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## Notice

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains 2 pages of the Rajshahi Board SSC Exam results. Therefore, the regular National and Feature pages have been dropped.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Khaleda, Hasina greet Hosokawa

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated newly-elected Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. In separate messages, they hoped that the existing friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh would be further extended, reports UNB.

### UP Chairman held in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent  
NETRAKONA, Aug 7: Police today arrested an absconding Union Parishad Chairman on charge of murder and recovered a revolver from his possession. Police officials of Sadar thana said that they had arrested Sohrab Hossain, Chairman of the Kailati Union Parishad, from the Sakua village and recovered a revolver with two rounds of bullets.

### SPGRC starts 48-hr hunger strike today

By Staff Correspondent  
Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) starts a 48-hour token hunger strike this morning in front of the National Press Club demanding implementation of its four-point demands, a press release says.

### Army team off to Mogadishu

The third and last batch of the infantry battalion of the Bangladesh Army left Dhaka for Mogadishu yesterday to join the United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM). The team is led by Colonel Faruque Ashfaq, says an ISPR press release.

## Foreign exchange regime further liberalised Banking hrs extended

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday announced a series of steps aimed at promoting inter-bank foreign exchange transactions and also extended the normal banking time by two hours starting from today.

The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting presided over by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the Bangladesh Bank. It was also attended by the Governor of the central bank, the Secretary, Ministry of Finance and other senior officials of both the bank and the ministry as well as prominent officials of the commercial banks.

According to a statement from the central bank, starting today the banking hours for public transactions will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on all weekdays except Thursday. On Thursday, banks will transact business from 9:00 am to 12:00

noon. The foreign exchange regime has been liberalised further to make the Taka convertible.

Henceforth, the Bangladesh Bank will no longer determine the retail rates at which the authorised dealers sell and buy foreign currency and from the public. The rates will now be fixed by the authorised dealers themselves.

The holding limits of foreign exchange of the authorised dealers was increased to 20 per cent, from the existing limit of 15 per cent, of the outstanding letters of credit (L/C) liabilities.

The bank also increased the spread between the buying and selling rates of foreign exchange to and from the authorised dealers, from Tk 0.10 to Tk 0.20. This was done, the bank statement added, to activate the inter-bank foreign exchange transactions.

Furthermore, to develop the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the "Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association" was formed by the authorised dealers. The bank will formulate a code of conduct for the dealers and for the efficient management of the association.

The Bangladesh Bank from now on will not buy from the authorised dealers any amount below 50,000 US dollars. This is being done, the statement said, to promote competitive inter-bank foreign exchange transactions. The Bank will buy only multiples of US dollar 10,000, for example, US \$ 60,000, 70,000 and so on.

The Bangladesh Bank will not extend any forward cover facility to the authorised dealers against any foreign currency. The authorised dealers shall be free to take counter-cover

See Page 12 Col 6

## 60.78 pc pass RB SSC exams Pabna Cadet College bags 17 top places

By Staff Correspondent

Examinees of the Pabna Cadet College (PCC) bagged 17 out of the top 20 places in the combined merit list in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations, 1993 of the Rajshahi Board.

The PCC cadets also captured the top five positions in the examinations. It may be recalled that the students of the Government Laboratory High School, Dhaka achieved an identical result in the SSC Examinations of the Dhaka Board, capturing 17 out of 20 in the merit list and the top five places.

An entry of 88,281 students out of the total 1,45,229 Rajshahi Board examinees came out successful. The percentage of pass is 60.78.

Among the successful students, 37,994 passed in the First Division, 42,488 in the Second Division while 7849 got the Third Division.

Njoy Rahman of the Pabna Cadet College topped the combined merit list from the Science Group scoring 920 marks. He received letter marks in all seven subjects.

His schoolmate Md. Ariful Islam topped the Social Science Group securing 888 marks. Khandaker Masud Parvez, also of the PCC, stood second while Syed Sajjad Hossain stood third in the Science Group.

