

Use **Touch** Facial tissue  
Table Napkin  
Memory Plate  
Paper Clip

# The Daily Star

The finest Ice cream from Italy  
Made with all natural ingredients and Italian technology.  
**dolce vita gelato**  
gelateria, ice cream parlour  
54 Kemal Ataturk Ave.  
Ground floor, Banani, Dhaka Ph. 607980

VOL. 1 NO. 334 REGD. NO. DA 782

POUSH 13, 1398 BS,

DHAKA SATURDAY DECEMBER 28, 1991

JAMADI'US SANI 21, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

## Inside Today

### Sport



**Swimmer Mukhlesur Rahman wins Bangladesh's second gold in SAF Games**  
Page 10

### Article

**How to Avoid Another Pearl Harbour**  
Galtung, professor of peace studies at the University of Honolulu, explores the areas of conflict between the United States and Japan, continued indifference to which could lead to war or at least war-like activities  
Page 4

### International



**Hunger strike in Islamabad protesting assault on Farhana**  
Page 5

### Business

**LCs reach Tk 3588 crore in first quarter**  
Page 7

### Environment

**Environment and Development: Two sides of the same coin**  
Page 8

### Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**  
The man who saw the future—today's feature on the French seer Nostradamus and his prophecies  
Page 3

## Russian Vice President warns of social explosion Anti-Yeltsin winds get stronger

*Gorbachev swallows another shock*

MOSCOW, Dec 27: Mikhail Gorbachev who was given until Sunday to vacate his presidential office in the Kremlin, was taken aback today to find his place already occupied by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, reports AFP.

Officials said Yeltsin arrived at 9:00 am and took over the presidential quarters with all his aides. The offices had been redecorated overnight in Russian national colours.

Gorbachev was forced to meet a visiting delegation in the office usually reserved for his chief of staff Gennady Revenko, officials said.

No reasons were given why Yeltsin had decided not to wait for Monday before moving in.

MOSCOW, Dec 27: Boris Yeltsin issued a decree taking over control of Soviet central television and radio on Friday, in a move that was likely to prompt new criticism of anti-democratic behaviour, reports AP.

The decree said that the station is to broadcast news from Russia and the new commonwealth, Tass said. It will be headed by Yegor Yakovlev, the former editor of "Moscow News" weekly who is considered one of the fathers of Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policy.

Yeltsin is getting some of the same criticism Gorbachev faced from Communists who see the Russian president's policies as a betrayal of socialism as well as from reformers who say that he is not democratic enough.

Yeltsin's opponents moved quickly after Gorbachev's resignation Wednesday. But a Russian Parliament commission said Thursday that the orthodox Communists are overestimating their numbers.

Communists in St Petersburg, birthplace of the Bolshevik revolution, urged the Russian government to give them the Soviet flag removed from the Kremlin after Gorbachev quits.

"We pledge to rehoist it over the Kremlin in the near future," the Russian Communist Workers' Party said in a statement.

Though divided and somewhat distrusted, Communists, also referred to in Russia as "conservatives" and "right-wingers", could be in a prime position to capitalize on the popular discontent expected to swell after prices soar next week.

Their support is hard to gauge. They range from enigmatic hardliners such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to the moderate Russian vice president Alexander Rutskoi, an ex-Communist reformer who sided with Yeltsin last summer. They are united by opposition to harsh market reforms.

AFP says the rift in the Russian leadership widened further today as Rutskoi attacked Yeltsin's reforms and warned that planned price rises could bring dictatorship.

In an interview with the former Communist party daily Pravda, Rutskoi said that the price rises taking effect throughout Russia next Thursday could be an "endless spiral."

"I don't want there to be a social explosion. I don't want the democrats to be shouted out like the Communists were not so long ago. I don't want

## Indemnity Ordinance repeal bill JS committee to consult experts

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill is expected to start consulting eminent constitutional and legal experts soon before finalising its report.

The committee had a brief meeting at the Sangsad Bhavan on Friday with its Chairman Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz in the chair. It was the sixth meeting of the committee.

Mohammad Nasim, mover of the bill and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament told The Daily Star Friday's meeting, called after a long break, was held in a cordial atmosphere.

The meeting had to be short as the committee members representing the Treasury Bench had to rush for an emergency meeting at the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Sources say the next meeting of the committee is expected on January 2.

The question of consulting legal experts was discussed also at the fifth meeting of the committee.

The names mentioned so far include former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed and Attorney General Aminul Haq.

The Chairman of the committee is expected to start hearing experts to incorporate their views.

## Bangladesh may recognize Russia today

Bangladesh is likely to recognise Russia today as an independent republic, Foreign Office sources said Friday, reports UNB.

Russia, the largest republic of the dissolved Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in area, population, scientific and technological potentials, stretches from the Baltic to the Pacific and from the Arctic ocean to Transcaucasia.

It has an area of 17.1 million square km inhabited by about 150 million people.

Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) formed in 1917 joined the USSR in 1922.

The sources said Bangladesh is also contemplating to accord recognition to other several republics of the crumbled communist empire, including Azerbaijan.

The central Asian Muslim

## Ctg transport workers call off strike

CHITTAGONG, Dec 27: Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation and Truck Sramik Union today called off their indefinite strike in the district after fruitful discussions with the administration and owner-leaders, reports UNB.

The workers' leaders decided to call off the strike after the owners at a tripartite meeting Thursday midnight assured them of providing ap-

## Troops on alert: Polls in Pak Punjab today

ISLAMABAD, Dec 27: Troops have been put on alert in 125 districts ahead of municipal polls in the Pakistani province of Punjab, official sources said today.

Security was tightened after the local administration, fearing trouble in the polls to elect 42,000 municipal councillors, identified 125 districts as "sensitive areas".

Tension was high in some districts gripped by sectarian, ethnic or political divisions and officials said troops would be deployed in volatile areas.

Saturday's municipal elections will be the first under

## Briefcase codes changed?

LONDON, Dec 27: The massive nuclear arsenal handed over to Russian President Boris Yeltsin by former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is controlled from a briefcase containing a computer keyboard and secret codes, according to a British military expert.

Paul Beaver, editor in chief of Jane's Defence Weekly, said the secret codes in the briefcase controlling nuclear launchers known to Americans as the "football", have surely been changed since Gorbachev resigned Wednesday.

Since taking control of the nuclear forces of the former Soviet Union, Yeltsin received a briefing in the use of the "football" from Soviet nuclear experts, including Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Beaver said launching nuclear missiles from silos, bombers or submarines involves a complicated system of codes and keys.

Yeltsin has said that although he has sole control over nuclear launches, he could only decide to use nuclear weapons in consultation with the presidents of the three other republics which have strategic nuclear arms stationed on their soil—Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin listens as an Army specialist (left) explains the details of the suitcase containing the controls for nuclear arsenal at the Russian Federation executive building. Gorbachev handed over the suitcase to Yeltsin after resigning Thursday. — AFP photo

## Burma fails to attend meet : The Burmese balderdash Refugees still coming in

By Staff Correspondent

The deadline for the proposed flag meeting between the border officials of Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh expired at 11 am Friday when the Burmese officials expressed their inability to sit for talks.

Officials at Cox's Bazar district said the meeting could not take place Friday as a Burmese military official handed over a letter expressing their inability to attend the talks. According to a source, the letter, handed over to Bangladeshi officials Friday noon, said the local Burmese

military commander was sick and was unable to attend the flag meeting.

However, the letter did not say anything about fixing of another date for the meeting, said the source.

Bangladesh on December 24 proposed the flag meeting within 11 am Friday to defuse the mounting border tension, officials said.

In a sudden cross border swoop on December 21, Burmese border guards killed two Bangladeshi nationals and injured another 22. They also looted a border outpost of

Bangladesh Rifles at Naikhyangchari upazila in Cox's Bazar district.

Meanwhile, the influx of Muslim Burmese refugees into Bangladesh continues as repression on them by the Burmese troops has reportedly been stepped up.

Sources said nearly 1000 Burmese Muslim families took refuge in the remote frontier hamlets since two weeks ago because of the increase in repressive measures by the Burmese troops known to have begun against the Insa-

By Staff Correspondent

Myanmar (Burma) authorities have told Bangladesh that they closed the entry points along the border for fear of AIDS.

A Bangladesh Army source at Teknaf said on Friday they received a communication from the Myanmar border authorities that "Bangladeshis with have to prove they are carrying no AIDS virus for an eight-hour entry into Myanmar."

