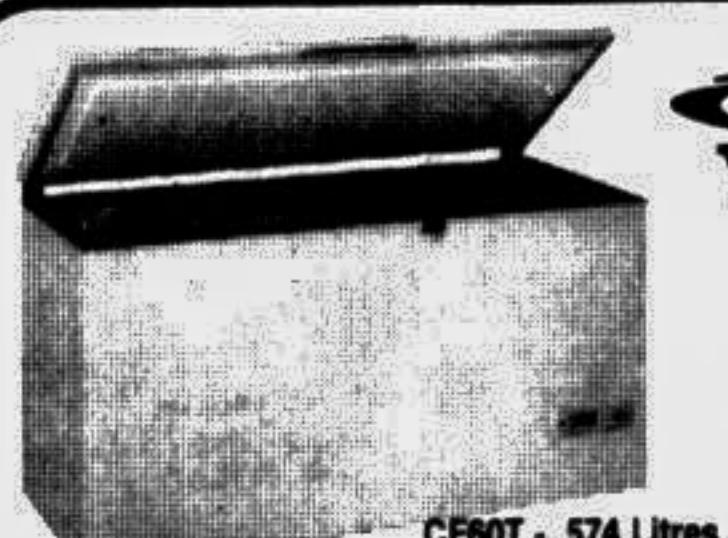




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# Four Iraqis killed in fresh missile attack

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 defences 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 criminals returned once again and vi-

olated 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 FBCCI 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.

# 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 Dangs district, 140 kilometers south of Surat. Police were unable to confirm the attacks.

"All three churches have been badly damaged," said Father TV Galkwad, 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 Dangs' 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.

## 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 CR Ghose Road at about 1:30 pm, halting train service in the region.

In another incident, one compartment of a passenger train derailed at Baghpara level-crossing at about 9:30 am.

## 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.

## 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.

"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.

## Adnan

From Page 1

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

Police continued their search for those 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 DBF official requesting anonymity.

The DBF investigators questioned some 25 people, including Sohel's relatives and have girls till yesterday.

Police talked to business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai and the Owner of Tramps Club, Bunti 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 Mudasir Rahman Pathway. Showing arrest in a separate case of dacoity in Dhamondi area in 1997, Adnan was again taken to police remand for three days. Selim did not make any statement and was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

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.

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.

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## JU students to join DU protesters

By JU Correspondent

General Students' Units (GSU) and Gonotantrik Chhatra Okkya (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 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 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," Begum Zia said.

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

Turning to the situation at Feni, the opposition leader told the FBCCI 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

## 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 loosing their jobs.

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"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 Kashru Mahmud Chowdhury and Zafur Islam Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

**5 conditions**

UNB adds: 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.

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## DUTA polls: Last minute campaign

DUTA that often plays an important role in various issues of the university as well as in national politics.

Prof Syed Hadiuzzaman of Bonyani Department will conduct the election to be held at the University Club from 10 am to 1 pm without any break.

Blue and White panels are contesting for all the 15 seats while Pink Panel will put up candidates for 14 posts.

Prof M Shahadat Ali of Zoology Department is vying for the post of president against his White Panel rival Prof AM Yusuf Haider of Physics Department, the incumbent president of DUTA, Prof Kazi Nurul Islam of Philosophy Department is in the fray from Pink Panel.

Blue Panel candidate Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department and White Panel candidate Mohammad Ferdous Hossain of Political Science are contesting for the post of general secretary respectively.

The three panels — ruling Awami League-backed Blue Panel, BNP and Jamaat-supported White Panel and left-leaning Pink Panel — are contesting the election.

In the last year's election, out of the total 15 posts White Panel bagged seven, including the president and Blue Panel captured the rest of the seats, including that of general secretary. Pink Panel, however, failed to secure any positions.

A total of 1,137 DU teachers are expected to cast their votes to elect new office bearers of

the university.

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

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