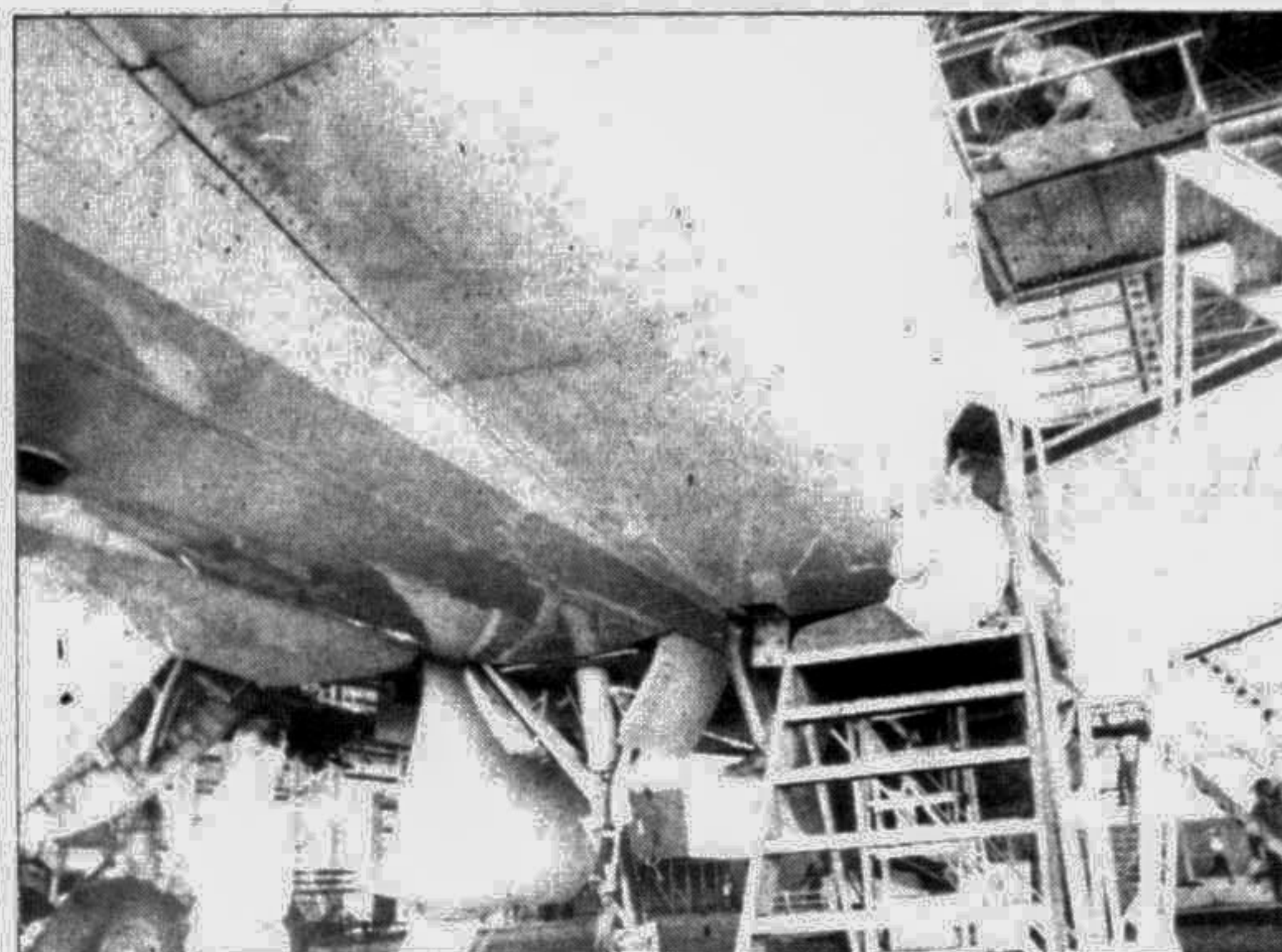
Shahana Sultana of Thakurgaon Government Girls' High School and Samia Ferdous of Government P.N. Girls' High School, Rajshahi stood second and third respectively in the Social Sciences Group.

## The combined merit list

By Staff Correspondent

1. Njoy Rahman roll no. Pab (Cadet) 2. Pabna Cadet College, total marks 920. 2. Khandaker Masud Parvez, roll no. Pab (Cadet) 5, Pabna Cadet College (919). 3. Syed Sazzad Hossain roll no. Pab (Cadet) 20, Pabna Cadet College (915) 4. Shah Zulfikar Ali, roll no. Pab (Cadet) 4, Pabna Cadet College (914). 5. Suman Chandra Roy, roll no. Rang (Cant) 1, Cantonment Public School and College, Rangpur (910). 6. S.M. Rajib Aman Rana, roll no. Pab (Cadet) 8, Pabna Cadet College (906). 7. Sadia Sultana, roll no. Bog-Ma-496, Bogra Government Girls High School (900). 8. Nilotpal Roy, roll no. Raj-1, Rajshahi Collegiate School, Md Mahubul Hasan roll no. Pab (Cadet) 14, Pabna Cadet College and Md Zakir Hossain roll no. Pab (Cadet) 38, Pabna Cadet College (899 each). 9. Md Azharul Islam, roll no. Pab

See Page 12 Col 8



Engineers of McDonnell Douglas Corporation yesterday repairing the damaged DC-10 aircraft at the Biman's hangar at the Zia International Airport. —Star photo

## Repair work of Biman's DC-10 to take 18 weeks

By A K M Mohsin

Repair work of Biman's damaged DC-10 aircraft, which began here last week, will take about 18 weeks for completion, according to a Biman maintenance department source on Saturday.

