

Nothing to buy in Sarajevo — a city of silence, sudden death

SARAJEVO, July 16: There is almost nothing to buy in Sarajevo, reports Reuter.

A four-month siege by Serb irregular forces has reduced the commercial centre of the Bosnian capital, for 500 years a crossroads and market place for the Balkans, to a sad, wrecked, empty city of silence and sudden death.

Hasna, a Muslim, runs a butcher's shop opposite the main Serbian orthodox church. On here empty shelves — more for the sake of something to sell than for hope of profit — are shaving cream, bars of soap and some bottles of wine. Nothing else.

"We have not seen meat for six months, since before the war," she said on Wednesday. "Who knows when we shall see it again. It depends on the politicians."

A Serb-held hill overlooks her street and a sniper shot a man near the ship earlier in the day. It was not good for

trade. In Vase Miskina, Sarajevo's most sophisticated shopping avenue, a pharmacy was open — one of only two in the city. It was still filling prescriptions, but supplies were dwindling.

A few metres away, pots of flowers around a jagged hole in the pavement marked the spot where a mortar bomb landed beside a bread queue on May 27, killing 16 people.

"I ran outside," said Amir, 25, who works in the nearby Ragusa Restaurant and Bar.

"At first there was a kind of fog, but when it lifted I saw a heap of people looking like fresh meat and a stain of blood spreading, like spilt beer. It was horrible."

Residents said Serb fighters known as Chetniks fired the mortar from the hills surrounding Sarajevo and although not all Serbs are Chetniks, all Chetniks are certainly Serbs.

"My best friend was a Serb girl," said Aida, a Muslim. "I do

not hate her, but how can I trust her now?"

Some bars and cafes were still in business, discreetly away from dangerous open spaces. The Ragusa, down a passage, was open until 9 pm hour before curfew.

A beer cost 2.50 dollar a cognac five dollar there was wine too and coffee, but little else. The restaurant was closed because it had no food to sell.

"We had three mortars on the roof last month, but I don't like to sleep in the cellar because their are rats down there — as big as cats," said Nora, one of four teenage girls chatting outside the entrance to an apartment block.

She had plain bread and tea for breakfast. Soup made of flour and water for lunch. What will she have for supper? "Probably rice, or pesta again" she said.

On such a stodge diet, she had not lost weight but her face and those of her friends were pale from the indoor life

and the stress. Barbers still cut hair in tiny shops off the main street and a Muslim bookshop beside the main mosque offered spiritual consolation.

A woman's clothes shop which now opens for two or three hours a day had a few blouses and skirts for those who could afford them.

Men's clothes were even scarcer. Mehamet escaped from his house in the heavily-shelled Dobrinja suburb to stay with his in-laws in the city.

Despite having a job and money, he was still looking for a change of clothes. But he had little chance of success among the wrecked or boarded-up shops in the city centre.

All he and the 380,000 people still trying to live in the once-gracious city could do was to endure and cling to their hope, their half-irrational belief, that some day the world would come to their aid and end their misery.

BRIEFS

Yeltsin optimistic about harvest, reform

MOSCOW, July 16: President Boris Yeltsin expressed optimism Tuesday about this year's Russian grain harvest and the fate of his government's reforms. "As President, I rule out the collapse of reforms," he said in an interview with a small group of Russian journalists. Yeltsin acknowledged that a "crisis of public confidence" had become visible in Russia and that sharp measures imposing extra hardships could incite an outburst of discontent, the Interfax news agency reported, according to AP.

US, Mexico agree on safe foods

WASHINGTON, July 16: US and Mexican negotiators have tentatively agreed on health and safety standards for food products that would move across the Rio Grande under a North American free-trade agreement, officials say. Sources in Congress and the Bush administration said Wednesday that negotiators appeared to have settled on the question of food safety and health standards in advance of a July 25 meeting of chief negotiators, reports AP.

Russia to get \$600m World Bank loan

WASHINGTON, July 16: The World Bank is in the process of approving a 600 million dollar quick-disbursing rehabilitation loan to Russia so that it can import critical goods and spare parts for its infrastructure in the energy, pharmaceutical and agricultural sectors. A senior World Bank official told USIA July 15 that the proposal for the loan would be presented to the Bank's executive board in the first week of August and that it is expected to be approved before the board's two-week summer recess begins August 10, reports USIS.

US oil production falls to 31-year low

WASHINGTON, July 16: US crude oil production fell to a 31-year low in the first six months of 1992, continuing its recent sharp downward trend, the American Petroleum Institute (API) said. In its June monthly report, API said domestic crude oil production slumped 3.3 per cent to 7.24 million barrels per day from 7.49 million in the same 1991 period, reports Reuter.

