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UNSC issues one sentence statement US to veto any move to lift sanctions on Iraq

BAGHDAD, Dec 22: The delivery of food and other basic supplies to Iraq resumed today as UN humanitarian workers headed back to the bombed capital Baghdad, the United Nations said.

The 100 aid staff would start tomorrow 'rapid missions' to assess damage in the centre and south of Iraq following the four days of US-led air strikes, a UN official in Baghdad told AFP.

Reuters says, the United States opposes any effort to dismantle economic sanctions against Iraq and would use its veto power in the UN Security Council to keep them in place, the White House said today.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart also said the UN weapons inspectors should be allowed to continue their work in Iraq if they could be allowed to operate effectively.

"We believe that an effective UNSCOM is the best way to contain Saddam Hussein's ability to reconstitute and deliver his weapons of mass destruction," Lockhart told reporters.

After a four-day bombing campaign that shattered its consensus, the US Security Council finally issued a one sentence statement Monday which indicated that the road to a new Iraq policy will be long and tortuous, according to AP.

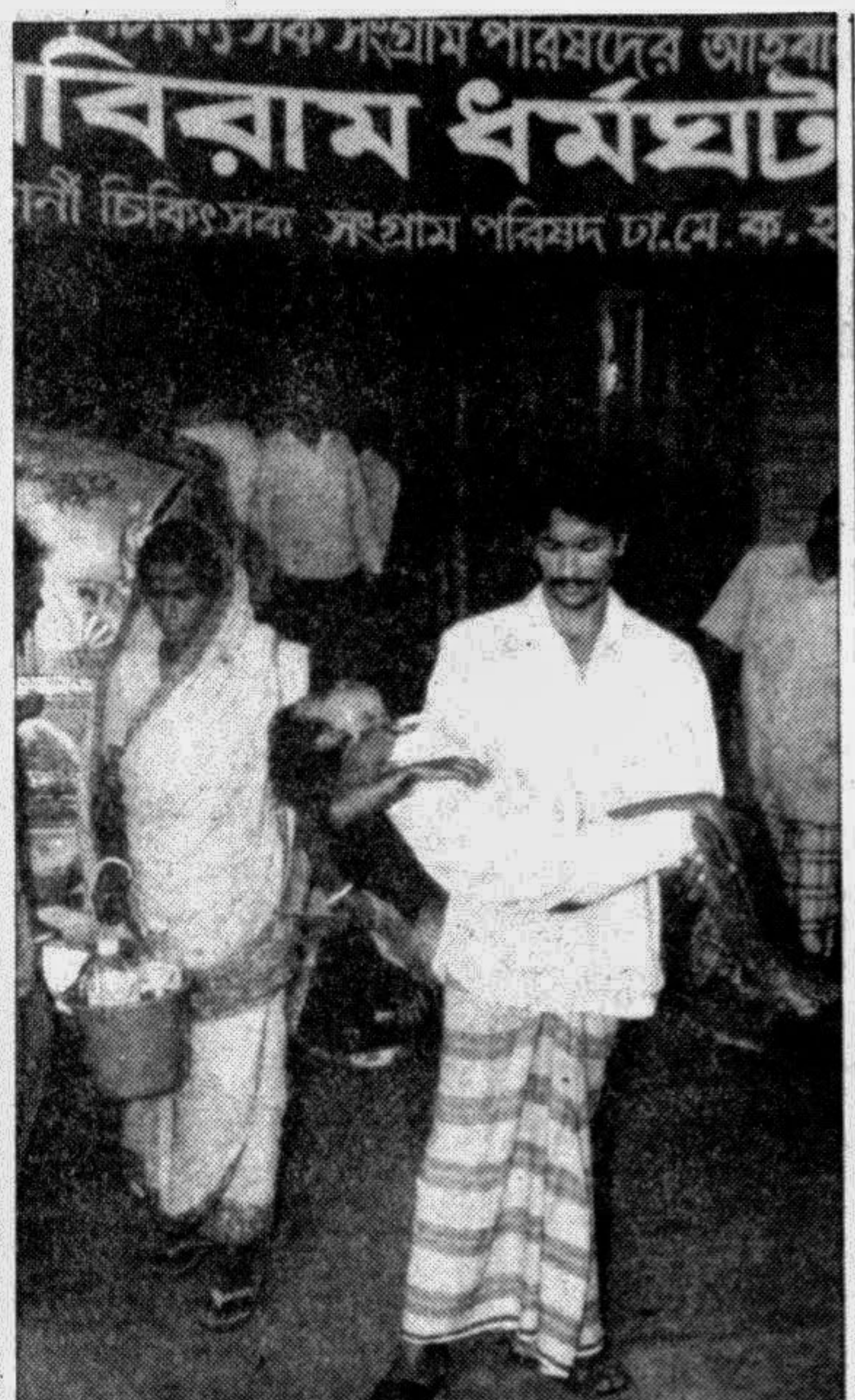
The 15-member council remains united on the need to disarm Iraq but sharply at odds on how to do it, and some diplomats say it may take weeks to reach agreement on a new strategy.

