The Midnight Kile

'Racial madness' behind US

hostility towards Iraq: Saddam

today his strongest attack on the United States since Bill

Clinton took office, saying "racial madness" was behind US hos-

tility towards Iraq. Saddam, in a televised address, made no di-

rect mention of the current crisis with the United Nations over

weapons monitoring or to talks in Baghdad with a top UN arms

Over 300 Afghans killed or

hurt in Russian attack

killed or injured in artillery attacks by Russian forces deployed

across the border in the central Asian Republic of Tajikistan,

official Kabul Radio said today. The Afghan government accused

Moscow of intervening in Alghanistan because of problems in

ISLAMABAD, July 17: More than 300 Afghans have been

envoy trying to defuse the situation, reports Reuter.

BACHDAD, July 17: President Saddam Hussetn launched



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing an extended meeting of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at the Institution of Engineers auditorium yesterday. - PID photo

PM: Farmers' rights

From page 1 col 7. receiving full benefit from this reduction as they were not aware of it and at the same time vested quarters and middlemen were misleading them. Likewise, she said, the government had fixed the procurement price of paddy at Tk 225 per maund but the farmers were not getting the price because of the fraudulent practice of the middlemen.

The Prime Minister asked the representatives of the Krishak Dal to stand by the side of the deprived farming community and ensure their rights. She said "The days of oppression have ended and the time has come to establish rights."

Begum Zia said the peasants' leaders especially the representatives of the Krishak Dal had to motivate the people against smuggling of agricultural products and inputs which was chopping off the potentiality of the agricultural sec-

Dwelling on the prospect of jute in Bangladesh the Prime Minister said the fiber was environmentally friendly. She said the people had to be motivated to stop the use of synthetic products, which is hazardous to health and the environment, and instead use natural products like jute.

The function was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the House Badruddoza Chowdhury, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Majidul Haque, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who is also the president of the Krishak Dal, Social Welfare Minister Tariqui Islam, general secretary of Krishak Dal Shamsuzzaman Dudu and union-level representatives of the Krishak Dal.

48-hr SKOP strike

From page 1 col 7

"We are being forced into action again ... our strike programme is not merely for higher wages ... this (July 19-20) programme is aimed at protecting the economy and the industries," he said

Bashar told reporters that over 3 lakh workers from 64 jute mills, 83 textile mills, 19 sugar mills and 23 steel mills would observe the strike.

About a meeting of a group of labour leaders with Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah on July 14, Abul Bashar said some "so-called" and "obscure" leaders went to the meeting to derive benefit by driving a wedge among the workers.

In that meeting with the Jute Minister 150 CBA and labour leaders of the jute sector opposed the strike and assured the government that they would

not indulge in any activity detrimental to the industries.

The agitating federations urged passengers of all modes of transport, including buses, launches and trains, not to undertake journey on the two days (July 19 and 20) and cooperate with the workers in realising their "just demands".

They also requested the transport workers-employees to abstain from their duties to strengthen the 'economy protection movement".

The proposed strike and barricade will be the fourth such action programme of the workers this year. The first countrywide 48-hour rail-road blockade was enforced February 14-15 and the second on March 15-16. The workers and employees observed a 72hour blockade and strike from May 11 to May 13.

Minimum basic pay

From page 1 col 7 the labour leaders would call off their shutdown and rail-road barricade programme after the announcement of the new wage scale. *

However, the SKOP, in a statement soon after the government's announcement, resented the move and termed it a violation of the government-SKOP agreement of July 6,

The Labour Minister, who played the key-role in the government's so far fruitless negotiations with the agitating labour bodies, said that the public sector workers were being paid an advance Tk 250 monthly against the proposed salary increase. However, he regretted, the government not implement the enwages due to, what he said, the labour leaders' inflexible and negative attitude.

About the National Minimum Wage, another vital demand of the SKOP, the minister reiterated that it involved the private enterprises that did not have a common financial ability.

In this context, he told the press conference there was no legal obligation to fix up a national minimum wage. The Minimum Wage Board, which had been reactivated under the democratic government, was now working to fix minimum wages for 14 private sectors, he informed the newsmen.