US industrial production falls

WASHINGTON, July 16: US industrial production fell 0.3 per cent in June, its first decline in five months, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday. The fall was slightly less than had been expected, with analysts forecasting a 0.5 per cent drop because of poor job figures for June. Industrial output and risen a revised 0.5 per cent in May. The June fall followed four consecutive months of increases in industrial output, reports AFP.

American Airlines proposes fare hike

NEW YORK, July 16: American airlines has proposed a rise in air fares that could raise prices by up to 35 per cent on hundreds of routes, if other airlines go along with the plan aimed at offsetting recent losses. But the airline needs to persuade competitors, who are planning an increase with effect from Saturday, but only of 4.4 per cent, to go along if the plan is to work, reports AFP.

Billion dollar Bombay bond scam Manmohan Singh rejects demands to quit

NEW DELHI, July 16: India's Finance Minister Manmohan Singh rejected opposition demands to quit, saying he had no prior knowledge of Bombay's billion-dollar bank and stock exchange scandal, reports Reuter.

Singh told the upper house of parliament the government was determined to find out the whole truth and punish the guilty in the alleged fraud, in which bank funds were illegally channelled into Bombay's stock market.

"I solemnly affirm that I had no knowledge beforehand" about the 31.9 billion rupee scam, Singh told the house. But members walked out in protest after his remarks.

"The entire matter is before the joint parliamentary committee which can go into my conduct in the matter," he said.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao last week announced an all-party parliamentary inquiry into the affair, saying he

wanted to safeguard his year-long economic reform programme.

He also seemed to be trying to blunt the opposition, which debates a no-confidence motion in the government Thursday.

Federal police have already arrested 26 bankers and brokers as they investigate the scandal. Commerce Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram resigned last week after a mutual fund in which he had invested was linked to the scandal.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is conducting its own probe, has closed down two small private banks and ordered a special audit of the treasury operations of four foreign banks.

Singh rejected opposition arguments that the stocks and securities manipulation was a fallout of the government's liberalisation programme.

He said there could not be any "foolproof system to check fraud."

Dollar down against major currencies

NEW YORK, July 16: The dollar declined against most major foreign currencies Wednesday in trading dominated by speculation about a meeting of Germany's central bank. Gold prices rose, reports AP.

On the New York Commodity Exchange, gold for current delivery gained 2.90 dollar to 354 dollar per troy ounce. A late bid at Republic National Bank of New York quoted the metal at 353.15 dollar a troy ounce, up 2.55 dollar.

For a fourth straight day, traders seemed obsessed by Thursday's scheduled meeting of Germany's Bundesbank central council. The mark continued to rise against the dollar amid predictions the Germans would raise interest rates, which would make the mark more valuable.

McCarthy said the latest economic reports on industrial production and business inventories had little effect on the dollar.

Fish supply short, prices high

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of fish in the city markets are soaring high as the supply remained short for several weeks.

"This is not exactly the fishing season," a fish monger of New Market said, "still, the supply was supposed to be adequate, which is not." The wholesalers say, "there are little fish in the rivers... thus the price is up."

Ruhi fish, which was sold at Taka 120 per kg few weeks ago now available at 200 taka per kg. Katla stood at 100 to 105 taka in two weeks while pangas of Taka 105 per kg stood at Taka 125.

"At present, I think the supply has decreased by 50 per cent from the normal position." Another fish monger said, "Fish supply from Kaptai-Rangamati regions has stopped due to the beginning of breeding season."

Although, the present season is right time for hilsa fishing, the supply and price remain negative in the city markets. One big hilsa which should cost 50 taka is 100 taka in the wholesale market.

The price of catfish is also high as its fishing season ended two months ago. The wholesale rate per pound of this fish was Taka 3000 to 3500 is now Taka 5000 to 5500. Small fishes were also low in supply and high in price.

Several fish mongers giving a ray of hopes said, "within two months, the supply of fishes is supposed to be normal so as to stabilise the price."

Buyers at the markets finding it hard to purchase vegetables too. Potol costs 10 taka kg, lalshak Taka eight, kalmi shak Taka six, cucumber Taka 12, corolla Taka 12 and barbati costs Taka 10 per kg. All these

cost at least two taka less two weeks ago.

The price of fine rice was still high Wednesday and vendors fear the price might increase further.

Only good news in the markets was the price of chicken Wednesday. The 60 taka chicken was sold at Taka 55 marking a decrease of Taka five against rates of the previous week.



Fish, low in supply, high in price at a local market. —Star photo

Create atmosphere for market economy: Zahir

Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan said Wednesday overemphasis on market economy "is not desirable" until an atmosphere is created for it, reports UNB.

