

Israel, PLO sign partial agreement on self-rule

CAIRO, Feb 10 Israel and the PLO have signed a partial agreement on details of Palestinian self-rule and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank, reports Reuters.

"We came feeling like sphinxes and we leave feeling like pyramids. We didn't know what would happen and now feel that something important did happen," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in a speech after the signing ceremony in the Egyptian presidential palace on Wednesday night.

Serbs reject NATO ultimatum

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Feb 10: Bosnia's Serbs today rejected NATO's ultimatum to end their siege of Sarajevo and said their heavy weapons would not be removed from around the city, reports AFP.

"Despite this ultimatum, the Serb artillery will not move an inch," said their main spokesman, Miroslav Tihonj. "We are ready to retaliate."

He called the NATO threat

GENEVA, Feb 10: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said on Thursday his forces around Sarajevo would implement an agreement to withdraw its artillery and put it under UN control, reports Reuters.

to hit Serb positions with air strikes if the artillery is not pulled back within 10 days as "a terrorist threat" and said the Serbs would respond "by all means" to any attack.

"From the first air strikes, war will spread throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina and degenerate into world war III," he added.

JS session adjourned

From Page 1 Col 8

Siraj, who had worked with late Makhan closely during their university days, demanded that the normal proceedings of the House be adjourned immediately to take an obituary reference for the late former MP.

He also demanded that the government take necessary steps to ensure a heroic burial befitting a valiant freedom fighter.

At this stage Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor to support Siraj's views and urged the chair to adjourn the House as a mark of respect to the departed leader. The Deputy Leader also requested the chair to allow 'some' legislators of both the Treasury and Opposition benches to say a few words in honour of late Makhan.

The Deputy Speaker, who was presiding over the scheduled question-answer session, suspended the proceedings to mourn the death.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, acting Chief Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Abdul Mannan, Rahmat Ali of the Awami League and Ebadur Rahman of the Jatiya Party spoke on the occasion.

Donors favour reforms

From Page 1 Col-7

The reform programmes may create hazards in some cases, but there is no alternative to going ahead with the reform programmes for reaching the cherished goal, and it is essential to continue the ongoing process, they asserted.

They viewed that Bangladesh was undergoing political and economic transition. Establishment of parliamentary democracy, ensuring rule of law and other political reforms have been possible due to consensus between the opposition and the government parties, they noted.

It is necessary to strengthen the process of collective consensus in the field of economic reforms, the representatives said.

Expressing the government's firm vow to continue the implementation of the reform programmes, the Finance Minister said for achieving higher growth and alleviation of poverty the reform programmes are essential.

A balance has been established in the economy paving the way for private investment. The government will continue its efforts to eliminate the barriers to private investment, he said.

The Finance Minister, who is Chairman of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF, sought cooperation of all in forging consensus among all groups which is needed for creating a congenial atmosphere of investment in the country.

He informed the meeting that steps had been taken to overcome the weaknesses in

emony in the Egyptian presidential palace on Wednesday night.

"We could have game the Bosnia way, to fight, shoot and kill. Instead we went our way, to agree to find common ground, to tell the Israelis and the Palestinians that we are serious and credible."

"It looks simple but it is very difficult to depart from a bitter past and offer a new horizon. In this great city of Cairo we made an incredible step, a new future for the children of all of us."

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who signed with Peres in Cairo, said the two documents went an important step beyond the self-rule agreement signed in Washington in September but some gaps still needed to be filled in.

"We are sure we can create a new era for our people. We can say that Palestine and the name of Palestine have returned to the map of the Middle East," he said.

US President Bill Clinton welcomed the agreement as a "big milestone."

Another report says Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today a full agreement with the PLO on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho will take another month.

In his first reaction to partial Israeli-PLO agreements on security reached in Cairo late on Wednesday, Rabin told Israel radio the deal was "an important step forward" to implementing the declaration of principles on Palestinian autonomy signed in Washington last September.

JS session adjourned

From Page 1 Col 8

Acting Chief Whip, expressing his shock at the untimely death, recalled that Makhan, who had been the General Secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) during the mass-upsurge in 1969, had an important role in hoisting the flag of 'independent Bangladesh' in the university premises on March 23, 1971.

