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All set for Opposition road march tomorrow

By Rezaul Karim

Stage is set for the BNP-led opposition alliance's three-day "road march" starting tomorrow from the capital to different destinations.

The second phase of the road march programme has been designed to protest 'Awami misrule, corruption, repression, killing of opposition activists and police personnel, subversive policy and anti-national activities' of the government.

Chiefs of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will lead the extraordinary campaign which also aims at protesting 'power crisis, deterioration of law and order, price hike of essentials and the government's failures in various sectors'.

The partners of the alliance carried out a similar road march on May 16-18.

Jatiya Party, which will take part in the campaign by See Page 12 Col 2

Security beefed up at Tangail

TANGAIL, July 23: The district administration today intensified security measures in the town apprehending troubles following suspension of dissident Awami League leader Kader Siddiqui, MP, from the party, reports UNB.

Three platoons of paramilitary BDR personnel were deployed at key points of Siddiqui's hometown in a preemptive measure Thursday night.

Police were seen guarding different sensitive crossings in the town.

However, no untoward incident took place till 9 pm today.

Inside Today

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Dhaka Displays Dismal Disparity

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Business

WB okays aid for eco-friendly shrimp culture. ASEAN free trade resolve goes on major test Pages 8, 9

Prayer Timings

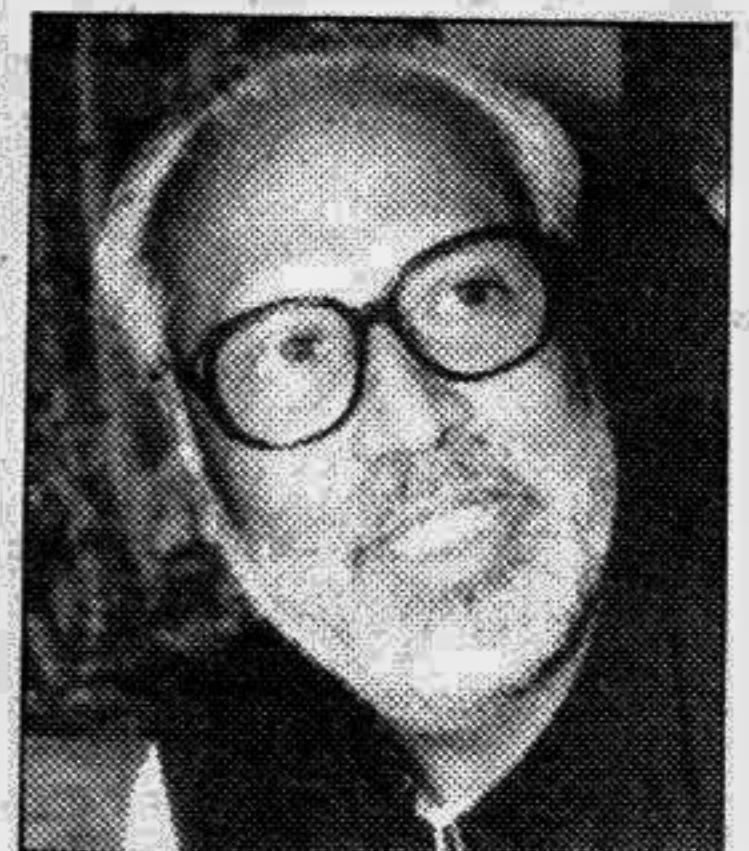
	July 24	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:70	4:15
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	4:55	5:05
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Kader Siddiqui 'temporarily expelled' from party

By Staff Correspondent

Kader Siddiqui, a lawmaker and member of the Awami League Central Working Committee, has been "temporarily expelled" from the party on charge of breaking party discipline.



Kader Siddiqui

The ALCWC at its meeting yesterday unanimously decided to "suspend" Siddiqui's primary membership of the party and also of its Central Working Committee.

He will be served with a notice to show cause within one month why he will not be "expelled" from the party, meeting sources said.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting, held at the party head office in the city.

The AL central leadership found Siddiqui guilty of "breaking party discipline and indulging in anti-party activities". The decisions were taken under Articles 46 (Ka) and 48 (Uma) of the AL constitution, the sources said.

In the last couple of months, Kader Siddiqui had been making public statements criticising the government of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Siddiqui, who had been otherwise enjoying a special clout in the party for his role in the War of Liberation, recently went to the extent of challenge the party chief on some issues and demanding statements of assets of Sheikh Hasina, her family members and Cabinet colleagues.

