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# The Daily Star

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## Inside Today Article

### Is Bush Being 'Gorbachevised'?

Like the Soviet President who is acclaimed abroad but hugely unpopular at home, US President George Bush is finding that his foreign policy triumphs could actually work against him  
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## International



Gorbachev won't be in politics, plans charity work, says Yeltsin  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Comilla Board HSC results tomorrow

COMILLA, Dec 19: The results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examination, 1991 under the Comilla Board of Education will be published tomorrow (Saturday) official sources said. Board Chairman Prof Md Abdul Aziz informed the Deputy Commissioner that the results would be made available to his office on that day for distribution, reports UNB.

### \$28.8 m ADB loan

MANILA, Dec 19: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 28.8 million dollar loan for a cyclone-damaged road reconstruction project in Bangladesh, a bank statement said here today. The interest-free loan is to be repaid in 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, with an annual service charge of one per cent, reports AFP.

### BNP chairman election Jan 7

A meeting of the BNP Election Commission held in the city Thursday fixed January seven next year as the date for election of the chairperson of BNP, reports BSS.

### Ration shop holiday

All ration and employers shops in the city will remain closed on December 25 on the occasion of Christmas Day, said an official handout Thursday. The shops will, however, remain open on weekdays, reports UNB.

## Gorbachev decides his destiny this weekend

MOSCOW, Dec 19: Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said in an interview published Thursday that he will 'decide his destiny' after a weekend meeting of republics. An aide denied another report that he has already drawn up his resignation.

Russian President Boris N Yeltsin said before leaving for Rome on Thursday that "for all practical purposes" Gorbachev has no future role in the leadership. The current Soviet government is to be disbanded by the end of the month.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta (the Independent Newspaper) said Gorbachev has written a presidential decree on his resignation, but left the date open. Quoting unidentified sources, it said Gorbachev might issue the decree Saturday, after republic leaders meet in Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, to endorse the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

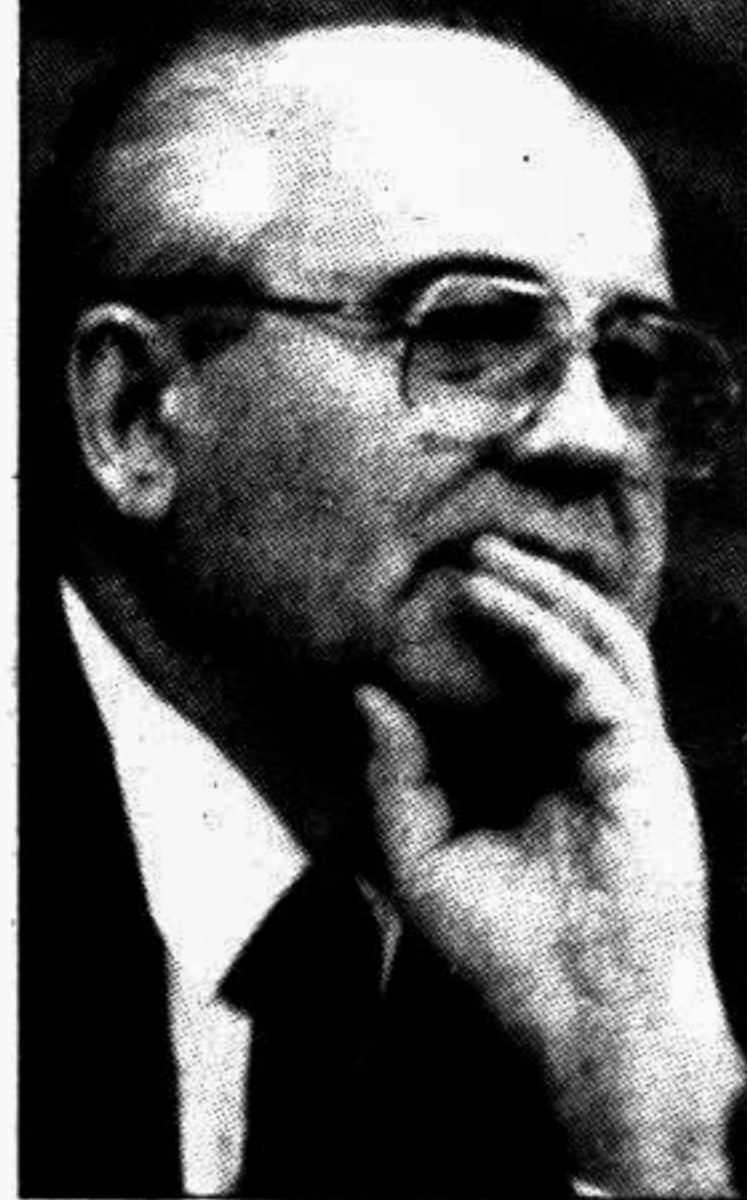
The newspaper has frequently obtained internal government documents that proved legitimate. But Gorbachev's deputy press spokesman denied its report.

"No document of the kind exists," Alexander Likhotal told The Associated Press. "We have made inquiry across all Gorbachev's inner circle and nobody could guess the possible source of the information."

Gorbachev was quoted as telling Komсомolskaya Pravda, the former Communist Party youth newspaper, on Thursday: "I shall decide my destiny after the Alma-Ata meeting." Gorbachev has not been in-

vised to the meeting but is sending messages to all the republic leaders in attendance asking that they clarify their positions on the commonwealth and its new government structures.

The Soviet leader reiterated



Gorbachev in pensive mood

MOSCOW, Dec 19: Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued decrees taking over the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev's staff, and all other Soviet organs except the ministries of defense and nuclear energy, the Interfax news agency reported Thursday, reports AP.

his call for the moribund national legislature, the Supreme Soviet, to meet one last time to "say the final word" on the country's political future.

He also raised the possibility of a referendum on the new commonwealth, although it was unlikely he could find any-

one to organize it.

Yeltsin told Italian television on Wednesday that as far as the Soviet government is concerned, "every thing ceases" by the end of December. He said the planned to sign, decrees disbanding the Soviet interior and foreign ministries. His Russian government has already cut off their funds and has claimed control over all Foreign Ministry property, including foreign embassies.

The Interior Ministry controls police and riot troops, while the Foreign Ministry is responsible for relations with other countries. Most of their functions are expected to be taken over by Yeltsin's Russian Federation, which as the largest and richest of the 12 remaining republics saved the central government from bankruptcy in recent weeks.

But other republics also may establish their own diplomatic posts and police forces after the Soviet Union is transformed into a loose commonwealth of independent states.

Yeltsin said Gorbachev plans

to devote himself to charity work.

"He said he wouldn't be in any political activity," Yeltsin told Italy's RAI TV network. "It's his choice, not ours."

Yeltsin's two-day visit to Rome, which was to include

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## People, Army should unite to build defence system: PM

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the people and the Army should be integrated together in the national defence system so that the whole nation could protect country's independence and sovereignty during the need of the hour, reports BSS.

The people from all walks of life and the army have to work unitedly to protect and build the country," she said.

Begum Zia was speaking at the President's Parade to mark the commissioning of the 25th Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) long course at the Academy Parade Ground here this morning.

She said, "We can not depend on others to protect our national independence and sovereignty, adding, 'we have to ensure our own sovereignty'.

Describing the Army as the product of the great Liberation War, the Prime Minister said, 'we have to build it as more ef-

ficient and skilled one.'

Begum Zia said "our well organised and well disciplined Armed Forces is our pride."

The Prime Minister lauded the role of the Armed Forces in country's transition to democracy and said they have earned people's love and respect.

She said the Armed Forces also played memorable role during the national crisis particularly during the time of cyclone, tidal bore, floods and epidemic.

Begum Zia said in the international arena our Army have enhanced the prestige of the country through their services. In this regard, she referred to their role during the Iran-Iraq war, Namibia's independence and also in protecting the holy place of Islam during the Gulf War. "Our army is presently contributing in the rebuilding of Kuwait," she added.

The Prime Minister reminded the cadets that they should

keep professional necessity above their personal demand.

We have to make efforts to increase national resources and make optimum utilisation of the available resources, she added.

The Prime Minister said that late President Ziaur Rahman was first to realise the necessity of building up a modern army.

She also recalled that Zia had given the national standard at the conclusion of first BMA course to the BMA 12 years back.

Begum Zia urged the newly commissioned officers to remain ever vigilant to protect the motherland from any external aggressive forces. You must know that the Armed Forces is the symbol of our national independence and sovereignty," she said.

The Prime Minister appreciated the standard of the Academy where she said cadets from some friendly coun-

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## EPI phenomenally successful in Bangladesh: UNICEF

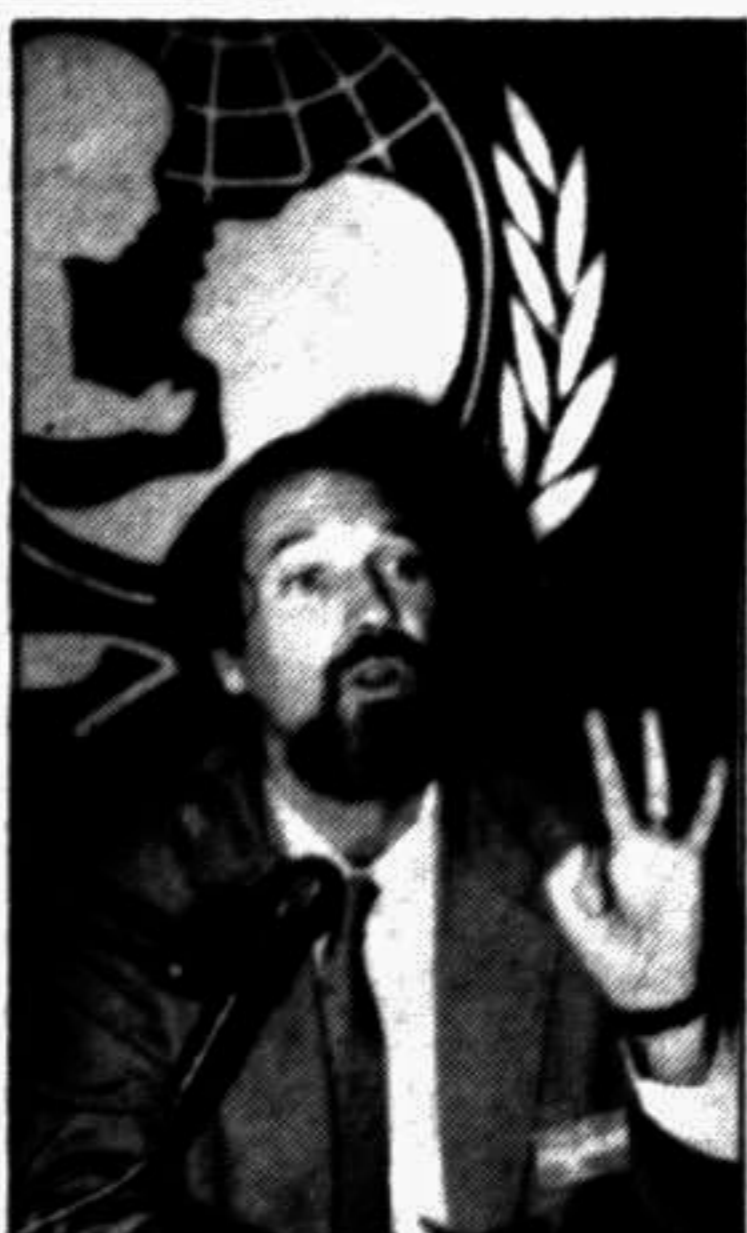
By Staff Correspondent

Rajshahi division has achieved the UNICEF-sponsored Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI) target in the current year.

Briefing newsmen on the report on the State of the World's Children (SWC) 1992, at a local hotel Thursday, UNICEF Country Representative Cole P. Dodge pointed out that the EPI programme in Bangladesh achieved "phenomenal success" in recent years.

The report simultaneously released around the world on

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Cole P. Dodge talking to newsmen. —Star photo

## Bangladesh ranks 23rd in USMR

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh is ranked twenty-third among the 38 nations identified as having a very high under-five mortality rate (USMR) in the just published UNICEF State of the World's Children (SWC) Report.

The USMR in the country is 180 per thousand. However, the infant mortality rate under the age of one has decreased from 156 per thousand in 1960 to 114 in 1990.

According to the report, the percentage of infants with low birth-weight in the country is 47 per cent. Sixty-six per cent of the children between the age of one month to four years are moderate to

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## Anti-smuggling drive from Jan 1

The Government has decided to gear up anti-smuggling drive throughout the country from January 1 for checking smuggling, the main hindrance to industrialisation and economic development of the country, reports BSS.

The drive would be geared up on land, air routes and waterways throughout the country and it would be conducted in markets and shops in the cities as towns at the same time.

At the initial stage, the Government has decided to

begin the drive in the markets and shops from January 1 for recovering 29 listed items which are banned, not saleable and generally smuggled.

The decision was taken after several rounds of talks with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Dhaka City Central Market Convening Committee, Bangladesh Shopowners Associations Federation, Islampur Cloth Owners Association, Bangladesh Textile Mill Owners

Association and other leaders of traders associations and representatives of concerned government agencies and departments connected with anti-smuggling drive at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Earlier, the government had announced to start of anti-smuggling drive from December 1, but the traders appealed to the government to defer by raising some realistic reasons in regards to the drive.

During the discussion the government assured the traders of its efforts for realistic solution to the problems raised by them. On the request of the traders the decision for beginning anti-smuggling drive at markets and shops from January 1 was taken.

See Page 12 Col. 8



Pressure on BRTC buses increased yesterday as private transport owners enforced a strike. —Star photo

## Transport strike disrupts city life

By Staff Correspondent

A 12-hour country-wide down-to-dusk transport strike yesterday put thousands of commuters to immense hardship.