Teknaf is a major entry point along 176-mile Bangladesh-Myanmar frontier. The Burmese and Bangladesh citizens can visit each other's

## Cold wave claims 19 lives

By Staff Correspondent

The on-going cold-wave has claimed at least 19 lives at different parts of the country over the past four days.

The three-day spell of rain since Tuesday has given way to a foggy and colder weather from this morning, meteorological experts in Dhaka said Friday night.

Mercury is likely to fall gradually in the next three to four days, they said.

A clear sky and relatively long nights will facilitate radiation of more heat from the earth towards the upper atmosphere making the surface of the sky colder, the Met office said.

Death toll from the chilling cold all over Bangladesh rose to 19 with four more reported from Sirajganj Friday.

According to officials of Sirajganj, four deaths were reported from Ullapara and Shahjadpur upazilas of the district on Thursday and Friday. The dead were identified as Sukian Reza (60) of Dulauri in Shahjadpur upazila, Rina Howlader (55) of Zikra, Shaheda Khatun (12) of Chekuakandi and Korban Ali (60) of East Delua in Ullapara upazila.

Two cows also died of cold while grazing in the field in Ullapara upazila, they said. Delayed reports from the

northern region said the cold spell that had gripped the entire Rangpur and Dinajpur zone left 13 people dead during 72 hours till Thursday. The cold-wave victims were inhabitants of Tetulia, Birganj, Pirganj, and Panchagarh under Dinajpur zone and Patgram of greater Rangpur. They were identified as: Abdur Rahim, Hazrat, Anutbala, Ramzan, Fulu, Rahumuddin, Joytunbib, Pronila, Amin, Ranzan, Abani Bawa, Chintamani and Ishaq.

Besides, two more deaths were reported from sadar and Mojortila areas of Sylhet district on Wednesday.

## Riot over Cauvery waters: 3 killed in police firing

NEW DELHI, Dec 27: Police killed three people in southern India today when they opened fire on a crowd rioting over a river water dispute with a neighbouring state, domestic news agencies said, reports Reuter.

At least three people were killed and five injured in the violence in Tamil Nadu state, the Press Trust of India reported.

The rioters attacked a police station where three trucks with number plates from neighbouring Karnataka state were parked. The trucks were taken to the police station

## US quits Subic base next year

MANILA, Dec 27: The Philippines said Friday that the US Navy will withdraw from Subic Bay naval base by the end of 1992, closing the largest American naval installation in East Asia and the last American base in this former US colony.

President Corazon Aquino's chief aide, Franklin Drilon, made the announcement at a news conference after he and US Ambassador Frank Wisner failed to iron out differences, including Manila's ban on nuclear weapons at the facility.

ment takes office here next June 30.

But a US official said the United States had no intention of doing so and that some equipment was already being removed from the base.

He said the withdrawal would be accelerated "very, very soon."

In announcing the withdrawal, Drilon said, "The friendly and cordial relations between the United States and the Philippines will continue."

"Both governments will continue to build on this strong bond of friendship between the two countries," he added.

There was no immediate comment from the Pentagon on the announcement. But US officials said the two governments had agreed to discontinue talks on Thursday.

Subic's strategic value had been called into question this year by the decline of Soviet and Chinese military threats in the region and by the damage sustained by the base in a volcanic eruption.

Also, the base, although once considered an integral element in Mideast military operations, played no substantial role in the Persian Gulf War.

Subic's location, excellent deep water harbor and storage capability had made it a valuable military asset. It contained the Navy's largest warehouse overseas.

The withdrawal would close nearly a century of American military presence in this country, which began when the United States seized the islands from Spain in 1898.

Clark Air Base, the other major US installation, was closed last month after it was severely damaged by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. It was handed back to the Philippines on Nov 27.

## FORWARD WE MARCH

ON THE ROAD OF COMPUTERISATION

**Now our Foreign Exchange Branch and Sadarghat Branch are being Computerised.**

Our Computerised Branches are:-

- Malibagh branch
- Motijheel branch
- B. B. Avenue branch
- Local Office branch
- Sonargaon Hotel branch.

With **IBM AS/400** in Our Head Office, we progress steadily and Forward we March to Provide better Services to Our valued Customers.

**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**  
Your Trusted Friend