Seven engineers of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC), the manufacturers, undertook the preparatory work on August 4. After evaluation, the team estimated that it would take at least 18 weeks to complete the work, the source added.

Meanwhile, two of the damaged engines of the aircraft were sent to Italy last month for repair and overhauling.

Another group of 40 engineers and technicians of MDC is expected to arrive in the capital within a week with a plane load of various repair equipment. See Page 12 Col 7

## Salam Talukder may quit as BNP Secy-Gen

By Asiuazzaman

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder is likely to relinquish his position as the Secretary General of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) during the forthcoming National Council early next month, a senior leader hinted yesterday.

"Of late he has been complaining about his health to his cabinet and party colleagues. Talukder, who has a heart condition, may request the BNP chairperson to relieve him of the party post," the source, head of a council preparatory sub-committee, told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Salam Talukder has been holding the key-post for over six years.

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Salam Talukder was unavailable for comment because he is out of the country. See Page 12 Col 7

"There is still enough time to take a decision on this and the party has enough capable leaders to fill the position," the BNP leader said, adding that "However, as per the party constitution, it is the prerogative of the chairperson to take the final decision."

The council, on September 1-2, will be the fourth in the history of the 15-year old party which will also observe its founding anniversary on the opening day.

Under the party constitution, some 2017 councillors would only elect the chairman who will later select his/her party colleagues for different posts.

The sources declined to name the persons in the running for the SG's post, but other party sources speculated Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah — presently See Page 12 Col 7

## JU incident FBUTA observes token strike today

By JU Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) will observe a token-strike in the universities of the country today protesting the terrorist acts at Jahangirnagar University on July 29.

Teachers will bring out silent procession, wear black badges and hold meetings at their respective institutions to protest the attack on JU teachers and to reiterate their demand for punishment of those involved.

The JU authority has already lodged criminal cases against 21 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activities for the attack on teachers.

The teachers came under attack when a militant procession under the banner of the 'General Students Council' raided the JU Teachers' and Officers Club demanding withdrawal of expulsion order against a JCD member.

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association will hold a rally at the Social Science Faculty premises at 11 am today.

Our DU Correspondent adds: The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), in solidarity with the FBUTA programme, will organise a rally near the 'Aparajeeo Bangla' statue.

Meanwhile UNB adds: The Jahangirnagar University unit of Ganotatrik Chhatra Otkyo See Page 12 Col 3

## Hasina warns against anti-AL move

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday hit out at those trying to harm her party by dividing the pro-liberation forces.

In an oblique reference to a current move by Dr Kamal Hussain and several 'like-minded' parties like the CPB (reformists), NAP and the Ganatantri Party to float a new party — which they hope would emerge as a third forum in the country's politics — Sheikh Hasina said, "This was all part of a conspiracy."

The Awami League chief warned that this so-called 'third force' will only strengthen the hands of the forces opposed to

independence and democracy.

She was addressing a group of some 5000 local leaders and workers of different political parties as well as social activists from Bakerganj thana, led by Syed Masud Reza, a freedom fighter and industrialist, who formally joined the Awami League yesterday.

The Opposition leader in Parliament said the AL had faced all conspiracies against it in the past and was ready to undo such intrigues along with its pro-liberation allies.

The AL leader also called for a greater unity of those who desired the rule of law and in- See Page 12 Col 1

## PM's surprise visit to a pry school

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday paid a surprise visit to a 63-year-old government primary school on the outskirts of the capital to see for herself the running of the institution, reports BSS.

Begum Zia's unscheduled visit to the Azampur Government Primary School near Tong yesterday morning overwhelmed the students and the teachers.

She checked the attendance of the students and enquired about the progress of their studies and the problems encountered by them.

Begum Zia mixed with the young students of the school, established in 1930. She talked with the students of different classes and asked them various questions to test their knowledge.

Shuktara, a student of Class Two, when questioned by the Prime Minister promptly re- See Page 12 Col 5

## Shibir-BCL clash Dagonbhuiyan College closed sine die

FENI, Aug 7: Dagonbhuiyan Iqbal Memorial College was closed sine die today after a clash between two rival student groups that left 20 people injured, including Principal and two teachers of the college, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash ensued at about 10 am following an altercation between supporters of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

BCL supporters chased the Shibir activists to the Principal's office. Principal Ansar Ali, two other teachers and two activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were injured in the melee.

