

Israel lifts ban on PLO men to attend PNC meet in Gaza

GAZA CITY, July 14: The Palestinian parliament-in-exile can convene in the Gaza Strip with all its members, including those Israel demanded banned as former guerrillas, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Thursday, reports AP.

The decision came after an aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat threatened that the 468-member Palestine National Council would not meet unless all its members were allowed to attend.

Rabin's statement came after Israel reopened Palestinian border crossings following the expulsion from the Gaza Strip of four former PLO guerrillas involved in deadly attacks on Israelis.

Israel accused Arafat of smuggling the four banned Palestinians into the Gaza Strip in his personal entourage when he returned Tuesday. The Palestinians said it was an innocent mistake and sent them back to Egypt.

But Arafat protested the expulsions as an infringement on Palestinian dignity and called on Rabin to honour the peace agreement.

"I address these words to Mr. Rabin. I tell him the peace of the brave is the peace of the free and the peace of dignity," said Arafat. "No party has the

right to violate this agreement, to tamper with it or to discredit it."

Rabin has described the incident as a "grave violation" and said Israel's response would teach the Palestinians that "it is preferable not to get up to wiseguy stuff like this."

The incident underscored Arafat's limits of authority under the May 4 self-rule accord for Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, and could hurt the credibility of the Palestinian government.

Nevertheless, Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Arafat, threatened on Israel army radio that "there will be no convention (of the PNC) without all the members getting invitations and coming in legally."

The PNC is planning to meet in the Gaza Strip and one of its tasks will be cancelling clauses in its charter that Israel finds offensive — including those suggesting the destruction of the Jewish state. No date has been set for the meeting.

"If the chairman of the PLO decides to convene the Palestine National Council in order to fulfil his commitment to change the Palestinian covenant, then we will let them come in," Rabin told reporters.

Govt urged to involve women in development

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh National Preparatory Committee for Beijing NGO Forum '95 has urged the government to take stern action against those trying to obstruct women's participation in development activities in the country.

In a statement yesterday, its leader expressed concern over what they said the recent rise in terrorism, especially violence against women, following misinterpretation of religious injunctions.

The statement said some reactionary forces were obstructing women's access to education, healthcare and family planning services and hampering their economic self-reliance.

"This is in violation of the basic rights of women guaranteed by our Constitution," the committee said.

Five killed

From Page 1 Col 8

Nuru was detained in the Teja-gon police custody.

Ismail 20 who was severely stabbed by a group of local bullies at Basabo last Tuesday succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon.

Sabulbagh police recorded a murder case but no arrest was made till the filing of this report last night.

According to Police, Ismail, a garments factory worker, was murdered due to a rivalry between two groups of bullies in the area.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4

urged the ADB to dispense with useless consultancy business which usually creates delay and hampers project implementation.

The ADB mission praised the success of Bangladesh in the field of the family planning and education. It was particularly appreciative of the introduction of stipend programme for the girl students.

ERD Secretary Mohammed Lutfullah Majid and alternate executive directors of the ADB for the USA, UK, Turkey, New Zealand, China, India and Bangladesh were present in the meeting.

Loan classification

From Page 1 Col 4

with international banking system, sources concerned pointed out.

According to the existing system, any loan not performing for one year is considered sub-standard and non-performing loans for three to five years are termed doubtful loans. For a loan to become a bad debt, it takes over five years of delinquency.

On the other hand, as per international criteria, any loan not performing for only one month is considered sub-standard and if the loan continues to be non-performing for three months, it is called 'bad debt' and is put on the 'watch list'.

Given the banks' total bad debt to be about 40 per cent of the loans and advances, the government fears this ratio would shoot up with the new loan classification.

"The NCBs will be the worst-hit in such case," commented the chief executive of an NCB on condition of anonymity.

The banks are already under constant pressure in managing their provision accounts for their bad debts. Provision accounts have to be maintained from the banks' profits which would decrease



German 'Marder' combat vehicles taking part in the traditional Bastille Day parade yesterday pass through the Place de la Concorde in Paris. — AFP photo

DPRK navy chief pledges loyalty to Kim Jong-Il

TOKYO, July 14: North

Korean navy chief Kim Il-Chol has pledged his loyalty to the son of the late President Kim Il-Sung as the country's next leader, radio Pyongyang reported today, reports Reuters.