If minimum wages in these 14 sectors could be fixed, he hoped, the need for a national minimum wage would be met to a large extend, he added.

Regarding the demand for halting the disinvestment move, Mannan Bhutyan said the denationalisation process was being continued with a

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel

CAA, 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.

view to easing the public sector units from the burden of huge losses. The move was being implemented slowly and gradually and workers' interests were being considered.

Referring to his talks with the strike callers, the Labour Minister regretted that they did not abandon their 'destructive programme' despite the fact that each and every step of the government was explained and reasonable offers regarding their demands were made.

Earlier, the Minister termed the planned industrial strike and rail-road barricade as 'illogical, unnecessary, motivated and contrary to the existing labour laws.

Replying to questions from the reporters, the Textiles Minister said the proposed shutdown would cause a loss of Tk 840 crore approximately to the nation.

Answering another question, the Labour Minister said Tk 200 crore would be needed for the enhancement, according to the new salary structure for the public sector workers.

If the basic salary is refixed at Tk 1000, another Tk 120 crore would be required, he added

SKOP coordinator Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, when contacted for his reactions to the government move, said it was done bypassing the Wage Commission proposal and violating the government-SKOP accord.

"This has seriously deteriorated relations between the two sides and would result in confrontations in the industrial sectors," he remarked.

Another SKOP statement called upon all concerned not to be misled by the government step and to observe the strike.

Arms recovered from Sylhet Medical College

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 17: Sylhet Kotwali thana police recovered five pipe- guns, four daggers and one ram dao from behind the Milon Hall of Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College today.

A case was filed in this connection, but none was as yet been arrested.

The college reopened today after two and a half months, it was closed sine die following a series of armed clashes between activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

There were no untoward incidents today.

Fake manpower agents held

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 17: Three members of an organised gang of illegal manpower recruiting agents were arrested while 30 passports and 130 fake seals were recovered from their possession from a house in the town Friday night.

When contacted, an official source said that they were arrested on charge of sending jobseekers abroad by using forged papers and documents.

Kotwali police arrested them from a house at Shahjalal Upashahar in Sylhet town. A case has also been lodged.

All three hail from Kaliganj thana of Lalmonirhat district.

Donors pledge \$100m for Yugoslavia

GENEVA, July 17: Western donors pledged over 100 million dollar on Friday for relief operations in former Yugoslavia, enough to keep United Nations aid convoys rolling through Bosnia for the next three months, reports Reuter.

The pledges came at a meeting of major donor nations at which UN refugee chief Sadako Ogata warned that the "entire relief effort will soon grind to a halt' without extra

"This was a good day for us," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees told a news conference afterwards." We haven't had many good days for a long

[Editorial on Page 4] JS probe body

From Page 1 Col 8 Speaker wants to hold the first

meeting of the committee before leaving for Germany later this

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is scheduled to fly for Germany on July 29 to undergo treatment.

According to sources, the first meeting of the committee would concentrate on drafting a concrete terms of reference.

The committee had also been authorised to fix its own time frame for preparing the report and submitting it to the House.

The members of the probe committee include Chief Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Jute Minister Hannan Shah, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haque, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of the Treasury Bench and Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League, Maudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, Maulana Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party and Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party (GP).

Sick drug co

From page 1 col 7 the raw materials and machinery for the 18 banned items remained unutilised, further contributing to the losses, the sources added.

Edruc Ltd started operation in 1948 and had been manufacturing about 96 products till the introduction of the drug policy.

The company had created markets in about 28 countries of the world including Pakistan, Malaysia, the Middle East and some African countries. The total staff of the company is 250. They have not been paid since

Managing Director of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals SH Kabir when asked to comment on the government decision, said it was a positive move that would create optimism among a number of entrepreneurs of the sick industries.

He also said there were a number of other pharmaceutical units which were affected seriously by the 1982 drug policy. As an instance, he cited the name of Sharma Chemicals. Comilla that was closed down on the very first day of its operation in early '82 because all the items it planned to manufacture were on the list of drugs banned by the Martial Law government.



