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Khaleda to lead today's 'mini' road march

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will lead a one-day "mini road march" from the capital to Bhairab today to intensify the current anti-government campaign and also to mobilise support against the government's decision to provide "corridor" facility to India.

Khaleda, who is also the leader of the opposition in parliament, will start her 'march' at 10am from Jatrabari crossing and will pass through Narayanganj, Narsingdi, and Bhairab in Kishoreganj district.

Although BNP and its three major alliance partners -- Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikyo Jote -- had simultaneously led two road marches during May 16-18 and July 25-27 to different destinations in the country, the main opposition this time is going for the march alone since the three have no simultaneous programme.

BNP is also scheduled to lead

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HSC exam results today

The results of HSC examinations 1999 under Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards will simultaneously be announced at 4 pm today, reports UNB.

The examinees have been asked to collect their results from their respective centres, according to an official handout.

It said the results would not be available at the education boards, education ministry or newspaper offices.

Some 5.65 lakh students appeared in the HSC examination this year under five education boards.

Of the total examinees, 1,66,000 appeared from Dhaka Board, 1,47,000 from Rajshahi, 1,20,000 from Jessore, 88,000 from Comilla and the rest 44,000 from Chittagong Board.

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by Harun ur Rashid

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Prayer Timings

August 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
John	12-50	1-25
Asr	4-45	5-00
Magrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

In association with The British Council

The Daily Star and Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals Forum cordially invite you to attend the above Seminar to be held Today Thursday, 26 August 1999 at The British Council Auditorium from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Representatives from following areas will speak/

share their insights on the topic:

(i) corporate sector, (ii) NGO community, (iii)

multi-national, (iv) GOB, and (v) joint venture

company. Our target audience includes employer, existing & prospective employee from different sectors as well as fresh graduates.

If you are interested to attend the Seminar, please register immediately (which is free) by sending us your 1. Name 2. Organisation.

Please fax: 886061, e-mail: <rescr@citechco.net> or telephone: 885214, 9339521

We look forward to seeing you!

The Daily Star

Slum dwellers at Agargaon told

Get lost within seven days

By Staff Correspondent

Despite a High Court order not to evict slum dwellers without arrangement for their rehabilitation.

Mohammadpur thana police have asked residents of BNP Bustee (slum) at Agargaon in the city to 'get lost' within seven days.

The announcement was blared through loudspeakers starting at 11pm on Tuesday and continuing till 1:30 am yesterday, slum residents said. The sprawling shantytown accommodates as many as 80,000 people over a large area designated for different government offices.

Mohammadpur thana officer-in-charge (OC) Mohammad Abdur Rashid said the eviction notice was announced through loudspeakers by his men after he received orders from DMP

Deputy Commissioner (West) Serajul Islam.

The OC, however, failed to produce any written order. Replying to a question, Rashid said it was not his job to find out what the High Court had ruled on Monday. "The High Court did not address any letter to the Mohammadpur OC."

Asked whether he had any idea of how many people would be evicted or if there was any rehabilitation plan for their resettlement, the OC replied in the negative.

Dr Kamal Hossain, who is advocating against the current government move to evict city slum dwellers without their rehabilitation, told The Daily Star that the police announcement in Agargaon area was a clear case of contempt of court.

"According to our Constitution, the authorities are bound to respect the judgement of the High Court," he said. Dr Kamal added that in its judgement on Monday the High Court clearly indicated that no eviction of slum dwellers can be carried out without arrangement for rehabilitation and recognising their right to living.

The police announcement immediately cast a shadow of uncertainty and alarm among hundreds of families at the slum, most of whom are renting their abodes from men who always keep a safe distance.

Meanwhile, men, women and children in the slum are getting ready to resist any move to evict them without any rehabilitation programme. They

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Bangladesh-Nepal trade India proposes shorter transhipment route

From Pallab Bhattacharya

the sources said.

India pointed to the "technical and operational constraints" with regard to the Raxaul-Rohapur route and asserted that the other route well meets the requirement of Nepal and Bangladesh and the transhipment time taken is "shorter," said the sources.

India, however, made it clear that it would certainly consider the route proposed by Bangladesh and Nepal through India.

The previous meeting of the group of experts from India, Bangladesh and Nepal on the transhipment issue was held in Dhaka in July this year.

During Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi's visit to Dhaka in July marking the launch of the Dhaka-Calcutta bus service, both the countries had agreed on the use of multi-modal transport links between them which would promote movement of traffic.

The coming meeting of the group of experts would also discuss technical aspects of border trade and other related subjects.

CFTC withdraws congestion surcharge for a month

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), a Singapore based organisation of feeder vessel operators, postponed the decision to impose congestion surcharge on container cargo at Chittagong port for one month. Port sources said.

CFTC took the decision at a meeting in Singapore today and conveyed it to the Chittagong Port Authority through a fax message, sources said.