Whenever Awami League came to power in the past, it faced conspiracy from within. So we have to be extra cautious this time," the sources quoted Hasina as telling the ALCWC meeting.

She also told the meeting that she had always been sympathetic to Siddiqui. But his recent activities were in violation of party discipline, she said. Siddiqui was not present at the meeting.

The ALCWC meeting began at 10 am and continued till 1 pm. See Page 12 Col 4



The trap

A truck stuck in a big pothole on the Comilla-Sylhet Road submerged after the recent breach in the Gumti embankment. Vehicles still ply on this road at great risk. —Star photo

Flood situation in Comilla unchanged

The overall flood situation in Comilla remained unchanged while it improved in all the river basins with fall in water levels at all major points, report agencies.

The monsoon also weakened all over the country.

Official sources said out of the 5,70,382 affected people belonging to 1,13,261 families, 70,536 have been sheltered in 69 relief camps set up in different parts of Comilla.

Meanwhile, the breach in the Gumti embankment is yet to be repaired. The Water Development Board and Engineering Corps of the army are carrying out survey to take up repair works. Informal sources said repair work could not be taken up before the floodwater receded.

The Comilla-Sylhet road communication remained in limbo as the floodwaters still flowing over the road. Only a handful of vehicles ply on the route with great risk, sources said.

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700 more outlaws surrender

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 23: Over 700 terrorists of outlawed parties today surrendered before Home Minister Mohammad Nasim along with arms at Kushtia stadium.

Thousands of people thronged the stadium to see the dreaded terrorists from South-western districts lay down their arms to return to normal life, taking the advantage of the government's amnesty, declared on March 20.

They include several ring leaders like Siraj Bahini commander Siraj, who surrendered along with his 116 members. Some of them surrendered sophisticated firearms like Betagun.

Siraj, handed over a sten gun to the Home Minister on the

podium while his lieutenant Anwarul Islam Anu laid down a sub-machinegun.

This is the biggest and third arms surrender since declaration of the amnesty.

Officials said over 700 outlaws surrendered today along with about 800 firearms and 1400 bullets.

The surrender ceremony over, all were sent to Kushtia and Jessore jails, pending their exoneration and rehabilitation through legal process, officials said.

UNB adds: Addressing the function the Home Minister warned of a massive combing operation immediately after the deadline for surrender on July 30.

See page 11 Col 8

Biman's plane lands without nose wheel

By Special Correspondent

A Bangladesh Biman aircraft from London via Rome landed at Zia International Airport yesterday without a nose wheel, Biman sources said.

The B-008 was carrying 279 people including five children and nine crew, Biman sources said.

None was injured during the landing, the sources said. The passengers were taken off the aircraft on the taxiway after the plane landed.

The aircraft's pilot, Captain Alimuzzaman, realised at 1-15 a.m. (BST) that the right nose wheel was missing after the take-off at Rome airport, the sources said.

He radioed Rome airport authorities for an emergency.

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Pvt commercial banks plan pay hike to stop 'exodus'

By Rafiq Hasan

Private commercial banks are revising pay structure upward and offering new incentives to prevent exodus of their officials and employees to new banks.

Banking sources said most of the private banks are facing tremendous pressure from their staff to increase their salaries, allowances and other benefits. This is happening as nine more private banks have either opened or are in the process of opening.

Around 25 officials of a leading private bank, some holding key positions, resigned in April to join a new bank at much higher salaries. Following this, the bank authorities increased salaries of the staff at all levels,

said a senior official of the bank.

"We were forced to go for a higher pay structure to discourage officials and employees from leaving our bank," said a director of another private bank.

United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) has increased basic salaries of all its staff by 50 per cent, National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited (NCCBL) by 15 per cent, while Prime Bank increased gross salaries by 15 to 25 per cent. National Bank Limited has increased salaries by 17 to 25 per cent but

the staff want further increase, bank sources said.

At least 10 officials already

left the NCCBL to join new banks and more are likely to leave," said a senior official of the bank.

Of the nine newly approved private commercial banks three have already started operation and opened principal branches. The others are engaged in recruiting officials and preparing to make their debut in the banking

Some of the newly approved private banks are also offering higher positions and designations to officers and staff whom they are trying to attract.

