

# 'Israel will be forced to negotiate with PLO'

JERUSALEM, May 7: Israel will be forced to negotiate sooner or later with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks said in an interview Thursday, reports AFP.

Faisal Husseini, who is also the leading PLO supporter in the occupied territories, told the east Jerusalem newspaper Al Quds: "Sooner or later the Israeli government will find itself forced to negotiate with the PLO and its Chairman Yasser Arafat."

"The taboo surrounding the PLO has been broken," Husseini said, but he added: "I do not think Israel will suddenly start negotiating with

the PLO. It will come about gradually."

He said the organisation had won official acceptance in the United States and Israel after showing its strength in first holding up the peace process and then pushing the Palestinian delegation to return to the negotiating table at the end of April.

"Israel is beginning to realise there are positive aspects about the PLO and we no longer consider all Israelis as bad. There are some good people amongst them."

"Israel's acceptance of the return of veteran deportees could in the future lead to Israel accepting the return to the occupied territories

# Yeltsin asks Bosnian Serbs to endorse int'l peace plan

MOSCOW, May 7: Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday called on Bosnian Serbs to endorse the international peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina in a referendum planned for next week, an official communique here said, reports AFP.

Responding to the rejection of the peace plan early Thursday by the Bosnian Serb parliament, Yeltsin said "The situation in Bosnia is at a critical stage."

He said the Vance-Owen Peace Plan was the only sensible alternative to war for all the parties to the conflict.

Russian dispatched its special envoy on the crisis in former Yugoslavia, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin, to Belgrade Thursday for consultations following the Bosnian Serb parliament vote.

"I am counting on the Serbs themselves, contrary to the Bosnian Serb assembly, to show responsibility and approve in the referendum" the peace plan Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed Sunday in Athens, Yeltsin said. The referendum is called for May 15 and 16.

"Russian will solidly support those who honestly follow the

way of peace according to the Vance-Owen Plan but will support no one who departs from this, Yeltsin said."

On Wednesday, Yeltsin had refused to discuss possible military intervention in Bosnia with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, saying he was sure the Bosnian Serb parliament would not reject the Vance-Owen Plan.

The Interfax news agency quoted an unidentified top-level Russian diplomat as saying that Thursday's rejection of the peace plan was a "blow below the belt" to Russia which has been a strong advocate of

the proposed settlement.

"Bosnian Serbs have killed off Russia's peace efforts which were already beginning to yield results, the diplomat said."

The rejection was seen by Russian officials as a deliberate flaunting of efforts by Russia, its Slavic brother, to stave off western military intervention as advocated by the United States.

Russian officials said that a possible way out of the crisis would be to force Serbia into distancing itself from the Bosnian Serbs, which is the only party to have refused the plan.

# Off the Record

## Hollywood's 'Dark Prince'

NEW YORK: Walt Disney served as a secret informer for the FBI, reporting on the activities of Hollywood actors, writers, producers, directors and union activists, according to a published report, says AP.

Details about Disney's FBI activities appear in "Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince," and unauthorized biography by Marc Eliot to be published in July by Birch Lane Press.

Eliot provided a copy of FBI documents, made available under the Freedom of Information Act, to the New York Times.

Many of the 570 pages in the Disney file were blacked out or withheld for national security reasons so it cannot be determined what names of Hollywood figures Disney passed on to the bureau as communists or subversives, the Times reported Thursday.

It is known that Disney allowed FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover access to some scripts, and made slight changes in a few lesser known movies and an episode of "The Mickey Mouse Club" television show to keep Hoover happy, the Times reported.

## Prejudiced expectation

NEW DELHI: Indian Guru Balak Brahmachari has died in Calcutta at age 75 but his ardent followers refuse to accept that he is no more and are waiting for him to return to life, The Pioneer newspaper reported yesterday, reports AFP.

Devotees of the Guru, who died in hospital Wednesday after his heart failed, have vowed to preserve his body on ice "as long as possible," claiming they will come to know through meditation when he would regain consciousness, it said.