Both the student groups used sticks, stones and 'Kirich', and blasted cocktails during the three and a half hours violence. Riot police from Feni brought the situation under control at about 3 pm.

Four Shibir workers and two JCD activists were rushed to the Feni Sadar Hospital with serious wounds.

## Shevardnadze takes over as PM

TBILISI (Georgia), Aug 7: Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze concentrated power over his strife-torn Transcaucasian state in his own hands on Friday by taking over as temporary Prime Minister, reports Reuter.

Premier Tengiz Sigua earlier announced his government's resignation, a move swiftly approved by a parliament clamouring for its dismissal at a stormy session of the legislature.

Shevardnadze, in a characteristically doom-laden warning, told deputies Georgia's very existence was threatened unless power was centralised and an emergency regime brought in.



Cars and vans are left in the mud following heavy landslides caused by a storm which hit southern Kyushu island, Japan, yesterday. —AFP photo

## Floods, landslides kill 40 in Japan

TOKYO, Aug 7: At least 40 people were dead and 25 others missing after torrential rains triggered flash floods and landslides in southwestern Japan Friday, police reported Saturday, reports AP.

Police in Kagoshima prefecture, or state, said 22 others were injured, one of them a woman rescued Friday afternoon from her car trapped under tons of mud in a landslide 16 hours earlier.

Police said hardest hit was the prefectural capital of Kagoshima City, about 1,000 kilometres (625 miles) southwest of Tokyo, where 259.5 millimetres (10.2 inches) of rain fell

on Friday alone. That exceeded the city's previous record rainfall of 216.8 millimetres (8.5 inches) in a day, on Aug 8, 1943.

Officials said death toll was expected to swell as thousands of police, firefighters and army troops dug through huge piles of mud and debris at dozens of sites in and around Kagoshima.

The city of 1.75 million people is on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. Kyushu is vulnerable to strong storms and typhoons often accompanying heavy rains between July and September.

Kagoshima is in the same area where a total of 30 people

were killed in storms, landslides and other flood-related accidents Sunday and Monday.

No immediate relief was in sight, forecasters said. Robyn, or the seventh typhoon spawned in the Pacific this year, was approaching Kyushu, expected to dump heavy rains Sunday and Monday, they said.

Up to 206 millimetres (8.1 inches) of torrential rain in four hours Friday afternoon and evening triggered the floods and mudslides, throwing more than a dozen cars and trucks from coastal roads into Kagoshima Bay and crushing or inundating hundreds of homes and buildings, said a police spokesman.

## US links air strikes to Bosnia's return to talks

WASHINGTON, Aug 7: The United States wants Bosnia's president to know air strikes against his Serbian foes are unlikely unless he returns to the negotiating table, a White House official says, reports AP.

The Republican opposition leader of the US Senate, Bob Dole, however, bluntly attacked the Geneva negotiations over former Yugoslavia and urged President Clinton to 'rethink his position ... and to commit the United States to supporting only a settlement that does not reward aggression and genocide of the Serbs.

This is not just Bosnia's last chance, but the international

community's last chance to do what is right — to prevent the fall and partition of Bosnia," Dole said in a Friday statement.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic pulled out of the Geneva talks this week to protest Serb offensives around Sarajevo, his capital.

Our position is that use of forceful action is designed to encourage negotiations in Geneva, to relieve the humanitarian deterioration in Sarajevo and to end the strangulation," a White House foreign policy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Thursday night.

NATO earlier this week threatened to bomb Serb positions around Sarajevo.

The administration official who spoke anonymously in Washington said the Bosnians were told Thursday that if Izetbegovic is seen as holding up the peace process, the air strikes would be less likely to occur.

The Serbs promised Thursday to end their siege on Sarajevo. Although the United States is skeptical of the Serbian promise, officials warned Izetbegovic that his absence at Geneva could make it look like his government — not the Serbs — are an obstacle to peace.

Dole charged that Geneva negotiators David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg "are merely facilitators of Bosnian surrender ... their solution to silencing the guns around Sarajevo is to give the aggressors what they want. This is not a negotiation."

The senator added Owen and Stoltenberg "should take a long vacation" to review UN resolutions upholding the integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and "their own earlier statements against partition and dismemberment."

Top US and NATO officials sent a strong signal Friday to Bosnia's Serbs to halt their siege of Sarajevo or face swift

military action. "The military operation is ready," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Christopher flew to an US Air Force base in Italy, for a briefing by NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner and US Gen John Shalikshvili, the alliance's top military commander.

At a news conference afterward, Woerner said a final decision on military plans will be made by the 16 allies next week. The NATO military committee will meet Saturday and the alliance's governing body in Brussels will review plans on See Page 12 Col 8

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