He underscored the need for code of conduct in private sector to create a congenial atmosphere for marching with the market economy, which the government has opted for. Speaking at a discussion meeting on the national budget (1992-93) in a local hotel, Khan felt the need of such a market-oriented and competitive economy as will be both accountable and corruption-free and ensure efficient use of resources.

A national consensus on the goals of the economy is needed, the minister said, stressing the need for political stability and improved law and order situation which he termed prerequisites for eco-

Country produces 8,156 tonnes of petrol

The country presently produces 8,156 metric tons of petrol, the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, Dr. Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, informed the House while replying to a question from Tabibur Rahman Sardar (Al-Jessore), reports BSS.

To another question from Abu Lais Mohammad Mobin Chowdhury (JP-Habiganj), the Minister said that per barrel import price of crude oil upto Chittagong was Taka 1100.08. The duty there on was Taka 272.48.

To a question from Zubeid Ali (AL-Netrokona) Dr. Hossain said that a total of Taka 283.28 crore was outstanding with the public and private sector subscribers on account of gas bill. Giving a break-up, he said that the arrear with the public sector subscribers was Taka 218.72 crore and that with the private sector Taka 64.56 crore.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

BERTH POSITION AND PERFORMANCE OF VESSELS AS ON 16.07.92.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leave
J/2	Nan du Jiang	Cement	Chin	MISA	25/7	25/7
J/3	Mytschi	GI	Sing	PROG	7/7	20/7
J/4	Minerva	GI	Pena	MISA	30/6	20/7
J/5	Banglar Doot	GI	Pena	BSC	2/7	16/7
J/6	State of Haryana	GI	Cal	SSL	15/7	19/7
J/7	Ronjay Choomie	UREA	Mong	PSAL	10/7	23/7
J/8	Samudra Samrat	GI	Col	SSL	1/7	16/7
J/9	Banglar Kallol	GI/CL	Col	BSC	10/7	18/7
J/11	Sea Glory	Perit	Sing	PROG	16/6	22/7
J/13	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDShip	13/7	18/7
MPB/1	I.Yamburenko	Cont	Sing	CT	13/7	16/7
CCJ	Georgios/M	C.Clink	Mali	UMAL	1/7	22/7
OSJ	Banglar Asha	Wheat	Lama	R/A	16/7	16/7
TSP	Eastern Breeze	CL	Mong	RRSA	28/6	17/7
RM/3	Antares	20/7/92	Sing	CT	14/7	16/7
RM/4	Maritime Pride	CISSO	Bam	TSL	14/7	19/7
RM/5	Hafez	Salt	Camd	OWSL	6/7	28/7
RM/8	Ohrmazd	Salt	Col	PSAL	21/6	20/7
RM/9	Banglar Kiron	Repair	BSC	R/A	20/7	20/7
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	BSC	R/A	16/7	16/7
DDJ/1	Endurance Sea	Repair	Agaba	EOSL	25/1	20/7
DDJ/2	Al Reza	Cement	Kuwait	OWSL	10/7	17/7
CUFJ	Allissa	Urea	Col	BSL	1/7	16/7
DD	Banglar Banni	Repair	Lama	R/A	20/7	20/7

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Super Star (E/L/7/7)	17/7/92	Mong	ENCL	Yangon
Sierny Anate	17/7/92	Mong	RRSA	Sing
Bernalia 14/7	17/7/92	Mong	RSL	Sing
H.Golden Dorif	17/7/92	Mong	SSS	TSP/W.Pool
Artemis-1	18/7/92	Bright	Cement	Sing
Banglar Gourab	18/7/92	Pena	BSC	Sing
Ocean Earth	18/7/92	Nampo	Sunshine	Cement
Ronjay Victory	19/7/92	Sing	PSAL	Cement
Al Swamur	19/7/92	Sing	ASLL	GI
Lord	19/7/92	K.Swng	PROG	GI
Tong Ah With Barge Java	19/7/92	SNG	Anchor	Project
Kamaleverett	20/7/92	SNG	EBPL	GI
Onyx	20/7/92	Mong	Aqua	GL
Yao Sheng	20/7/92	Bright	Cement	GI
Vishva Pankaj 11/7	20/7/92	SSL	E/L	Dundee Ant
Andrian Goncharov 11/7	20/7/92	CT	Cont	Sing
Kota Eagle (Cont) 13/7	20/7/92	Sing	CTS	Cont
Centimet-1	20/7/92	Pena	CLA	GI
Jiang Cheng	21/7/92	S.Hai	BDShip	GI
Andromache 7/7	21/7/92	Col	RSL	Cont
Fong Shin 11/7	21/7/92	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Ocean Voyager	21/7/92	AML	Cement	Sing
Tiger Sun	21/7/92	PROG	GI	Sing
New Genorid 11/7	21/7/92	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Optima 14/7	22/7/92	Sing	RSL	Cont
Safina E-Header	24/7/92	Kar	ASLL	GI/CL
Vishva Kaumudi 9/7	25/7/92	Sing	SSL	E/L
NGS Ronger 14/7	27/7/92	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Bryanajji Maahnostrrotel 28/7/92	28/7/92	Arabaya	TSL	R.Ohos
A.Megacarrier two 7/7	30/7/92	Sing	BDShip	Cont
Meheduti	2/8/92	Col	BSL	GI
Flying Dragon	7/8/92	USTC	Cement	Sing

