**REGD. NO. DA 781** 

**VOL. XIV NO. 292** 

**DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2004** 

People's Right to Know

KARTIK 28, 1411 BS

statehood

Born Mohammed Abdel-Rawf Arafat al-Qudwa al-Hussaini on August 4

Co-founder of Fatah in Kuwait (Palestine Liberation Movement) Chairman of PLO (Palestine

1970 Forced out of Jordan, moves to Belrut

Moves to Tunisia after Israeli invasion of Lebanon

Triumphal return to Gaza; wins Nobel Peace Prize (with Israelis Peres, Rabin) 1996

Elected President of Palestinian Authority 2001 After series of Palestinian suicide attacks, Israel confines him

November 11, 2004 Dies in Paris hospital where being treated for critical illness

3-day mourning begins in Dhaka Iajuddin leaves for funeral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sent shockwaves through the country yesterday and the government-announced threeday mourning for the Palestinian

leader started yesterday.
President lajuddin Ahmed last night left for Cairo to attend Arafat's

The president and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in their messages yesterday termed Arafat a close and trusted friend of Bangladesh and said Arafat will be remembered with great honour here for his contribution to deepening ties between the two nations and Islamic Ummah.

· anti-flaking

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Yasser Arafat dies with a dream unfulfilled

Funeral at Cairo, burial at Ramallah today

AGENCIES, West Bank

Yasser Arafat, the guerrilla icon turned Nobel Peace Prize winner who ended up isolated and locked in renewed conflict with Israel, has died, his dream of a Palestinian state unfulfilled. He was 75.

The announcement of the death of the Palestinian president, who symbolised his people's decades-old struggle for an independent homeland, ended days of confusion over his fate as he lay comatose behind a shroud of secrecy in a Paris hospital.

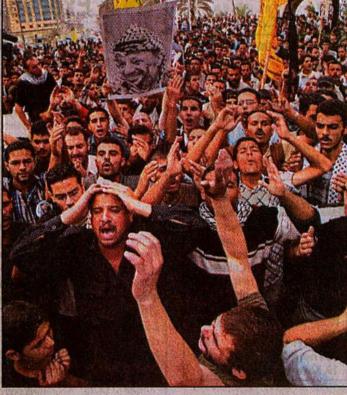
"He closed his eyes and his big heart stopped. He left for God but he is still among this great people," said scnior Arafat aide Tayeb Abdel Rahim, who broke into tears as he announced Arafat's death.

Arafat was to be flown yesterday from Paris to Cairo, where a funeral service attended by foreign dignitaries will be held for him today in the morning. His body will then be flown by helicopter to his Ramallah compound, called the Muqata, for services and burial in a mausoleum later in the day.

A wave of grief quickly swept across the West Bank and Gaza Strip as soon as the announcement was made at 3:30am.

Thousands of Palestinians ran SEE PAGE 11 COL 4





Palestinians, right, chant slogans in Gaza City early yesterday after hearing the news of Yasser Arafat's death. Veteran Palestinian leader Arafat died yester-

# World leaders see Arafat as a symbol of Palestinians

World leaders reacted to the death early yesterday of veteran Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat by accepting him as a symbol of his people's cause, but differed sharply over his contribution to the Middle

East peace process. They united, however, in calling for an end to the long-running and

bloody Israeli-Palestinian conflict via a lasting peace settlement that would include the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

US President George W. Bush, who had sought to marginalise Arafat, said his death was "a significant moment in Palestinian history," according to a White House

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### Abbas PLO chief, Fattouh interim president

REUTERS, Ramallah

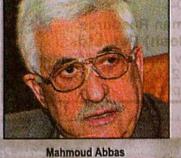
Parliament speaker Rawhi Fattouh was named interim Palestinian president on Thursday to replace Yasser Arafat who died hours before. A special session of parliament ore Fattouh into the caretaker

position under the Palestinians' pasic law. Fattouh's key task will be to organize elections within 60 days.

Fattouh has no independent power base and is widely regarded as a transitional leader only. Reform-minded former prime

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## Illegal foreign workers Arafat to be to face clampdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is contemplating administrative steps to bring foreign workers and businesses under legal

bounds and a clampdown on shortterm working visa holders who outstay their time in Bangladesh.

A nine-member high-level committee has been formed to submit a fying the foreign workers without work permits and foreign-owned businesses which operate beyond government regulations.

The foreign businesses, which work here without valid documents, do not adhere to the rules set by the government to do business in Bangladesh, Board of Investment Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman told The Daily Star yester-

The government is deprived of a significant amount of revenue from foreign businesses operating SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

coffin, not a wooden one, to allow his re-interment at a later time in Jerusalem, top aides said on Thursday.

Arafat is to be buried on Saturday at the Ramallah compound, or Muqata, to which he had been confined by Israel for nearly three

On Thursday, five bulldozers cleared a plot next to the Muqata's parking lot. A grave was being dug, said Ahmed Ghneim, a top official in Arafat's Fatah movement.

### buried in stone coffin to allow re-interment

Yasser Arafat will be buried at his West Bank headquarters in a stone

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