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**PHILIPS**

## Iraq challenges 'no-fly' zones, to down western planes

BAGHDAD, Dec 29: Iraq is challenging the 'no-fly' zones patrolled by the United States and Britain by flying its warplanes there, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said today, reports AP.

The move came a day after US aircraft fired on an anti-aircraft battery in the northern no-fly zone, Iraq says four soldiers were killed.

Asked if Iraq was flying its own aircraft in the no-fly zones, Ramadan said: "We are doing it right now."

"Iraqi planes in effect are flying in a normal manner in Iraqi air space," he told Associated Press Television News.

Ramadan said today that Iraqi armed forces confirmed shooting down a western plane during a US strike on an anti-aircraft position in northern Iraq on Monday.

US officials in Washington and at the air base in Turkey from which the attack was launched have stated that all aircraft returned safely.

Ramadan vowed that Iraq would continue to open fire at

western planes guarding two no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq.

"Iraq does not recognise these no-fly zones... and we will continue to resist such violations," he said.

In response, the Pentagon said US and British warplanes won't be intimidated by the latest Iraqi threats.

"As the president said yesterday, we will continue to enforce the 'no-fly' zones," Lt Col Stephen Campbell said today. "Nothing has changed."

American flyers are prepared to act against any Iraqi aggression, said Col Richard Bridges. "I'm sure that pilots will be much more alert. There'll be more adrenaline running. But the mechanisms to respond appropriately are already in place."

Ramadan issued a direct challenge: "Our resistance will continue against any penetration," he told Associated Press Television News. "The war is still on."

Iraq has always questioned

the legitimacy of the no-fly zones, but has rarely engaged US and British warplanes — the last time was in September of 1996. Now, however, Iraq is trying to provoke the United States as part of a calculated strategy to get out from under strict UN economic sanctions and other controls, foreign policy experts say.

The Iraqi defiance is likely to escalate its confrontation with the United States and Britain, which bombed Iraq for four nights from Dec 16 and Dec 19.

The state aim of the airstrikes was to diminish Iraq's ability to build weapons of mass destruction, which UN weapons inspectors were trying to dismantle until they withdrew Dec 16, complaining of Iraqi obstruction.

Iraq says 42 soldiers and more than 40 civilians were killed in the strikes, Iraq alleges that many civilian targets were hit, and not just defense sites as the United States maintains.



Refusing to be silenced by successive attacks by rivals, Dhaka University female students have continued their protest against alleged sexual assault by teachers. With renewed resolve, they chanted demand yesterday that the 'culprits' be brought to book.

— Star photo by Amran Hossain

## DU: Protest mounting

From Page 1

campus yesterday to protest the attacks on students.

The SPSH members came under attack from their rival group 'Conscious Students' on Sunday and Monday. The rival group that claims they stand for saving the image of DU teachers did not observe any programme yesterday.

The JCD leaders, at a rally in front of the DUCSU building, held the Vice-chancellor responsible for the untoward incidents on the campus over the last few days and asked him to resign.

"The unrest was created by the Awami League-backed BCL and so the AL-backed VC should step down taking all the responsibility," JCD president for the DU unit Monir Hossain said.

The SPSH held the 'solidarity rally' on the Central Library premises under police protection. Earlier, it brought out a procession from Rokeya Hall.

A section of students of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) joined the rally to express solidarity with the SPSH.

The organisations that expressed solidarity are Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Biplobi Chhatra Moitry, Nari Pragati, Tattva Parjalochana O Samantray Kendra, Suchana Adhayan Chakra, Bibartan Sangskriti, Bitarka Patrika Goshti, Samaj Chetana and Sammilita Nari Samaj.

A number of DU teachers also expressed solidarity with the SPSH and addressed the rally. They include Prof Mofazzal Ahmed of IBA, HK Arefin of Anthropology, Golam Hossain and MM Akash of Economics, Mofazzelul Haq of Public Administration, Mesbah Kamal of History and Rubaiat Ferdous of Mass Communication and Journalism.

The rally was addressed by

**Mir Nasir**

From Page 1

said that intra-party rivalry in Chittagong BNP was over after his nomination.

"As a big party it is quite natural for BNP to have some sort of internal conflict," Nasir hastened to add.

