

# Republics bury Soviet Union

## Soviet embassy in Dhaka switches allegiance

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The flag of the Russian federation will flutter in the premises of the Soviet embassy in Dhaka from today (Sunday), embassy officials informed the Foreign Office on Saturday.  
 The sickle and hammer emblem of the Soviet Union was earlier lowered at the embassy on Thursday.  
 Soviet embassy officials told See Page 12 Col. 7

ALMA-ATA (Kazakhstan), Dec 21: Eleven Soviet republics formed a new commonwealth of independent states today and told president Mikhail Gorbachev that the Soviet Union and his job no longer existed.  
 The 11 leaders signed the agreement at a historic meeting in Kazakhstan's capital Alma-Ata. But they postponed until December 30 a definite decision on the vital question of who will control the Soviet nuclear arsenal.  
 Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov was appointed temporary head of the armed forces until that date, when republican leaders will meet in the Byelorussian capital Minsk to set up a perma-

nent structure.  
 "There will be one button until December 30," a Kazakh spokesman said, referring to the authority to launch nuclear weapons.  
 Russian leader Boris Yeltsin told a news conference after the signing that the 11 leaders had taken "appropriate decisions" about Gorbachev's future in the light of his expressed intention to step down shortly.  
 Gorbachev's chief spokesman told Interfax news agency that the Soviet President would wait for more information on the results of the Alma-Ata meeting.  
 The leaders rejected the 60-year-old Soviet President's suggestion of a temporary "commonwealth citizenship" to

avoid ethnic conflicts.  
 This (the commonwealth) is not a state. Therefore it can have no citizenship, Yeltsin said.  
 They also agreed that Russia would take over the Soviet Union's seat on the UN Security Council, according to Seitakay Mataev, a spokesman for Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, reports AP.  
 Russia and the two republics already represented at the United Nations, Ukraine and Byelorussia, would push for UN seats for all the other participants in the commonwealth.  
 Heading into the signing ceremony at the House of Friendship in the Kazakh capi-

tal with the other presidents, Russian President Boris Yeltsin smiled broadly, gave a thumbs-up and said he was "very satisfied" with the five hours of talks. Yeltsin was the driving force behind the new structure.  
 "The Soviet Union has ceased to exist," said Mataev, briefing reporters on the outcome of the talks.  
 President Mikhail S Gorbachev, who did not attend the meeting, most likely will not make a decision Saturday on his resignation, said his spokesman Andrei Grachev.  
 The 60-year-old Soviet leader, who came to power in March 1985 and unleashed the most sweeping reforms in the nation's history, will make a

nationally televised address, Grachev said. He did not say when that would occur.  
 Aides to Mikhail S Gorbachev have said the Soviet President's formal resignation might come soon after the summit in the capital of Kazakhstan, the second-largest republic.  
 Earlier, Mataev has said the leaders of all the Soviet republics except Georgia reached agreement on three key documents that will serve as the basis for the new commonwealth.  
 The first is a protocol that recognizes the 11 republics entering on an "equal basis" as co-founders, Mataev said. This was a principal demand of the leaders the five Asian republics

after the Slavic republics of Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine formed the commonwealth Dec 8.  
 The leaders agreed on a second document called the "Alma-Ata Declaration," which recognizes the independence of the 11 former Soviet republics and their current borders, Mataev said.  
 A third agreement said that a temporary military command would be formed until Dec 31, according to the spokesman. Another meeting of the commonwealth leaders would be held before then to decide the issue on a more permanent basis, Mataev added.  
 The eight republics agreeing to join Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine in the commo-

nity Saturday are the five Asian republics — Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizia and Tadzhikistan — plus Armenia, Moldavia and Azerbaijan.  
 Georgia, the only republic that has not signalled a firm intention to join, was to send two high-ranking officials as observers to Alma-Ata.  
 Before the meeting, there were warnings of the tough road the former republics face even as they create a new structure after the Soviet Union was fatally weakened by the failed August coup.  
 Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, said Friday that the participants faced a series of difficult economic problems.  
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## Colombo summit adopts 48-point declaration SAARC against cross-border terrorism



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the SAARC summit in Colombo yesterday. — PID photo

## Dhaka offers 4-point plan

COLOMBO, Dec 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called for making a solemn pledge to pursue with tenacity the problems of poverty and under-development, the real enemies of our peoples.  
 Addressing the sixth SAARC summit here this morning, Begum Zia emphasised the need for renewing resolve to improve our political and economic security rather than depend on military security alone.  
 She said success of SAARC comprising countries with a mosaic of varied cultures has put us in a position where 'we can sink our differences'.  
 She emphasised: 'No problem can remain unsolved if we can muster the necessary political will for its solution'.  
 The summit, held at the Bandarnaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), is being participated by heads of government and

state of Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and host Sri Lanka.  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Nepalese Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala and Indian Premier Narasimha Rao are attending the SAARC summit for the first time.  
 The Prime Minister stressed the need to concentrate on four linked areas of social issues, namely poverty alleviation, environment, women development and institutional adjustments in SAARC for effecting economic growth in the region.  
 Begum Zia said today millions of South Asian people suffer from mass-deprivation and hunger, adding 'in fact, no region in the world has as many poor people as ours'.  
 Begum Zia said we must be able to provide our poor with 'daal-bhaat' and also to satisfy their basic needs of nutrition, clothing, shelter, health, fam-

ily planning and primary education.  
 Referring to the success stories of poverty alleviation in other South Asian countries, Begum Khaleda Zia suggested to examine those experiences and efforts and develop a regional approach to poverty alleviation backed by a common fund if possible.  
 She said alleviation of poverty would reduce the stress on our land, air, water, forests and other life support systems.  
 She said this would also reduce natural disasters.  
 She said the practice of sustainable development was rather costly, particularly for the developing countries, and suggested that the SAARC could effectively approach the global community to resolve the issue.  
 Begum Zia said the SAARC study on green-house effects could provide the basis for See Page 12 Col. 1