The transport owners called the strike for realisation of the 19-point demand that included reduction in the fuel price raised during the Gulf War, assurance of protection from mastans (illegally collecting tolls from the owners and cancellation of new tax and fee collection system.

Normal life in Dhaka was disrupted as buses and minibuses went off the roads, compelling many people to walk down to their offices. The inter-district transport service from Ghabali, Sayedabad, Mahakhali, Gulistan and Fulbaria bus terminals had to be suspended due to strike.

A K Jinal Abedin, Executive President of the Transport Owners' Association, told the Daily Star that the strike was peaceful and compete. In the city, a few BRTC buses plied

See Page 12 Col. 1

## Deadlock in SKOP-govt talks persists Jute, textile workers withdraw programme

By Nurul Kabir

The workers of both the jute and textile sectors have called off their proposed three-day-long road and rail barricade programme following the signing of two separate agreements between the concerned parties yesterday.

The Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and the Cot'op and Textile Workers' Federation jointly announced the barricade programme last month to press home their 8-point and 6-point charters of demand respectively and the barricade was scheduled to begin from December 22.

After a series of separate tripartite negotiations involving the concerned workers' leaders, government officials, the ministers during the last week, the parties yesterday reached consensus on almost all the major points of workers' demands and signed two

separate tripartite agreements.

The agreement among the jute mills workers, BJMC and the government was signed yesterday afternoon. Among others, Abul Basher of Jatiya Sramik Federation, MAR Talukder and Jute Minister Brig Hannan Shah (ret'd) represented the jute mill workers, BJMC and the government respectively. The other agreement among the textile mill workers, BTMC and the government was signed last night. Among others, Iqbal Majumder, BJMC Chairman and Textile Minister Major Abdul Mannan (ret'd) respectively represented the textile mill workers, BTMC and the government.

According to the agreement among the jute mill workers, BJMC and the government, the government will not go for further disinvestment in the

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## SAARC summit: Khaleda leaves for Colombo today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka today (Friday) to lead the country's delegation to the 6th SAARC summit due in Colombo Saturday, reports UNB.

The one-day summit will be followed by signing of the "Colombo Declaration" which is expected to give the Association stronger institutional shape and making it more dynamic.

The Colombo summit is likely to give priority to the poverty alleviation, eradication of illiteracy, women's development and to promote the socio-economic conditions of about one billion people in the region.

It will determine new "Action Programme" considering the changed global scenario, particularly in Europe.

## Bangladesh-UAE joint commission meet begins in city tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The second Bangladesh-UAE Joint Commission meeting begins Saturday in the city to discuss bilateral relations.

The meeting, to be held after more than a ten-year pause, is expected to review all aspects of bilateral relations and explore more areas of co-operation.

A 15-member delegation led by the chief of Economic Relations and International Cooperation Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UAE, Muhammad Khalifa bin Yousuf al Soreidi arrives today in Dhaka.

Acting Foreign Secretary, Faruq Sobhan will lead the Bangladesh side.

## Ministers banned from campaigning in Bakerganj-5

The government has imposed restriction on ministers from campaigning in Bakerganj-5 parliamentary constituency ahead of the December 21 by-election, reports UNB.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf told UNB today that two ministers, who were engaged in campaigns in the constituency, were asked to withdraw following complaints that their presence in the area might influence the polls.

The Home Minister informed us this morning that the government decided to withdraw the minister, Justice Rauf said.

Earlier, during a visit to the constituency Wednesday, the Chief Election Commissioner had observed that presence of government ministers was not appreciable at the time of hustings.

## Writs challenging UZ Ordinance dismissed

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The Writ Petitions challenging the Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganisation) (Repeal) Ordinance 1991; Ordinance No. 37 of 1991 were dismissed Thursday.

A Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed dismissed 4 Writ petitions.

Both the Judges delivered different judgements giving different reasonings for their decision to dismiss the Writs. They, however, issued certificate under Article 103(2) (a) of the Constitution to the ef-

fect that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution.

Justice Abdul Jalil found inter alia that Article 9 of the Constitution is not enforceable in any court of law since it is one of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy under part II of the Constitution. While Justice Naimuddin Ahmed found inter alia that there is nothing on record to show that the upazila system was an administrative unit within the meaning of Article 9 of the Constitution.

See Page 12 Col. 8

## Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most suitable Commercial-cum-Residential Plot No-60, Sector No-3 of Uttara, measuring 384.81 Sq. Metre (5 Kathas 12 Chattaks) will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Sonali Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 200/- (Taka two hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from intending bidders up to 1.00 PM of 1-1-92.

The auction will be held on 2-1-92 in the 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman  
 DFP (C) 15264-14/12 Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha,  
 Dhaka.  
 C-1091