The 14-party alliance yesterday held a meeting at the Awami League central office in support of the 48-hr hartal beginning Monday. - Star photo

Kuwait's UN-drawn borders legal: envoy

The visiting Kuwaiti special envoy yesterday said that about 200 kilometers of the Kuwait-Iraq border, demarcated by a UN Commission, is the legal and legitimate border between the two countries, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen here, envoy Dharar A. Razzoqui said that the final report of the UN Commission on the Kuwait-Iraq border demarcation was unanimously adopted by the Security Council in last May.

"The demarcation has been done on the basis of true documents available from the parties concerned", Razzogui said. The special envoy informed

journalists that his country produced relevant documents to the five-member UN Commission to help demarcate the border between the two countries.

All those documents, he said, are related to the Anglo-Turkish treaty of 1913, a map published by Baghdad in 1958 and the Kuwait-Iraq agreed minutes of 1962.

Razzoqui went on to add that in 1932, the then Prime Minister of Iraq also reaffirmed the existing border, based on the Anglo-Turkish treaty of 1913, to be actual demarcation line between the two countries.

He regretted that Iraq, which did not appear before the UN Commission, had been opposing the UN decisions which are "mandatory and obligatory".

He described the Iraqi allegation that the Commission had blocked its sea outlet "as baseless, unjustified and unfounded"

The Kuwaiti envoy said that Iraq would enjoy facilities of a 71-kilometer sea outlet after implementation of the UN resolutions.

Referring to his meeting with Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday morning, Razzogui said that he took the opportunity to explain these aspects of the border demarcation to him. He also delivered a message from his country's First Deputy Prime Minister Al-Sabah Al-Ahmed.

The Kuwaiti envoy expressed gratitude to Bangladesh for extending positive support to his country during the Gulf war. Razzoqui, who flew in here

on Thursday, will leave Dhaka today for several Far-Eastern capitals. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Sceretary Sulaiman Majeed Al-

Shaheen is due to arrive here today on a two-day visit to Shaheen will also carry a

message from the First Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

14 parties

From Page 1 Col 8 timed to coincide with the agitation of the SKOP which is demanding implementation of the accord signed with the government on labour demands last

The 14-party meeting also resolved that the government had resorted to repressive measures against the industrial workers just when people of all walks of life had started showing sympathy for their de-

The joint meeting also obstatements.

The leaders will meet again this afternoon and are likely to decide, among other issues, ways and means of politically combating Golam Azam and his party, a senior AL leader told

Meanwhile, the city Awami

Led by city AL President Mohammad Hanif, the procession chanted slogans against corruption by ministers and demanded trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam as a 'war criminal'

The SKOP has called a 48hour strike and country-wide road-rail barricade beginning from 6 am on July 19.

served that Jamaat leader Golam Azam had already started making objectionable

The Daily Star last night.

League (AL) brought out a torch procession from its central office yesterday evening in support of the eight-hour hartal call for tomorrow.

Sharif refused Friday to dissolve the National Assembly until Ishaq Khan stepped down. He said he was trying to resolve

der Lalbagh thana over estabthe 'artificial crisis' created in lishing domination on the localthe country but vowed not to ity, sources said. succumb to the 'undemocratic pressures', to curtail his fiveyear mandate due to expire in bombs.

and blasted around 20 hand Among the injured Ali Hossain, 50, was admitted to

the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital Besides, at least four persons were injured in another clash between two localities at Golupbagh under Demra thana

From Page 1 Col 5

"Bosnta Week" July 23-30 to raise funds for the besieged Bosnian Muslims, the source

Meanwhile, Prof Azam (72), who was released on Thursday after nearly 16 months of confinement, held informal talks with the central secretariat and the presidium members yester-

Appointments and transfers

The government has trans-

The Director General of the NGO Bureau Faizur Rahman Chowdhury has been transferred as Additional Secretary to the home Ministry, Additional Secretary (OSD), Establishment Anisul Hug Chouddury has been transferred to the Industries Ministry and Additional Secretary (OSD), Establishment