They are trying to hire efficient bankers offering lucrative salary packages,"

said a director of a newly approved bank.

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Sex workers at Tanbazar, Nimtali

Only one-fifth of 3400 respond to offer for rehabilitation

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, July 23: Only about one-fifth of the sex workers in the country's biggest brothels — Tanbazar and Nimtali — are willing to return to normal life under the government's rehabilitation programme.

According to a survey by the Department of Social Services, 698 inmates of the two brothels expressed willingness to give up their profession if the government rehabilitates them properly.

During the four-day survey that ended on Saturday last, officials of the Department found 1,053 inmates at the brothels. But earlier estimates—both official and unofficial—said there were about 3,400 sex workers at the brothels.

A large number of inmates

left the brothels following the killing of an inmate on July 1 while many others left before the survey began.

Of the 1,053 sex workers who were present during the survey, 355 expressed their intention to remain in their profession.

The survey followed a government decision to rehabilitate the sex workers who are willing to give up their profession. But no decision has been taken as yet as regards those unwilling to return to normal life.

The survey report said about 75 per cent of the interviewed sex workers are illiterate, 0.7 per cent had passed SSC examinations and the rest 24.03 per cent can only write their names. About 450 of them are

below 18 and 304 do not have any child.

The report revealed that 789 of the inmates took up the profession voluntarily, 54 were cheated into it and 78 were sold by pimps without their knowledge.

Meanwhile, Director General of social services department Mir Shahabuddin told The Daily Star that they would launch a counselling programme tomorrow for those who have not agreed to come under the rehabilitation programme. Those who have agreed would be taken to Tongi

where the department has a number of projects. Till then they would be provided with food at the brothels.

Ahmed Humayun dead

By Staff Correspondent

Ahmed Humayun, eminent journalist, columnist and former editor of the now defunct Dainik Bangla, died of cardiac failure at the Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday afternoon. He was 63.

Humayun was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday following a massive heart attack, family sources said. He breathed his last at around four in the afternoon.

He had long been suffering from heart diseases, diabetes and hypertension.

The deceased is survived by his wife and two sons.

The body of late Humayun

See page 11 Col 7

'Big shots' behind Tayabi murder, discloses CID

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 23: The CID has collected 'all information' regarding the sensational murder of an Indian national Jibran Tayabi who worked in the port city as a country manager of a foreign shipping company.

Talking to this correspondent this evening, ASP of CID here M A Kader Khan said "we have collected all information about killing of Jibran, but we

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue
Dhaka

Urgent notice regarding deduction, realisation of value added tax at the origin

This is for general information to draw attention of all including various government, semi-government, autonomous bodies, private organisations regarding deduction and realisation of value added tax in the origin where it is done or it is obligatory.

01. Only in the following cases it is obligatory to deposit in the head of "1/113/00000311" in the government treasury after deducting or realising at the specific rate on the cost of service by the service receiver, commission payers or one who realises against the service charge. But it can also be deposited through book transfer in some cases:

Sl No	Service offering	Service code	Rate of net VAT (on total value)
1.	Motor workshop and garage	S-003.10	4.95%
2.	Dockyard	S-003.20	4.95%
3.	Construction firm	S-004.00	4.50%
4.	Printing press	S-008.00	4.50%
5.	Indenting firm	S-014.00	15%
6.	Consultancy and supervisory firm	S-032.00	5.25%
7.	Lessee	S-033.20	15%
8.	Supplier	S-037.00	3%
9.	Transport contractor	S-048.00	15%
10.	Participants in board meeting	S-053.00	15%

02. There has been no provision to deduct or realise value added at the origin by government or private individual or private organisation who or whichever takes the service in case of services other than those mentioned in paragraph 01. It is mentioned that VAT has been imposed since 10th June, 1999 on the services as mentioned in serial numbers from 9 to 10 of the said paragraph.

03. If any organisation or individual fails to deduct or realise at the origin, although it is obligatory, it will be realised from one who has paid the service cost or commission with additional 2 per cent charge in such a way as if he were one who offers service under VAT law. Besides, in the present budget there has been a provision that the concerned commissioner can impose a personal fine of maximum amount of 25 (twenty-five) thousand taka to the person who deducts/realises the value added tax in the origin fails to deposit it in the government treasury within 2 (two) months of deduction/realisation, person entrusted with this responsibility of depositing the VAT deducted and the chief executive of the organisation concerned.