According to the message, CFTC extended the deadline till September 23 saying it would observe the congestion situation at Chittagong Port during the period and withdraw the surcharge if there is improvement.

Earlier, CFTC imposed 33 per cent surcharge on all container cargo at the port from August 23 sparking off anger among the port users.

The extra charge rates were fixed at US 100 dollar for 20-foot and US 200 dollar for 40-foot containers.

Chittagong Port Authority.

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Spend more on primary schools, be more efficient

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh needs to revise its goal of reaching basic education to 80 per cent children by the turn of the century because of slow progress, a study by a coalition of NGOs said.

The study on the state of primary education in the country, titled "Education Watch 1999," was launched in the city yesterday.

Education Minister A H S K Sadique, who attended the

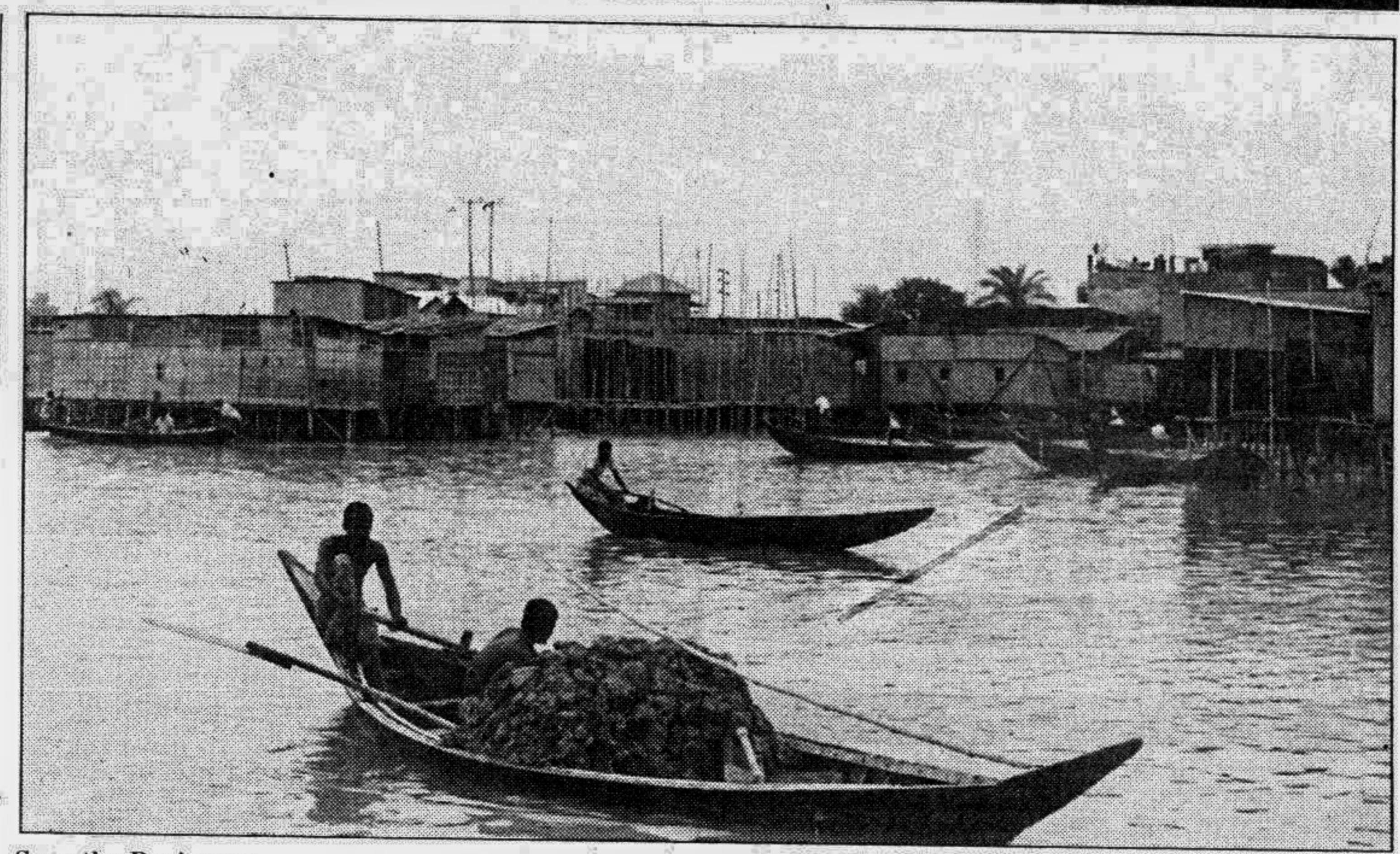
launching ceremony in the city as chief guest, said he knew of nothing that spoke of such a target. The minister said the government's definition of primary education also differed with that of NGOs.

"Many countries have done it (achieved the literacy goal) in a relatively short period and we can do it too with right policies and firm commitments, and active participation of all stakeholders," said the report sponsored by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAME), a coalition of NGOs working in the education sector.

The study covered 3,360 students of 11-12 age group, 885 schools and 42,548 households in 312 villages in all the 64 districts of the country. The data were collected during October-November last year.

Six different types of primary schools were identified for the survey -- government primary, non-government primary (registered and non-registered), non-formal primary.

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Save the Buriganga

Kamrangirchar: Hundreds of illegal structures have crept up from the river. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

FCBs making profits, doing little for the economy'

By Inam Ahmed

Safir pointed out that the central bank had freed interest rate to create competition among the banks so that borrowers are benefited. But in reality, the rate did not come down and the FCBs failed to live up to the expectations.

Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP and President of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), told the meeting that the foreign banks get some special benefits like 50 per cent refinancing of their investments in industrial projects by the Bangladesh Bank at a rate of eight per cent only. Even then they do not go for long term industrial financing.

FCBs make huge profits but they do not go for venture capital by setting aside some funds. Amir Khashru said. They should have some commitment to the economy, he said, adding that although many of the FCBs have sufficient experience of supporting the capital market in other countries, they remain aloof in Bangladesh.

Others pointed out that FCBs do not invest at all in agriculture and small and cottage industries sectors.

According to the report, the 13 FCBs accounted for 36 per cent of the total profit made by 43 commercial banks in the country in 1998.

If the Tk 711.40 crore profit by all banks, the FCBs' share was Tk 256.10 crore.

The report mentioned that FCBs do not invest at all in agriculture and small and cottage industries sectors.

Repudiating the killing of Bangabandhu, many Awami League leaders would have been in graves today," Kader Siddiqui said.

Addressing a public rally in Basir court premises this afternoon, he warned that days of this government were numbered.

Presided over by freedom fighter Nurul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by Tanguar Pourasava Chairman Jamilur Rahman Miron.

"Had I not protested the killing of Bangabandhu, many Awami League leaders would have been in graves today," Kader Siddiqui said.

Exchanging views with lawyers at the district bar earlier in the day, he reiterated his decision to quit Parliament and set September 4 as the deadline.

Repudiating to questions from a number of lawyers, mostly from opposition BNP and Jatiya Party, he said he was determined to resign by the stipulated time.

Entrepreneur pays the terror toll

Star Report

An entrepreneur who controls a third of the country's edible oil market has complained that a local group of political touts has created a reign of terror threatening his businesses based in Rupganj, Narayanganj.

Fazlur Rahman -- the proud producer of 'Teer marka' oil and other edibles -- says the latest incident in which five of his employees were seriously assaulted by an armed gang yesterday will force him to close the factories if there is no immediate government intervention.

At around 9am, a group of 20-25 people led by Altaf Hossain and Habibur Rahman allegedly stormed Tk 150 crore City Vegetable Oil Mills and three other adjacent factories at Uttar Rupashi, Rupganj, some 20 kilometres off Narayanganj. They damaged equipment, disconnected phone lines, took away some valuables and beat up the factory's

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Water, not oil!

Star Report

The 'oil discovery' in Kafna-1 exploratory well drilled by Occidental a couple of months back is now showing frustrating results -- as preliminary tests show water instead of oil, sources said.

Occidental of Bangladesh, that has been sold out to Unocal recently, had drilled up to a depth of 4000 meters in Kafna under Block-13 near the Kailastila gas field of Petrobangla had apparently struck oil the e...

But after testing began at the lowest depth of the well earlier this month, drillers were frustrated to find out that it was only mineral water.

"However, this is definitely not the end of the sand testing," said an Unocal source, "more testing will take place in other depths of the well. Before these tests are completed -- nobody can negate the prospect of striking a hydro-carbon reserve."

The two BNP lawmakers, Dr Mohammad Alaudin and Habibur Rahman Swapan, went against their party decision to join the cabinet of Sheikh Hasina in February last year.

Since the joining, the BNP has been accusing them of crossing floor which, according to the party, is tantamount to

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EC to hear BNP MPs first on Aug 30

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission will initially hear the contending parties in the controversial floor-crossing case on August 30 with a view to fixing a date for starting the legal hearing on the case.

Election Commissioner Moshtaque Ahmed Chowdhury will hear the parties at his office at 11:30 a.m., said additional secretary of the EC secretariat Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury. "The date for legal hearing of the case would be fixed after the initial hearing of the parties concerned on August 30."

The decisions were taken yesterday at a meeting of the three-member Commission with Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena in the chair.

The two BNP lawmakers, Dr Mohammad Alaudin and Habibur Rahman Swapan, went against their party decision to join the cabinet of Sheikh Hasina in February last year.

Since the joining, the BNP has been accusing them of crossing floor which, according to the party, is tantamount to

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