TANKER DUE

Name of Vessels	Date of Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo
Neptune Antlia	19/7/92	Sing	MSP/L
Topaz	21/7/92	Jebel	BCL
Global Mars	22/7/92	Sing	TSL

VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
T.T Energy (Attach:5/5/92)	C.Oil	Baha	NND	27/4

VESSELS READY AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Sumudra Raj	GI	ID	SSL	15/7
Kota Baana	Cont	Sing	CTS	15/7

VESSELS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Yannis-II	GI	Pena	PSAL	R/A(15/7)
Ocean Envoy	GI	Pak	BSC	R/A(15/7)
Banglar Shourabh	Repair	ID	BSC	R/A(6/7)

VESSELS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of arrival
Alyn	Cement	Sing	Alamin	R/A(18/9)
Red Deer	Sing	Sing	OTL	R/A(26/11)
Nchaj	Scraping	Col	Umal	10/6
Sletter	TSP(Pvt)	Tampa	SSST	12/7

The above were the Thursday's (16/7/92) Shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group Dhaka.

Price Index

July 16

Essentials	Price	Essentials	Price
RICE (Taka per kg)	16.00-17.00	Green Coconut (Small)	6.00-8.00
Aman(fine)	13.50-14.50	Coconut (Large)	8.00-10.00
Pajam	11.00-12.00	Mango	50.00-55.00
Potato (local)	12.00-14.00	Langra	30.00-40.00
Brinjal	10.00-12.00	Himsagar	6.00-8.00
Karolla	4.00-5.00	Pineapple	20.00-40.00
Lalshak	5.00-6.00	Jackfruit	12.00-14.00
Papsa	4.00-6.00	Banana	3.00-4.00
Crude Banana (Four Pieces)	14.00-14.50	Sugar (Large)	3.00-4.00
CHICKEN (Taka per kg)	10.50-11.00	Channa	45.00-50.00
Atta	14.00-16.00	Dates	52.00-54.00
FISH (Taka per kg)	100.00-120.00	OIL (Taka per litre)	38.00-39.00
Ruhi(big)	52.00-56.00	Mustard	90.00-95.00
Katta(big)	110.00-130.00	Soyabean	48.00-52.00
Hilsa	110.00-130.00	Coconut (Columbo)	26.00-35.00
Pangas	140.00-150.00	Vegetable Ghee (1kg)	32.00-42.00
Shrimp(big)	NA	SPICES (Taka per kg)	45.00-50.00
Sing	NA	Onion (local)	48.00-54.00
Koi	NA	Garlic (local)	10.00-12.00
MEAT	NA	Chillies (local)	32.00-42.00
Beef	NA	Chillies (Round)	45.00-52.00
Mutton	NA	(Long)	48.00-54.00
CHICKEN	NA	Green chillies	10.00-12.00
Large	62.00-64.00	Ginger	16.00-18.00
Moderate	66.00-68.00	Cinnamon (10gm)	3.00-3.50
Small	70.00-72.00	Cardamom (10gm) (small)	8.00-9.00
TEA	70.00-80.00	Jhira (50gm)	8.00-9.00
Dust (Plain)	70.00-80.00	MILK (Two kgs)	307.00-308.00
EGG (4 pcs)	12.00-12.50	Dano	316.00-317.00
Hen	12.00-12.50	Red-Cow	220.00-240.00
Duck	12.00-13.00	MISCELLANEOUS (Taka per kg)	7.00-8.00
Firm	28.00-29.00	Ghee	220.00-240.00
PILSENS (Taka per kg)	28.00-29.00	Salt	7.00-8.00
Mashur	29.00-30.00	Sugar	27.00-27.50
Moogh	29.00-30.00		

Exchange Rates

The following are the Commercial Bank's BC selling and TT (C), OD transfer buying rates for some selected foreign currencies effective on July 17 and 18.

(Figures in Taka)