

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Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaking at a meeting of the working committee at the party central office yesterday. Also seen (from left) are AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad and Presidium member M Qamruzzaman. — Star photo

Back-stage moves on to resolve crisis

By Nurul Kabir

Back-stage parleys were going on between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League (AL)-led Opposition in Parliament to overcome the crisis arising out of their mutual accusations about telling lies in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

The crisis appeared to have reached a point of no return Wednesday when Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Shaikh Hasina threatened to resign after the Speaker allowed a privilege motion against her.

On Monday Speaker Shaikh Razzak All admitted a similar motion against the Prime Minister and Leader of the House Khaleeda Zia.

The Speaker ordered separate

An eerie peace in the Sangsad!

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament sat for the briefest of sessions yesterday.

All opposition parties except the Jamaat boycotted the House over the previous day's altercation between the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni took the chair for the one-hour session at 4:15 pm when only 30 members, including three from the Jamaat, were present.

After the recitation from the Holy Quran, the Deputy Speaker started the question-answer session. In the meantime 25 more members entered the House.

Jamaat MP Latifur Rahman raised the first written question in the House, which was originally filed by Awami League MP Professor Rafiqul Islam. BNP MP Abdul Karim put a supplementary question to Education

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WB embargo on aid to BWDB projects

By A Special Correspondent

The World Bank has recently decided not to lend any assistance for new projects to be implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). Bank funds will be available only for emergency rehabilitation of BWDB projects.

This, however, does not constitute an official suspension of the WB when agreements with the key public sector agency in irrigation, flood control and water resources management sector.

Official notice of suspension of disbursement are served by the WB when agreements with the World Bank are violated.

In 1991 the WB suspended disbursement out of an ongoing project in the power sector. The

suspension was withdrawn in early 1992. There is still a ban on new lending to the power sector, however.

The BWDB was established in 1972 by dividing the former East Pakistan Water and Power Development

Authority (EPWAPDA) into two separate agencies — the BWDB and the BPDB (Bangladesh Power Development Board).

BWDB works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Irrigation. Its job is to plan, construct, operate and maintain projects for surface water irrigation, flood control, and drainage, including town protection and river training

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18,500 new telephone lines by Mar '94

By Inam Ahmed

The government will introduce 18,500 new telephone lines by March next year as part of its plan for large-scale improvement of the country's telecommunication system, an authoritative source said.

In addition, all digital telephone subscribers will get the chance, free of cost, to convert their lines from local to the international subscribers dialing (ISD) system.

"Information technology is moving fast and we have to try and keep pace with it", Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam told The Daily Star in an interview.

"We have a good opportunity of exporting computer software," Tariqul Islam said. "For this we need to overhaul the country's telecommunications system."

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SAARC Council of Ministers' meet in city December 4

A two-day meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers will begin in Dhaka December 4 to review the implementation of the decisions taken at the last SAARC summit. It was officially announced in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia, the current Chairperson of the SAARC, is expected to inaugurate the meeting.

The seventh SAARC summit held in Dhaka last April adopted a number of action programmes to promote the socio-economic conditions of more than one billion people in the region.

Prominent among them are the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), the South Asian Development Fund (SADF), programmes for poverty alleviation and development of women and children and 'Dal Bhat' approach.

Foreign Ministers of the

Benazir likely to visit Dhaka early next year

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan is expected to pay an official visit to Bangladesh sometime in February, reports UNB.

The visit will take place at the invitation of Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia, diplomatic sources in Dhaka said yesterday.

Officials of the two countries are now working out the details of the planned visit.

The sources said that Benazir will visit Dhaka either in February or in April, 1994. She will not undertake visit in March which will coincide with the month of Ramadan.

Prime Minister Khaleeda Zia visited Pakistan in August, 1992.

Benazir Bhutto last visited Dhaka in October 1989 as the Prime Minister when her People's Party was in power in Pakistan.

Jamaat watching developments

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh is closely monitoring the developments regarding the deadlock in Parliament created Wednesday and the subsequent boycott of its proceedings by almost all the other Opposition parties.