Joint Secretary (OSD) of the Establishment Ministry Khandaker Tajuddin Ahmed has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office as Director General, Joint Secretary (OSD) of Establishment M Azizur Rahman has been transferred to the Health and Family

Zahid Hussain, serving with the ISPR of the Ministry of Defence, and presently working as a Director of the Bangladesh Bank, has been appointed Director General of External Publicity.

smuggled into Malaysia and other neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh.

in 1990, 1978 kg of drugs including 263 kg of heroin were seized at different places in Malaysia by the law enforcing agencies. The amount of recovery, however, reduced in the

Over ten thousand people including 73 foreigners were detained in Malaysia during 1991 for committing drug offences. Among the foreigners 26 were charged under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drug Act from that carries the mandatory death sentence. These foreigners were Indonesia, Iran, Thailand, the Philippines and

Ali, wife of the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, while inaugurating the annual general meeting of the Pemadam in Kuala Lumpur last month, said: "Everyone must get involved in the fight against drugs, which is the nation's number one enemy."

Leader of the Japan New Party Morihiro Hosokawa (C) waves to well-wishers mobbing him during the last campaign rally yesterday for the lower house elections. Voting for Japan's most important elections in 38 years will take place today. - AFP photo Japan's unpredictable polls

From Page 1 Col 4

favouring political reform. The three main opposition parties, who held about 200 seats in the dissolved parliament, sought to change the multiple-seat system to one of proportional representation while the LDP preferred a single-

seat constituency system. Talks for a compromise formula broke down because of stiff opposition by LDP hardliners and parliament was dissolved. The formula would have reduced the number of seats to 500 with the opposition parties offering to set aside 275 scats as single-seat and the rest 225 as proportional representa-

tive constituencies. Under the present multiple: seat system, each constituency is divided into between two and six seats, forcing even LDP candidates to fight against each other. Critics point out that this compels candidates to gather large campaign funds and thus often seek controversial finan-

cial support of businesses. The problem came to the forefront recently after the arrest of Shin Kanemaru, a vice president of the LDP, on tax evasion charges. He was also accused of withholding political funds for his personal use. The recruit 'shares-for-favours' scandal involving LDP politicians earlier last year, too, raised questions about the political system.

Two new political parties were formed last month by dissident LDP members advocating political reform. Ten former LDP members led by Masayoshi

Takemura, who headed the LDP's political reform thinktank, formed a party called the Shinto Sakigake or the New Party Harbinger while Hata formed the Shinseito.

In addition, another political party, the Japan New Party (JNP), was formed last year by Morihiro Hosokawa, a former prefectural governor and upperhouse member. The JNP also favours political reform. The Shinseito has already

initiated talks with other opposition parties about forming a coalition government after the polls. Earlier this month Hata posed in a five-way handshake with leaders of the SDPJ, the Komeito, the DSP and the United Democratic Socialist Party that promised to work together to make him the prime minister in a coalition

government. However, analysts and LDP leaders have expressed their doubt about the effectiveness of such a coalition because of sharp differences concerning foreign and defence policies among them.

Foreign Minister Kabuan Muto boldly predicted that the opposition parties would be unable to form a government after the polls because of the in policy difference. Seiroku Kajiyama, the LDP Secretary General, added: In the medium and long term, a coalition would involve contradictions."

Much about the coalition government depends on how many seats the opposition. parties, including the new ones,

can garner in today's elections but there is a strong indication that I lata would like to be a key-player in the formation of a new government. Moreover, many analysts

also believe that if the LDP can retain even 220 of the 275 seats it held before the lower house was dissolved, it could still form a coalition government of its Surprisingly, election results

earlier this month in Metropolitan Tokyo indicated that the Liberal Democrats are beginning to gain momentum. The LDP gained two seats, up from 42 in the 128-seat civic assembly, while the SDPJ dropped from 32 to 14 seats and the JNP won 20 seats in its first showing.

The LDP campaigners are stressing the importance of experience in government.