He is the first senior military figure to swear allegiance publicly to Kim Jong-Il, 52, since the sudden death of his father last Friday. There has been no official announcement of his successor.

The report, monitored in Tokyo by radiopress, quoted Kim Il-Chol as saying: "From now on, I will pledge my highest loyalty to respected highest Commander Kim Jong-Il."

The late president groomed his son for two decades to succeed him, despite reported resistance within the military who questioned Jong-Il's qualifications to lead the country.

In recent years the younger Kim took over from his father key posts in the party and military apparatus, culminating in late 1991 with the post of supreme armed forces chief despite the fact that he had never served a day in the forces.

The "great leader" held on to just three positions — those of communist party general secretary, the president and chairman of the party's central military commission, the ultimate political control over the armed forces.

NBR issues clarification

The following is a clarification

received from the National Board of Revenue (NBR): Attention of the National Board of Revenue has been drawn to a news item entitled "FICCI resents NBR move against Ciba-Geigy" published in The Daily Star on 13th July, 1994.

NBR records clearly show that no direction was ever issued by the National Board of Revenue regarding this particular assessee. The National Board of Revenue is a quasi-judicial body which is not directly involved in assessment and collection of income tax.

The actions against the assessee were taken by the concerned assessing officer in accordance with income tax law and no permission of the NBR is needed for this.

The NBR received a representation from the assessee in June. This was examined in the Board and no allegation of violation of any specific law, rule, regulation or order of the Board was cited in the representation. The NBR normally does not interfere in such cases. This particular case was complicated by the fact that the assessee himself filed a suit in the Hon'ble Sub-Judge's Court on 9.6.94. It is a standing practice of the NBR to defer all actions in such cases till the subordinate matter is disposed off.

It is obvious from the newspaper report that the main complaint of the assessee is not that any tax officer acted illegally beyond his authority. Their main grievance is that Section 143 read with Section 135 (3) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 which allows the assessing officer to realise taxes, disputed in appeal is unfair. The NBR is not the forum to judge the legality of existing laws. This particular provision of law has been in existence since 1922 and innumerable actions taken under this section have been upheld by different courts of law. Similar provisions also exist in I T Laws of many countries of the world.

It is totally unfair to say that the assessee was singled out for harassment by the assessing officer. Nine similar bank attachment notices were issued by that particular circle during the 1993-94 financial year.

Income tax law provides adequate forum for appeal for redressing grievances. Any assessee who is aggrieved may seek redress through the normal channel.

German troops join Bastille Day parade in Paris

PARIS, July 14: To the strains of Europe's hymn, German soldiers rolled down France's grandest avenue Thursday. To some it brought eerie memories of Nazi occupation, but to most it was a milestone for Europe's unification, reports AP.

Invited to France's traditional Bastille Day military parade, the 200 Germans joined troops of France, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg in an 800-member procession by the Eurocorps, Europe's fledgling army.

As they rolled their armoured personnel carriers down the Champs-Elysees, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, the European Union's hymn, played over the public address system and applause broke out among many of the tens of thousands of onlookers lining the avenue.

But at the sight of black-and-white German military crosses on two-dozen armoured vehicles, others couldn't forgive Germany for the daily goose-stepping by Nazi troops down the same avenue for four years during World War II.

There were some scattered whistles of disapproval, one group of protesters dressed in concentration camp uniforms and an elderly couple wore the yellow star of David the Nazis forced the Jews to wear.

The 7,000-member Eurocorps, to grow to 40,000 next year, was created by France and Germany. The two former enemies are now the two main forces behind plans to turn the EU into a political and economic power with a common currency and army.

It was perhaps President Francois Mitterrand's final grand gesture for Europe before he ends 14 years of power next spring. The move made up for shutting out the Germans from the 50th anniversary ceremonies of D-Day, June 6.

But former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said it was too soon. The Communists, who were a major force in the Resistance, protested on the avenue on Monday, and monarchists called the Eurocorps a "Trojan horse."

