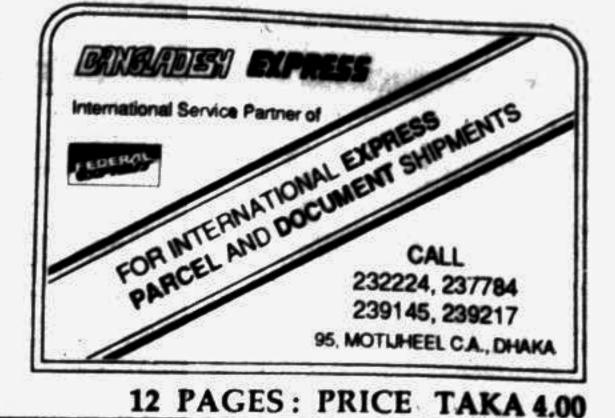
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JAMADIUS SANI 17, 1412 HIJRI



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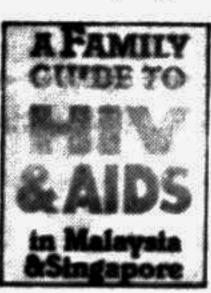
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Dhaka Day by Day



Chin Saik Yoon, who owns a publishing company in Penang, has some fascinating stories to tell Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Tk 99 cr French grant France has agreed to extend

a grant of 145 million French franc (Tk 98.90 crore approx imately) to finance a few projects which include Emergency Water Supply Project for Dhaka , City Procurement of Cranes for the Railway and the Establishment of TV stations at Chittagong and 3 other places, says an official handout.

Tension grips Naikhyanchhari: Further attack feared

Burma coldshoulders offer for flag meeting

By Staff Correspondent

Tension prevailed along the Mayanmar border Monday as hundreds of families were fleeing the frontier areas of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts fearing further attack from the Burmese troops.

The 37th battalion of BDR proposed a flag meeting with the Burmese force but no response was received, according to officials.

According to reports received in Dhaka farming activi-

ties came to a complete halt as people from Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban district and Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar district began descriing their homesteads in the face of threats of further attack and troops mobilisation across the

POUSH 9, 1398 BS,

The Burmese military have reportedly mobilised troops and amassed huge amount of weapons in two bordering townships in Burma.

Tension soared along the border since Friday after Burmese border guards in a surprise attack killed two Bangladeshi nationals including a BDR personnel and injured 22 others.

The invading troops also looted the border outpost at Rijupara village of Naikhyangchhari upazila and took away six Chinese rifles, one light machine gun, one sub machine gun and huge quantity

of ammunition, according to

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent reports: Farming activities including rice harvesting, bamboo cutting in the Cox's Bazar district and "jhum cultivation" in the hilly areas of Bandarban district remained suspended as people evacuated their homesteads along the border fearing further attack.

Local people said Burmese See Page 12 Col 8

Strike leaves Ctg Port shut for second day

From Staff Correspondent

All parties suspend

activities in Sylhet

CHITTAGONG, Dec 23: The Chittagong Port remained inoperative for the second day, Monday because of stevedores' work stoppage which coincided with the truck drivers' strike.

The stevedores went on work stoppage complaining that a large number of dockworkers, employed by the Stevedores Association, were working at their whims, which was causing the association huge financial losses. The truck drivers have been con-

SYLHET, Dec 23 : An all-

party meeting today decided to

suspend all political activities

in the town for a week from

tomorrow to defuse tension

mounting over the killing of of

A consensus on the morato-

a student leader, reports UNB.

rium was reached at the meet-

ing of representatives from po-

litical parties, administration

and various professionals in-

cluding lawyers, teachers and

convened the meeting in view

of the prevailing tension

sparked in the town following

the killing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal leader Mahbub Alam in a

series of clashes between ac-

tivists of the ruling BNP and

the opposition Awami League

than 20 people injured.

almost every day that left more

groups attacked a Juba League

clash with a rival group on

Since then, the town saw

The Deputy Commissioner

businessmen.

December 15.

tinuing their strike since December 15, demanding their appointment letters.