"At a time when domestic and international situations are dramatically changing, a stable political force must be at the helm of Japan," declared Prime Minister Miyazawa in a recent campaign pitch. However, in the backdrop of

such unprecedented changes in Japan's political scene, the fate of Prime Minister Miyazawa is also subject to wide-spread speculation. Some political observers are

counting out Miyazawa and are predicting that even if the LDP does get to form the next government it is likely to be headed by another party leader, perhaps by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Tajikistan and denied supplying arms to rebels in the troubled former Soviet republic, the radio said, reports Reuter. Chinton may send troops to help flood victims

ST LOUIS (Missouri), July 17: President Bill Clinton said today he was considering sending federal troops to aid relief efforts in the flood-ravaged midwest. Clinton telephoned a radio station in Quincy, Illinois, from his aircraft while flying to St Louis to visit the area and spoke with governors of states devastated by flooding on the Mississip; i and its tributaries,

14 injured in Ishaq Khan city clashes

reports Reuter.

as saying that the Prime

Minister was insisting that the

President resign first and then

all other matters would be of

LATEST

An announcement late

Saturday night carried by the

official Associated Press of

Pakistan news agency said

Nawaz Sharif would address

the nation over radio and

television tomorrow (Sunday)

Prior to today's talks, Sharif

Waheed put forward his pro-

chaired a lengthy meeting of his

cabinet to discuss the situation,

posals Thursday on the eve of a

"long march" planned for by op-

position factions under the

banner of the All Parties Confe-

The APC had claimed that

Bhutto accepted Waheed's

request to call off the march

amid speculation that the op-

position move might compel the

the opposition alliance after

Bhutto backed down from her

pledge to march on Islamabad

with Fazlur Rehman, chief of

the fundamentalist Jamiat Ule-

ma-e-Islam Party, accusing the

former premier of "sabotaging"

the opposition's battle against

Russia

that Moscow would not crack

under the sustained US pres-

sure but the decision was not

boasted here in January that

Russia was a superpower that

would not brook arm-twisting,

promising a continued com-

mitment to honour the contract.

to Friday's announcement said

Moscow was ready to scrap the

deal if the United States guar-

anteed compensation such as

access to commercial satellite

At a parliamentary panel

meeting here Friday, Foreign

Minister Dinish Singh was at a

loss to respond to Members of

Parliament asking what the

government was doing to ensure

ted Russia's reneging on its

contractual obligation to trans-

fer space technology but em-

phasised that it would cause no

set-back to the country's space

spokesman said it was too early

to say that Moscow's decision

would hit the Indo-Russian re-

by the spokesman significantly

avoided criticism of the United

States for putting pressure on

Moscow to renege on its 1991

The cryogenic engines and

related technology that were to

be supplied to India in terms of

the ISRO-Glavkosmos contract

of January 1991, are meant ex-

clusively for India's civilian

space programme, the state-

The spokesman said though

no formal decision had been

taken India might have discus-

sions with the Russian govern-

ment to deal with the problems

arising out of Moscow's deci-

lations in various fields.

agreement with India.

ment said.

An External Affairs Ministry

A two-page statement issued

PTI adds: India today regret-

launches, and called the con-

But press reports leading up

President Boris Yeltsin

unexpected.

tract off.

the deal

From Page 1 Col 4

Cracks started appearing in

army to impose martial law.

hundreds of thousands would

lay a siege to the capital from

Friday until Sharif announced

evening.

sources said.

rence (APC).

mid-term polls.

'secondary importance'.

From Page 1 Col 5 The Associated Press of By Staff Correspondent Pakistan (APP) quoted sources

> jured in two separate violent clashes at Lalbagh and Demra in the city yesterday afternoon. About 10 persons were injured in about an hour-long gunfight between two unidentified groups at Shahidnagar un-

At least 14 persons were in-

The feuding group fired at least 12 rounds of gunshots

vesterday.

Jamaat Shura

held only 10 days after a scheduled meeting of the body July 7-9. The party will also observe a

day at the central office.

By Staff Correspondent ferred three Additional Secretaries and two Joint Secretaries.

SM Afaz Uddin has been transferred to the Commerce Minis

Welfare Ministry.

Malaysia

From Page 1 Col 5

Pemadam statistics say that following years.

Myanmar. Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed