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The Daily Star

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Dhaka Day by Day

A political leader must be diplomatic and choose his or her words, Achin Roy says.
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'Iran amasses troops to help Iraqi rebels'



Iran has sent over 20 divisions and brigades to its border with Iraq to back revolts against Saddam Hussein and Iranian President Rafsanjani reportedly toured border areas recently.
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Business

The 14-member task force on industrial policy has recommended for setting up a national industrial commission to formulate long-term development strategy for industrialisation.
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NEWS BRIEFS

BSF yet to return bodies

FENI, Mar 22: Indian Border Security Force has not yet handed over the two bodies they took away after killing four villagers on Thursday in Chhagalnaiya upazila, BDR said today, reports UNB.

Khaleda attends office today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend her office at Ganobhaban today at 11 am, BNP sources said. This will be her first day in the office after takeover as the country's Prime Minister.

Quota of hajis to remain

RIYADH, Mar 22: Saudi Arabia said on Friday that quotas limiting the number of Muslims visiting Mecca will remain in force for the 1991 haj pilgrimage. Pilgrimage

Sehri and Iftar timings

Ramzan Day	Last time for Sehri	Iftar
06 Saturday	4.40 am	6.18 pm
07 Sunday	4.39 am	6.19 pm

Ramadhan made Vice President, rebels execute military governors

State of Siege in Baghdad

DAMASCUS, Mar 22: Rebels fighting Saddam Hussein said today his troops had imposed a State of Siege on the Iraqi capital Baghdad, virtually sealing it off, reports Agencies.

A spokesman for the opposition Islamic Daw'a party told Reuters in the Syrian capital that Saddam's Republican Guard were stopping people from outside entering Baghdad.

The State of Siege came after the regime got information about a possible military coup whose organisers were

not known", he said. Units of the Republican Guard which protect Saddam have been placed around Baghdad and only vehicles of the Republic

appointed recently by Baghdad, Iranian Television quoted an Iraqi opposition radio station as saying. The governors were from

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Taha Yassin Ramadan, has been promoted to Vice President of the republic, The Iraqi News Agency announced today.

INA gave no other details about the appointment of Ramadan, member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

Rebellions erupted in Iraq's mainly Shi'ite south and its Kurdish northern provinces three weeks ago after the United States and its Gulf war allies routed Saddam's occupa-

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 22: The Security Council's sanctions committee has agreed to lift the ban on food shipments to Iraq and is debating conditions for allowing other necessities to reach the shattered country, diplomats said Friday, reports AP.

can Guards are being allowed to enter the city.

Baghdad Radio broadcast normal programmes on Friday. Rebel forces have executed five Iraqi military governors

Kut, Nasiriyah, Amarra and Basra in the south and from a northern region" which was not identified, the opposition "Voice of the Revolution" radio said.



A woman anxiously awaits news of a relative she hopes is among 1,100 Kuwaiti prisoners of war released from Iraqi captivity. —AFP photo

Delhi mum on Oakley letter on Kashmir but parties blast US

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: India's main political parties blasted United States today after its ambassador to Pakistan said Kashmir was not a part of India, reports AFP.

Three parties buried their ideological differences to summarily reject the envoy's assertion and asked Washington not to interfere in India's internal affairs.

The strongest attack came from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which said, "The US has no locus standi in Kashmir and its ambassadors have no business giving chits to foreigners about the status of

Kashmir or any other part of India."

"The Indian people reject with contempt the attempt by foreigners to poke their noses into what are our internal concerns and nobody else's," a statement by the pro-Hindu party said.

The Indian government declined immediate comment on US ambassador to Pakistan Robert Oakley's reported remarks that Washington regarded Kashmir as a disputed territory and not an integral part of India.

"We have yet to see the authentic text of Oakley's re-

ported letter," an Indian official spokesman said here.

The United States "does not accept India's contention that the United Nations resolutions no longer apply," Oakley said in a letter to a Washington-based Kashmiri organisation, reproduced by newspapers in India and Pakistan.

