

AEI
Bangladesh Air Express International Limited
PLEASE CONTACT:
Head Office Tel : 9565114, Logistics Office Tel : 9884851, Fax : (880-2) 9886531, E-mail : dac@aeilogis.com
Chittagong Office Tel : (031) 721085, Fax : (880-31) 710106, Internet : fedcgp@spcnet.com.smp.
Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC

Quality Worldwide Logistics

Refrigerator & Freezer
Instalment facility available
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg : 716353, 723578
Kulna : 720304 Bogra : 6215
ART290 - 265 Lines

Four Iraqis killed in fresh missile attack

BAGHDAD, Dec 28: Western warplanes fired missiles today at an Iraqi air defense site in the north, killing four Iraqi soldiers, the government said in a statement, reports AP.

In Washington, a senior US administration official confirmed that US warplanes fired on targets in Northern Iraq, saying it was in response to Iraqi fire.

US pilots "took appropriate action to enforce" no-fly zones which is an important element of our containment policy," the official said on condition of anonymity. "We will continue to enforce no-fly zones, and take protective actions to protect our pilots."

A spokesman for the British Ministry of Defense said its planes were not involved in Monday's incident.

Seven other soldiers were injured and Iraqi air defenses fired back in response, forcing the warplanes to flee, according to the statement, which was attributed to an unnamed military spokesman and distributed by the Information Ministry.

The casualties would be the first reported by Iraq since a four-day bombing campaign by American and British forces ended Dec 19. Iraq said 62 soldiers and at least 40 civilians died in those airstrikes. It never gave a final civilian casualty count.

"The murderers and criminal returned once again and violated our national airspace," Monday's statement said. It added that "several enemy formations" entered Iraqi airspace at 10.25 am (0725 GMT) from Turkey.

Iraqi air defenses "confronted them with valor and forced them to flee to their bases of evil and aggression in Turkey," the statement said.

The statement said another wave of the planes entered Iraq at 1.37 pm (1037 GMT) and fired criminal missiles against one of our sites in the area.

These missiles, it said, killed four soldiers and wounded seven. The statement was distributed to reporters by the Information Ministry.



Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia flanked by FBCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo (on her left) and BNP secretary general Abdul Manan Bhuiyan greets guests—leaders of the business community—at the iftar party she hosted at her Minto Road official residence yesterday.

Khaleda sets 5 conditions

From Page 1

loan from banks for investment as the government is borrowing money from those to meet administrative expenditure.

She claimed that smuggled goods have flooded the markets as government opened all the borders. Domestic industries are being closed due to this uneven competition and thousands of industrial workers are losing their jobs.

The BNP chief said that from the very beginning her party wanted to cooperate with this government. "We are still ready to assist it, but this government is not taking our cooperation and even not allowing the Opposition to speak in parliament as well as on the street."

"I think a hartal would not have been necessary had the government allowed us to speak and discussed with us. BNP launched street protests after failing to talk in parliament. We call hartal when the government obstructs our democratic movement. Till today we didn't call a single hartal unnecessarily," she said.

Turning to the situation at Feni, the opposition leader told the FBCI leaders that businessmen there are being compelled to call hartal due to "terrorism and toll extortion by a godfather who is known to all."

"A deadlock situation has been prevailing at Feni due to frequent incidents of terrorism and extortion. Even I am afraid of going there for fear of terrorism. The district administration has completely failed to control the situation there as it has become subservient of ruling party men," she alleged.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party central leaders M Saifur Rahman, M Morshed Khan, MK Anwar, Harun-or-Rashid Monno, Amir Kashur Mahmud Chowdhury and Zafrul Islam Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

5 conditions

UNB added: Khaleda yesterday set five conditions for re-nouncing hartal.

The conditions are: The government must refrain from repression on opposition and anti-people and anti-state activities, ensure voting rights, allow the opposition to speak in Parliament and create no obstacles to street programme of the opposition.

"I myself don't like hartal. We will not go for hartal if the government adhered to the conditions," Begum Zia said.

FBCI President lauded the previous government led by Begum Zia when, he said, the shattered economy was revived and macro-economy stabilised. GDP increased to more than five per cent for the first time and the inflation declined to below five per cent from 9 per cent. The forex reserves also piled up to a comfortable three billion dollars.

Mintoo further said budget deficit came down significantly and financial discipline restored during the BNP regime. There had been remarkable development in the social sector as well.

He said the country is now passing through a critical juncture. The nation faces the challenges of the 21st century.

The FBCI chief stressed the need for raising the GDP to 8 per cent, growth of export to 25 per cent from 17 per cent, raising the investment by 25 per cent to reach the economic goal and alleviate poverty.

He pointed to the enormous loss due to the current political instability. "I want to draw your attention particularly to the adverse effects of the political programme of hartal-blockade on the national economy."