Chitto Stikdar, an associate of Brahmachari, was quoted as saying that the "enlightened one" had once in 1960 gone into suspended animation for 20 days during which he showed no signs of life.

The Pioneer described Brahmachari, who claimed a worldwide following of 60 million, as "the closest thing possible to a Marxist godman," citing his links to leftist politicians in Calcutta, the cradle of Indian communism.

## A devastating argument

PHNOM PENH: An argument between a divorcing couple was the likely cause of a six-hour fire near Phnom Penh's Red Light District Friday which burned at least 80 buildings to the ground but caused only minor injuries, government police said, reports AFP.

A woman who recently bought the house from the divorcing couple said the husband and wife had argued over how to split the proceeds from the sale, and police said they were seeking to question the husband in connection with arson.

Damage to the metal, machinery and electrical shops in the neighbourhood was estimated at one million dollars, Fire Department Second Lieutenant Um Saon said.

Several hundred people were made homeless in the blaze.

## She was arrested for stealing cup of coffee

PRETORIA: A black woman working as a cleaner at a bank was arrested and taken to jail by a white security guard who accused her of stealing a teaspoonful of coffee and sugar and a drop of milk, reports AP.

The woman, Johanna Nomsa Motau, went free Wednesday after the state refused to prosecute, saying the amount taken was too small.

Motau, 27, of the black township of Mamelodi outside Pretoria, pleaded innocent to stealing the goods, saying she was hungry and did not intend to break any laws.

## Witchcraft haunts Kenyan parliament?

NAIROBI: A Kenyan MP told parliament that she was a prophetess who could talk to God, and complained of "evil spells and witchcraft" in parliament, newspapers reported Friday, reports AFP.

"I had to pray a lot to cast away evil spells and witchcraft in the house and it is after casting them away that I am now able to stand and talk freely," said Mary Wanjiru of the opposition Ford-Asili Party, who wore a traditional headdress during her maiden speech Thursday.

Wanjiru said she had prophetic powers and could communicate directly with God, who had told her that Kenya was on the verge of economic collapse because of "sabotage" by ministers in the government of President Daniel Arap Moi.



Ethnic minority university student Zheng Feng from Sichuan Province smiles at reigning Miss World Julia Kurochikina during preparations Thursday for this weekend's Miss Oriental Pageant. — AFP/UNB photo

## 2000 Bhutanese entering into Nepal a month

KATHMANDU, May 7: The flow of Bhutanese refugees to Nepal is constantly on the rise, which is at the rate of 60 a day and 2,000 a month, said "the Rising Nepal" in a signed report today, according to Xinhua.

The number of refugees living in 7 camps in eastern Nepal had reached 83,669 as of April 9, 1993 according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Jhapa District Administration.

The area police at Kakarvitta, the only entry point bordering India for the refugees, said that in the third week of April alone, Bhutanese refugees entered into Nepal at the rate of 60 a day.

Their number in the period of previous four months was about 2,000 a month.

## Palestinian charged in NY Trade Centre bombing

NEW YORK, May 7: A Palestinian who was held as a suspect in the World Trade Center blast was charged Thursday with conspiracy to destroy the building.

Ahmad Ajaj, 27, was the sixth person charged in the case. The February 26 blast in the heart of New York's financial district killed six people and injured a thousand.

Ajaj told The Associated Press recently that he illegally entered the country last year carrying bogus passports.

Ajaj, because of his illegal arrival, was in a federal jail in Manhattan when the explosion rocked the Trade Center complex.

He was freed to March 1 but taken back into custody eight days later.

The federal charges distributed to the media by his attorney, detailed his arrival on September 1, 1992, and the approximately 12 bomb manuals that federal authorities seized from him.