Pakistan wants a plebiscite in Kashmir as mentioned in a 1949 UN resolution. Barring the dominant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) which is fighting for independence, all other Kashmiri militant groups want

BNP interview of women candidates begins today

By Staff Correspondent

Interview of women candidates seeking BNP tickets for elections in the 30 parliament seats will begin today at the Kalabagan office of the party.

Firoze Noon, coordinator of elections, said on Friday the interview schedule had been slightly modified and there would be no interview on Sunday as announced earlier.

Today, interview of candidates from Rajshahi Division will begin at 12 noon. Interview of candidates from Khulna Division will also be completed in the same day.

Interview of candidates See Page 10 Col 1

AL programme to observe Independence Day

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the Independence Day on March 26.

According to a press release, the day's programmes will begin with hoisting of the national and the party flags atop the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and the Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city at 6 am.

Central leaders led by the party chief Sheikh Hasina will garland the portrait of Bangabandhu at his Dhanmondi residence at 8 pm. At 8.30 pm leaders and workers of the

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Y'slav republics to hold crisis summit

BELGRADE, Mar 22: The leaders of Yugoslavia's six feuding republics agreed on Thursday to hold an unprecedented crisis summit next week to try to pull the country back from the brink of disintegration and civil war, reports Reuters.

Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, said the state presidency decided on the summit at a stormy session to discuss Yugoslavia's most serious constitutional crisis since World War Two.

The eight-member collective presidency, itself split into fiercely-opposed camps, met

throughout the day but made little headway on problems threatening to tear the Balkan Federation apart.

The presidency, the highest constitutional body and the Commander-in-Chief of the army, appeared to have collapsed earlier when four of its members quit or were removed in anger after it rejected military plans to impose emergency measures.

Serbia, the biggest republic, wanted to send in the army to enforce order after a week of mass anti-communist street demonstrations in Belgrade in

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Food riots in Soviet city

MOSCOW, Mar 22: Riots have erupted over food shortages in the Urals home base of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a senior official said today, reports Reuters.

Russian Khasbulatov, Yeltsin's deputy in the Russian Parliament, suggested food supplies had been cut off to Sverdlovsk because the city voted heavily against this week's Kremlin referendum on the future of the Soviet Union.

Food riots have started in Sverdlovsk. Fourteen regions have stopped food deliveries to the city," he told the republic's parliament.

"I immediately gave instructions to send food there from our source resources."

Khasbulatov said he had received an early morning call from top officials in Sverdlovsk, where only 34 per cent of voters last Sunday backed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for a "renewed federation" of equal, sovereign republics.

He said he had spoken to Vice-President Gennady Yanayev about the unrest, telling him Sverdlovsk residents could well think the curtailment of supplies was punishment for their rejection

of the Kremlin proposal. A majority of about 58 per cent of eligible voters backed the referendum question — a result described by Soviet parliamentary Speaker Anatoly Lukyanov as a vote of confidence in Kremlin policy.

Yeltsin was visiting Leningrad, the country's second largest city, where he was due to meet workers and city officials before next week's session of the Russian republic's top legislative body.

Yeltsin could face an attempt to oust him by hard-line communists at the session. Meanwhile Soviet Georgia's

separatist government said today, it was negotiating cease-fire terms with Ossetians fighting to break away from the Transcaucasian republic.

But tension rose in the Baltic republic of Lithuania after Soviet "Black Beret" special police fired on a bus carrying Lithuanian border guards on Wednesday, wounding at least two.

As hundreds gathered in the capital Vilnius on Thursday to protest against the action, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said "an atmosphere of terror" was being created.

DU students return to halls as feuding groups make peace

By DU Correspondent

Students of Dhaka University, who had left halls following a showdown Sunday evening between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL-Sa), returned to their rooms late Thursday night.