Both Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, a guest at the parade, expressed satisfaction after the parade.

Star Quiz 6

From Page 1 Col 6

Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam handed over the prizes to the winners.

Khondakar Naz Mustafa of House-9, Road-5, Dhanmondi received the first prize, a 21-inch Philips Powervision TV.

Mid Aziz Ullah Mahbub of 2, Kazimuddin Siddique Lane in Kasaitoli, won the second prize, a 17-inch Philips black and white TV. Khaled Saifullah of 44/1, North Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, received a Philips cassette recorder as the third prize.

Those who got sets of Philips bulbs as consolation prizes were: Shabbab Huda of 8/13, Block-E, Lalmatia, Mojahid of G-98; Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Mamun Mahmood of 27, North Road, Dhanmondi and Mohammad Masroor-e-Sattar Ujjal of 10-C, 2/10 Mirpur.

Rains kill 40 in Karachi

KARACHI, July 14: At least 40 people have died and more than 1,000 have been forced from their homes after two weeks of heavy rains here, welfare workers said today, reports AFP.

The rains disrupted electricity supplies and damaged telephone lines and roads in this city, the largest in Pakistan.

Industry sources said power breakdowns caused by torrential rains had resulted in losses worth millions of rupees (dollars) in addition to widespread damage to property.

The meteorological office has recorded more than seven inches (18 centimetres) of rainfall since July 2 which it said was a record for the port city.

Students protest inclusion of Bengali in B Sc course

By DU Correspondent

The B Sc (Pass) Students' Movement Council yesterday protested the inclusion of Bengali as a compulsory subject in the Bachelor of Science (Pass) course.

The council at a press conference at the TSC alleged that the inclusion of Bengali in the B Sc (Pass) level would hamper the study of science.

The students said the authorities had taken the decision without consulting the teachers concerned.

Besides, they demanded the holding of examinations and publication of results on schedule.

Earlier on Monday, the council submitted a memorandum to the Education Minister and another memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of the National University, Gazipur, on Tuesday in this regard.

Jamaat accuses govt of siding with murtads

The Jamaat-i-Islami yesterday accused the government of siding with 'murtads' and imperialists and warned of its consequences if it fails to change its position, reports UNB.

A resolution adopted at the working committee meeting chaired by Prof Golam Azam said it was the sacred responsibility of all to go ahead with the current agitation against apostates, anti-Islamic elements and anarchists.

"If the pious majority of the people remain united on the question of punishment of murtads, all conspiracies of the imperialist forces and its media must fall apart," it said.

The meeting observed that the government was playing a compromising and mysterious role despite provocations by atheists and murtads.

The government will have to bear the consequences if it tries to fish in the troubled water for political gains by creating division among the people, cautioned the Jamaat which lent its strength in Parliament to the BNP in forming government.

It welcomed the formation of action council under the leadership of Maulana Obaidul Huq, Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

The meeting expressed satisfaction at the active role being played by ulema-mashaikh, political and non-political personalities in upholding sanctity of holy Quran and Islam.

It urged the government to mend its present position and accept people's demands.

Degree results

From Page 1 Col 4

Institute, Dhaka and Kailoi Kumar Dev of Nazirhat College, Chittagong shared the third position in the science group, each securing 614 marks.

In the B Com (pass) exams, Muhammad Alauddin Ahmed of Teja-gon College, Dhaka stood first. He obtained 680 marks, the highest in all groups.

He was followed by Mohammad Towhidunni Khan of the same college with 631 marks. The third position in the commerce group went to S M Imdadul Haque of the Government Commerce College, Chittagong who secured 627 marks.

Teja-gon College in the city dominated the merit lists of the commerce, science and arts groups of the Dhaka and Barisal divisions, its students bagging the first, second, third and eighth positions in the commerce group, the first and fifth positions in the arts group and the sixth, seventh and eighth places in the science group.

The judge said there was no evidence that Abiola would not jump bail if his application was granted, one said by telephone from Abuja.

Abiola, widely believed to have won last year's annulled presidential election, has been in custody for the last three weeks.

