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DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 1991

JAMADIUS SANI 18, 1412 HIJRI

Dolce Vita

(the only Italian Restaurant) Will be closed on the 25th and 26th of December but the

Dolce Vita Gelato

(Gelateria ice cream parlour) will remain openas usual.

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12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today __

Algeria's Quest for a Stable Polity President Chadli Benjedid, on September 29 last, lifted the state of siege and set the election, twice postponed previously, for December 26 Page 4



US recognises Russia tomorrow

Business

Fate of BSRS still uncertain Page 7

Feature

Environment Bangladesh Fire Ser-

vice and Civil Defence

Metropolitan

Page 8

Dhaka Day by Day



Coincidences, perhaps, don't have any explanation but nostalgia does. And that is what Samar Ranjan Sen brings home when he returns to his native city as a foreign national Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Govt, SKOP sign agreement

The government and the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) signed an agreement yesterday. Labour and Manpower Ministry's addi tional secretary incharge Dr AKM Mashfur Rahman and SKOP leader Abdus Salam signed the agreement for their respective sides, says a hand-

Hasina to return next month

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is expected to return home from Singapore first week of next month. The opposition leader will return before the winter session of parliament begins January 4. Awami League sources said yesterday (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Student run over by train

A student was cut into pieces when a train ran over him at Tejgaon levelcrossing in the city yesterday morning, hospital sources said. The victim was identified as Munir Hossain (24), a third year honours student of Economics Department of Jagannath University College, reports

Shantibahini men demand ransom

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: The Sharitibahini men who kidnapped a Rangamati District Council engineer and two others on Sunday demanded Taka 200,000 to the authorities as ransom on Tuesday. The three were kidnapped from Bulu Village, 5 km away from Kaokhali Upazila Sadar.

Bangladesh also steps up security

Burma amasses more troops, digs trenches along border

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 24: The Burmese army continued to reinforce its positions along the border Tuesday while people' in Bangladesh territory remained tense, fearing further

attacks. Meanwhile, Bangladesh authorities have also stepped up security along the border, an ollicial in Cox's Bazar said He, however, did not elabo-

People in the bordering areas of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts alleged that Burmese military forces Tuesday amassed more than 20,000 troops with sophisticated weapons, a few miles off from the Bangladesh border. Local people reported that

POUSH 10, 1398 BS,

the Burmese army have also dug trenches taking position in the Burmese civilian areas. in a delayed response to

Bangladesh's offer for a flag meeting, Burmese authorities in a letter Tuesday afternoon sought time for holding the meeting, officials in Cox's

But the Burmese authorities did not specify the time for holding the meeting, they

People in Gundhum area in Naikhyangchhari upazila said they had seen huge troops movement in Burmese territory along the border.

Our Staff Correspondent

ating the civilians from the forward areas of its border along Bangladesh following amassing of its troops with sophisticated weapons, reliable sources in Dhaka said on

The evacuation and the troops build-up came following Saturday's attack by Myanmar security forces on a Bangladesh border outpost that left a BDR jawan and a civilian killed and another 22 injured.

Myanmar's military movepanicked Myanmar (Burma) is evacu- Bangladeshi civilians in the bordering villages who started fleeing fearing more attacks from across the frontier.

A highly-placed Bangladesh government source, however, told The Daily Star on Tucsday See Page 12 Col 6

Russia takes over Soviet trade links with Dhaka

The trade and economic agreements that Bangladesh signed with the now-defunct Soviet Union will be valid with the Russian Republic, diplomats at the Russian Embassy in

Dhaka said on Tuesday. A delegation of the Russian Embassy on Tuesday drove to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and informed Bangladesh officials that the mission had taken over all the economic and trade responsibilities of the former Soviet

The delegation assured Bangladesh officials that there would be no disruption in trade and economic relations existed between

Labour productivity in the

jute industry in Bangladesh is

nearly half of that in India and

is declining in the public sec-

tor, according to a recent

The WB draft report on

"Bangladesh: Restructuring

Options for the Jute

Manufacturing Industry" notes

that productivity in the indus-

try falls far short of the poten-

tial and international stan-

The document only com-

World Bank (WB) report.

