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New move to talk BNP back to JS business

The government has decided to open dialogue with the opposition to woo them back to Parliament in its upcoming session from January 1, reports UNB.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has been empowered by ruling Awami League to open talks with major opposition BNP and its partners soon.

"On behalf of the government, I will talk to leaders of the main opposition and other parties and request them to attend Parliament sessions," the Home Minister told a press briefing at his ministry this afternoon.

Nasim gave a broad hint that he would take the initiative to open the dialogue in a day or two.

The speaker would also make a call to the opposition to join the Parliament session on the first day of the new millennium.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina requested the President to summon the House on January 1, the beginning of the new millennium, to make the journey of parliamentary democracy remarkable.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will address the House on the new year's day.

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AL workers asked to identify terrorists at local level

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League yesterday asked the party workers to form committees at local level to identify terrorists, and help the administration take legal action against them, reports BSS.

The leaders were addressing a public meeting at Paltan Maidan (Field) organised by Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Awami League (AL) to protest bombing, terrorism, anarchy and calling of unnecessary hartals during the holy month of Ramadan.

Chaired by city unit president Mohammad Hanif, the meeting was addressed, among others, by AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, AL Organising Secretary and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, AL Presidium member Abdul Jalil, AL Joint General Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Poltu, AL City Unit General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Amir Hossain Amu called upon all to mould public opinion against hartals, which are called only to create anarchy in society.

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
6	15	—	5-17
7	16	5:09	5-18
8	17	5:09	5-18

Prayer Timings

December 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-6	5-12
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-42	4-00
Maghrib	5-16	5-22
Tarabi	7-00	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Unified in sacrifice
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joins relatives of the martyred intellectuals before the memorial at Rayerbazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'Resist anti-liberation forces'

PM opens Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum at Rayerbazar

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum at Rayerbazar in the city with a call for resisting the anti-liberation forces who are again out to undermine the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation.

The mausoleum was built at the place where many leading intellectuals of the country were killed by Razakars and Al-badars in a planned way at the fag end of the war.

The defeated forces — Razakars and Al-badars — have shown the audacity to snatch away the effigy of General Niazi from the hands of our mothers and sisters on the streets of Dhaka. The nation can never tolerate it," she said.

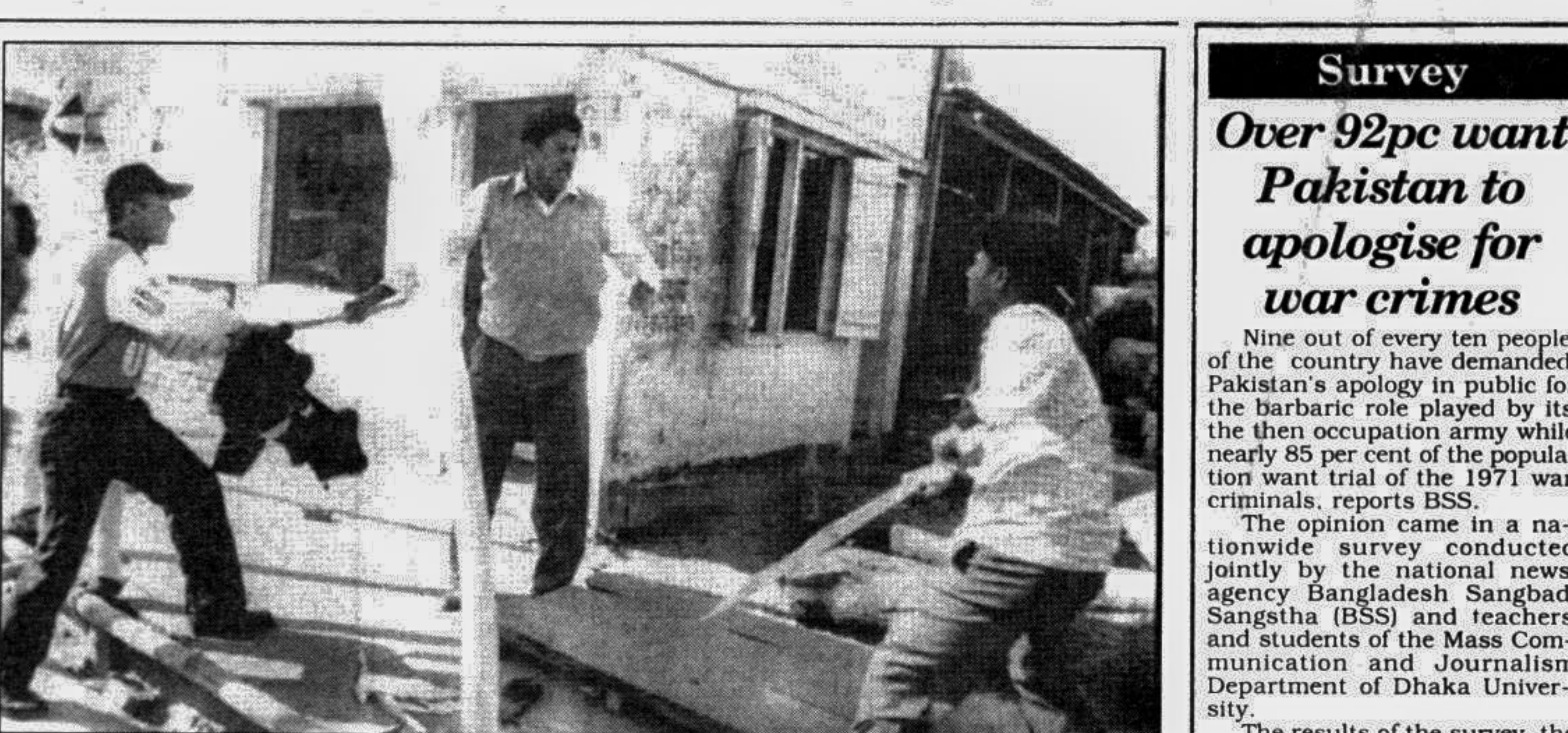
She said her government, since its formation, is making all out efforts to translate into reality the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation and dreams of the martyrs.

Built at a cost of Tk 17.61 crore on 6.51 acres of land, the mausoleum comprises a 380 feet long crescent having a 33 feet 'central mourning tower'.

The work was started in 1991.

The mausoleum, having an area of 16,600 square feet artificial lake and 76,500 square feet sprawling greens, is a testimony of modern architecture attuned to the historical background.

Workers and Civil Aviation Minister Mosharraf Hossain



Jatiya Party office secretary Ahsan Habib Lincoln under attack near the Mirpur Memorial yesterday. Rival activists came charging towards the JP leaders when they were on way back after placing wreaths. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Ershad, his men chased

By Staff Correspondent

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and his general secretary Nazim Rahman Manzur were chased by a group of Chhatra League activists when they went to place wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday morning.

At least 15 people including JP Office Secretary Ahsan Habib Lincoln were injured in a brief chase and counter-chase between activists of the rival parties.

As Ershad, leading some 500 party activists went there, a group of BCL activists chased and cordoned them, forcing the JP chief to place the wreaths in a hurry, witnesses said.

When the JP activists were returning, another group of BCL activists who had waylaid them, snatched their banners and festoons and beat some of them.

JP activists also made a counter-chase. The feuding groups exchanged brick bats, leaving 15 people injured. In the melee, Ershad hurriedly left the place in his car. The BCL activists also chanted slogans against Ershad and JP.

The BCL activists Leaders also barred leaders of the 11-party Left Democratic Alliance from entering into the premises.

When Prime Minister went there at 8:50 a.m., the Alliance leaders tried to enter the venue but they were stopped by the BCL activists. After several attempts, they left the area, the witnesses said.

Later in a statement, the Alliance condemned the incident.

BNP meeting attacked at Barisal: 25 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 14: At least 25 people were injured when a group of armed gobs attacked a meeting of city BNP at town hall at Sadar Road today.

Among the 10 seriously hurt, six received bullet injuries.