Rahmat Ali MP, recalling Makhan's role in Agartala of India in 1971, said that he made very significant contributions during the country's nine-month liberation struggle against Pakistani occupation army.

Samad Azad, who met Makhan behind bars following the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in mid August, 1975, appreciated his (Makhan's) 'mental strength' even in adverse situations.

The Civil Aviation Minister informed the House that he had already directed the airport authorities to cooperate with the friends and relatives of late Makhan in receiving the body. The body is scheduled to reach the country on Monday, the minister added.

The chair adjourned the House after the special prayers were made at 6 pm to resume at 11 am Sunday.

implementation of the Annual Development Programme, as a result of which investment in the public sector will increase rapidly during the remaining part of the current fiscal year.

He was responding to the observations made in the World Bank report on implementation of economic reform programmes and the ADP, which was presented in the meeting in view of the ensuring Aid-Group meeting in Paris in April.

The report termed the government plan of action in alleviating poverty and creating employment opportunities as appropriate. However, it noted, the implementation of the programmes is being delayed and hampered.

During the review meeting, the World Bank representative said Bangladesh had enhanced self-reliance by increasing domestic savings during the last three years. However, investment of this savings has been slowed down by weaknesses in some sectors.

The representatives of donor agencies commented that the implementation of development programmes was not satisfactory during the last fiscal year. Implementation of the programmes during the first six months of the current fiscal year has not also shown any sign of improvement, they said.

The donors' representatives identified certain sectors where implementation is very slow.

They said investment in the private sector was also not satisfactory and observed if it did not come forward, the desired growth would not be achieved.



A rally against terrorism, organised by the Gano Forum in the city, marching towards Parliament to submit a memorandum yesterday. The processionists were intercepted and stopped by police at the Bangla Motors crossing. —Star photo

JU closed

From Page 1 Col 7

The Al-Beruni Hall.

The university Syndicate session, that ended at 11 last night, requested the authorities to cancel the bail orders of the terrorists — those students against whom cases were filed by the JU authorities for their involvement in the violence on the campus last July.

Yesterday's session, held at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor, also demanded arrests of all terrorists.

Immediately after the Syndicate session, the Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (M-I) and the Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya brought out processions on the campus protesting the closure of the university.

The closure, for the second time in less than six months, according to a campus source, will benefit the local students who had earlier enjoyed an upper hand in the absence of their rivals.

Meanwhile, the JU Teachers' Association (JUTA), in a statement, deplored the filing of cases against 30 BCL (M-I) and GCO leaders by the acting VC.

A case was lodged on Wednesday with the Savar police against 30 students allegedly for ransacking the residence of the acting VC.

The JUTA criticised the acting VC for not taking any legal action against the local JCD men who ransacked the university central cafeteria on Tuesday.

Makhan dead

From Page 1 Col 8

try's Liberation War.

He also played a vital role in the mass upsurge in 1969 which overthrew the military junta of President Ayub Khan.

Born in Brahmanbaria town in 1947, Abdul Quddus Makhan, was elected Member of Parliament in 1973.

His body is expected to reach Dhaka on Monday morning (February 14). His nama-e-janaza will be held first in Dhaka and then in Brahmanbaria where he will be buried at the family graveyard.

Makhan left behind his mother, wife, a son, a daughter, six brothers, two sisters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Condolences

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the sudden demise of Abdul Quddus Makhan.

In a condolence message President Biswas expressed his deepest sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Speaker

The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali expressed profound.

He recalled the valuable contributions made by late Abdul Quddus Makhan during the War of Liberation in 1971 and prior to that as a student leader.

Prime Minister

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday in a message said the nation would remember forever the contribution of Makhan in the country's War of Independence.

The Prime Minister expressed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Sheikh Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina expressed her profound shock and said in his death the nation had lost a 'patriotic political leader' while her organisation had lost a 'dynamic and tested organiser'.

Sheikh Hasina said the nation would remember for a long time the contribution of Makhan in pre-liberation student movements, the educational and democratic movements of the Bengalees, the great liberation struggle and the reconstruction of post-liberated Bangladesh under the leadership of Bangabandhu.

Import liberalisation

From Page 1 Col 4

Abdus Samad Azad spoke of the need for further import liberalisation for economic growth in the country.