A total of 14 ships in and outer anchors remained stranded since the starting of work stoppage early Sunday, port authority sources said adding that attempts of negotiation were on to resolve the

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce president engineer Ali Ahmed in a statement urged the authorities to take See Page 12 Col 7

leader, Juel Ahmed, at

Jindabazar Sunday night, injur-

also constituted at today's

meeting with an elderly

politician of the town, Abdul

Hamid, of Ganatantri Party as

convenor to enforce the

Sylhet unit Advocate Lutfar

Rahman and district Awami

League President Advocate Abu

Acting President of BNP

temporary taboo on politics.

A liaison committee was

ing him seriously.

Traders flout baby food ordinance

By Staff Correspondent

Almost all the baby food businessmen have been violating the Breast Milk Substitute Ordinance due to lack of initiative to implement the rules, Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said Monday.

The CAB recently conducted a survey on 44 brands of powdered milk available in the market and found that 84.09 per cent of these brands do not bear any label about the superiority of breast milk. which is a must according to

More than 54 per cent did not mention that powder milk Sec Page 12 Col 5

Bhandaria Govt College closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA.

Bhandaria Government College in Barisal was closed sine die today following a clash between BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League

other to BCL (S-A). Supporter of both the stu-

dent groups exploded at least

The clash ensued when

Campus sources said, both

JCD and BCL (S-A) brought out

separate processions in the

college compound on the oc-

casion of the course-ending

ceremony of the final year

students of the college in the

morning, which at one stage

turned into a clash.

Nasar were made joint con-The meeting also decided

Three students were inured in the clash, of which two belong to JCD and the

10 crackers during the clash. to hold a peace procession in a provocative slogans were couple of days. chanted from processions of the two rival student organisa-

Presided over by DC Abdus Shahid, the meeting was addressed, among others, by BNP leaders Advocate Lutfar Rahman and Advocate Abdul Gaffar, Awami League leader Advocate Abu Nasar and Iftekhar Hossain Shamim and President of the Sylhet In the latest trouble, rival + Chamber of Commerce and Industry MA Munim.

Shantibahini men kidnap three, torch market

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 23: The Shantibahini men kidnapped three people including an engineer and torched a market in Kaokhali Upazila of Rangamati district in two separate incidents late Sunday and carly today.

The armed Shantibahini men numbering about 40 stormed the Azam Market at the Kaokhali Upazila headquarters early Monday and demanded toll.

As the businessmen refusedto pay the money, the agitating armed men set at least 50

shops of the market ablaze. In a separate incident last Sunday the armed Shantibahini

men kidnapped an engineer and two wood cutters from Bulu village, about 5 km away from Kaokhali Upazila Sadar:



Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts brought out a procession yesterday to mark its 30th founding anniversary.

-Star photo

Accord eludes SKOP leaders

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the government and the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) is yet to be signed although it was scheduled to be done on Saturday

The SKOP postponed its proposed 48-hour work stoppage late Friday night on the government's assurance that a MOU on the basis of already agreed points of and approach to the SKOP's 5-point charter of demands would be signed the next morning.

But the MOU could not be signed, according to sources close to SKOP, due to the unavailability of Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the scheduled time. The minister was not also available last night for comment in this regard. According to the under-

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Cum-Residential Corner Plot No. 17 by

the side of Dhaka Mymensingh Main

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Dhaka measuring 685.97 Sqr. metre (10

kathas 4 Chhataks) having wide road

facilities on three sides, will be allotted

obtained with terms and conditions

from Sonali Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch,

Dhaka on payment of Tk. 200/- (Taka

two hundred) only in cash (non-re-

fundable) and will be received by the

Deputy Director (Estates) from intend-

the conference room of the 3rd. floor of

The auction will be held on 9.1.92 in

CHAIRMAN,

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha,

Dhaka.

ing bidders upto 1.00 P.M. on 8.1.92.

Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 A.M.

DFP (C) 15637-21/12

Application on prescribed form to be

for 99 years lease, on open auction.