However, Nasir pledged that if he won the major election, he would turn Chittagong into a 'healthy city' as per a WHO project.

"The project was undertaken during my tenure but later it did not see daylight under the incumbent mayor," he said.

"Besides, I will try to ensure proper development of the city and free the corporation from corruption," Nasir said. "I will try to make Chittagong an attractive city."

Replying to another question Nasir said that he would approach the local leaders of Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islam to draw their support in the mayoral election.

## All my money is gone, says Gorbachev

MUNICH, Dec 29: Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says in an interview published today that he lost his savings — about 80,000 dollar — in Russia's financial crisis last summer, reports AP.

"All my money is gone," he told the magazine.

The financial turmoil in August sent the Moscow bank where he had his account into bankruptcy, he said. Because of the loss, he said he hasn't been able to pay the employees at his personally financed foundation for months either.

"You know, I'm not really as rich as many in the West think," he said. "The new rich here in Moscow often spend more than one night than I earn in a whole year."

**Liquor trade**

From Page 1

can get a bottle of alcohol in Banani Bazar area and some other areas in the city. Liquor mostly come to illegal traders from different warehouses and the airport through some corrupt employees. But the supply is made through the 'Banani channel,' they said.

Asked about responsibilities of police to check illegal trading on alcohol, one police official said, "The Department of Narcotics Control is entrusted with this. We have to remain busy in dealing with day to day cases."

In Banani and Gulshan areas, guards and servants at some houses are involved in this illegal trade, said a liquor trader.

A regular customer said, in airport area, one can easily buy a bottle.

According to another source, a section of Burmese nationals bring liquor while coming to Bangladesh on visit.

Traders on illegal liquor are also active in the city's Sayedabad bus terminal and the park nearby, a resident of the area said. School boys buy phensidyl at the park during day time, he claimed.

A huge quantity of alcohol is sold in Sadarghat area every day, a local businessman said.

Locally produced alcohol (Cholai) is sold in large quantities in Tantibazar, Gabtali, Maghbazar slum and Tongi bus station, sources said.

In sprawling Mirpur area, illegal liquor traders are active at Muktiyoddha Market at Section 1, Section 10 intersection, Muslim Bazar, Kalapani Bihari Camp, Kashaipatti at Section 12, and near the bus stoppage at Section 11, sources said.

A local social worker, when contacted acknowledged the liquor menace in Mirpur and said "This problem should not be ignored any longer. If it is not controlled right now, things may go out of hand one day."

## Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea apologize for genocide

PHNOM PENH, Dec 29: Two top Khmer Rouge leaders came to Phnom Penh today and said they were "sorry" for their brutal rule during the 1970s, but asked their countrymen to "let bygones be bygones," reports AP.

Prime Minister Hun Sen met Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, part of the inner circle of the late Pol Pot, with smiles and handshakes after cementing their defection — in essence, surrender — with public pledges not to try them for genocide.

At a hostile news conference later, the elderly revolutionaries faced questions whether they felt any remorse for causing the deaths of as many as 2 million of their countrymen.

Many of the Cambodian reporters present lost close relatives under the Khmer Rouge. With a trial ruled out, the Khmer Rouge leaders may never again face such a critical audience.

"Yes, sorry, very sorry."

Khieu Samphan said, looking red and sad. "We would like to apologize and ask our compatriots to forget the past so our nation can concentrate on the future. Let bygones be bygones."

The Maoist revolutionaries won a civil war in 1975 and forced the population into slave labour camps. About one Cam-

**Earlier story on page 9**

bodian in five perished from overwork, starvation, disease and executions.

Khieu Samphan was the nominal leader, though he is generally viewed as a front-man for the notorious Pol Pot and others who held real power.

Nuon Chea was seen as Pol Pot's second-in-command and chief political theorist. Pol Pot died in April of a heart attack.

Neither man accepted personal responsibility today. As the half-hour news conference at a hotel broke up, they were mobbed and demands shouted for personal apologies to the

families of those who perished. Khieu Samphan indicated there would be no trial, especially one abroad by an international tribunal. The United Nations recently sent a team of experts to weigh the possibility of such a court.

"Please let the Cambodian people resolve this problem," Khieu Samphan said.