Taking part in the debate, Awami League's Advisory Council member A Sadeque said local industrial units like cotton-textile and engineering products had been seriously affected by the import liberalisation programme.

He also suggested protecting the small industries of the country so that they could grow enough to compete in the export market.

S Latifur Rahman, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, urged the government chart its reform programme in line with the policies adopted by the neighbouring countries.

He said Bangladesh has very good potentials to export pharmaceutical products, raw materials and engineering goods to the neighbouring countries.

The country exported some half a million electric bulbs to Pakistan last year, he informed.

However, he raised the question whether Bangladesh industries have the capacity to cope with the expanded Indian market.

Sohail Rahman, Chairman of BEXIMCO, suggested setting up a Venture Capital Fund and decreasing the debt-equity ratio for speedy investment in the country.

Speaking on the recent global trend, he said manufacturing as an activity was moving from the high-income countries to the low-income nations.

"This is an opportunity which Bangladeshi entrepreneurs must avail," Rahman said.

World Bank Resident Representative Christopher Willoughby lauded the financial sector reform in the country and said positive results would be achieved soon.

He called for simplifying corporate tax structure now impeding return.

Asian Development Bank representative G Vander Linden suggested that the decision-making process in the commercial banks be further decentralised to help support investment process.

Bangladesh Employers' Association President Manzur

Elahi said the activities of the Customs Department should be expanded and updated.

Akbar Ali Khan, Chairman of the National Board of Revenue, said that the remaining tax anomalies would be removed soon. He said more and more people would be brought under the tax net.

MIDAS Deputy Managing Director Abdul Karim observed that "industrial sickness syndrome" had discouraged many potential entrepreneurs.

Amir Khasru, member of Parliament, while taking part in the dialogue, felt the need for rationalising tariff value carefully so that the entrepreneurs were not affected.

Dr A R Khan, Chairman of the Department of Economics, the University of California at Riverside, called for a comprehensive reformation of the trade regulation for broad-based industrialisation in the country.

Chairman of the Board of Investment Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorshed Alam, former Home Secretary Manzurul Karim, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Sultanuzzaman, Tariff Commission Chairman Dr M K Alamgir, BIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr Zaid Bakht, Sonali Bank Chairman Prof Iqbal Mahmood, Agrani Bank Managing Director Mustafa Aminur Rasheed and Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Faculty of Commerce, Dhaka University also took part in the dialogue.

Foggy weather to continue

The foggy weather that persisted for the last few days will continue until the end of February when the weather will slowly start becoming warmer, reports UNB.

The transition from cold to warm weather will be complete in mid-March, Sajedur Rahman, Deputy Director of the Storm Warning Centre at the Met office told last night.

Talking about the effects of the foggy weather, he said that the moisture on surface and the atmosphere, caused the fog for the last few nights which hindered inland traffic movement because of poor visibility.



A model, attired in the latest Eid design, catwalks at a fashion show at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. —Star photo

PM gives away certificates at graduation ceremony of DSCSC

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed the need for optimum economic use of available resources in view of the country's resource constraints, reports UNB.

"If we are to earn a place of pride and honour in the comity of nations we must endeavour hard to attain self-reliance," she added.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Graduation Ceremony-1994 of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur in the morning.

Begum Zia pointed out that poverty, disease, malnutrition, natural calamities, population, illiteracy and environmental hazards often pose greater threats to mankind than the military problem.

"Now that you have attained a measurable degree of excellence both in knowledge and skill through training here, your countrymen will expect you to work shoulder to shoulder with them to combat these challenges," she told the graduates.

Some 110 student-officers of the 18th Army Staff Course, 12th Naval Staff Course and 14th Air Staff Course of the DSCSC including 30 overseas students from China, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Thailand, UAE, USA and Zambia received certificates from the Prime Minister.

Commandant of the DSCSC Maj Gen Mustafa Kamaluddin also spoke at the function.

Elections of DU bodies Sunday

By DU Correspondent

The elections of the teachers' representatives to the Dhaka University Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee will be held on Sunday.

The DU teachers from three panels — White, Blue and Pink — are contesting for six posts each in the Syndicate and the Academic Council and one post in the Finance Committee.

The White panel contested the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) election from two separate panels last year. At that time, the Blue panel nominees won most of the posts.