Mintoo noted with regret that the business community has been appealing to the political parties since 1991 to find out alternative to hartal and blockade. But unfortunately, the problem remained unresolved.

"The economy as a whole is in the grip of total uncertainty," said FBCI president and urged the opposition leader to play a pioneering role in establishing consensus of political parties for maintaining congenial atmosphere for unhindered economic growth and political stability.

4 churches torched in Gujarat

SURAT (India), Dec 28: Hindu radicals burned down four churches today and Christian missionaries huddled in remote villages in a western state that has seen rising attacks against minorities in recent weeks, reports AP.

Members of two fringe right-wing Hindu parties that have been blamed for most of the recent attacks say missionaries convert poor, often illiterate tribals to Christianity, promising them jobs or giving them other inducements.

Mobs set ablaze a church made of bamboo in Mulchand village, 80 kilometers south of Surat, a prosperous town in Gujarat state, police said.

Missionaries said attackers stormed three other churches and a prayer hall in three villages in Dang's district, 140 kilometers south of Surat. Police were unable to confirm the attacks.

"All three churches have been badly damaged," said Father TV Gaikwad, in Ahwa village, where the first attack took place on Christmas Day. A mob with axes, iron bars and hammers attacked the churches," he said.

While police guarded churches in cities, small makeshift chapels of wood, bamboo and brick in Dang's 320 remote villages were targeted by mobs. Barely 100 policemen were available to patrol the hilly and inhospitable terrain.

Attacks on Christians — 2 per cent of India's nearly 1 billion population — increased after the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in New Delhi in March.

"We fell insecure," said Sister Carmen Borges, principal of Deep Darshan school, near Mulchand, site of the latest attack.

Traders at Feni call off hartal

FENI, Dec 28: The business community here called off tomorrow's hartal in the town after the first day of 48-hour shutdown passed off today without major incident, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting in the Deputy Commissioner's conference room with DC Noor Mohammad in the chair.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Feni Municipality Chairman Alhaj Kobbad Ahmed representing Bangladesh Awami League and Ziauddin Master representing Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The superintendent of police, Kazi Anwar Hossain, was also present at the meeting.

Earlier, business leaders, called the 48-hour hartal protesting alleged extortion of toll collection and terrorism which hampered the business environment in the district headquarters.

Jahangir, a sub-inspector of police, was injured at Panchagachia road as the BNP activists hurled bombs at him this afternoon. Police arrested eight persons in this connection.

Additional police and paramilitary BDR personnel have been deployed in the town for ensuring law and order.

Benazir banned from going Dubai

KARACHI, Dec 28: Pakistani authorities today stopped former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from going to Dubai, saying she cannot travel abroad because of ongoing corruption cases against her, reports AP.

"They (authorities) showed me a written order that I can't go abroad because there are (corruption) cases against me," Bhutto told reporters at the Karachi airport as she wiped her tears with tissue paper.

Bhutto was going to Dubai to celebrate New Year with her three children who are studying there.

Bhutto, twice elected prime minister and the opposition leader, said she will file a contempt of court suit against the government because there was no court order banning her from traveling abroad.

"I will ask court to give me permission to meet my children," she said. "My children have nothing to do with politics. The incident has shocked me... it has also exposed the ugliness of Pakistani politics."

"The government is trying to exploit the emotions of a mother by not allowing me to see my children... It is another black chapter," she said.

JU students to join DU protesters

By JU Correspondent

General Students Unity (GSU) and Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) of Jahangirnagar University yesterday brought out separate processions demanding stern action against those involved in sexual assault on female students of Dhaka University and Sunday's attack on the agitating students.

The GSU also held a rally after the procession. The rally at the arts faculty condemned the attack on the protesting DU students and demanded immediate action against those involved in the attack as well as in the sexual harassment of the female students of DU.

The GSU leaders demanded expulsion of the teachers if found guilty.

Expressing solidarity, GSU also decided to take part in today's demonstration at DU.

GCO brought out a similar procession on the campus and held a rally after the procession. While addressing the rally, the leaders also condemned the attack and demanded stern action against the persons involved.

GCO also demanded an 'impartial probe' into the alleged sexual assault on the female students of DU.

Drive against unauthorised rickshaws in city from Jan 1

DMP has decided to launch a drive to impound unauthorised rickshaws from January 1 as the number of slow-moving three-wheelers marked an unusual use in the city, reports UNB.

Legal action will be taken against the concerned people if any rickshaw is found in any garage or plying on roads without licence, said a DMP press release yesterday.

2 trains derail in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Dec 28: Train communication between northern districts and the port city of Chittagong was disrupted for five hours today following derailment of two trains in the district, reports UNB.

Railway sources said five wagons of a cargo train derailed at a level-crossing on CK Ghose Road at about 1.30 pm, halting train service in the region.