By Inam Ahmed

Bangladesh and the Soviet Union. It promised to increase the volume of trade and economic cooperation between Dhaka and Moscow. The former Soviet Union

was helping Bangladesh in the expansion of the Ghorasal power plant, the biggest in the country. The work on the 82 million dollar 5th project of the plant is now underway. The two countries also finalised the 6th unit of the plant that also involves 82 million dollars, all of it coming from a Soviet loan. The Russian federation will now take over the responsibility of the loan commitment.

The USSR had carlier submitted some project pro-

WB says labour productivity declining in jute sector

Over-manning' leads to losses

By SY Bakht

pares the rate of labour pro-

ductivity with that of India's as

the technology used in both

tivity during the 1989-90 pe-

riod for hessian, sacking and

carpet-backings (CBC) in the

public and private sector jute

mills stood at 3.2 and 4.13

tonnes per man a year respec-

tively compared to 6.37 tonnes

per man a year in India, ac-

cording to the chart shown in

the document citing figures of

The average total produc-

countries are similar.

posals to the government as future plans. These include the Meghna Ghat thermal power project, Rupsa bridge project, expansion of radio broadcasting capacity project, a coal power plant project and oil exploration in Sylhet. Sources said the negotiations on these projects would now be made with Russia.

On Sunday the Soviet Embassy turned into a Russian mission after diplomats switched their allegiance to sovereign Russia, which along with 10 other former Soviet republics formed a commonwealth of independent re-During the last (1990-91)

See Page 12 Col 1

Bangladesh Jute Mills Cor-

poration (BJMC). Bangladesh

Jute Mills Asso-ciation (IJJMA)

and Jute Manufacturers

Development Council (JMDC)

mills is better than the public

sector mills. According to the

chart, labour productivity de-

clined in the BJMC mills from

3.4 tonnes per man a year in

1988-89 to the current level

However, productivity in the

See Page 12 Col 3#

Productivity in the BJMA

Suspected DU gun-runner arrested

By DU Correspondent

An alleged arms supplier to the terrorists of Dhaka University, Md Khorshed Alam alias Rashu was arrested Monday from the Siddhesshari area by a special squad of the detective branch of DMP.

Police reported that Rashu had been supplying arms to the terrorists of DU for a long time and is known as a terror of the Mauchak and Malibagh

People of the area are said to be shying about reporting against him for fear of violent reprisal.

Earlier, another arms supplier in the DU, Sayed Salim Ahmed, was arrested from the Rayer Bazar area of the city on Saturday night by the same special squad, Sayed Salim See Page 12 Col 2

Municipal elections to follow UP polls

By Staff Correspondent The elections to the municipalities will be held after the completion of union parishad elections, a government

spokesman said. The UP elections are expected to be completed by late January.

All elected offices of pourashavas (municipalities) have been dissolved with effect from January 1. An ordinance

See Page 12 Col 5

Wet, windy

winter day

By Staff Correspondent

Tuesday under the influence

now crossing central

The rainfall appreciably

lowered the night temperature

over the country. Rainfall also

occurred at the capital at

night. Met office said that

moderate cold wave and light

rainfall would continue over

the country for the next two

hours till 6 pm Tuesday were

49mm in Srimangal, 23mm

each in Sylhet and Jessore,

19mm in Mymensingh, 11mm

Sandwip, 7mm in Comilla,

6mm in Maizdicourt, 4mm in

Bogra, 3mm in Faridpur, 2 mm

each in Barisal, Chuadanga and

Rangpur and 1 mm in

Dinajpur, 10mm in

Rainfall recorded in 12

of western disturbance which

Bangladesh.