About 900 teachers of the university are expected to vote for electing their representatives on Sunday's polls.

The Blue panel candidates for the Syndicate election are, Professor M Mashhuzzaman, Dean of the Science Faculty, Professor Abul Hossain, Provost of the Mohsin Hall, Professor Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury of Pharmacy, Dr Anwar Hossain of Bio-Chemistry, Anis Ahmed of English, and Sazzad Halder of the Applied Physics Department.

The White panel nominees for the Syndicate election are, Dr M Ershadul Bari, Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Jinnatunnesa Tahmida Begum, Provost of the Rokeya Hall, Professor A F M Yusuf Haolader of Physics, M Saiful Islam of Bio-Chemistry, Dr Musleh-uddin Ahmed Tareq of Public Administration and Mizanur Rahman of the Marketing Department.

The Pink panel candidates for the Syndicate election are, Professor Aminul Islam, Dean of the Arts Faculty, Professor Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Provost of the Sir A F Rahman Hall, Professor Saaduddin of Sociology, Rafiqunnabi of Fine Arts, Ferdous Hossain of Political Science, and Abu Musa Md Arif Billah of the Urdu Department.

The Blue panel candidates for the Academic Council are, Dr Galib Ahsan Khan of Philosophy, Dr Shawkat Hossain of English, Dr Borhanuddin Ahmed of Statistics, Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain of Soil Science, Shakhwatuazzaman of Fine Arts and Ali Akkas of the Management Department.

The White panel nominees for the Academic Council are, Dr Abul Bashir of Soil Science, Dr M Ismail Hossain of Soil Science, Dr Sirajul Islam of Management, Dr Anwarul Islam of Chemistry, Mahfuzul Islam of Islamic History, and Afzal Hossain of the Marketing Department.

The Pink panel candidates for the Academic Council are, Dr H K Shamsul Arefin of Sociology, Dr Azizunnahar of Philosophy, Dr Dalem Chandra Barman of Political Science, Zakir Hossain Bhuyyan of Marketing, Taufiqul Haider of Islamic History and Mizanur Rahman of the Marketing Department.

Besides, Dr M A Mannan of Management is competing from the Blue panel for the only post of the Finance Committee while Dr Anwar Hossain, Provost of Surya Sen Hall from the White panel and A B M Faruq of Pharmacy from the Pink panel are competing for the same post.

The Midnight File

UN to probe Sarajevo massacre

GENEVA, Feb 10: The United Nations has agreed to set up a commission of inquiry into last weekend's Sarajevo market massacre, clearing the way for Bosnian peace talks to continue, a conference spokesman said today. There is agreement that there should be a commission of inquiry," spokesman John Mills told journalists. He said it would be a new commission but declined to give further details, reports Reuters.

Bosnian peace talks stalled

GENEVA, Feb 10: Under the shadow of a NATO ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs, a new round of Bosnian peace talks stalled Thursday while leaders of Bosnia's Muslims and Serbs traded blame for a bloody mortar attack on a Sarajevo market. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic refused to discuss any sort of peace deal until Muslim Serb-UN commission was named to investigate who fired the mortar round that killed 68 people Saturday. The talks are stuck," he told reporters during a lunch break, reports AP.

SC Bar resolution

From page 1 Col 5

for holding effective consultation in the future and decided not to formally felicitate the new judges.

Presided over by Kazi Golam Mahbub, president of the association, the meeting was also addressed by Barrister Syed Ishfaq Ahmed, Khan Shafigur Rahman, Monirul Islam, Shudhangshu Shekhar Halder, MP, and Md Amirul Islam.

The SC Bar, in another resolution earlier last week, had rejected the original appointments and urged the Chief Justice not to administer oaths to the new judges. The revised list contains two new appointees.

Meanwhile, a section of the association's members felt that yesterday's resolution had broken with a long-standing convention of the Bar felicitating newly-appointed judges.

They said the tradition of convention of formally felicitating new judges — by the Attorney General, as the Leader of the Bar and the Bar Association president — went as back as 1948 when the then Advocate General of East Pakistan Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq, on behalf of the Bar, congratulated judges on their elevation to the Bench.

Some senior lawyers, talking to this correspondent on condition of anonymity last night, said yesterday's resolution was a departure.