In another incident, one compartment of a passenger train derailed at Baghmara level-crossing at about 9.30 am.

Adnan

From Page 1

The killing occurred while he was still upstairs. Adnan claimed and said that he had no knowledge who actually killed Sohel.

Police continued their search for the man named by Adnan and who were absconding since the murder.

Investigation sources said the persons named by Adnan are most influential in the society.

"Hideouts of the alleged killers of Sohel Chowdhury are beyond easy reach of police... they change places by the time permission is obtained to enter such places," said a DB official requesting anonymity.

The DB investigators questioned some 25 people, including Sohel's relatives and have got friends till yesterday.

Police talked to business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai and the Owner of Tramps Club, Bunty Islam, and may interrogate them again.

Both denied their involvement with the Sohel killing and said he was one of their best friends "despite some occasional misunderstandings," sources said.

Both were produced yesterday before the court, where Adnan gave his confessional statement to magistrate Masudur Rahman Patwary. Showing arrest in a separate case of dacoity in Dhanmondi area in 1997, Adnan was again taken to police station for three days. Selim did not make any statement and was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

AL activist slaughtered in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 28: An activist of the ruling Awami League was slaughtered allegedly by the members of the outlawed Purbo Bangla Sarbhabara Party here on Sunday night, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Shamsur Rahman alias Shamsu, 35, of Dhopaghat in sadar thana.

Family sources said Shamsu was kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of 10 to 15 miscreants from his residence on Sunday night. Later, his body was found at Backshipara this morning.

AL activist slaughtered in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 28: An activist of the ruling Awami League was slaughtered allegedly by the members of the outlawed Purbo Bangla Sarbhabara Party here on Sunday night, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Shamsur Rahman alias Shamsu, 35, of Dhopaghat in sadar thana.

Family sources said Shamsu was kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of 10 to 15 miscreants from his residence on Sunday night. Later, his body was found at Backshipara this morning.

2 outlaws held with arms

MAGURA, Dec 28: The police today arrested two members of an outlawed party along with two guns and 11 ammunition, reports UNB.

Nayeb Ali, 25, and Javed Ali, 27, were arrested from the house of Ali Ahmed Mollah of village Raghav Dair under sadar thana in the afternoon.

The two young gunmen, hailing from Shalika thana, are members of Sarbhabara Party (Lalan group).

Dhaka to become member of Global Tiger forum

Bangladesh will become member of the 'Global Tiger Forum' and ratify the statutes of the international wildlife watchdog, reports UNB.

The forum campaigns for preservation of tigers and safekeeping the animal sanctuaries.

The approval was given in a meeting of the council of ministers at the Prime Minister's office yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Ministers, State Ministers in Charge, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

CMP commissioner transferred to NSI

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Kutubur Rahman has been transferred to National Security Intelligence (NSI) as its director, official sources said.

Director of NSI, Ahmedul Huq Chowdhury, has been posted here to replace Kutubur Rahman, the sources added.

The transfer order reached Kutubur Rahman yesterday.

The sources informed that the transfer order was the result of a 'hidden conflict' between Kutubur Rahman and local leaders of the ruling party over the issue of community policing in the city.

Ershad

From Page 1

Zafar hoped that Ershad would not disappoint millions who expect him to guide the party in building a democratic society by ousting Hasina's autocratic regime. He also hoped that the JP would now do something effective to free Shah Moazzem from jail. "Moazzem, and BNP leaders Obidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur have been accused in the jail killing case only because they are not AL leaders these days."

JP secretary general Nazir Rahman Manju, who had reportedly assaulted Kazi Zafar for his anti-government speech about a year and a half ago, also spoke in favour of a 'united movement against the government'. He, however, opposed hartal. We want a 'terror-free and hartal-free society'.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Begum Rawshan Ershad, Mostafa Zamal Haider, Shamim Ali Mamun and Mainuddin Bhuiyan.

Ismail Hossain Bengal read out the resolutions adopted in the morning session of the council meeting chaired by Kazi Zafar. "It is now the responsibility of the patriots to unite against the 'undemocratic' government of Awami League," said a resolution.

D-8 summit

From Page 1

council of ministers. February 28 has been kept reserved for the arrival of the heads of delegations.

The summit will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. An auditorium has been built at the winter garden of the hotel for holding the summit.

Left parties

From Page 1

jahidul Islam Selim, Abdullah Sarkar, Azizul Islam Khan, Alhaj Abdus Samad, A F M Mahabubul Haq, Dilip Barua, Advocate Abdus Salam, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Mahamudur Rahman Babu were, among others, present.

Aid Club

From Page 1

forms, flood and rehabilitation, public administrative reforms and governance, food security, women in development and their empowerment, human development and micro-credit.

DU agitation

Identify, punish attackers, demands SNS

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) has strongly condemned and protested attack on students agitating against alleged sexual harassment of women on Dhaka University campus and demanded urgent steps against the attackers.