By Nurul Kabir

standing between the government and the SKOP, both the parties would settle disputes on all the issues of the SKOP's five-point charger of demands within three weeks from December 24. Under the MOU to be

signed, the government must announce a wage commission within a week from December 21. This still-to-be-announced commission according to the understanding, is supposed to announce the figure of minimum wages for the public sector industrial workers within two months from the date of its formation while it will submit its full reports within four months.

The wages commission, according to the understanding, will ask the owners of private sector industries to reorganise the salary structure of their units in keeping with that of

the government one. The wages commission

award is to be implemented with effect from July 1991 According to the understand ing, the government will pay every public sector worker twenty per cent of his or her basic salary in advance as an interim relief. This money will be deducted from the salaries of the workers in installments after the wages commission award is imple

According to sources, two SKOP leaders - Nazrul Islam Khan or ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and Abdus Salam Khan of CPB backed Trade Union Centre (TUC) - went to the Labour Ministry yesterday morning to have the signature of the Labour Minister on the final draft of the MOU but they re-See Page 12 Col 6

Retrieve and nourish heritage: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the cultural workers to utilise their talents and labour for the healthy growth of our own culture, reports BSS. Begum Zia was inaugurating

a nine-day-long function organised by the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) to mark its completion of three decades, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium here. State Minister for Cultural

Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, president and general secretary of BAFA Mahmud Nurul Huda and Amanullah Chowdhury also spoke on the

Describing culture as the main element of national identity, the Prime Minister said See Page 12 Col 7

UAE wants Dhaka in its market The United Arab Emirates desh exportables could be

(UAE) would welcome increased imports from Bangladesh to its "open market" and thereby help reduce the existing trade gap between the two countries, reports BSS. Apart from narrowing down

the trade gap the "open market" could also serve as selling centre of Bangladesh products for the countries of the Gulf region, head of the Department of Economic Relations and International Cooperation of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mohammed Khalifa Bin Yousuf Al-Sowedi said here Monday

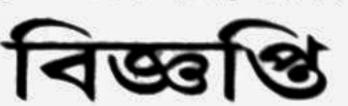
Talking to BSS, Sowedi, who led his country's delegation to the just-concluded second meeting of the Joint Commission of the two countrics, suggested that Banglachanneled to the Gulf countries through the free port of Dubai which is also the largest commercial centre of the GCC (Gulf Coordination Council) countries. Describing the outcome of

the Joint Commission meetings as "excellent and fruitful". Sowedi said "this would provide a solid foundation for strengthening cooperation in the economic, and other fields between the two countries." He said Bangladesh's proposal for funding a number of

development projects by the UAE would be referred to the appropriate authority and hoped that this would get due and sympathetic consideration. Sowedi said a number of new items had been identified

See Page 12 Col 3

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড



সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

রপ্তানীর ক্ষেত্রে দ্রুত শুল্ক ও করাদি প্রত্যর্পণের ব্যবস্থা

রপ্তানী বাণিজ্যকে উৎসাহদান ও বাংলাদেশের রপ্তানীপণ্য বিশ্ব বাজারে অধিক প্রতিযোগিতামূলক করার উদ্দেশ্যে সরকার রপ্তানী পন্য উৎপাদনে ব্যবহৃত কাঁচামালের উপর প্রদত্ত শৃদ্ধ ও করাদি দ্রুত প্রতার্পণের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করেছে। এ উদ্দেশ্যে শুদ্ধ রেয়াত ও প্রতার্পণ পরিদপ্তর নামক একটি স্বতন্ত্র দপ্তর জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের অধীনে স্থাপন করা হয়েছে।

এখন হতে এ দপ্তরে সকল রপ্তানী পণ্যের জন্য প্রতার্পণযোগ্য অর্থ রপ্তানীকারকগণের নামে সরাসরি ব্যাংক চেকের মাধ্যমে প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। এ ব্যবস্থার সহায়ক হিসাবে যে সকল রপ্তানীকারক শৃদ্ধ ও কর প্রতার্পণ দাবী করবে তদের ক্ষত্তে तक्षामी हानारमंत्र कमा **नृथक तर (कमना तर) এ**त निनिर विन अतक প্রবর্তন করা হয়েছে।