The five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — are divided over the future of the commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

BAGHDAD, Dec 22: Iraq claimed that US and British warplanes fired two "stray missiles" today toward the southern city of Basra. The report by the official Iraqi news agency did not define "stray missiles" or say if they had hit anything. A Pentagon spokesman, Lt Col Patrick Sivigny, said: "US forces have not fired any missiles." Britain's Defence Ministry likewise denied that British jets had fired any missiles at Iraq today, reports AP.

The future of its director Richard Butler, and the future of sanctions against Baghdad. At the end of Monday's council meeting — the fourth since the Iraqi bombing began on Wednesday — the council president, Bahrain's Ambassador Jassim Mohammed Bualay, read a press statement reflecting the limited consensus that exists now.

"The Security Council is in



Strike
Young doctors, still learning their skills, have walked out of their places of work -- eight government medical college hospitals -- demanding better pay and more facilities. Presence of interns is crucial in these hospitals where patients are at times forced to turn to them. This picture, taken yesterday at DMCH, partly portrays the plight.

Incentive scheme for Ctg Port workers from Jan 1

CHITTAGONG, Dec 22: The much-awaited incentive scheme for the workers of Chittagong Port will be introduced from January 1, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting here today between Deputy Minister for Shipping Sabir Hossain Chowdhury and leaders of the port workers, an official handout said here tonight.

DCC mayor

From Page 1
city convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan, Barrister Abul Hasnat, Abdus Salam, Salahuddin Ahmed, Mir Sawkat Ali, Maj (ret'd) Kamrul Mannan, Maj (ret'd) Kamrul Mannan, Eklashuddin Mollah, SA Khalek and MA Malek.

The meeting sources said the names of the candidates for next parliament election from the eight constituencies in Dhaka city were almost finalised at the meeting.

They are Mirza Abbas, Barrister Abul Hasnat, Mir Sawkat Ali, Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Salahuddin Ahmed and Maj Kamrul Islam.

The choice for Sutrapur-Kotwali constituency will be made after the Mayor election while that of Mirpur Galla constituency has been deferred for some time.

Begum Zia has asked them to prepare for the election.

The meeting also discussed the strategy for Mayor election and decided to gear up organisational activities in the city during Ramadan by organising iftar parties in different wards.

Human chain

From Page 1
to submit their complaints with its member secretary, who is also Registrar of the university. The probe committee will also investigate incidents of sexual assault reported in newspapers.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of various student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree (BCM) and Samantantrik Chhatra Front.

Businessman shot in city

By Staff correspondent
A young businessman was shot in the chest by toll collectors at his Elephant Road residence in the city yesterday evening.

The victim, S.K. Noor, 28, was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital.

Police quoting the FIR said the miscreants had demanded Tk. 20,000 from Noor's Bhai Bhai restaurant at Elephant Road few days back but he refused to pay.

A case was lodged with Dhanmudi thana accusing Kamruzzaman, Ablan, Sadek, Rafiq, and Babu of the murder.

Smuggled salt seized: 31 held

CHITTAGONG, Dec 22: Some 464 tons of non-refined smuggled salt worth Tk 1.19 crore were seized from four engine boats in Sandwip today, reports UNB.

Officials said Navy men seized the boats — MV Khijir, Al-Hussain, Shukkur Faisal and Amin Shukkur — with the salt and arrested 31 people in this connection.

Smuggled goods

From Page 1
NBR to chase the engine boats loaded with smuggled goods.

Some sources, however, alleged that a section of shipping agents, police and customs officials are reportedly linked with the transportation of smuggled goods from the outer anchorage to different shore areas. Even a single piece of smuggled goods cannot reach here if customs personnel and police work in a coordinated way as both are 'well aware of it', they added.