COLOMBO, Dec 21: South Asian leaders today ended a one-day summit here urging greater economic cooperation and efforts to combat cross-border terrorism in the world's most impoverished region, reports AFP.  
 The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) adopted a 48-point declaration ranging from suppression of terrorism and economic cooperation to welfare of children and environmental issues.  
 Leaders of some countries having bilateral tensions with neighbours took thinly veiled swipes at each other, but the organisation's new chairman, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, was upbeat about prospects for the grouping.  
 The Sri Lankan President told reporters in his first ever press conference after assuming office three years ago that there should be closer political and trade cooperation for peace and security in the region.  
 Premadasa also played down See Page 12 Col. 3

## BDR man killed as Burmese troops raid outpost

From Our Correspondent  
 COX'S BAZAR, Dec 21: Myanmar (Burmese) border security forces today stormed into a BDR camp in a bordering Bangladesh village, killing at least one BDR jawan and another civilian.  
 Seven BDR personnel and 15 villagers were injured in the attack.  
 The invading Burmese border guards known as Luntin looted the border outpost (BOP) of Bangladesh Rifles situated at the village of Rijupara under Naikongchari upazila of Bandarban district and took away six Chinese rifles, one LMG, one SMG, and huge quantity ammunition, official sources said.  
 The dead were identified as Lance Naik Mosharrif (36) and the villager Sona Ali (30). The injured persons were admitted to Dhulahajara Christian Missionary Hospital and Rabfia Hospital in Cox's Bazar. Some of them are reportedly in critical condition. All of them sustained bullet injuries, hospital sources said.  
 BDR sources and villagers said that the Luntin forces, numbering around 100, armed with heavy weapons, entered five kilometres inside the Bangladesh territory at around 8 am.  
 They first destroyed the antenna of the wireless unit of the BOP with a rocket launcher and fired indiscriminately in and around the village.  
 The sources said that most of the jawans of 37th battalion posted at the BOP were on patrol duty and hence an effective resistance could not be put up against the intruders.  
 Following the incident, most of the villagers fled fearing further attack. A panicky situation was prevailing at the See Page 12 Col. 6

## SKOP puts off work stoppage

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) last night postponed its proposed 48-hour work stoppage scheduled to start from 6 am today.  
 The last-minute withdrawal came following a government assurance that a solution to the SKOP demands would be sought within three weeks.  
 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two sides to this end could not be signed last night as the Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was not present at the final stage of the negotiations. The Minister had left for the airport to receive the Prime Minister returning home from the SAARC summit in Colombo.  
 The SKOP leaders told The Daily Star late last night that the MOU would positively be signed this morning. Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr Mashtar Rahman represented See Page 12 Col. 8

## Percentage of pass 57.04 Dhaka Board HSC results announced

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, were announced yesterday.  
 Of the total 86,093 (including 25,173 female ones) examinees, 49,104 — 33,536 male and 15,568 female — came out successful. The success rate is 57.04 per cent.  
 Of the successful candidates, 9,533 were placed in the First Division, 19,928 in the Second Division and the rest in the Third Division.  
 Mostafa Mohammad Riyad Arifin, Roll No. 65008 of Dhaka College topped the combined merit list with distinctions in five subjects. He got 999 marks.  
 Nafid Ibrahman, Roll No. 65082 also of Dhaka College stood Second with

letters in five subjects securing 998 marks.  
 Sawkat Ali, Roll No. 65636 of Mirzapur Cadet College got Third position with letters in five subjects. He secured 978 marks.  
 In the Science Group, a total of 25,470 candidates sat for the examinations of whom 15,734 came out successful. The percentage of success in Science Group is 61.77.  
 A total of 15,664 appeared in Commerce Group of whom 10,234 came out successful, the percentage of pass being 65.33.  
 In the Humanities Group, 25,958 students appeared in the examinations of whom 22,787 were successful. The percentage of pass is 51.31 in the group.  
 In the Agriculture Group, See Page 12 Col. 8



**Arifin reaps reward for hard work**  
**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Mostafa Mohammad Arifin was 'mighty happy' to retain his pole position in the merit list of the HSC examinations of Dhaka Board.  
 Two years ago he had stood first in the SSC examinations. For him yesterday was a lucky See Page 12 Col. 3

## BNP retains Bakerganj-5

BNP candidate Majibur Rahman Sarwar was unofficially elected in the parliamentary by-election from Bakerganj-5 constituency, reports UNB.  
 Sarwar polled 42,111 votes from 89 out of the 90 centres, according to unofficial results of the polling held Saturday. His nearest rival Shawkat Hossain of the Jatiya Party bagged 33,447 votes.  
 Awami League nominee Fazlul Haq received 11,932 votes while Jamaat-e-Islami candidate Abul Hasnat Nur Mohammad Nurullah got 8,311 votes.  
 Results from the remaining centre at Chandromohan with a total of 2,700 voters was not available till midnight last. The results of this centre, however, will not affect the election outcome.  
 Bakerganj-5 seat fell vacant following the election of Abdur Rahman Biswas to the office of the President.

## Best of Luck & Godspeed To the Bangladesh contingent in the 5TH SAF Games — the largest-ever squad representing the country at any international sporting meet.



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