এ বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনে রপ্তানীকারকদের শৃদ্ধ রেয়াত ও প্রতার্পণ পরিদপ্তর (ডেডো) ১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্ঞািক এলাকা, চেম্বার ভবন (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০ (ফোন:২৪১১১৭, ১৪০৮৮৯) এর সাথে যোগাযোগের পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।

डि अक नि (मा)४८७२०-२३/১२ জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (a-7777

Commonwealth won't survive: Gorbachev

ROME, Dec 23: Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev said in an interview broadcast today he did not believe the new commonwealth of independent states formed by nearly all the Soviet republies would survive, reports Reuter.

Interviewed by Italian radto, Gorbachev also suggested he still controlled Kremlin nuclear weapons but

Gorbachev accused Russian president Boris Yeltsin, the driving force behind the new commonwealth, of being undemocratic and repeated calls for a final session of the Supreme Soviet to declare the Soviet Union dead.

himself the head of the opposition to Yeltsin, he said.

"I don't believe in this new community. I believe it cannot survive. It will not manage to create the mechanisms of coordination. I think it will lack agreement and the normal functioning of institutions which is what we need now."

But he said he would not lead active opposition to the commonwealth for fear that this could cause more harm.

Eleven Soviet republics formed the new commonwealth of independent states at a meeting in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata on Saturday longer existed.

They postponed until December 30 a decision on who will control the Soviet nuclear arsenal, appointing Soviet defence minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov temporary armed forces chief until that date, when republican leaders will, meet to set up a permanent structure.

In the interview - taped on Saturday in the Kremlin while the Alma-Ata meeting was in progress - Gorbachev was asked; 'do you still have the briefcase with the button for the nuclear command?

He answered; 'in my briefcase there are many things is probable, however, that the atomic bricicase, which weights a kilogram and a half, is still with me. Referring to his opposition to the new commonwealth, Gorbachev said: 'the greatest

dangers are born of the divi-

sions of the country and !, as president, must react." This is my political posttion and my conviction. But since the Supreme Soviets of the republics have decided (to go their own way) I don't think that I should counterpoise my convictions in this difficult situation, with the risk of defi-

republics' declaration that the See Page 12 Col 3

Under Lebanese law, Harati

Lebanese captors kill US hostage

The United Nations confirmed today that the body delivered to a Beirut hospital over the weekend was that of US Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, reports Reuter.

Spokesman Francois now in Beirut.

tage Li Col William R Higgins and a partly decomposed body lying in a Beirut hospital Dr Ahmed Harati made the

University Hospital.

would examine the teeth and analyse samples of hair. Higgins before his abduction Feb 17, 1988, "we found a great resemblance," Harati comment and said Ambassado said. Dr Salim Naim, a second

must complete his report and submit it to the government, which will then decide if there the US embassy. birthmarks or war scars. Earlier, Harati said he

said Sunday they suspected the remains were that of Higgins, an American marine officer,

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, claimed on July 31, 1989, that it killed the 44-year-old Vietnam vetcran in retaliation for israel's abduction of a Shifte Muslim cleric three days before.

nitely dividing society." and told Gorbachev that the Gorbachev contested the that you should not know Soviet Union and his job no about. There are always things Asked if the considered that it is better not to know. It

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 23:

Giuliani said he had received the confirmation from special UN envoy Giandomenteo Pieco, Earlier, AP from Beirut said.

the coroner-general said Mon-

day he found "great resem-

blance" between slain US hos-

comment after his second examination of the remains that were left early Sunday at the morgue of the American "After comparing the remains with photographs' of

coroner who assisted in the

agreement as Harati spoke. Harati said positive identification still awaits the arrival of US data, including dental records and details of possible

second autopsy, nodded in

The US embassy would not say what, if anything, it was doing to help the probe. The embassy's Lebanese spokesman Suhail Abu Halka declined

Ryan Crocker was not available

is enough grounds to involve Hospital and police officials