"Some police officials help the smugglers in unloading of contraband goods from mechanised boats on contract of 'monthly-payment' to them," one source alleged.

Smuggling of Myanmar-made 'London' brand cigarettes and salt has also increased in recent days and the items are brought by trawlers.

Over 200 master cartons of 'London' brand cigarettes and huge quantities salt were seized here by different government agencies last week, customs sources said.

Khaleda urges Islamic forces to join anti-govt agitation

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has urged country's Islamic leaders to raise voice against 'misrule injustice' of the government, reports UNB.

"Mobilise opinion of people against the ruling party's anti-people and anti-Islamic activities," Begum Zia told the ulama while exchanging view at an iftar party at her official residence yesterday evening.

The BNP chairperson hosted the iftar party which was largely attended by imams of the city mosques, Islamic thinkers, university teachers, religious leaders, madrassah teachers and students.

Begum Zia urged the Islamic forces to remain vigilant against the anti-Islamic activities of the government and join the future action programme against the ruling party to restore democratic norms and people's government.

She said the government is obstructing even religious activities by imposing section 144 in different places of the country.

Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr Mustafiz, Dr Habibur Rahman, Dr Ahmed Maher Sabik, Dr Mitha Atia of International Association of Islamic Reforms, Moulana Sefatullah, Moulana Rafiquddin, Moulana Anarullah and Moulana Shamsul Huq Kasemi were among those present.

Jatiyatabadi Ulama Dal convenor Najibul Bashar Majbhandari welcomed the guests.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan, Salahuddin Ahmed and Barrister Abul Hasnat also attended the iftar party.

Disposing hospital waste

From Page 1
Technotrade International.

Since the authorities of these hospitals are compelled to dump all their waste in the open in absence of any waste management guideline, the government decided to procure the devices ignoring their environmental impact.

The procurement cost Tk 76 lakh, and the Asian Development Bank lent the money.

A Washington-based environmental lawyer said the companies were just taking advantage of absence of guidelines.

The West and the incinerator industries are looking for new markets where the public is unaware of the dangers of incineration and where regulations don't yet exist," said Farzana H Anwar of Multinationals Resource Centre.

The incinerators that have been procured for the hospitals can cause significant negative environmental impact, mainly from extremely toxic dioxin and furans produced during combustion of chlorinated plastics like polyvinyl chloride or PVC," according to Ralph Ryder, a co-ordinator of Communities Against Toxics (CATs).

CATs is a coalition of long suffering British and Irish groups faced with unsafe methods of waste disposal.

The group also provided The Daily Star with information on bad effects of the incineration technology the two Bangladesh hospitals would be using.

The incinerator disperses dioxin (poisonous) chemicals in the form of ultra-fine particles. We breathe these particles into our bodies where they build up in fatty tissues. Scientists acknowledge that the growing baby and breast-fed infants are the most susceptible to these chemicals," CATs Ryder said.

"Researchers at the Foetal and Infant Toxicology-Pathology Unit of Liverpool University have recorded over 400 chemicals in the umbilical cord of a new-born child. A great proportion of these is known as carcinogens — potential agents that can lead to cancer," added Ralph.

Evidence gathered in the last decade indicates that global dioxin contamination poses a long-term threat to the human population, says Greenpeace.

"The threat is of particular concern because of its ability to disrupt the endocrine system leading to a wide variety of effects on reproduction, child development, and the immune system.

There are evidences that the animal kingdom has already been badly affected by the dioxin pollution."

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the Greenpeace draft summary report titled Dioxin from Cradle to Grave, which states "reducing the input of PVC and other chlorinated organic chemicals decrease dioxin formation. We must bring dioxin creation and release to zero to minimise the risk of exposure."

The big question being raised is whether the authorities here knew about it all. It seems they did, but did not bother.

Efforts were made to stop procurement of the incinerators.

PM's directive Monitor stock position, price situation of essentials

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the officials concerned to constantly monitor the stock position, price situation and smooth transportation of essentials to keep the market stable during Ramadan, reports UNB.

Prime Minister also hoped that all would cooperate with the government in maintaining sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan and ensuring fair price of essential commodities.

An official handout on the PM's call said the government had taken about measures to keep prices of essentials within the purchasing capacity of the people during the month of Ramadan.

The government warned "dishonest traders and hoarders" not to manipulate the stock of essential commodities at the cost of misery of the people.

"Such acts will be severely dealt with," said the government directive.

No official iftar party

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has decided not to host any official iftar party during the holy month of Ramadan, reports UNB.

She took the decision in view of this year's devastating flood and the subsequent measures being pursued by the government.

The Prime Minister directed all ministries and government organisations not to host any iftar party during the month.

1536 candidates of 18th BCS appointed

Bangladesh Public Service Commission on the basis of the 18th BCS examination results has given appointment to 1536 successful candidates, reports UNB.

The appointed candidates have been asked to join their respective offices by January 25 next, said an official handout yesterday.

Road accident

From Page 1
In Jessore, two people were killed in two separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Police said a college student, Selim Uddin, 20, was crushed under the wheels of a truck while crossing Jessore-Kaliganj road at Saattmile Barinagar in Kotwali thana in the morning.

In the other accident in the district, another speeding truck ran down Amjad Hossain, 22, of Chanpara in Kotwali thana at about 9 am at Hamidpur Square on the Jessore-Narail road while he was waiting for a Jessore-bound bus.

Amjad was rushed to Jessore General Hospital where attending doctors pronounced him dead.

APB adds: One Hare Kumar, 26, son of Hare Kishore was crushed under the wheels of a speeding motor vehicle at Uttara Section No 1 in the city while he was crossing the road at about 11 am.

In another incident, an unidentified man, aged about 50, received severe injuries when a speeding bus dashed him at Kamulpur in Motijheel thana in the morning. He later died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

India, Russia to sign 'strategic friendship' accord next year

NEW DELHI, Dec 22: India and Russia will sign a "strategic friendship" agreement next year that will reflect their close ties since the 1971 treaty signed during the Cold War, according to a joint declaration the two nations issued today, reports AP.

An Indian foreign ministry official said the agreement will be the first of its kind to be concluded by Russia with any country.

It will be signed during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India in 1999. Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov told reporters Monday.

Yeltsin was scheduled to visit New Delhi in December, but his trip was postponed as his health deteriorated. No fresh dates have been set for Yeltsin's visit.

"This political document of paramount importance will set new parameters and guide further development of the close partnership between India and Russia," said a joint declaration at the end of a two-day visit by Primakov.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has voiced concern over a long-term defence agreement between India and Russia, saying it would intensify the regional arms race.

The defence accord, technology transfer and cooperation in arms production would disturb the strategic balance and heighten the arms race, the official news agency APP quoted Pakistan foreign minister Sartaj Aziz as saying.

In Moscow, Russian Communist leaders called today for a defense partnership with India and China to offset what they perceive as the military dominance of the United States, a news report said.

The recent US and British bombings of Iraq showed "what may happen if (American) policies are disliked overseas," Communist Party leader Genady Zyuganov said, according to the Interfax news agency.

The proposal for a "strategic triangle" between Russia, India and China was first made by Primakov during his trip to India. India and China are leading buyers of Russian arms.

Russia, China and India all opposed the use of force against Iraq to make Saddam Hussein comply with the UN weapons inspectors. Russian hard-liners claimed that the West may some day attack Russia.

Bill proposing 2 new Indian states placed

NEW DELHI, Dec 22: A controversial bill proposing two new Indian states was placed before parliament today, reports AP.

Shouting from opponents of the bill delayed proceedings by more than an hour, but the Bharatiya Janata Party was eventually able to introduce it.

The BJP says carving Uttaranchal out of northern Uttar Pradesh and Chattisgarh out of central Madhya Pradesh would ensure better governance by creating smaller, more manageable administrative areas. India at present has 26 states.

Politicians who could see their fiefdoms decreased have raised strong objections to the bill. A proposal to create a third state, Vananchal in what is now Bihar, was left out of the bill pending further study in the face of strong opposition from the Rashtriya Janata Dal Party that dominates Bihar.

Sohel murder Adnan, Selim on another five days' remand

By Staff Correspondent
The two persons arrested in connection with Sohul murder case, Adnan and Sohul's car driver Selim Khan, were placed on another five days' police remand yesterday.

Film actor Sohul Chowdhury was gunned down in front of Tramps club at Banani in the city Friday night.

DB police on Sunday interrogated two young women who claimed themselves to be Sohul's wives but did not find any clue to the murder. They also interrogated five friends of the film actor who had accompanied him before the murder.

Police said, as per statements of the two arrested persons, they are looking for two prominent industrialists suspecting their involvement in the killing and have directed different check posts to strengthen vigilance so that they can not flee the country.

DB police visited the spot of the murder and the adjoining Tramps club several times, but could not find any document from the club.

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