At a press briefing at the parliamentary party's Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, Maulana Mathur Rahman Nizami, the Jamaat Secretary General, said that the MPs of his party were discharging their duties as people's representatives and were still undecided about taking any side.

"The opposition as a whole has failed to discharge its role in the House," Nizami said, adding that the role of the ruling party was also not fair.

Biman may drop Tokyo flight in December

By Asiuzzaman

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is likely to suspend its flights to Tokyo, a loss-making sector from next month. This will coincide with the inauguration of the New York flight, scheduled from Dec 17, Biman officials hinted.

The route is now a white elephant for Biman which has been incurring losses since the operation started in 1980," a senior Biman official told The Daily Star.

The source said that the Tokyo flight was suspended from time to time but later resumed in the hope the route would become a viable one eventually.

The national carrier started flying to Japan on May 28, 1980 but the sector was suspended on June 1, 1981. The route was resumed again on November 1, 1990 but continued to be most unprofitable for Biman.

Biman's market research wing identified the once-a-week frequency and the expensive cost of living in Japan — for which the airline has to pay higher bills for its crew in the form of allowances — as the major causes for the losses in this sector.

"Most of the businessmen cannot afford a one week's stay in Japan because it is an expensive city. So they avail other airlines for an early re-

turn," the source explained. Biman operates every Thursday to Japan.

The Japanese authorities have so far denied Biman permission to operate two flights from the Narita airport. However, last year they permitted

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ADB to fund study for rly reform