Most of the country experi-

light rainfall on

A Christmas tree at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Use local goods to help industrialisation: PM LALMONIRHAT, Dec 24: The Prime Minister

Favorite fishes are

dangerous fishes

By Masud Arif

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon all to set the examples of patriotism by using the local products to help grow rapid industrialisation, reports BSS. Addressing a huge public

meeting at the Railway ground, the Prime Minister said that the smugglers were the enemies of the nation and they were hindering the progress of the country. Smuggling had to be resisted unitedly by popu larising and using local prod-

Begum Zia urged the business community to market more local goods instead of infesting the market with smuggled products. Their patronisation of local goods would greatly help in the speedy industrialisation, she

The Prime Minister said the present government wanted to develop a sound agriculture and industrial based economy to achieve the target of prosperity and self reliance.

The 'jeeol' fishes such as

the favourite Magur, Koi,

Shole, Taki, Shing etc, are no

more as safe as they were for

centuries. Ulcers developing

on their skin are feared to be

spreading health hazard to a

sizeable population all over the

ducted by the Microbiology

Department of Dhaka

University, the role of the

disease is not yet clear and it

seems probable that the ulcer-

ative disease would have con

tinued its spread throughout

Bangladesh even if flooding

that the ulcerative disease may

"the next 24 hours." The

Russian Information Agency

said Gorbachev held a "farewell

meeting" with his staff in the

lawmakers attended the sea-

sion of the Council of the

Republics, the upper chamber

of the national legislature. The

Only about one-third of

The study also reported

had not occurred.

morning.

floods in disseminating the

According to a study, con-

stressed on curbing smuggling for the development of industries and on boosting the agricultural sector to achieve selfsufficiency in food. She said peace and stability

were the pre-requisites for ataining progress and self-rehance. She gave a call to all to resist those who wanted to create chaos and anarchy in the productive sectors. The Prime Minister said

with the establishment of people's government the nation was freed from the evil grip of corruption practised by the autocratic regime. She said time has come when all have to get themselves involved in the development activities to make democracy meaningful. Begum Zia said, "we have to

attain self reliance and progress with our own initiative. Nobody from outside will build our future for us."

She said the opportunities for government jobs had shrunk because of the large population. She underscored See Page 12 Col 7

spread mainly during the dry

season and the fishes that can

be preserved in water at home

for a few days are mostly at-

the skin of cat fish (Magur).

Shole, Taki, Shing, Koi, Puti

and some others. And the dis-

eased fishes are usually con-

verted into dry fish, fish

The study report

Microbiology Department also

noted that the bad smell ema-

nating from the flesh of the

dead fishes created serious

health hazards for the people.

The occurrence of the fish

health by local people who

disease led to fears for human

See Page 12 Col 6

The ulcer mostly shows on

tacked by the disease.

sellers said.

Greetings The Bailg Star wishes all its Christian readers a Merry Christmas Christmas today

The Christian community in Bangladesh, as elsewhere in the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ today, re-

ports BSS. Festivities however began since evening when holy masses were held at different churches and Christmas eve parties at homes colourfully lighted and adorned with the Christmas tree. Christmas cakes were cut amid carol

singing. Christmas eve rituals reached its peak when devodefying inclement weather attended the mid-

night masses in thousands. The city yesterday experienced untimely winter driz-

In the capital, holy masses were held at the St Mary's Cathedral at Kakrail, Holy Cross Church at Luxmibazar, Holy Rosary Church at Tejgaon, National Major Seminary at Banani, St Christian's Church at Assad Gate and Kafrul Catholic Church. Christmas Day masses will be held at these churches between 6.30 and nine this morning.

The government has declared the day as a national holiday. Radio and television See Page 12 Col 1

Sarbahara men asked to surrender arms by Jan 8

The government has asked the members of the so-called Sarbahara Party to surrender along with their unauthorised arms by January 8, an official handout said Tuesday. No action under the normal Arms Act would be taken against those who will surrender by the January 8 dead-line, reports BSS.