BNP leader principal Abdur Rashid Khan, Barisal town BNP president and poushahava chairman Ahsan Habib Kamal, advocate Mannan Mridha, advocate Jasimuddin, Mohammad Azad, advocate Sabuj, Dr Ranjit Baral and GM Rabbi were admitted to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Police and witnesses said the attackers suddenly opened fire on the discussion meeting or-

Chargesheet in Udichi case 24 including Tariqul indicted

The Criminal Investigation Department of police yesterday indicted 24 persons including BNP Vice-chairman and former minister Tariqul Islam in connection with the bomb attack on a concert of Udichi cultural group at Jessore, reports BSS.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID and Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Dulal Uddin Akand submitted the charge sheet to the court of Magistrate Golam Rahman Mia in Jessore at about 4:30 pm, official sources said here.

Others accused in the case include the chief of 'Hasan syndicate' Ahsanul Kabir Hasan, his elder brother and vice-president of Jessore district

BNP Nurunnabi and former ward commissioner Alamgir. Twenty-two evidences were also submitted, the IO said.

But he declined to disclose the number or name of the witnesses.

The CID completed the investigation under the direct supervision of the CID headquarters, Dhaka, after more than 38 weeks of investigation.

At least 10 people were killed and 150 injured in the bomb attack on the Udichi concert at Jessore Town Hall Maidan on March 6 this year.

Meanwhile, the district unit of BNP has called a six-hour (6-12) hartal in Jessore town today.

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Shahjalal varsity 4 Shibir activists arrested

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 14: Four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested in the early hours of today on charge of hurling bomb on the residence of the vice chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology yesterday afternoon.

The arrested are Abdul Latif Khan, Shah Mahmud Jahangir, Iqbal Hossain and Faisal Ahmed. They were arrested from 86, Paira, a student mess in Dargah Mohalla area in the town, police said.

Police also seized 13 motorbikes from the nearby areas of the varsity.

Additional police force has been deployed on the varsity campus and some important spots of the town today.

However, the students strike enforced by The All-Party Students' Action Committee (Opposition) at the varsity continued for the seventh day today.

A good number of female students left the campus during the last two days apprehending fresh violence.

The All-Party Action Committee (Opposition) held a rally today protesting the arrest of Maulana Habibur Rahman, president of the Sylhet district (South) unit of Jamaat, the

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10 vehicles damaged, 25 held Sporadic bomb blasts mark Ctg hartal

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Stray incidents of violence and sporadic bomb blasts marked the second day of the 36-hour hartal in the post city that ended at 6 pm today, police and witnesses said.

Chittagong unit of the four-party opposition alliance called the hartal to resist submission of nomination papers for Chittagong City Corporation polls scheduled for January 3. Yesterday was the last date of submission of nominations.

Home-made bombs were exploded at Chawkbazar, Chandanpura, Anderkilla, New Market Crossing, Agrabad, Kazir Dewri and Nur Ahmed road.

At least ten vehicles including five rickshaws were damaged by pickets at Bhaddarhat, Chawkbazar, Alankar Crossing and Lalkhan Bazar during the hartal period today, witnesses and police said.

Police arrested 25 pickets from different areas of the city.

A large number of police and BDR was deployed to maintain law and order.

Chase and counter chase between police and pickets took place at Bhaddarhat crossing at about 9 am when the pickets damaged some vehicles, witnesses said.

A procession of opposition supporters heading towards Lalighi Maidan at 3:30 pm was obstructed by police at Tinpool crossing. As a result, opposition supporters could not hold their scheduled rally at Lalighi Maidan this afternoon, party sources said.

They were not allowed to hold rally at Lalighi Maidan yesterday also. Police allegedly barred them from moving towards the venue, party sources said.

The Opposition alliance comprising BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote had booked Lalighi Maidan for holding rallies yesterday and today, sources in the alliance said.

Some supporters of Jamaat and JP held a rally at Anderkilla this afternoon.

Two home-made bombs exploded at Anderkilla during the

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CCC polls: All 4 nominations for mayoral post valid

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: All the four nomination papers submitted for the mayoral post of the Chittagong City Corporation were found valid after scrutiny today.

The election to CCC is scheduled for January 3.

The scrutiny was held at the temporary election office at the Zila Parishad building from 9 am to 5 pm.