The students returned after the leaders of All-Party Students Unity (APSU) held discussions with JCD and BCL leaders.

JCD leaders helped BCL workers settle down in their rooms and the same was done by the BCL leaders for the student belonging to JCD.

The activists of JCD and BCL embraced each other and

promised to maintain congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, the affected students of both organisations submitted statements on damages incurred during the violence to the hall authorities for compensation.

Sources said compensation for damaged or missing books and belongings worth over Tk. 3 lakh may be paid from the funds of the university and the two organisations.

Some of the affected activists told The Daily Star a permanent solution to avert such incidents should be found immediately as "we were freed from autocratic regime".

BNP's 'Bismillah' to fool people: Hasina

KUSHTIA, Mar 22: Awami

League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today said her party would continue struggle for reintroduction of parliamentary democracy with a sovereign parliament and an accountable government, reports UNB.

Addressing a workers' meeting at GK project guest house here, she called for scrapping constitutional amendments starting from the 4th to the 10th to pave the way for parliamentary form of government.

Hasina came here today on the first leg of her three-day election campaign in Kushtia-2 (Bheramara-Mirpur) constituency, where polling will be held on March 28. Election in this constituency was countermanded following the killing of JSD(Rab) candidate Marafat Ali.

Hasina alleged different agencies were hatching conspiracy to undermine AL image and the achievement of the people.

Awami League is a mass-based organisation, she said, adding the main objective of its politics is to ensure democracy, people's basic needs and bringing about their economic emancipation.

Refuting criticism against her party, Hasina said during the election campaign, BNP and anti-liberation forces were united and exploited people's religious sentiment against

Awami League.

"BNP an election campaign for retaining Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim was but to hoodwink the people and gain political benefit," she said.

Defending secularism, Hasina said the Bangabandhu government had introduced it as one of the four basic state principles to ensure rights of the people of all religious faith.

On the contrary, she said, the Zia Government introduced Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim on the one hand and issued liquor licences on the other. The Ershad regime also traded heroin to kill the youth.

Criticising the rule of Zia and Ershad, Hasina said both came to power through illegal means crippling national economy with rampant corruption, bribery and smuggling.

Hasina also recalled that Zia government removed all signboards inscribed with Quranic verses and Kalcma-e-Talaba before the visit of then Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai in Dhaka.

He (Zia) also wrote a poem titled "Ganga is my mother" to please Desai, Hasina said.

She asked her workers to continue movement for implementation of ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through establishment of an exploitation-free democratic society by felling all conspiracies and anti-Awami League propaganda.

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Khaleda, Hasina exchange greetings

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has congratulated BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia on her appointment as the Prime Minister. In a letter sent to Khaleda Zia on Friday morning, Sheikh Hasina wished her success.

A central leader of Awami League told The Daily Star on Friday night that the AL chief, in her letter, also expressed the hope that Begum Zia would fulfill the commitment to establish a sovereign parliamentary democracy in the country. Sheikh Hasina mentioned that this commitment was made in the Joint Declaration of the three alliances last November.

A press release of BNP is

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JP plans to gherao Sangsad Bhaban on April 5

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party is planning a programme to gherao the Sangsad Bhaban on April 5 to press for release of former President H. M. Ershad and other ex-ministers. The first session of the new parliament is scheduled to begin on that day.

According to party insiders, difference of opinions has already surfaced among the Jatiya Party leaders on the decision of MPs oath taking.

One group is in favour of taking oath to initiate a movement inside and outside parliament while the other group says, if the MPs-elect take oath they will not be serious about the movement for release of Ershad and his associates.