The handout said: Members of the so-called Sarbahara parties and a number of similar organisations are engaged in various unlawful and terrorist activities in the districts oſ Kushtia Chuadanga, Jessore, Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Narsingdi. These elements are not guided by any welfare-oriented political philosophy or principles. Public life is disturbed due to their unlawful, terrorist and anti-social activities. The government is de-

See Page 12 Col 7

Ctg Port activities partially restored

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: The

cargo handling in Chittagong Port resumed early Tuesday after two days of stevedores' strike but normal activities of the port are yet to be restored fully as truck drivers continue their strike.

The problems of the workers were resolved at a tripartite meeting between the stevedores' association, dock workers' leaders and the authorities at the office of the Chittagong Port Authority.

The stevedores' association went on strike complaining that the dock workers were working at their whims, causing huge financial losses to the association.

See Page 12 Col 8

Three killed

Gorbachev passes 'nuclear button' on to Yeltsin today

MOSCOW, Dec 24 : Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will pass the 'nuclear button' on to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday, Yeltsin told Russian newsmen today,

reports AFP. Soviet television had reported on Saturday that Yeltsin already controlled nuclear weapons adding (without giving sources) that 'Yeltsin cannot press the nuclear button without the approval of the heads of the other states belonging to the community of

independent states." When reporters asked for details about his nearly eight hours of talks on Monday with

Gorbachev, Yeltsin said they had discussed every detail of the president's 'retirement.'

Windy winter rains made it all the more difficult for them in the city yesterday - Star photo

'He wanted 200 bodyguards, and we divided that by 10 leaving him with 20', said Yeltsin, adding that Gorbachev would keep two official cars after resigning on Wednesday, a Zil Limousine and a Volga. But the Gorbachevs' Dacha

near Moscow will have to be returned to the Russian presidency because of all the equipment it contains, the Russian leader said. The same applies to the Gorbachev apartment in

Moscow, which Yeltsin wants

to give to the president of the

Russian Academy of Sciences. in exchange, the Gorbachevs will receive another apartment and another Dacha, Yeltsin

The outgoing Soviet President will receive retirement benefits equal to his present salary of 4,000 roubles a month (2,400 dollars at the commercial rate) and they will be revalued to reflect inflation, the Russian President AP adds: The national

Supreme Soviet legislature

met for two hours Tuesday but

failed to decide its future or

formally acknowledge the

demise of the Soviet Union.

It, however, agreed to resume their meeting at 4 in the afternoon. President Mikhail Gorbachev did not attend the

Patuakhali

session despite expectations he might speak and even announce his resignation. He is expected to resign by Wednesday Without taking a formal

vote, lawmakers agreed to hold what would be their final session following the next meeting of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, scheduled for Dec 30. Russian State Secretary

lower chamber has effectively been shut down by the refusal of several republies to send representatives. Before adjourning, lawmak-

ers debated a resolution recognizing "the USSR as a subject of international law and Gennady Burbulis told regeopolitical reality has ceased porters Tuesday that

Gorbachev would resign within to exist."

Gorbachev met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for eight hours on Monday to discuss the transfer of power, including command over the Soviet Union's 27,000 nuclear weapons.

The issue of who controls the nuclear "button" has been one of the most pressing questions since Gorbachev's central government collapse in the wake of the attempted August coup.

On Saturday, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed a new Commonwealth of Independent States (Related story on Page 5)

in separate accidents By DMCH Correspondent Three persons were killed

in three separate accidents in

the city and its suburbs on Tuesday. Munir Hossain, 24, a thirdyear student of Economics at the Jagannath University College was smashed under a speedy train at about 8:30 am

at Tejgaon rail crossing yes-Munir was crossing the rail line and died on the spot when the train ran him over. The body was sent to Dhaka

See Page 12 Col 1

Article

International



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