Rwandans

From Page 1 Col 4

equipment we have in Goma but the main problem is for the Zairean authorities," French military spokesman Colonel Didier Bollé told reporters at Goma airport.

He did not know how many Rwandans had crossed over. France and aid agencies have made repeated appeals for more help to cope with Rwanda's humanitarian catastrophe.

Eastern Zaire is a poverty-stricken region where ethnic tension is running high. It is clear the Zairean authorities will be completely swamped by the crisis without international aid.

Zairean soldiers took away guns, grenades and machetes from the refugees, building up piles of weapons by the roadside.

Columns of Rwandans were also moving into Goma from a second crossing point north at Butungo. Men and women with huge bundles on their heads and children carrying schoolbags and firewood filed through Goma.

The exodus seemed likely to exceed the numbers that fled into Tanzania at the start of Rwanda's war. At that time aid agencies said the movement of about 300,000 people over 24 hours was unprecedented.

France calls for UN meet

PARIS, July 14: France today called for an emergency

meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the situation in Rwanda, the Foreign Ministry announced, reports AFP.

The Midnight File

12 nations to join multilateral force for Haiti

WASHINGTON, July 14: As many as 12 nations are committed to participating in a multilateral force for Haiti after the military leaders leave, the White House said today. "Eight to 12 countries are committed to participate in any multilateral force after the de facto (military) government resigns," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said, reports Reuters.

Land mine kills 7 in Assam

NEW DELHI, July 14: A land mine apparently planted by tribal insurgents in northeastern India blew up a jeep, killing six policemen and the driver, news reports said Thursday. Police suspect the Bodo Security Force was responsible for the blast Wednesday. Bodo guerrillas are trying to win an autonomous region separate from the state of Assam. Bodo tribes people, who are a minority in Assam, complain that the majority Assamese people discriminate against them in government jobs and the disbursement of development funds, reports AP.

Agreed minutes signed

From Page 1 Col 3

Responding to a question on the erratic supply of raw cotton from Pakistan, Jafarey explained that it was due to the loss of production from a severe virus attack on the crop last year. "We hope to make up the shortfall from the next crop," he assured.

The country's spinning mills experienced severe shortage of raw materials last fiscal year due to non-availability of raw cotton from Pakistan as per contract.

According to a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry, the meeting laid emphasis on expediting the signing of a long-term accord on the supply of raw cotton and on bilateral promotion and protection of investment.

Collaboration in the private sector joint venture industries and increased export of jute and tea to Pakistan were also discussed at the talks.

Both sides also agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation and extend the existing cultural exchange programmes to academic and Radio and Television programmes.

Instrument of ratification of the agreement on science and technology was exchanged at the meeting while emphasis was also placed on maintaining regular and frequent shipping services between the two countries to ensure uninterrupted flow of goods. Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad Q A M R Rahim and Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Kemal were

also present at the signing ceremony at the state guest house Meghna and they also attended the press conference at the nearby state guest house Padma.

During his stay in the capital, the Pakistan Prime Minister's adviser called on the President, the Prime Minister and also met the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, commerce, shipping and information. Jafarey also led the Pakistan delegation at the recently concluded SAARC finance and commerce ministers meeting.

Dream final

From Page 1 Col 7

Alessandro Costacurta will miss the game after collecting a second yellow card.

That means a possible return for half-fit sweeper and regular captain Franco Baresi. "Baresi is and remains the captain of the Italian team," said his AC Milan colleague Paolo Maldini, who has stepped in as team leader while the sweeper recovers from a thigh injury.

"I'm just replacing him, so let's hope he'll be in position to play Sunday."


Italy also hopes Roberto Baggio will be fully fit to face the Brazilians.

Scorer of five goals in his last three games, the Juventus striker has almost single-handedly pulled his team from second-round near-elimination to the final.

Italy were one minute away from going out to Nigeria when Baggio scored the first of his five. Others followed to eliminate Spain and Bulgaria, both on 2-1 scorelines.

Romario's fifth of the tournament was a downward header that edged Sweden 1-0 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif, and set up what could be a memorable final.

"This is a battle of big dogs," Brazilian midfielder Mazinho said.



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