

# US, UK move ships to Gulf in signal to Iran

Tehran defiant despite looming sanctions, Security Council set to vote today

AFF, REUTERS, Washington

The United States and Britain will start moving additional ships into the Gulf region in a signal to Iran as the United Nations weighs sanctions action, The New York Times reported yesterday.

"Defence Secretary Robert M Gates was expected this week to approve a request by commanders for a second aircraft carrier and its

supporting ships to be stationed within quick sailing distance of Iran by early next year," the Times quoted unnamed US officials as saying.

Though the US officials said the ships were not part of preparations for an offensive strike, "they acknowledged that the ability to hit Iran would be increased and that Iranian leaders might well call the growing presence provocative."

The British Navy "plans to add two mine-hunting vessels to its ships that already are part of the international coalition patrolling waters in the ... Gulf," the report added.

In Tehran on Thursday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed that nothing would stop Iran from pushing ahead with its nuclear programme, a world

## 'ATTACK ON COPS' Krishak League chief among 8 sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishak League President Dr Mirza Abdul Jalil and seven others were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after being produced before a Dhaka court yesterday in a case filed under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahar rejected their bail petitions and passed the order when Mohammadpur police produced them before the court at 4:00pm.

The others are Jalil's personal secretary Naimul Haq, 25, assistant



## Warne to call it quits after Ashes

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne will retire from international cricket after the final Ashes Test against England next month, saying his "time had come".

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# Mirza Khokon comes up with new story

Contradicts his brother Abbas' version; his wife's condition stable; no case filed as yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The exact details of the shooting at the Mirza family residence on December 18 remain blurry, as contradictory statements from Mirza Abbas and Mirza Khokon are still the primary sources of information on the event.

So far, it is known that a shooting took place at 871 Shajahanpur that left Khokon and Masuda injured. She was subsequently admitted to Apollo hospital the following day, while Khokon could

not be reached until yesterday when he released his statement to the press. The condition of Masuda is improving, said hospital spokesperson Giasuddin.

Mirza Khokon, speaking of the occasion for the first time yesterday, claims that he was checking the safety on his licensed pistol at 12:00am, when it misfired and injured him and his wife Masuda Akram at his Shajahanpur residence.

In contrast Abbas, housing and public works minister, told The

Daily Star on December 20 that Masuda was wounded at a party she attended with Khokon at one of Khokon's friend's house.

Casting further confusion is the statement of Harun-ur-Rashid, Masuda's brother, who asserts that Shasha, the eldest of Khokon's three children, made a phone call to him on Monday at 3:00am saying, "Father has killed mother." Harun also claims that he went straight over to the Mirza family residence, whereupon he found

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## DU convocation postponed amid boycott threat

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday postponed the 43rd convocation scheduled for December 24 amid calls for boycotting the programme by different student organisations and a number of teachers accusing the authorities of not doing enough to create a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

A Syndicate meeting last

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# 4-party aspirants file nominations

Khaleda to contest from Comilla-8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid countrywide hartal enforced by the Awami League-led 14 alliance and Jatiya Party (Ershad), BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other candidates of BNP and Jamaat yesterday filed nomination papers in different districts for contesting the upcoming parliamentary elections.

In a number of constituencies, both BNP and Jamaat candidates submitted their nomination papers though the parties under the banner of four-party alliance are in the way of seat sharing. In some constituencies, more than one BNP candidates filed nomination papers.

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## CASE AGAINST MOUDUD Judicial probe into distortion of history starts

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday began judicial inquiry with deposition of the complainant of the case filed against former law minister Moudud Ahmed for distorting history about the proclamation of independence in 1971.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafique Anwar recorded the statement of

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## JEWELLER MURDER Prime accused confesses to kidnap, killing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The prime accused in the jewellery trader Turya Ghosh Roni murder case confessed to a magistrate yesterday that she, along with two others, kidnapped the victim to realise ransom and later killed him to avoid arrest.

Abu Sayeed, another arrestee of the same incident, also gave a confessional statement to another magistrate on Wednesday saying he, along with four others, took part in dumping of Turya's dismembered body.

Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter recorded the statement of

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Prayer Timing		
December 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Hartal as usual



1. Awami League-led 14-party alliance activists torch a police-requisitioned pickup truck in front of Shyamoli Cinema in the capital yesterday. 2. A 14-party activist hurls a green coconut towards the police in Shyamoli. 3. Fellow cops come to the aid of a policeman after he was hit by brickbat at Shyamoli. 4. Army personnel stand guard at Kalabagan in the capital during the hartal. 5. Police arrest Krishak League President Mirza Jalil at Shyamoli. 6. A policeman lobs a teargas canister at 14-party demonstrators at Shyamoli.

PHOTO: STAR

