

## 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 AFP.

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

Pro-Islamic bodies submit memo to US embassy

By Staff Correspondent

Supporters of 13 pro-Islamic organisations marched through the city streets yesterday in protest against the US administration's alleged support to controversial writer Taslim Nasreen.

They tried to march to the US embassy in the city after holding a rally near the Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Riot police halted the protesters at Kakkal-Bijoynagar crossing.

Later a three-member delegation of the organisations submitted a memorandum to the US embassy. The team comprised NDA leader Anwar Zahir, Khelafat Majlis leader Masud Khan and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) chief Shafiq Alami Prodhan.

Contingents of police were deployed at different points near the embassy at Baridhara. No untoward incidents were reported.

Sammilita Sangram Parishad organised the rally and procession.

"If one revolts against Allah and undermines Islam one should get capital punishment," Moulana Obaidul Huq, convener of the parishad, told the rally which also demanded annulling of a blasphemy law.

"We have no conflict with the US administration. We want it to withdraw the statement that hurt the religious sentiment of our people," he said.

Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Haq called for resisting those supporting the controversial writer and trying to protect the "enemy of Islam."

Charmonial Peer Syed Mohammad Fazlul Karim was critical of the US interference into the internal affairs of Bangladesh in the name of human rights. "This is a violation of the international law," he said.

He declared that those who support this lady would be branded as anti-Islamic elements and enemies of Islam. "They will also be treated as committing blasphemy."

NDA leader Anwar Zahir said Taslima had not only revolted against Islam, she also revolted against the country. "She is an enemy of Islam and the country. She should be tried for blasphemy."

## Loan classification

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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

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

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Nuru was detained in the Tejgaon police custody.

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

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

According to Police, Ishmail, 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.

more if bad debts increased because of the new system. The banks now maintain a kind of 'elusive profit' figures in their balance sheet against some loans which have already become bad debts; but are not termed so.

The government-backed loans for the sector corporations mainly come under this criterion. But once these are exposed to reality, financial health of the banks would be quite different. Some banks will even need infusion of funds from their owners, sources pointed out.

This single consideration is keeping us away from going for a radical overhauling of the classification system," said a high official of the Bangladesh Bank.

"Before going for the classification system, it is necessary to improve the professional quality of bank officials," K A Mazid further said. "While the NCBs may comply with loan loss provision from tax payers' money, it will be extremely difficult for the private banks."

He also felt that the government should allow mortgages as approved security for calculating loan provision until the legal system becomes more effective and efficient.

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

## 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

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

Khondakar Naz Mustafa of House-8, Road-5, Dhammandi received the first prize, a 21-inch Philips Powervision TV.

Md 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: Shahab Huda of 8/13, Block-E, Lalmoni, Moshjid of G-98; Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Argaoon, 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 electric

ity supplies and damaged

telephone lines and roads in

this city, the largest in Paki-

stan.

Industry sources said power

breakdowns caused by torren-

tial rains had resulted in losses

worth millions of rupees

(dollars) in addition to wide-

spread damage to property.

The meteorological office

has recorded more than seven

inches (18 centimetres) of rain-

fall since July 2 which it

said was a record for the port

city.

It is obvious from the news-

paper 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 un-

fair. 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 sec-

tion have been upheld by dif-

ferent 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 assess-

ing officer. Nine similar bank

attachment notices were is-

sued by that particular circle

during the 1993-94 financial

year.

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