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Army should be deployed in ports, if needed: FBCCI

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has suggested deployment of army in the ports to restore discipline for boosting export, reports UNB.

In a set of recommendations submitted to the Prime Minister recently, the apex body of the business community also urged the government to stop labour union activities to free the ports from continuous labour unrest and programmes like hartal and blockade, sources concerned said.

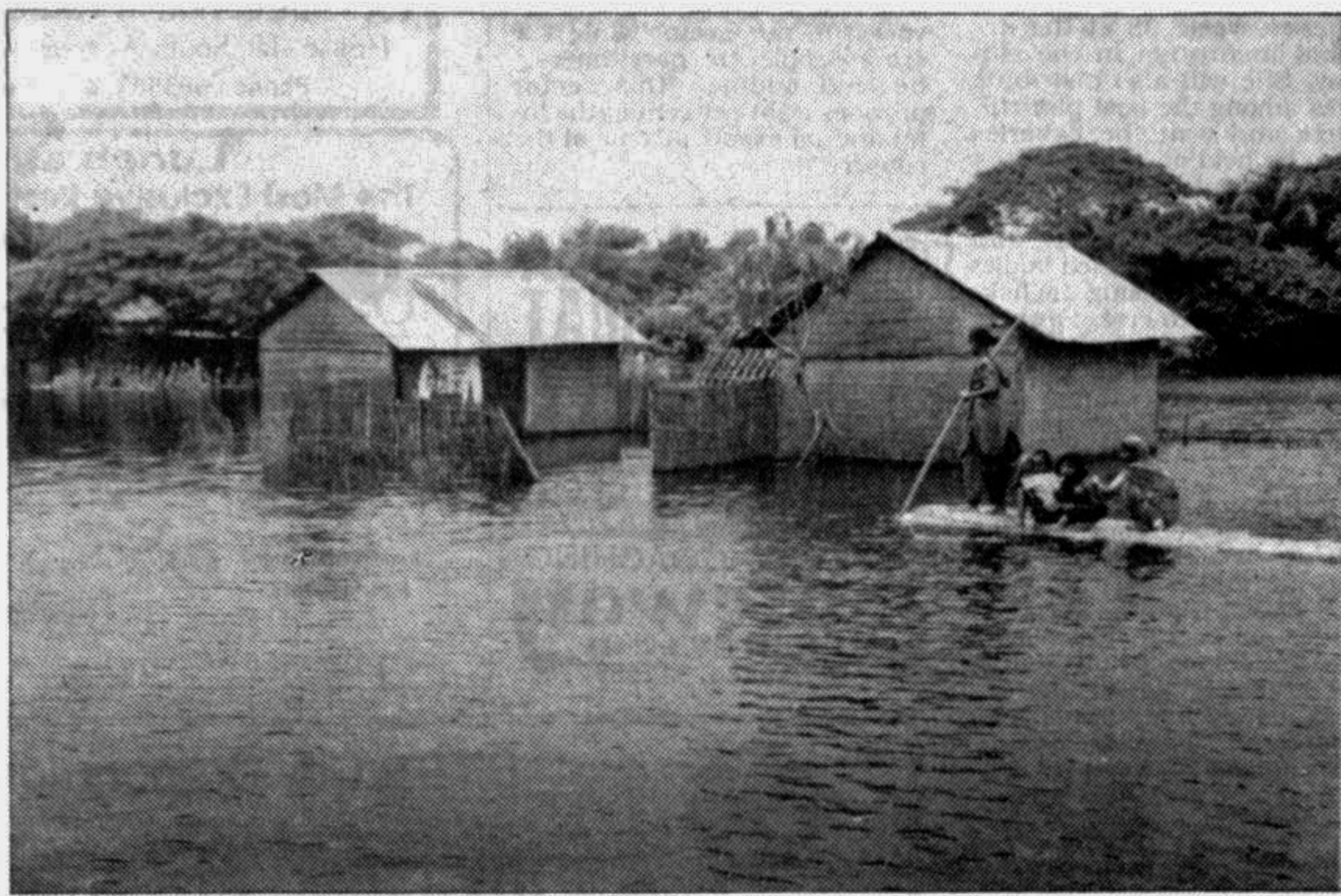
To bring back discipline, if necessary, army should be entrusted with the total control of the ports," the FBCCI said in one recommendation.

An unhealthy situation is prevailing in the ports due to frequent labour unrest on even trivial issues creating obstacles to normal export-import activities.

It also urged for privatising all port-related services.

The labour unions at the ports are opposing the setting up of a private container terminal near the Chittagong Port. They fear that many will lose

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A flood-hit village at Char Iswardia in Mymensingh Sadar Thana (left) and a village at Sainoubar Char in Sherpur being eroded by Doshmi River.



— Star photo

Flood situation deteriorates in 16 districts

The flood situation in 16 districts, mostly in northern part of the country, deteriorated yesterday with the inundation of fresh areas, reports UNB.

