

The Midnight File

Sharif, Ishaq fail to meet

ISLAMABAD, July 10: The much awaited meeting between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif could not be held today and the premier has decided to address the nation, official sources said.

Iraq stops jamming

BAGHDAD, July 10: Iraq has stopped its heavy jamming of world radio stations, enabling Iraqis to tune into western broadcasts for the first time in three years. The government has given no explanation why the jamming was lifted suddenly at the end of June. The Arabic service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of America and Radio Monte Carlo can now be heard clearly, reports Reuters.

40 hurt in Seoul clash

SEOUL, July 10: Some 1,000 South Korean radical students clashed late today with hundreds of riot police in the southwestern city of Kwangju, leaving 40 students and police injured, a press report said here. The students were protesting the visit here by US President Bill Clinton.

Exchanged property registration time extended

The government has extended up to December 31 next the time to complete registration of exchanged property deeds in view of the difficulties being faced by the people in this respect, reports BSS. The decision was taken on the basis of a recommendation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Land yesterday. Earlier, the government had fixed June 30 as the deadline for registration of exchanged property deeds. The new deadline will not be further extended. Meanwhile, directives have been given to the district administration to complete the process of registration of exchanged property deeds.

5-Party calls to resist IMF-WB 'conspiracy'

By Staff Correspondent A convention of different left-wing political parties, professionals and labour bodies yesterday called for a united movement aimed at protecting the national economy by resisting the IMF-World Bank 'conspiracy to destroy industries.'

The convention, organised by the Five-Party alliance at the JSD (Inu) office in the city, supported the July 19-20 planned labour shutdown and urged other social forces to launch an 'effective agitation' on the labour issues. A resolution of the convention alleged that the country's 'lumpen class' and its political allies including those in power had surrendered to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The WB-IMF was 'conspiring to ruin' the country's export-oriented industrial units, it added.

Another resolution of the convention accused the government of betraying its agreement with the labour bodies and called on all concerned to back the planned 48-hour labour strike and road-rail barricade programme from July 19.

The convention also resolved that the Nirmul Committee-led agitation against the 'war criminals' be made successful. Meanwhile, a delegation of the SKOP and four sectoral trade unions' federations yesterday called on the acting Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Abdus Samad Azad at his Sangsad Bhaban office to seek support for the July 19-20 nationwide shutdown.

Samad Azad told the delegates that his party would discuss the matter and communicate their decision in due course.

Bosnia: troops

Other members of the delegations are: Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Syed Moazzem Ali, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Anwar Hashem and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Abdul Momin Chowdhury. The Foreign Minister said, "Bosnia-Herzegovina is resolute and clear," adding "we are against any kind of move to dismember the Muslim republic in the former Yugoslavia."

"We always stand for the territorial integrity and independence of the republic, a member of the United Nations," Mostafiz added.

Bangladesh 12th

rate would drop to 1.9 per cent by 2000, by which time the country's population would swell to 131 million. By 2025 the figure would be 180 million, the report added. The World Bank projects that the country's population would reach a hypothetical figure of 268 million before it stabilises and the growth rate stagnates. Following are the 12 high income economies:

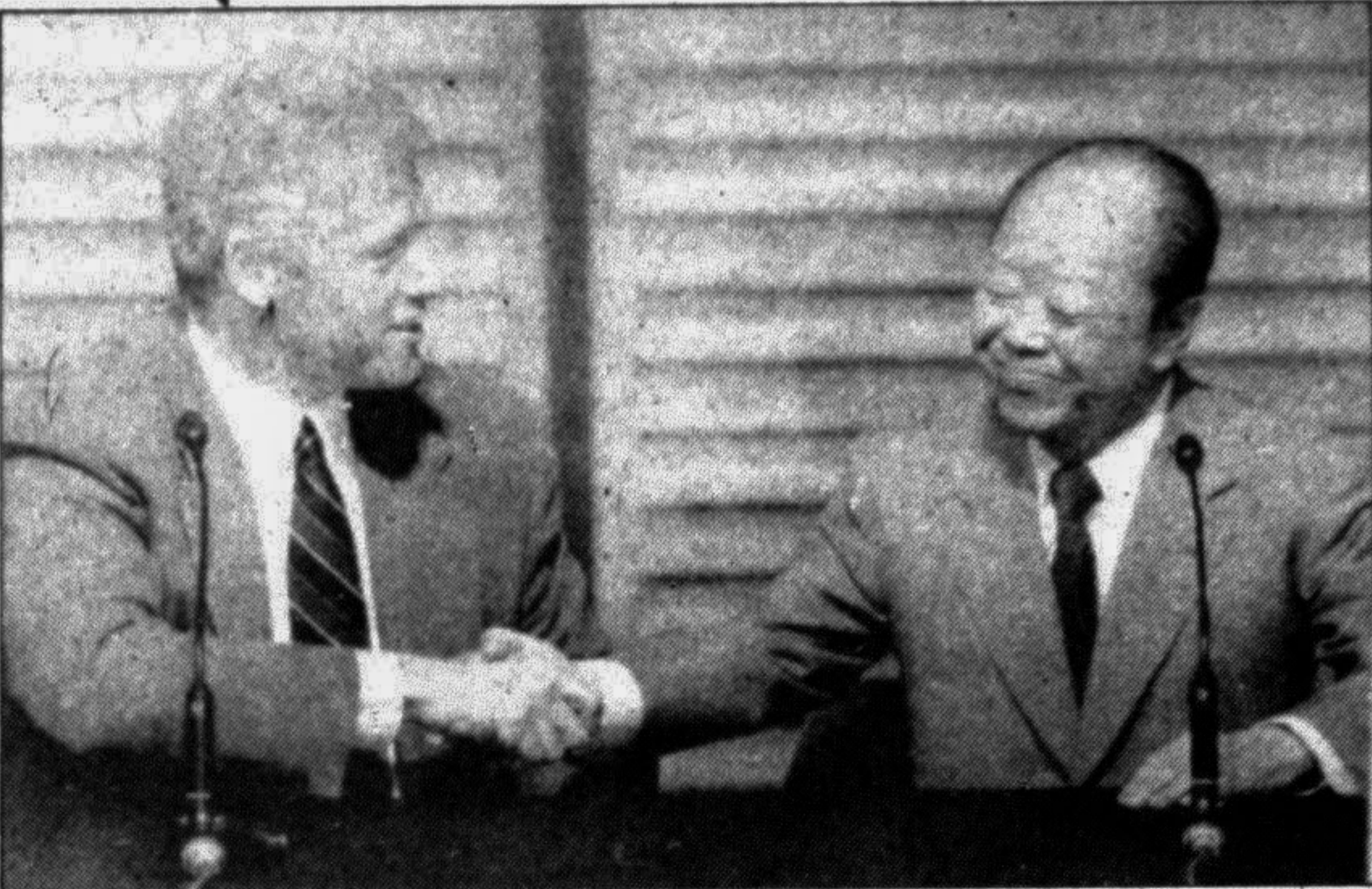
Table with 2 columns: Country, GNP per capita (dollars). Lists 12 high income economies with their respective GNP per capita values.

Following are the 12 low-income economies:

Table with 2 columns: Country, GNP per capita (dollars). Lists 12 low-income economies with their respective GNP per capita values.

Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 5 Prof Azam was produced before the review board at Court No 8 of the High Court Division yesterday morning and the government requested that his detention should be reviewed, as required by law. The writ petition filed on behalf of Prof Azam seeking cancellation of his detention order is pending before the High Court Division. The hearing of the writ will be held on July 12 before Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin. The High Court by a decision last March, restored the citizenship of Golam Azam. The government filed an application for leave to appeal against the High Court judgement before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The appeal will come up for hearing on July 25.



US President Bill Clinton (L) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa after their joint press conference in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP photo

Myanmar wants 2 of its citizens released

CHITTAGONG, July 10: The Myanmar border force 'Lunthin' has demanded immediate and unconditional release of their citizens Boz Zahir and Lal Meah, said to be smugglers and Razakar sardars in Arakan. The two were arrested by the Bangladesh Rifles on charge of illegal entry into Bangladesh on June 30, reports BSS.

AIDS outbreak

From Page 1 Col 4 future crisis. He said in Africa the infection is the highest with every third person having the HIV virus that causes AIDS, but it cannot be detected before seven to eight years of the infection. He said in Thailand 70 per cent of the prostitutes, 20 per cent of the armed forces personnel and four per cent of all pregnant women carried the virus. The state shall have to spend 9 billion dollars a year extra health cost up to the year 2000 to combat the AIDS outbreak, he added. Earlier, Dr Merson called on Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury at the Sangsad Bhaban and discussed various aspects of prevention and control of AIDS. Prof Chowdhury told Dr Merson that the government was fully committed to the prevention and control of AIDS.

US-Japan new economic agreement

TOKYO, July 10: President Bill Clinton secured a commitment today from Japan for a 'highly significant decrease' in its snowballing current account surplus in exchange for the United States cutting its budget deficit, US officials said, reports AFP. Clinton administration officials said the United States also expected Japan to cut its current account surplus to less than two per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) under a new framework struck shortly before the President left for Seoul after a three-day Group of Seven (G-7) summit here. Clinton said this was the 'basic bargain' of the two-year 'framework for a new economic partnership' between the world's two biggest economies. Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who faces crucial elections in a week, said the agreement was 'extremely important' not only for the United States and Japan, but also for the 'maintaining and strengthening of the free trading system of the world.'

Clinton-Yeltsin

From Page 1 Col 3 immediately' on the sales, Clinton told the press conference in the US Embassy garden. Concerns about nuclear weapons in Ukraine were also raised during the talks, the second between the two presidents who met in April in Vancouver. Clinton said Ukraine 'should not become a nuclear power and has urged the former Soviet republic to ratify the START accord on long-range ballistic missiles and the Nuclear Non-proliferation Pact (NPT).'

Blasts rock N' ganj

NARAYANGANJ, July 10: A series of bomb blasts rocked the port town tonight following an attack on two leaders of Awami League-backed Chhatra League, reports UNB. Witnesses said more than a hundred bombs were exploded in different parts of the town after activists of Awami League and its front organisations took out a procession protesting the attack. Shops were shuttered and movement of vehicular traffic came to a halt as the people ran helter skelter for safety. The bomb explosions continued from 7 pm to 11 pm until police intervened and brought the situation under control. Tension was mounting in the town and police were posted at different points to guard against further violence. Local Awami League unit filed a case with the local police, holding BNP leaders and workers responsible for the incident.



Customs and VAT officials seized 1400 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Tk 5 lakh from the Bangabazar market in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Yeltsin resents parliament's claim on Ukrainian port

MOSCOW, July 10: President Boris Yeltsin today attacked the Russian Parliament for claiming the Ukrainian naval port of Sevastopol, and Ukraine's Ambassador to Moscow compared the move to the shot that triggered World War One, reports Reuters. The conservative parliament voted overwhelmingly on Friday to proclaim Sevastopol — base of the Black Sea fleet — as Russian property and told the Ukrainian government to remove troops from the area. The vote threatened to damage relations between Russia and Ukraine who, after months of squabbling over what to do with the fleet, had finally agreed to divide the force equally by 1995. 'I feel ashamed about this decision,' Itar-Tass news agency quoted Yeltsin as telling reporters in the central Siberian city of Uruksk as he waited for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to arrive for two days of talks near Lake Baikal. 'The problems of the Black Sea fleet and the town where it is based must be solved both calmly and gradually,' he said. 'Otherwise, what do you want me to do — fight with Ukraine?' Yeltsin, who wields executive power in Russia, is involved in a power struggle with parliament and is unlikely to pay the resolution much attention. But a fresh quarrel with Ukraine would be an unwelcome distraction as he struggles to draw up a new constitution for the country which would give him considerably more power. The vote sparked a predictably angry response from Ukraine. Volodymyr Kryzhanovsky, Ukraine's ambassador to Moscow, told Tass today that the resolution could be compared to 'Gavrilo Princip's shot in Sarajevo.' Princip, a Serbian revolutionary student, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo on

Population Day

From Page 1 Col 5 a developing country, had been making relentless efforts to turn the greater segment of its people into an effective workforce through human resources development.

Emphasis has been laid on the removal of the discrimination between the male and female, and on women's education and employment generation, Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister said that the government had also attached priority to the family planning programme and steps have been taken to motivate the newly-married couples for planned family.

UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik, in her message on the day, said that local and national initiatives to inform and give access to couples and individuals to family planning programmes, improve access to education and health, improve women's status and ensure quality of opportunity could influence population growth and distribution.

"Population issues affect the life of everyone of us, whatever country we live in, and whatever its rate of population, growth or level of development," she added. 'The World Population Day reminds all of us that the future depends on finding the balance between human needs and human numbers.'

The directorate of Family Planning under the Health Ministry will bring out a procession from the Institution of Engineers to the National Press Club at 8 am today.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf will lead the procession while Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Serajul Hoque, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed, Director General of Family Planning AKM Rafiquzzaman and a large number of officials and employees of the ministry, directorate and leading NGOs will participate.

In observance of the day, Bangladesh 2000, an NGO, in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), will hold a discussion at the centre premises at 4 pm. The Health Minister will attend the function as chief guest while former advisor to the interim government Alamgir M A Kabir and UNFPA Country Director S K Alok will be present as a special guests.

According to the UNFPA reports, the present world population is estimated at 5.57 billion.