"As you know, Hun Sen, prime minister of the royal government, has warmly welcomed us," Khieu Samphan said. "If we have to say who was wrong and who was right, etc., etc., we cannot have national reconciliation. We cannot put an end to the war."

Nuon Chea, asked who was to blame for the massacre of Cambodians under Khmer Rouge rule, echoed: "Let's consider that an old issue. I cannot clarify that."

"We are very sorry, not just for the human lives, but also animal lives that were lost in the war," Nuon Chea said.

## Incentive scheme for dock workers Port-users threaten to foil implementation

CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: The port-users threatened to thwart implementation of the government-announced incentive scheme for dock workers, reports UNB.

The Port-users Forum in a petition today warned the Chittagong Port Authority of creating a stalemate at the seaport if it tried to implement the scheme.

On December 25, an agreement was signed between the government and the leaders of dock workers on introduction of an incentive scheme.

As per the deal the dock labourers will get maximum 25 per cent of their wages as incentive based on their performance from January 1.

But the users of the country's main maritime port alleged that they were not allowed sufficient time to give their opinion as the government sent the draft agreement only 48 hours before the signing.

**Jatiya Press Club managing body polls today**

Elections to the managing committee of the Jatiya Press Club will be held today, reports BSS.

A total of 504 members of the club will elect seven officers and 10 members of the 17-member managing committee for the next two years.

Two panels — Shafiq-Swapan Parishad and Munir-Quamrul Parishad — have fielded 34 candidates to contest the polls.

**DUTA polls today**

The election of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held today, reports APB.

A total of 1,137 teachers are expected to cast their votes to elect a 15-member executive committee.

Three panels — Blue, White and Pink are contesting the election.

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

**Gangrape**

From Page 1

said police quoting the FIR. Her parents were out as she faced the brutality.

Yesterday afternoon, as Monika's cousin Paula, 14, (not her real name) was on her way to Monika's residence, a gangster named Manu of the same gang allegedly dragged her to a nearby five-storey factory building. The torture took place on the ground floor of the factory building, the FIR said.

Both victims were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hajaribagh police arrested two of the accused, Abed Ali and Shafiq on Monday night from the area after a case had been filed. The other three accused are yet to be nabbed.

"The government does not have legal right to include the dock workers in the scheme as they are private workers, solely supervised by the forum," the users said in their protest letter.

State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya arrives here tomorrow in a bid to resolve the dispute through a compromise, officials said.

Chairman of the CPA Dr Rezwanul Huq told the news agency that they were determined to push through the incentive plan as scheduled.

**5 of a family fall unconscious after taking 'Sarbat'**

By Staff Correspondent

Five persons of a family fell unconscious after taking 'Sarbat' at their house at Mohanmadpur in the city yesterday evening.

The victims were identified as Abdul Huq, 60; his son Saiful Islam Badal, grandson Nazrul Islam, Nazmul Hossain Rani and Zakir Hossain.

They were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Nazrul Islam and Nazmul Hossain were admitted to the hospital and others released after the first aid.

Hospital sources quoting relatives of the victims said they had bought 'prepared sarbat' took it during iftar and felt sick.

**Manju**

From Page 1

"A man who had been languishing in the dark cell of the jail is now dreaming of going to power with the help of conspirators, after being set free with the help of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government," he said today in virtual defiance of the party boss' ultimatum.

Manju, now a presidium member of JP, vented his reaction at a public meeting organised by the district Awami League and attended by the Prime Minister.

He was accompanying the Prime Minister who came to Nalka to open the groundbreaking of a 55-km Nalka-Hatkhumul-Bonpara road which will directly connect Nalka with the Bangabandhu Bridge cutting down travel time substantially for the people of northern districts.

"Gone are the days of capturing power through conspiracy," he retorted to Ershad's instructions issued at a meeting on Monday in the capital.

The minister, who joined the "consensus government" after JP backed AL in forming government following the 1996 elections, said now there is no scope for capturing power through unconstitutional means. If any one wants to go to power, the only way open is to win the minds of the people.