Party sources said: Moudud Ahmed and Mahmudul Hasan came to the Sangsad Bhaban to take oath knowing well the decision of the party. They were given assurance by some quarters that they would be released if they took oath. But

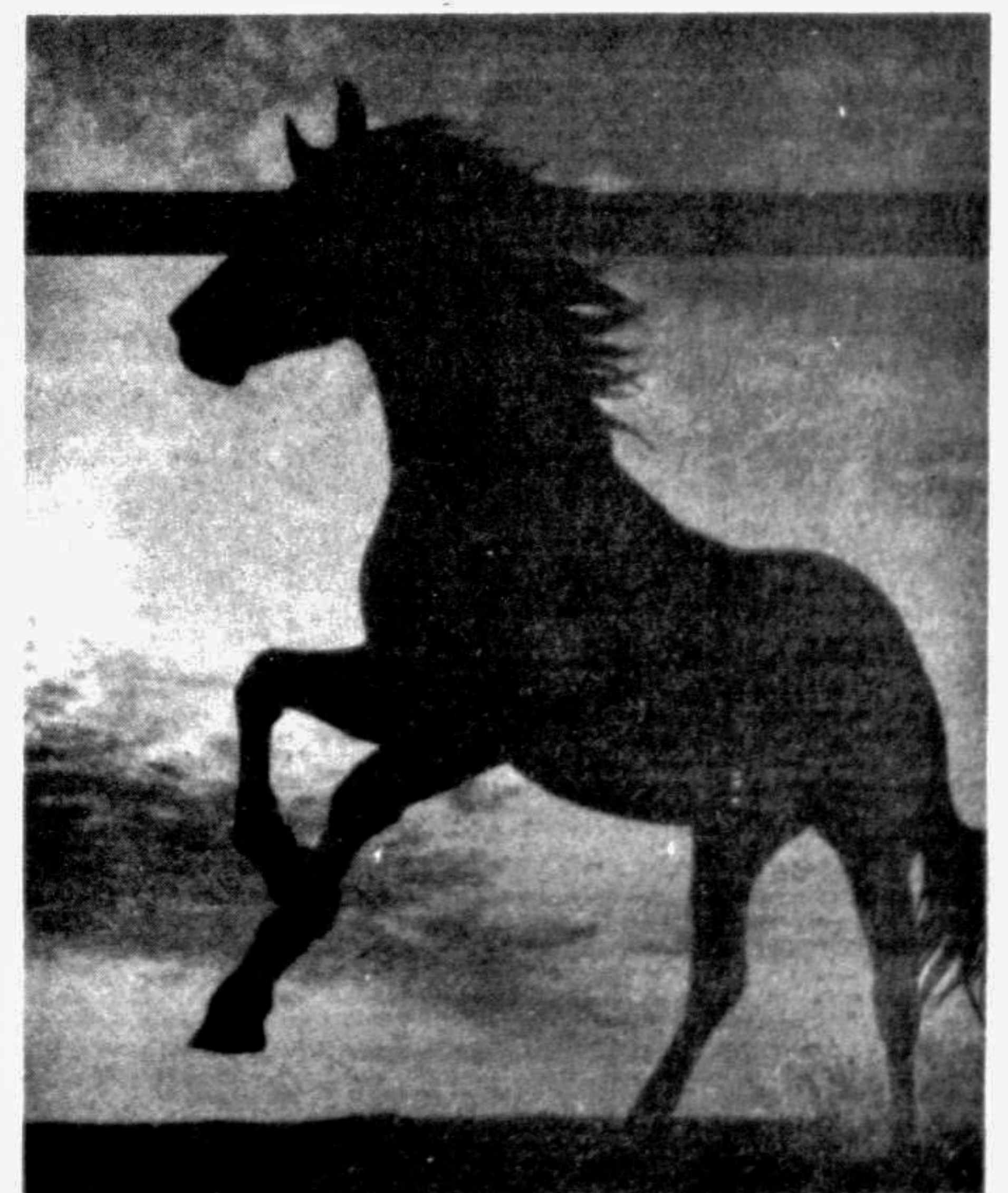
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PM visits Jessore, Kushtia tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will fly to Jessore on Sunday. She will also visit Bheramara and Mirpur upazilas of Kushtia district. From there she will go to Khustia town by car.

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