The report projected that the population would reach 8.5 billion by the year 2025. Approximately, 95 per cent of the world population growth is taking place in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The total population of the developing countries now stands about 4.3 billion.

By the year 2025, it will grow over seven billion.

Asia's population in mid-1993 is 3.3 billion. By 2025 Asia will have 4.9 billion people — equal to the world population of 1986.

Parley

From Page 1 Col 4 Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Salauddin Yusuf, MP, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, K M Jahangir, MP and Shamsul Haq, MP, of the Awami League, Barrister Maudud Ahmed, MP, Anwar Hossain Manju, MP and Manirul Haq Chowdhury, MP, of the Jatiya Party, and Rashed Khan Menon, MP, of the Workers Party were, among others, present in the meeting.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8 rough council John Srokes and chief executive Jeff Redmore. The AL leader unveiled a visitor's plaque at the school and planted a sapling at its premises. Later, Hasina visited different classrooms and spent some time with the teachers and the students. The leader of the Opposition afterwards visited the local administration office where she was greeted by chairman councillor of the burrough council education sub-committee Azizur Rahman and Deputy Chief Executive Officer Steve Clive. At her reception, the Mayor of the burrough council Srokes honoured Hasina by calling her a great leader for democracy and human rights in Asia and said, 'Bangladesh would gain an honourable position in the international arena under her leadership.'

BIDS crisis

From page 1 col 7 BIDS intellectuals, the researchers of the organisation should also not dictate the board of trustees regarding who should be the DG. On the other hand, Dr Abdul Hafur, research director and convener of the workers' welfare association of the BIDS, told the Daily Star yesterday afternoon that the staff members would continue their current work stoppage until the government rescinds its decision. Meanwhile, the board of trustees will meet tomorrow (Monday) afternoon to review the situation.

PM slates opposition

From Page 1 Col 2 Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and central labour leaders Abul Kashem Chowdhury, S A Khaleque, Zafur Hossain and Mosharraf Hossain Khan. Ministers, MPs and senior BNP and its front organisation leaders attended the inaugural function of the council in which representatives of 44 basic unions and 370 councillors from the city will elect the unit's new executive members. Salam Talukder said it was the character of the present opposition to speak of cooperation but raise unnecessary issues. He also had a word on the formation of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee long after the Liberation War. 'Where was the spirit of independence in 1972, 1973 and 1974 when they were in power?', he asked. Brushing aside the allegations brought against the ministers, the BNP Secretary General said 'All this is aimed at subduing the democratic government.'

'They have proved, by their activities in and outside the House, that they do not want Parliament to function,' he said. 'Demands will not be fulfilled through unnecessary siege and by destroying the country's resources,' she said, questioning if the trade union laws permit such activities like taking people hostage. 'Whose interests are they serving?' the Prime Minister asked, and urged all to maintain proper trade union activities and work for building the country. In response to opposition remarks that the BNP government has lost the people's support, the Prime Minister, also chairperson of the ruling party, asserted: 'We are in power with the cooperation and support of the people.'



Acute shortage of water has made life miserable for the residents of Sarajevo who are seen using sewer water. — Star TV photo

Sarajevans on brink of disaster, says Ogata

GENEVA, July 10: UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata has condemned the use of aid as a weapon and warned that the people of Sarajevo are on the brink of disaster, reports AFP. 'I condemn the actions of those who are blocking the delivery of food, medicine, fuel, water, power, gas and other humanitarian assistance in a cowardly attempt to starve and kill innocent civilians. Ogata said in a statement issued here Friday.

'The UNHCR has accused Bosnian Serb militiamen of 'hijacking and blocking' vital fuel supplies to Sarajevo. 'Without this fuel, water cannot be pumped, hospital operating rooms cannot function, the city bakery cannot produce bread and humanitarian assistance cannot be trucked to distribution centres.'

'Sarajevo residents are now down to 2.5 litres of water a day — an amount that will dwindle as the remaining pumps run out of fuel. The danger of epidemics grows with each passing day. The city sewage system has broken down and rubbish is piling up in the streets. Many people are already using contaminated water, the statement added.

Ogata said that Sarajevo was 'not alone in its desperation.' Hungry people and attacked UNHCR food stores in the northeast city of Tuzla three times this week, conditions in the eastern enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica, where Muslims are besieged by Serbs, were appalling.

In addition, Ogata pointed out, donors were reducing their funding for the UNHCR operation in former Yugoslavia. The agency requires about 420 million dollars to assist more than 3.8 million people in the territory.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.