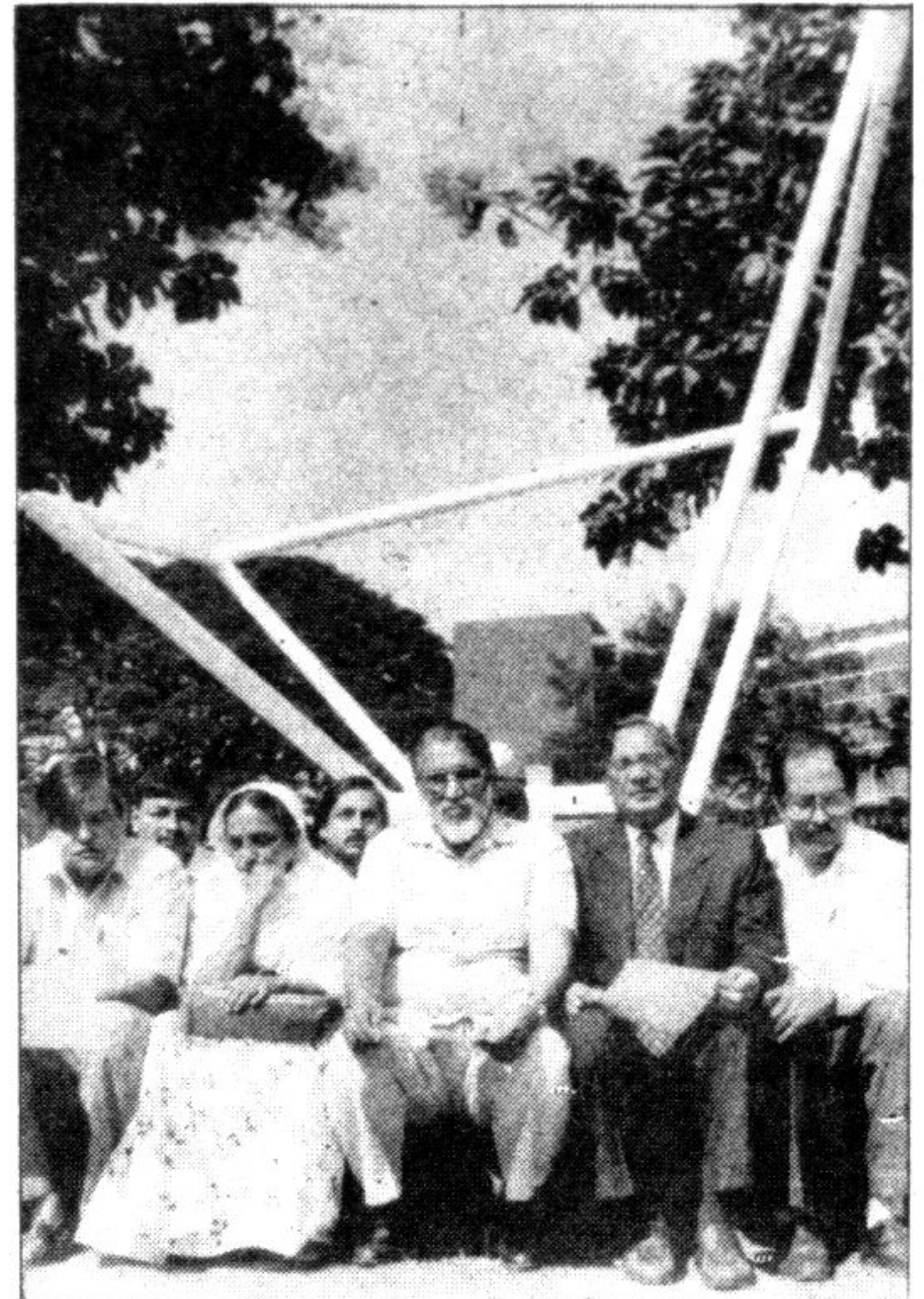
Star Report

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are jointly undertaking a one-year technical study from January next to form the basis of structural reform of the railway, to be introduced in 1995.

According to official sources, the US 1.4 million dollar studies — funded by the ADB — will be carried out by high railway officials and ADB experts to gather details of the railway administration with a view to turning the BR into a more commercially viable organisation from its present bureaucratic set-up.

The findings of the study would be the basis for recommendations to separate the different administrative units from the present centralised

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The Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed (second from right) is seen seated on the pedestal of the sculpture he unveiled yesterday on the campus in memory of Dr Milon who was killed at the site during an uprising against autocratic rule in the country in 1990. — Star photo

Milon memorial sculpture unveiled at DU

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said the nation will not forgive anyone if wrongs committed by them jeopardise the hard-earned democracy of the country, reports UNB.

They appealed to all political parties, particularly those in Parliament, to help strengthen the democratic system and give it a permanent shape.

The discussion was organised jointly by Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and Dr Milon Smriti Sangsad on the

See Page 12 Col 3

BCL, Jubo Dal attack JP meet in Barisal: 30 hurt

BARISAL, Nov 25: At least 30 people were injured when the supporters of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and the Jatiya Party clashed today at 12 am at the Bakerganj Thana Headquarters premises.

They also ransacked the office of the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) during the clash. The clash ensued when both

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Lebu Bhai Passes Away



Mr A. S. M. Khaled (Lebu Bhai) breathed his last on November 24, 1993 in Calcutta. Inna His Namaz-e-Zanaza will be held today (Friday) at Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Jumma prayers.

Qul will be held at his residence at "PUSPOLOK" 42/F, Indira Road, tomorrow (Saturday) after Magreb prayers. We request all his friends, relatives and well-wishers to join us in our prayer for his departed soul at the Namaz-e-Zanaza and Qul.

A. S. M. QUASEM, DR. A.K.M. HAMID
MARUF MAZED, A. S. M. MAHFUZ
A. S. M. ZAHED

State Deptt opposes aid cut to Pakistan

WASHINGTON, Nov 25: The State Department signaled its opposition Wednesday to legislation keeping Pakistan ineligible for most US assistance because of its programme to develop nuclear weapons, reports AP.

Spokesman Mike McCurry said the amendment does not advance US non-proliferation objectives in South Asia.

Another official, asking not to be identified, said the continued denial of aid to Pakistan would allow India to gain a strategic edge in the region.

The amendment, authored by Republican Sen Larry Pressler, requires that aid be cut off to Pakistan if the administration is unable to certify that Pakistan is not developing

a nuclear weapons capability. It was applied to Pakistan several years ago, ending an extended period during which Pakistan was among the major recipients of US assistance.

The US aid office in Pakistan remains open but the administration said last week that office soon will close as part of a general cutback.

McCurry said he was not certain whether the department's position on the Pressler amendment had been formally sent to Capitol Hill.