Somali kidnappers free British MPs

MOGADISHU, Feb 10: Somali kidnappers freed two British members of Parliament and a charity worker on Thursday, the British Foreign Office said, reports AP.

AG resigns

From Page 1 Col 4

last night for his comments.

This was the third time that Haq submitted his resignation since being appointed Attorney General by the caretaker government in 1991.

The immediate cause of Haq's decision could not be known. But the sources indicated that Haq's latest move to quit follows the recent controversy over giving the charge of the office of Attorney General to Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker last month.

When contacted, additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker told UNB last night that he was appointed Attorney General in addition to his responsibilities with effect from January 2 until further order.

He said he was yet to receive any further order amending the earlier order. "Since there is no further order, I am holding the office (of Attorney General)," Khandaker said.

Judges sworn in

From page 1 Col 5

about 20 years while Mohammad Nurul Islam was the Solicitor and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Mohammad Hamidul Huq, and M M Ruhul Amin were the district judges of Barisal and Jessore respectively.

All nine have been appointed as Additional Judges for a two-year term. After completion of the two-year term the Chief Justice will have to recommend the nine for their confirmation by the President.

Meanwhile the Nationalist Lawyers' Forum yesterday felicitated the newly-appointed judges to the High Court.

Abdul Wadud Khandaker, member-secretary, Nationalist Lawyers' Forum, in a statement issued here yesterday, expressed the Forum's sincere gratitude to the President, Prime Minister and the Chief Justice for the appointment of nine Additional Judges in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, especially in view of the increasing backlog of pending cases.

The Forum also expressed its satisfaction for the timely step taken by the Prime Minister and the 'significant' role played by Justice T H Khan, Convenor of the Forum, 'for resolving the problems relating to the appointment of the nine Additional Judges', a press release said.

tion was virtually tantamount to defiance of the accomplished fact, namely, the appointment of the judges in consultation with the Chief Justice and his giving oath to the new judges, strictly in keeping with the Constitution.

They viewed that the SC Bar resolution was intended to create new pressure on the Chief Justice.

They said it was unfortunate and most ironic that the SC Bar Association, which had been campaigning to uphold rule of law and the spirit of the law, as well the convention of consultation between the President and the Chief Justice regarding the appointment of new judges, should itself break a time-bound, noble tradition dating back to nearly 50 years which aimed at fostering harmonious relationship between the Bench and the Bar.

Meanwhile, some members also expressed their resentment over the association's resolution, adopted Monday last, about issuing show cause notices on Justice T H Khan, a most senior and leading member of the Bar and convenor of the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, and Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker for, what the association claimed, their statement against an earlier resolution of the SC Bar association.

Mostafiz, Myanmar minister talk Rohingya issue

Visiting Minister for Rail Transportation of Myanmar U Win Sein met Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday and discussed the Rohingya refugee problem, reports UNB.

The foreign minister said Myanmar and Bangladesh are very close neighbours and if the refugees problem is solved within the shortest possible time it will serve the interest of both the countries.

Myanmar and Bangladesh have remarkable cultural affinity and historical ties, Mostafiz said during the meeting at his office.

Sein hoped that the existing friendly and close relations between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Jute growers' rally

From Page 1 Col 3

Fabrics Project, she added. Begum Zia said that the agricultural sector had been improved under the present government. Waiving of taxes and exemption of loans have increased production taking the country towards self-reliance in food, she said.

The Prime Minister later distributed high quality jute seeds, fertilisers and other inputs among the jute growers. She also distributed Taka 20,000 credit to five underprivileged farmers given by the Association for Social Advancement.

Begum Zia also went round the stalls set up at the rally by different organisations including the Jute Directorate, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute and BSCIC.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid ul Huq, Jute Minister Hannan Shah, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan, Whip Abdul Karim, Head of the Commission of European Community's representative Abdul Halim Nani, Jute Secretary Abu Hena and the Director General of the Jute Directorate also addressed the rally.

CHT clash

From Page 1 Col 7

February 24 in a bid to ensure peaceful repatriation of Chakma refugees scheduled to begin on February 15.

The supporters of the PCP had been agitating for the last few days to foil the repatriation of Chakma refugees from the Tripura state of India, according to sources.

During today's violence, the PCP supporters also set fire to a bus and the hostels of Khagrachhari college, witnesses said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.