Five out of 217 nomination papers submitted on Monday

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Indian parliament in turmoil again

Vajpayee to clarify temple-mosque issue

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: The Indian parliament was in turmoil for a second day today when opposition parties attacked the government over a temple-mosque row and a probe into an anti-Sikh pogrom in 1984, reports AFP.

Angry MPs belonging to the main opposition Congress party slammed the government for not responding to a reported pledge by a provincial minister to build a temple on the ruins of a demolished mosque.

Chief minister of politically-sensitive Uttar Pradesh state, Ram Prakash Gupta, was quoted on Monday by the media as saying "constructing a Ram temple at Ayodhya as far as the BJP is concerned is very much on the agenda."

The main opposition Congress and the communists demanded an explanation from Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who has assured the house he would get back to parliament with details after finding out the "full report."

Uttar Pradesh is being ruled by Vajpayee's BJP party.

Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia wanted Vajpayee to clarify whether the construction of the temple was part of the BJP agenda.

BJP leader Pramod Mahajan said Vajpayee would get back to the lower house on the matter but the Congress members persisted on an immediate reply and the house was adjourned

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Opposition plans 'action councils' to expedite movement

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will form 'action councils' at district and thana levels soon to further expedite the current one-point agitation.

Sources said that the Liaison Committee, at a meeting yesterday, initiated discussion to work out the modality and structure of the planned 'action council'.

They said there were a number of proposals about the modality of the action council and hoped that the Liaison Committee would soon finalize an 'acceptable model of the council'.

Meeting sources said there are mainly two proposals regarding the proposed Action Council. One of the proposal suggests formation of a four-member convening committee with one convener, two joint convenors and one member-secretary while another proposal wants to have chief of each party to preside over meetings and give leadership to pro-

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Boiler explosion: One killed 25 hurt in Patuakhali

PATUAKHALI, Dec 14: A rice mill boiler exploded at College Road in Kalapara thana, leaving one person killed and 25 others injured on Monday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the boiler blasted with a big bang, disrupting electricity.

The dead was identified as Abdul Hannan 35, fireman of the rice mill. He died on way to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Another injured Jahangir 28 was sent to the same hospital. His condition was stated to be critical.

Other injured, identified as Sultan 25, Aziz 35, Shahidul Islam, 30, Hayatunnesa, 25, Parvin, 17, Moriam Begum, 30, and Reba Rani, 38, were sent to Kalapara Hospital.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

Ctg docs to hold anti-terrorism rally today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chittagong General Hospital continued their strike for the fourth day today.

Only emergency wings of the two government hospitals have been kept out of the purview of hartal.

Doctors went on strike on December 7 demanding arrest of the terrorists who attacked CMC teacher Dr Nilkanta Bhattacharya on December 6.

The striking doctors today held a protest meeting at the CMC.

Chaired by Dr L A Kaderi, president of BMA, Chittagong unit, the meeting was addressed by Dr Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan, Professor Dr Abdul Mannan Sikdar, acting principal of Chittagong Medical College, Dr Taher Khan, Dr A Q M Sirajul Islam, general secretary of BMA, Chittagong unit, Dr S M Asraf Hossain, Dr Mukutur Rahman, Dr Shahana Chowdhury, Dr Hafizul Islam, Dr Rezaul Karim and Dr Nazrul Kaderi Sikdar.

The meeting decided to bring out a silent procession in the city and hold a rally against terrorism at Central Shahid Minar tomorrow.

The meeting started with one minute silence and prayer for martyred intellectuals.

Situation still tense at Nagar Bhaban

By Staff Correspondent

A tense situation prevailed at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday when armed terrorists once again tried to interfere in tender bidding activities.

DCC sources said, officials there are in panic since Sunday's shootout that left eleven people injured on its premises. Although contingents of police and other securitymen were present at the Nagar Bhaban throughout the day yesterday, there was rumour that gunfire might erupt any time.

Officials were talking about arrival of Shamim group, a notorious gang of armed criminals backed by a Chhatra League faction. One DCC source said police arrested at least four people from the DCC premises. But another source said the men, allegedly armed with shotguns, were seen led to the office of the Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

The duty officer at Ramna thana, however, denied any arrest at the Nagar Bhaban.

Official sources said brandishing arms during tender bidding at the Nagar Bhaban

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