Pressler's office issued a statement defending the amendment, which it said the White House wanted to repeal as part of an overhaul of foreign assistance laws.

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Israel starts pullout from Gaza, Jericho

JERUSALEM, Nov 25: Israel has started withdrawing troops and dismantling bases in occupied lands, ahead of a December 13 deadline set down in its accord with the PLO, reports AP.

The movement of forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank shows that Israel is anxious to test the accord on limited Palestinian self-rule.

But the pullout contradicted official claims that no action would be taken before negotiators work out the details of a power transfer in those two sectors.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation set a December 13 deadline for be-

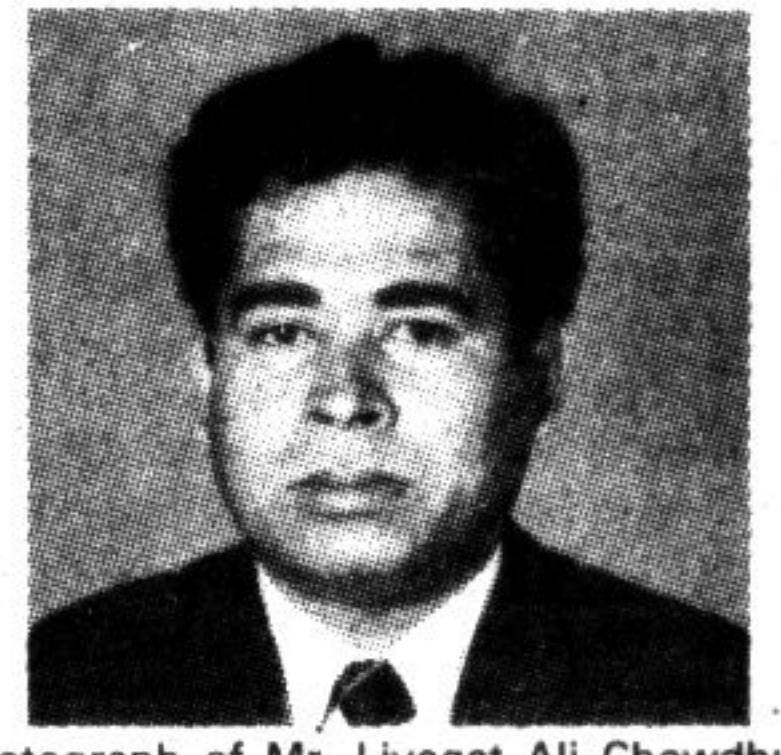
ginning the transfer of authority. But the talks have run into snags over the withdrawal and other issues, and both sides have said the deadline is not definite.

Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said Wednesday he was not aware of a pullout. "In principle, the redeployment of the Israeli forces will begin only once the negotiations are concluded, hopefully by December 13," he said.

The pullout was first reported by the Israeli media, then confirmed Wednesday by The Associated Press and a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Photograph of Mr. Liyaqat Ali Chowdhury

This is notified for general information that Misami Garments Ltd., 35 Topkhana Road, Dhaka, has filed two Criminal cases No. C.R. No. 1935/93 under section 408, 420 & 468 and C.R. Case No. 1963/93 under section 408 & 468 of the penal code respectively in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka against Mr. Liyaqat Ali Chowdhury Son of Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury of village Gobindapur P.S. Chatkhil, Dist. Noakhali at present residing at 161/3, Shantinagar, P.S. Motijheel, Dhaka who is absconding since 23.10.93 after misappropriating huge amount of money from the Company while serving as Commercial Manager of the Company. In the above Criminal Cases No. 1935/93 and 1963/93, learned Magistrate ordered for issuing warrants of arrest against the aforesaid Mr. Liyaqat Ali Chowdhury.

Mr. Liyaqat Ali Chowdhury has been dismissed from his service and he is no longer the Commercial Manager of the Company and all concerned are accordingly requested not to enter into any transaction or dealing with said Mr. Liyaqat Ali Chowdhury in any manner in respect with the business of the Company and if any person does so, he will do so at his own risk and responsibility and the Company shall not be liable for the consequences.

Managing Director
Misami Garments Ltd.