



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, subservient 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

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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.

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Prayer Timings

July 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:15
John	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.

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.

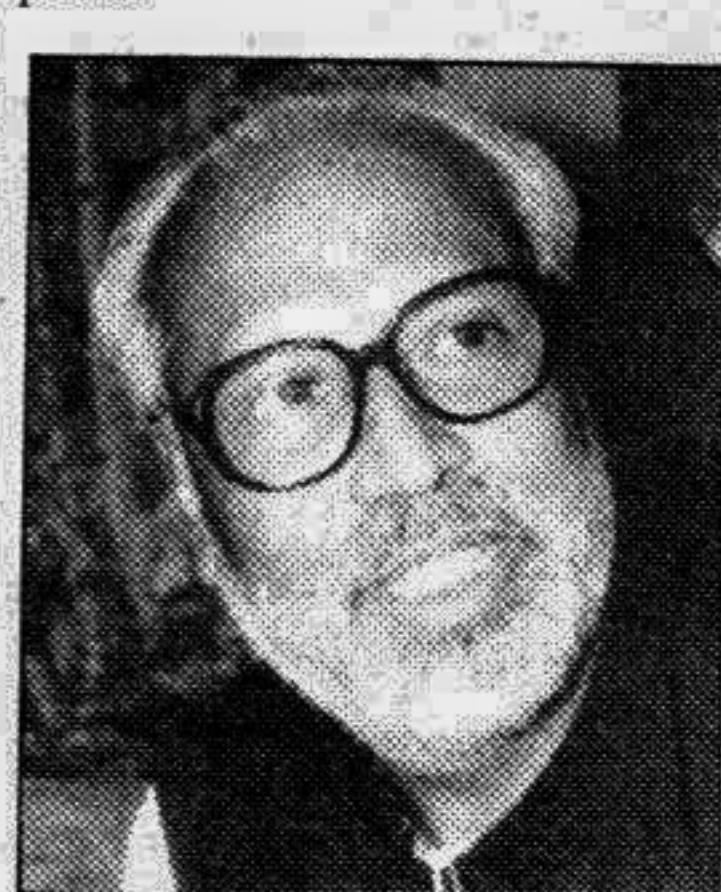
In the last couple of months, Kader Siddiqui had been making public statements criticising the government of

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



Kader Siddiqui

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 Bechtum.

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

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Biman's plane lands without nose wheel

By Special Correspondent

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

The BG-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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Believe it or not!

All four of a family of Golam Mostafa, manager of Narayanganj branch of Agrani Bank, and the driver got a new lease of life when their car collided with a microbus at Eliotganj, Daudkandi, on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday. The car was damaged beyond recognition but all of them were unhurt.

— Star photo by Sk Enamul Haque



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. Informed 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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Ahmed Humayun dead

By Staff Correspondent

Ahmed Humayun, eminent journalist, columnist and former editor of now defunct Dainik Bangla, died of cardiac failure at the Bangabandhu 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

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'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 Jibrin 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 Jibrin, but we

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Pvt commercial banks plan pay hike to stop 'exodus'

By Rafiq Hasan

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.

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

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 ap-

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Sex workers at Tanbazar, Nimtali

Only one-fifth of 3400 respond to offer for rehabilitation

From Ehsanul Haque

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.

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

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.

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

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 vessels contact them, they said.

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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), Maghbazar, Tel: 9341761, 9350531

Kakrail: Metropolitan Scout Bhaban (1st floor), 54 Inner Circular Road, Tel: 837357, 839091