In a statement yesterday, it said Sunday's attack on the agitating students is aimed at suppressing the movement and termed the attack as undemocratic.

The SNS hoped that Dhaka University authorities would identify the attackers and take immediate steps against them.

It further hoped that the DU authorities would not take the side of those involved in repression on women.

DU authorities must take exemplary punitive measures against the abusers as per rule, it added.

The SNS said it was concerned over reported incidents of rape and repression on women at universities, different institutions and government offices, with the culprits going unpunished. As a result, repression on women and children are increasing day by day and the situation is taking a serious turn.

Expressing solidarity with the agitating students, it asked the authorities of all universities of the country to formulate a specific policy to stop repression and harassment on women.

It also put forward a four-point demand which includes immediate sacking of a teacher, publication of the probe body report and formulation of proper policy to check repression on women in universities.

In a separate statement, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) has also condemned Sunday's attack on the agitating students at DU.

It demanded immediate inquiry into the incident and exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack.

The ASK demanded publication of the inquiry committee report and stressed the need for formulation of an anti-sexual harassment policy.

8 more injured in attacks at DU

From Page 1

age of DU teachers, attacked the SPSH procession with brick-bats near the Dhaka University Central Mosque at around 11.35.

Witnesses said the rival group did not bring out procession or hold rally on the campus. Instead, they took position at different strategic points to attack the campaigners against alleged sexual abuses, witnesses said.

The SPSH entered the Arts Faculty area in a procession through the gate of the Central Library opposite the Rokeya Hall at around 11.15 am.

They tried to parade the campus with the procession but were intercepted by police near the Lecture Theatre. Being stopped, they came back towards the Central Library area through the road in front of Madhu's Canteen.

Meanwhile, a section of students of International Relations (IR) department brought out a procession on the campus at the same time. They carried a banner reading "Those who are tarnishing the image of the university would not be tolerated" and "Harassment of teachers in the name of trial will not be allowed".

They were going towards the Central Library area through the road in front of DUCSU building. At this stage, the activists of 'Conscious Students' merged with the students of IR.

The SPSH diverted its procession to avoid clashing with the procession of IR students. At this point, activists of "Conscious Group", emerging out of the procession of the IR students, attacked the SPSH procession near the university mosque.

The SPSH activists scattered in the face of the sudden sloop. Later, they gathered in front of DUCSU building and were preparing to organise a rally there.

The "Conscious Students" at that time brought out a separate procession without any banner and moved towards the Central Library area.

Few minutes later, they attacked the gathering at the SPSH again. A small group from the Madhu's Canteen area also attacked the gathering at the same time. The SPSH activists then left the campus under police protection and held a rally in front of Rokeya Hall.

The speakers at the rally condemned the attack and announced that a solidarity rally would be held today on the campus.

Meanwhile, different student organisations organised processions and held rallies on the campus to protest the attack on the SPSH procession.

The organisations include Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO).

The processions of these student organisations also came under attack from a group.

The student bodies condemned the attack on them. They threatened to launch movement if attack on SPSH continues.

Speakers at a BCU rally said they would lay siege on the VC's office tomorrow if the authorities fail to act against the attackers.

They said the "Conscious Students" were violating the atmosphere of the university in the name of saving the image of the university.

GCO leaders at the rally said they would try to protect the SPSH activists in spite of difference of opinion with them.

They criticised the role of police during the incidents.

Meanwhile, SPSH at a press conference at the TSC condemned the attack on them and blamed the "Conscious Students" for the attack.

They urged the university authorities for taking action against the attackers. "Freedom of expression is our fundamental right and the attempt to snatch this is undemocratic,"

said Sultana Rahman Putul, a leader of SPSH at the press conference.

"We will continue the movement till our demands are met," said another leader, Rupa.

BCF at a press briefing also vowed to continue the movement till the demands are met.

VC's rejoinder:

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury has clarified one of his statements published in The Daily Star on Sunday under the headline "VC calls for restraint: Protesting students attacked at DU."

According to the press release, the VC said, "The authorities have tried to contact the female students associated with SPSH for discussion about effigy-burning through some of their female teachers" and not that "I requested some female teachers of the university to prevent the SPSH from burning the effigy of the alleged sexual abusers" as printed in the Daily Star.

The release also said "the DU authorities think the above mentioned portion of the report may mean that some teachers are involved with SPSH and this may create misunderstanding among people. But in fact no female teacher of the university is associated with SPSH."

When the subject is you pick the very best in a la carte Eid fashion MENU

An exciting catalogue for your latest fashion need Let the Star Fashion '99 help express the best in you

The Daily Star
Eid Fashion '99 CATALOGUE

Hitting Newsstands in the first week of January

The Daily Star
Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cstlr: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net