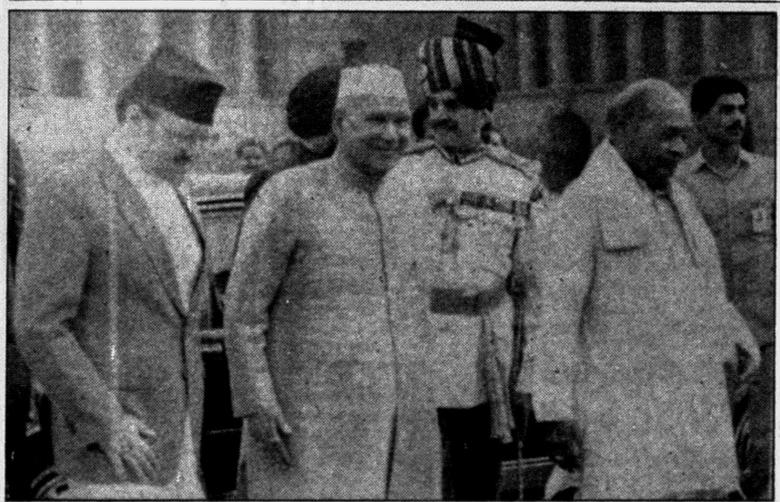
## Mandela concedes racist killing in London

LONDON, May 7: Nelson Mandela, after meeting relatives of an 18-year-old who was fatally stabbed by white youths in the capital two weeks ago, Thursday said their "tragedy is our tragedy," reports AP.

"We are deeply touched by the brutality of this murder, even though it is commonplace in our country," Mandela said after seeing the family of Stephen Lawrence. "It seems black lives are cheap."

The African National Congress president, on a two-day visit to Britain, has played down fears of escalating racial violence and political instability as politicians negotiate a democratic replacement for apartheid in South Africa.

Lawrence was stabbed twice by a gang of white youths whom witnesses said made racist remarks while he waited with a friend for a bus in late April. He was the fourth victim



Nepalese King Birendra (L) is being escorted by Indian President S D Sharma (C) and Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao (R) Thursday in New Delhi. The King is on a week-long goodwill visit to India. — AFP/UNB photo

## Assault on Orissa Chief Minister 40 govt employees held

NEW DELHI, May 7: Police in the eastern Indian state of Orissa arrested 40 government employees today for an unprecedented assault on the Chief Minister who had taken away their perks in an austerity drive, reports AFP.

The 40, who led a four-hour rampage at the state government complex Thursday, were rounded up in a pre-dawn police swoop on their living quarters in Bhubaneswar, the state capital, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Many other unionists went underground to escape arrest, the news agency said.

Hundreds of Orissa employees, deprived of their vacation allowance and pay for unused leave as part of an austerity drive by Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, turned the government complex into a battle field at lunch hour Thursday.

The protestors armed with shoes and other improved missiles assaulted Patnaik, who was cut by a flying stone, and several other officials.

The employees ransacked ministers' chambers, smashed glass panes, telephones, furniture and flower pots and overturned jeeps and cars.

Police scattered them by charging with batons. A senior officer said the situation was so bad it warranted an order to open fire on the protestors.

Patnaik has, in recent months annoyed employees. He told people to plaster with cow dung any rural bank officer who tried to recover loans and to beat up officers who were suspected to be corrupt.

## WHO faces uncertain future

GENEVA, May 7: The World Health Organization faces an uncertain future after the reelection of Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima, whose leadership has faced growing criticism by the UN body's principal donors, reports AFP.

Nakajima won a new five-year mandate in Wednesday's closed-door vote after the body's Executive Council in January recommended his mandate be reviewed.

"Japan's new ability to mount diplomatic offensives in the Third World" made Nakajima's reelection — by 93 votes to 58, with six abstentions — inevitable, a West European diplomat said.

WHO's main funders — Canada, the European Community, the Scandinavian countries and the United States — wanted Nakajima replaced in order to ensure what they said would be sounder management.

He had been challenged for the job by Mohamed Abdel Moumene of Algeria, who was supported by several western members of the Executive Committee.

Algerian sources said before the vote that Japan threatened to retract a pledge of 450 million dollars in loans to the oil industry if Algeria did not support Nakajima, who was the sole candidate.

The Western WHO mem-

bers now say they are determined to use their financial clout — representing nearly 80 per cent of the organisation's operating budget — to step up pressure for reforms.