Two more persons died in the flood raising the official death toll to 50. The unofficial figure is much higher with one more death yesterday in Sylhet where four persons of village Lohajhari were also reported missing.

The situation in southern districts has slightly improved while it remained unchanged in six other affected districts, officials said.

The forecast by the Flood-Information Centre said the flood

Speaker, FM rivalry causing division in Sylhet AL

Sylhet, July 22: The long-running rivalry between Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has reached a high pitch, causing a division in the rank and file in the district Awami League, insiders in the party said.

Accusations and counter-accusations by the two ruling party stalwarts in the last few days have frayed tempers in the rival camps leaving the administration worried about "armed clashes any time".

The two leaders are making statements against each other in public and in interviews with national and local dailies almost every day.

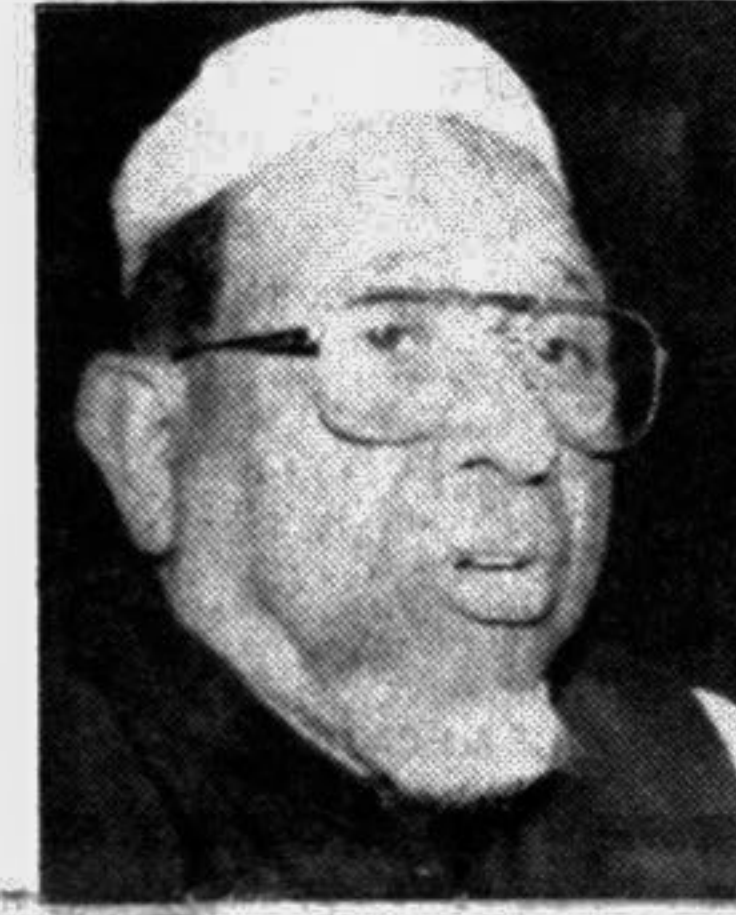
Most of the MPs of the region have also taken sides in the situation and the opposition parties are trying to cash in, saying, this would stand in the way of development of the Sylhet division.

Things went open when the Speaker strongly criticised the Foreign Minister at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Sylhet Railway Station Modernisation Project on July 11 last.

He alleged that the Foreign Minister had influenced Railway officials to postpone the pre-scheduled programme. The Speaker also accused the Foreign Minister of creating obstacles in all the development activities in the Sylhet region.

The Railway officials had cancelled the programme a few days ahead of the schedule. But the Sadar thana AL organised the programme on the same day at the Railway station where the Speaker laid the foundation in absence of Railway officials. Five front-ranking AL leaders and parliament members from Sylhet region — Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Ad-

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Abdus Samad Azad



Humayun Rashid Chy

Star Weekend Magazine

Over the twenty five years Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP) has from its humble beginnings, developed into an institution which operates 30 General schools all over the country and at present have an aggregate of over 20,000 children enrolled in them.

Read about the UCEP's fairy tale success story this Friday.

Inside Today

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731 persons, 312 cos pay 56 pc income & corporate taxes

Concerted action needed to reduce revenue leakage: WB

By Inam Ahmed

Evasion of income tax and corporate tax remains high as only 731 individuals and 312 companies account for 56 per cent of total personal income tax and corporate tax collected.

Quoting this official statistics, the World Bank in an analysis of the national budget for fiscal 1998-99 said the government should announce a concerted programme of action aimed at reducing revenue leakages.

The Bank in its Periodic Economic Update of July 1998, said the targeted revenue growth of 10.6 per cent in the budget is achievable, but very conservative.

The target could be achieved without much improvement in tax administration but increasing the revenue effort is of crucial importance since the revenue base is extremely narrow, it noted.

The update lauded reduction of the maximum tariff rate, expansion of VAT base and increased supplementary duty on luxury items, saying these will improve efficiency and equity of taxation system.

It also welcomed reduction of the maximum tariff rate from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent and said this would not reduce revenue collection as anticipated in the budget.

The Bank said the government should consider gradual reduction of the top rate further while further reducing duties on raw materials and intermediate goods.

A number of other tax measures have been welcomed by

Loan defaulters to be barred from contesting FBCCI polls Oct 15

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Bank loan defaulters will be barred from becoming office-bearers of the country's apex chamber, according to new rules announced ahead of the election scheduled for October 15.

Anybody "adjudged insolvent or convicted by court for criminal bank loan default" will not be allowed to compete, an FBCCI official said quoting the new rules.

The FBCCI election board decided last night that polling would take place on October 15, exactly a week before the incumbents end their two-year term.

The move comes amid growing protests in the civil society against willful defaulters as the national chamber prepares for the biennial battle that brings business barons

along with top political leaders into a nerve-wrecking fray.

The election board, headed by Ali Ashraf, MP, has also framed a new set of rules that prohibit projection meetings in posh hotels and expensive

methods wooing voters that have marked FBCCI elections in recent years.

Candidates will not be allowed to bring out processions, raise slogans, use microphones

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JCD factions clash in front of BNP chief

By Nazmul Ashraf

Rival JCD factions were engaged in a fist fight last night in front of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia when the Leader of the Opposition was leaving her Minto Road official residence.

The fight was a sequel to clashes between the rival groups on the Dhaka University campus earlier on the day in which one activist was stabbed.

Supporters and leaders of the two groups had waited since early evening while Begum Zia was chairing a meeting of the party Standing Committee at her Minto Road residence. As she emerged at 11:45 pm from the three-hour meeting, they began complaining to her, shouting and yelling. She attempted to calm down the agitated students.

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Intra-party conflict JCD leader injured on DU campus

A central leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was injured when his rivals attacked him following intra-party conflict on Dhaka University campus yesterday, reports UNB.

Shahabuddin Laltu, joint secretary of JCD, suffered injuries in his face when his rivals allegedly belong to the Pintu group hit him with sharp weapons in front of DUCSU Collection Centre at about 12:30 pm.

The incident occurred after JCD's scheduled programmes of procession and rally on the campus.

With serious injuries Laltu could manage to escape from the attackers and took shelter at the teacher's lounge of the Arts Faculty. He was later rushed to a private clinic.

Police recovered the blood stain chopper from the spot. None was arrested till 6 pm yesterday.

SSC results likely on Sunday

CHITTAGONG, July 22: The results of this year's SSC examinations, held under five education boards of the country, are expected to be published simultaneously on Sunday, reports UNB.

A senior official at the Chittagong Education Board said necessary preparations to announce the results have been completed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mock Interview Workshop

The Daily Star Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals Group cordially invite you to attend a Mock Interview Workshop scheduled as follows:

Day and Date : Friday, July 24, 1998
Time : 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Place : British Council Auditorium

Employment interview specialists and corporate recruiters will comprise the "Interview Board" to conduct some mock interviews from among the participants present there. This will be followed by a detailed analysis of successful job interview techniques. This workshop is targeted to the unemployed youth, would-be university graduates and young professionals.

If you are interested to attend this workshop, please contact Rafi Hossain (mobile: 017540076) or Quazi Mahmud Ahmed (017561861) for details. You may also contact them today at The Daily Star (PABX: 866772-4) between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cordially,

Mahfuz Anam
Editor, The Daily Star
PABX: 866772-4, Fax: 863035

Quazi Mahmud Ahmed
Coordinator, Mock Interview Workshop
Mobile: 017561861

Police raid LTTE hideout ahead of summit

Explosive-laden jackets designed for suicide bombers found

COLOMBO, July 22: Anti-terrorism police uncovered explosive-laden jackets designed for suicide bombers when they raided a Tamil rebel hideout in Colombo, where seven South Asian leaders will hold a summit next week, a senior police officer said today, report agencies.

Acting on information from suspects detained in a pre-summit roundup, police from the Terrorism Investigation Department raided a Tamil-owned grocery store in Jampetah Street on July 13 and arrested the owner, said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity. Police had kept the operation secret until today.

Five more people were arrested as a result of the interrogation of the store owner, who is from the northern Tamil city of Jaffna. Police also discovered three jackets, each concealing one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of explosives. Another kilogram of explosives was found in a container.

The jackets used by human bombers are trademark equipment of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel group fighting for an independent homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and the

9 state-owned textile mills to be handed over to workers

By Rafiq Hasan

Nine loss-making state-owned textile mills will be handed over to their workers and employees shortly.

This was decided at a meeting of a high-powered government committee on loss-making industries in Jute and textile sectors yesterday.

The committee, headed by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria at its meeting gave full authority to the Textile Ministry for handing over the mills to the workers to fulfil an earlier commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting also formed another committee headed by State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir to complete the handover.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir, State Minister for Jute Faizul Huq

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan, secretaries of the respective ministries, five parliament members and a number of labour leaders who were also members of the high-powered committee attended the meeting, held at the conference room of Finance Ministry.

The meeting also adopted a set of recommendations made

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