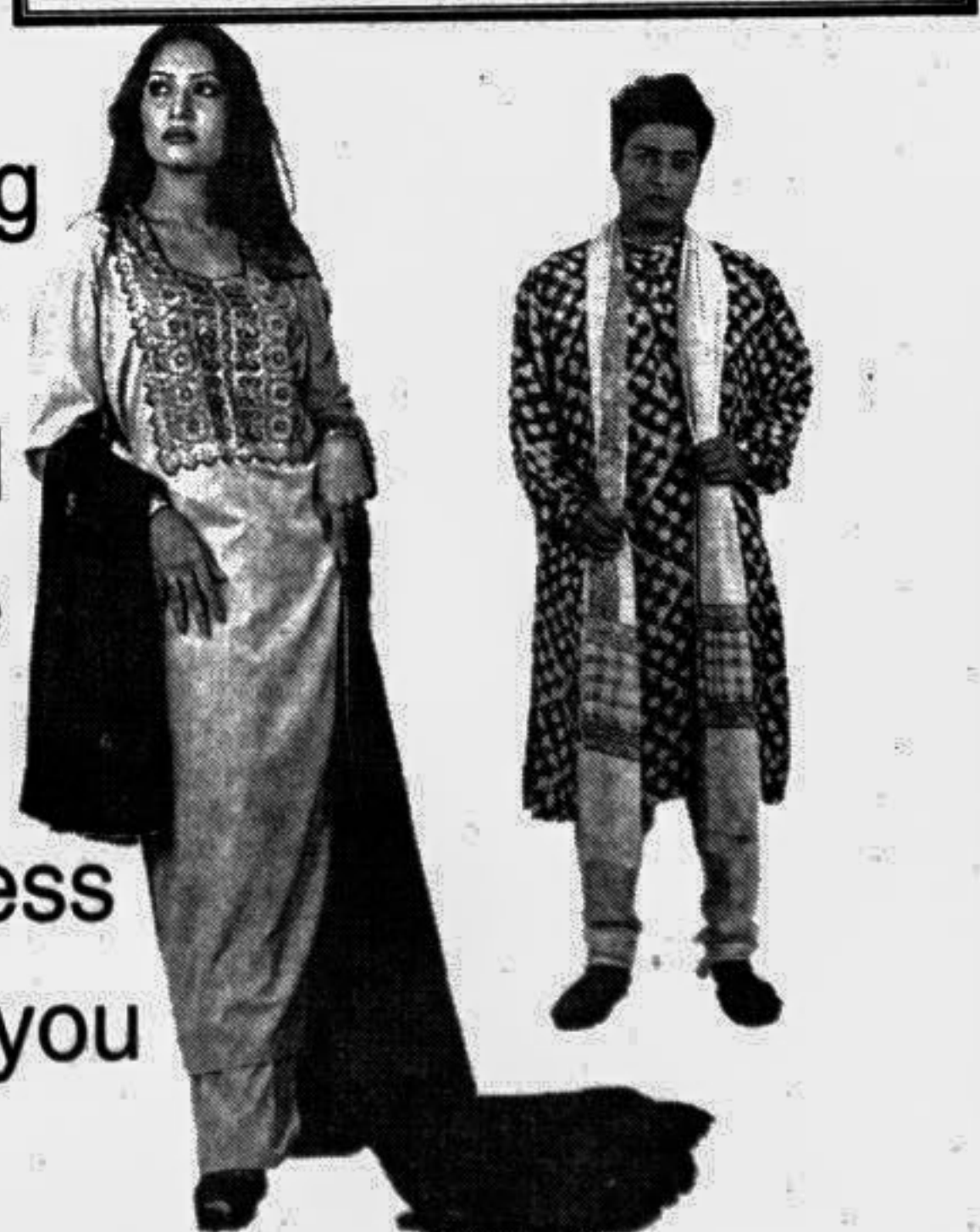
"But those who had been passing their days in the dark cell of the jail are now dreaming of going to power through the backdoor..." Manju told the meeting.

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বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা

**অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলা ১৯৯৯**

আয়োজনে : বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা

সহযোগিতায় : বাংলাদেশ পুস্তক প্রকাশক ও বিক্রেতা সমিতি, ঢাকা

স্থান : বাংলা একাডেমী প্রাঙ্গণ

সময় : ২৫.১০.১৪০৫/০৭.০২.৯৯ থেকে ১৬.১১.১৪০৫/২৮.০২.৯৯ পর্যন্ত

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