Late Wednesday Nakajima asked member states to "put the events of the past few months behind us," in the interests of "the health of the people of the world."

He called for the loyalty of WHO staff, two-thirds of whom rejected his leadership in a recent opinion poll, "whatever the weaknesses or strengths of the leadership."

The US delegation has warned of lower contributions

## Li Peng advised more rest

BEIJING, May 7: Chinese Premier Li Peng, who has been sick for the past two weeks, need to rest for "some time," the official Xinhua news agency said today, reports AFP.

The announcement was slipped in discreetly at the end of a report on the third plenary session of the state council, or government.

Premier Li Peng, who is advised by doctors to rest for some time, entrusted Vice-premier Zhu Rongji to preside over today's meeting, Xinhua said.

Strobe Talbott, his senior adviser on Russia, and Lt Gen Barry McCaffrey, top aide to Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, back to Moscow for more talks.

By now, Christopher is convinced the allies understand the US assertion that the only practical approach is to threaten the Serbs with an attack on their artillery sites and with a lifting of the UN arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims.

On the other hand, the official, speaking under rules that shielded his identity, acknowledged that "we have not yet developed a consensus."

That is, the allies still ques-

tion the wisdom of using force.

They are most concerned it could spread the war from Bosnia-Herzegovina and endanger UN forces involved in relief operations.

"At this point, there is very little the president can go to the American people with," the official said.

Christopher, in constant touch with Clinton throughout his five-nation trip despite a faulty telephone system aboard his US Air Force jet, will report to Clinton once he gets home.

Christopher may have to come back to Europe again, though no one is willing to admit that yet. Or Clinton may

have to revise his strategy, which Christopher acknowledged this week is a possibility.

One item under serious consideration is setting up so-called safe havens for displaced civilians. It would give them a place to go and to be fed. But it would take a substantial number of troops to assemble and protect them.

France backs a UN resolution to set up the safe havens, and it has substantial support among Clinton administration officials. The UN Security Council adopted a safe haven resolution Thursday but included only meager enforcement provisions.

After telephoning Clinton from Bonn on Thursday — the line didn't work on the plane — Christopher said he would go home, as scheduled, after a stop Friday in Rome.

"He instructed me to continue on the track with resolve and determination," Christopher said.

But, significantly, the Secretary of State did not claim the allies had been swayed to Clinton's projected course of action. He said the United States and its allies still must have "some conversations as to deeper details... to try to devise some more effective action."

He told a meeting of religious officials that an Iraqi delegation would be visiting Iran to discuss the issues, the Daily Rissalat quoted him as saying. But it gave no details on when the group would arrive.

Velayati did not say at what level the discussions would be carried out.

# BRIEFLY

**Khmers attack UN offices:** Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked UN offices and a government position overnight, causing a Filipino policeman to die of a heart attack and injuring four Bulgarian soldiers, one seriously, a UN spokesman said yesterday, reports AFP from Phnom Penh.

Two Cambodians were also killed in the separate attacks, which took place in southern Kompong Speu and northwestern Battambang, near the scene of a Khmer Rouge attack on a passenger train that had killed at least 13 people the night before, UN spokesman Eric Falt said.

**Medical exhibition in Shanghai:** An international exhibition of advanced medical apparatus opened Thursday at the Shanghai International Exhibition Centre, reports Xinhua from Shanghai.

This is the largest of the four such exhibitions that have been held by China so far, according to Zhao Tongbin, an official from the Chinese Ministry of Public Health.

Participating in the exhibition are over 150 firms from the United States, Germany, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Israel, Japan, The Republic of Korea, Singapore, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

**Conspiracy to kill Havel: 5 Held:** Czech police have arrested five foreigners suspected of planning to assassinate President Vaclav Havel, Interior Minister Jan Ruml said Thursday, reports AP from Prague.

Ruml, speaking on the Czech national television, did not reveal their nationalities. A sixth man was still on the run.

However, Czech television claimed a likely reason for the alleged plot was remark Havel recently made on Bosnia-Herzegovina in Washington.