Phone: 408002, 405193, 406416
836120/306, 248
Fax: 836143
DPF: 15934-197
G-1372

Mobara Khanam
Second Secretary
(VAT: Proclamation: Restoration)
National Board of Revenue

Boy held with revolver

By Staff Correspondent

Ujjal is hardly 15, but he possesses something that only underworld members do.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel were completely taken aback when they found the boy was carrying a foreign-made revolver at Kamapur railway station in the city Thursday afternoon.

Ujjal was wandering at the platform at around 2 pm when a hawilder of Railway Nirapatta Bahini grew suspicious about him. On searching him, the revolver which was kept under the shirt was found.

Later, Ujjal was handed over to the GRP.

The GRP were yet to ascertain how the boy, whose father is a rickshawpuller, managed to get the foreign revolver which

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Ships disappear, but who is to blame?

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Although over 100 years' old, Chittagong port is yet to develop a proper monitoring system for foreign cargo vessels.

Taking the advantage, many foreign vessels loaded with imported cargo flee away without port clearance or giving intimation to authorities concerned, sources said.

Two foreign vessels, MV Kim Dong loaded with imported rice and MV Zoom Ocean loaded with cement, disappeared from the outer anchorage of the port on July 11 and July 13 without facing any challenge from the port and the customs authorities or any other agency.

Even after disappearance,

the ships were mysteriously shown present in the berthing position of Chittagong port till July 18. The radio control section of the port could not report the disappearance of the ships.

Port officials, however, blamed the shipping agents for giving "misleading" information, as berthing reports are prepared as per their declaration.

Even radio control personnel of the port do not monitor presence of ships over VHF till the captain or crew of the vessel contact them, they said.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Port Authority formed a committee to probe the disappearance.

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All 'for flying a real plane'

TOKYO, July 23: A jittery man with a knife hijacked a domestic Japanese jumbo jet shortly after takeoff today, stabbing the pilot to death in the cockpit, officials said, and even reportedly flying the plane himself before he was overpowered, reports AP.

No one else was injured. The All Nippon Airways Boeing 747, carrying 503 passengers and 14 crew from Tokyo to the northern city of Sapporo, returned to the capital about an hour after the flight began, officials said.

Two minutes after takeoff, the hijacker, a 28-year-old man who reportedly just wanted to fly a real plane, pulled out a 20-centimeter knife and pressed it to a flight attendant's back, forcing her take him into the cockpit.

The hijacker forced the co-pilot out and ordered the pilot to steer toward the US military's Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, media reports said. When the pilot refused, the hijacker stabbed him in the neck, seized the controls and tried to

steer toward the city, the reports said.

Unnerved by a sudden drop in altitude, the co-pilot and another man burst into the cockpit and pounced on the hijacker, trussing him up with neckties.

The hijacker, an unemployed computer-flight-game fan named Yuji Nishizawa, was arrested after the plane landed, said Norio Chichi, deputy police chief at Haneda Airport.

The government tightened

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star and APTECH Computer Education are jointly organizing a seminar titled "Moving Forward with Information Technology."

OBJECTIVES

- ★ Govt has declared IT as thrust sector — what has been done so far.
- ★ Identify steps to be taken both by the govt and the private sector.

Date: July 31, 1999 Time: 04.00 pm.

Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Ramna, Dhaka.

Speakers: Opinion-leaders and policy-makers from government and private sector.

Register with any of the following APTECH centres to participate in this unique seminar.

Registration is free.

Banani: Awal Centre (5th floor), 34, Kemal

Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A, Tel: 9886539

Dhanmondi: 7-13, Satmasjid Road (4th floor),

Dhanmondi, Tel: 9128354-8

Eskaton: 17, New Eskaton Road (2nd floor),

Maghbarat, Tel: 9341761, 9350531

Kakrail: Metropolitan Scout Bhaban (1st floor), 54

Inner Circular Road, Tel: 837357, 839091

Old Dhaka: 2, English Road (1st floor), Tel: 019-

342245-6

Uttara: House-1/A, Road-4, Sector-4, Uttara, Tel:

897264

Chittagong: Engineers Institution Building, S.S.

Khaled Sarak, Tel: (031) 622182, 610048

PARTICIPATE IN THIS UNIQUE SEMINAR AND HELP PREPARE BANGLADESH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY