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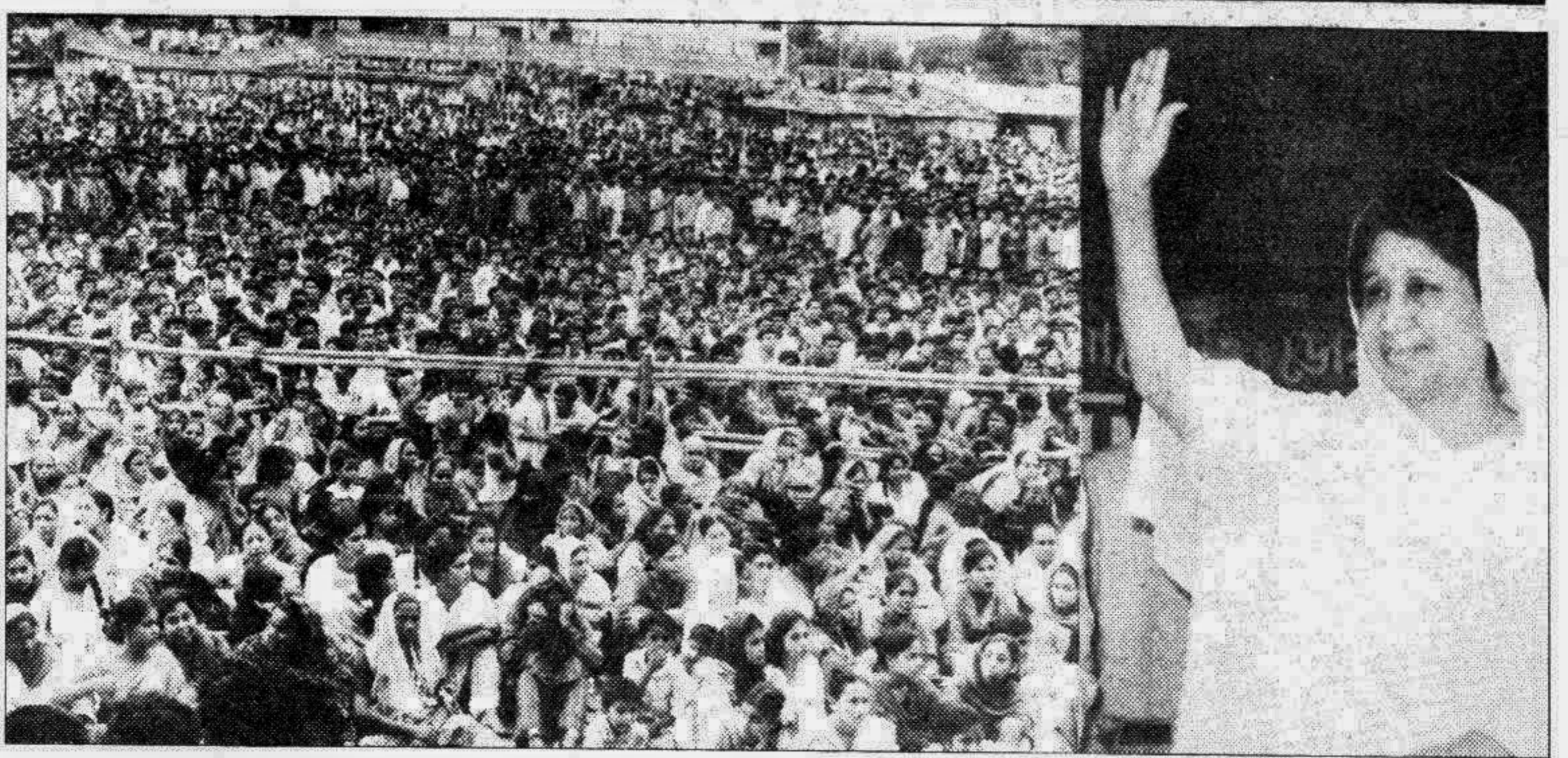
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Kibria admits downturn in major indicators

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria has hinted an economic downturn in the country caused by global economic recession, reports UNB.

WB reduces lending plan for '99-2000

The World Bank has drastically reduced its lending plan for Bangladesh for fiscal 1999-2000, reports UNB.



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia waves at supporters at a public meeting in Lalbagh in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Squatters leave court premises



Some of the several thousand squatters leave the Supreme Court premises, their home for six days, yesterday morning. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Gunfight at Demra: Police informer killed

By Staff Correspondent An informer of police was shot dead allegedly by criminals during a gunfight with Demra police in the city's Jatrabari area early hours of yesterday.

Rehabilitate slum dwellers in CHT : Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday advised the government to rehabilitate the city's slum dwellers in Chittagong Hill Tracts as there are huge fallow lands in the hills.

BDR, BSF clash for 3rd day at Belonia

From Our Correspondent FENI, Aug 24: More villagers fled their homes today as BDR and BSF continued exchange of fire for the third day today.

Inside Today Article Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Speech and Expression: Rights and Responsibilities of Legislators by Nurul Kabir Page 4

Petrobangla stops payment for Sangu gas

Legal problems due to change in operatorships in Blocks 15,16 By Sharier Khan Petrobangla has suspended payment for Sangu gas for the months of May and June due to legal complexities following change in operatorship in blocks 15 and 16 which include the off-shore Sangu field.

Two BNP MPs submit replies EC likely to fix date of hearing today

By Staff Correspondent The Election Commission is likely to fix the date of hearing on the allegation of floor-crossing by the two BNP MPs today, EC sources said.

Bus workers in N'ganj clash: One killed

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Aug 24: One person was killed and 30 others were injured as bus and minibus workers clashed for two hours on the Narayanganj-Demra road in Adamjee Kadamtali area today.

ANNOUNCEMENT The Daily Star and Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals Forum Seminar on Employer-Employee Expectations in the New Millennium

Jayalalitha's latest sleight angers Sonia's party

MADRAS, Aug 24: The capricious queen of Indian politics targeted Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee for more than a year — throwing tantrums and reeling off tough demands until she finally toppled his government in April, reports AP.

Court urged to debar Sonia from polls

MUMBAI, Aug 24: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) today urged the Mumbai High Court for directions to the Chief Election Commissioner MS Gill to debar Congress president Sonia Gandhi from contesting Lok Sabha polls from Bellary constituency on the ground that she was allegedly holding dual citizenship, reports PTI.

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