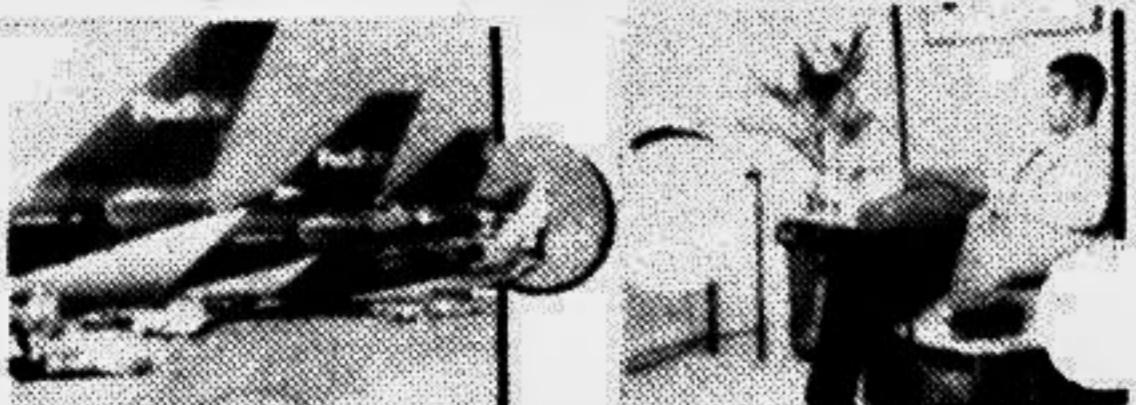


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PHILIPS

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.

Former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today the UN must hold a dialogue with Iraq to solve the present crisis.

Boutros-Ghali, visiting Hanoi as secretary general of the Francophone Movement, said the UN had been weakened by the attacks on Iraq launched by the United States and Britain.

He denounced "the unilateral decision taken by the two countries to undertake military intervention in Iraq."

In Paris, a former French defence minister also accused Washington of humiliating United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan by playing "world policeman" and attacking Iraq without UN approval.

Paul Quiles, Socialist chairman of the National Assembly's defence committee, wrote in the left-wing daily Liberation Today that Washington wanted to weaken the United Nations and use NATO instead for military operations abroad.

The Security Council is in

the process of assessing its approach to (the) Iraq question and how best to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, and intends to pursue this question actively, in accordance with its primary responsibility under the (UN) Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security," the statement said.

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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 Saber 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 (retd) Mahmudul Hasan, Barrister Abdul Salam, Salahuddin Ahmed, Mir Sawkat Ali, Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan, Maj (retd) Kamruddin Molla, Eklasuddin Molla, SA Khaleq 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 Abdul Hasnat, Mir Sawkat Ali, Major (retd) Abdul Mannan, Salauddin Ahmed and Maj Kamruddin.

The choice for Sutrapur-Kotwali constituency will be made after the Mayor election while that a Mirpur-Pallabi 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 Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যদের ঘোষণার জন্য
বিজিএমইএ'র আসন্ন নির্বাচনে ভোটার হওয়ার জন্য বিজিএমইএ'র টাংড়া পরিশোধের এবং ভোটার নথিনেশনের কাগজপত্র জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ২৬ ডিসেম্বর '৯৮। যথাসময়ে টাংড়া পরিশোধ করে বিজিএমইএ'র ভোটার হওয়ার জন্য আপনাকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। ইতিমধ্যে টাংড়া পরিশোধ করে সদস্যপদ নথিনেশনের পরও ধ্রুব ১০০ জনের অধিক সদস্য ভোটার/ব্যক্তি মনোনয়ন দান করেন নাই। অনুরোধ করে উক্ত তারিখের মধ্যে ছবি-বাক্সের সহ মনোনয়ন দিয়ে বৈধ ভোটার হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। মাহে রম্যানের উভচোহু সহ ধন্যবাদান্তে।
আনিসুর রহমান সিনহা আনিসুল হক
চোয়ার্যান ওপের এন্সেপ্স ও সেকেন্টারী জেনারেল, ফোরাম

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 Dhamondi thana accusing Kamruzzaman, Aban, Sadek, 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 BSS.

Officials said Navy men seized the boats — MV Khijir, Al-Hussain, Shukur, Faisal and Amin Shukur — 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 officials help the smugglers in unloading of contraband goods from mechanised boats on contract of "monthly-payment" to them," one source alleged.

Smuggling of Myanmarese '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.

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 Multinational Resource Centre.

The incinerators that have been procured for the hospitals can cause significant negative environment impact, mainly from extremely toxic dioxin and furans produced during combustion of chlorinated plastics like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) according to Ralph Ryden, a co-ordinator of Communications 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 Bangladeshi 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' Ryden 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.

Forts were made to stop

procurement of the incinerator

and the incinerator