**2 Nigerians win Sasakawa prize:** Two Nigerians medical scientists have been named by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as joint winners of the 1993 Sasakawa International Health Prize, the News Agency of Nigerian reports, says Xinhua from Lagos.

According to the WHO office here, the recipients are Professor Oladapo Ladipo and Dr Grace Delano, both of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, University College Hospital, Ibadan. They are to share 30,000 dollars that go with the award.

**5 hurt in Boston melee:** Blacks and whites battled each other in a some of the fiercest battles over court-ordered busing in the 1970s. Five people, including the mayor, were hurt, reports AP from Boston.

Three people were arrested, and classes were canceled Friday to allow things to cool off.

## Benazir alleges use of tricks in Sindh by-polls

KARACHI, May 7: Former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto's party alleged Thursday dirty tricks were used in a provincial by-elections won by government-backed candidates in record low turnout, reports AP.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Chief of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in southern Sindh, said Wednesday's by-elections for 20 seats in the provincial assembly was "unfair and rigged".

Newspaper reports put the turnout in the by-elections in 20 constituencies at less than five per cent.

"The extremely low turnout was a vote of no-confidence in the Sindh government," Shah told a news conference here, adding this provided "enough justification" for the dissolution of the provincial assembly and the government.

The PPP is a member of the federal caretaker government installed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after dismissing former premier Nawaz Sharif and dissolving the National Assembly on April 18.

The party, together with other members of the coalition, advocates the dissolution of provincial assemblies, pending elections called by the president for July 14 will be rigged if the status quo is

maintained.

Thirteen of the seats up for grabs in the by-elections were in the provincial capital Karachi, a stronghold of Urdu-speaking settlers from India represented by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

The seats fell vacant after the MQM resigned en masse last summer following an army crackdown on crime that netted hundreds of MQM activists on charges of terrorism.

The party had swept the 1988 and 1990 polls in urban parts of Sindh. But it split when dissidents backing the army crackdown formed their own MQM-Haqiqi faction.

Haqiqi candidates, standing with government backing, bagged six seats in the by-election. The Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) also led by Bhutto, won five seats while four independents also go through.

Two seats were won by the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) led by deposed premier Nawaz Sharif and three went to another PML faction headed by Pir Pagaro.

Ishaq Khan's son-in-law Irfanullah Marwat won a seat after tough competition in the only Karachi constituency where some activity was noticed.

## Palestinian shot dead in Gaza

JERUSALEM, May 7: Israeli soldiers killed an eight-year-old Palestinian and shot a five-year-old in the eye on the Gaza Strip on Thursday, Palestinian sources said, reports AFP.

A bullet hit Ala Abu Hindi in the head, killing him, as he stood in the street near where Palestinians were throwing stones at soldiers in Shati refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City.

The sources said troops on a roof opened fire hitting five-year-old Nidal M'Hassen in the eye as he returned home from kindergarten and wounding five other Palestinians.

"We're moving from consultation into the direction of closure. I see this coming around. I see this coming together," the senior official said.

The trend could accelerate. There is far less confidence in a negotiated settlement now

# US sending aides back to Moscow for more talks on Bosnia

BONN, May 7: As Secretary of State Warren Christopher heads home, he won't be bringing President Clinton a European vote of confidence in his plan to force peace in the Balkans, reports AP.

But the jury is still out, and to hear a senior US official tell it Thursday night, Turkey, France and Germany are moving in the president's direction.

"I hope we can take some action before the vote on the referendum" the senior official said.

Encouraged by hopes Russia will support a military operation, Christopher was sending

that the self-styled Bosnian Serb legislature has rejected the international peace plan that Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed in Athens last Sunday.

Christopher had warned the allies throughout his six-day trip that the Serbs could not be taken at their word. Nor does he intend to slow down until the peace plan is put to a referendum in Bosnia's Serb-held territories in mid-May.

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Velayati did not say at what level the discussions would be carried out.

## Iraq, Iran to resume talks SOON

TEHRAN, May 7: Iran and Iraq will soon resume political negotiations aimed at settling outstanding bilateral problems, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted Thursday as saying, reports AFP.

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