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**BCL to form committees at all private universities**  
*Target anti-terror campaign*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Chhatra League, pro-Awami League student body, yesterday announced forming committees at all private universities as part of its greater goal to fight militancy in the country.

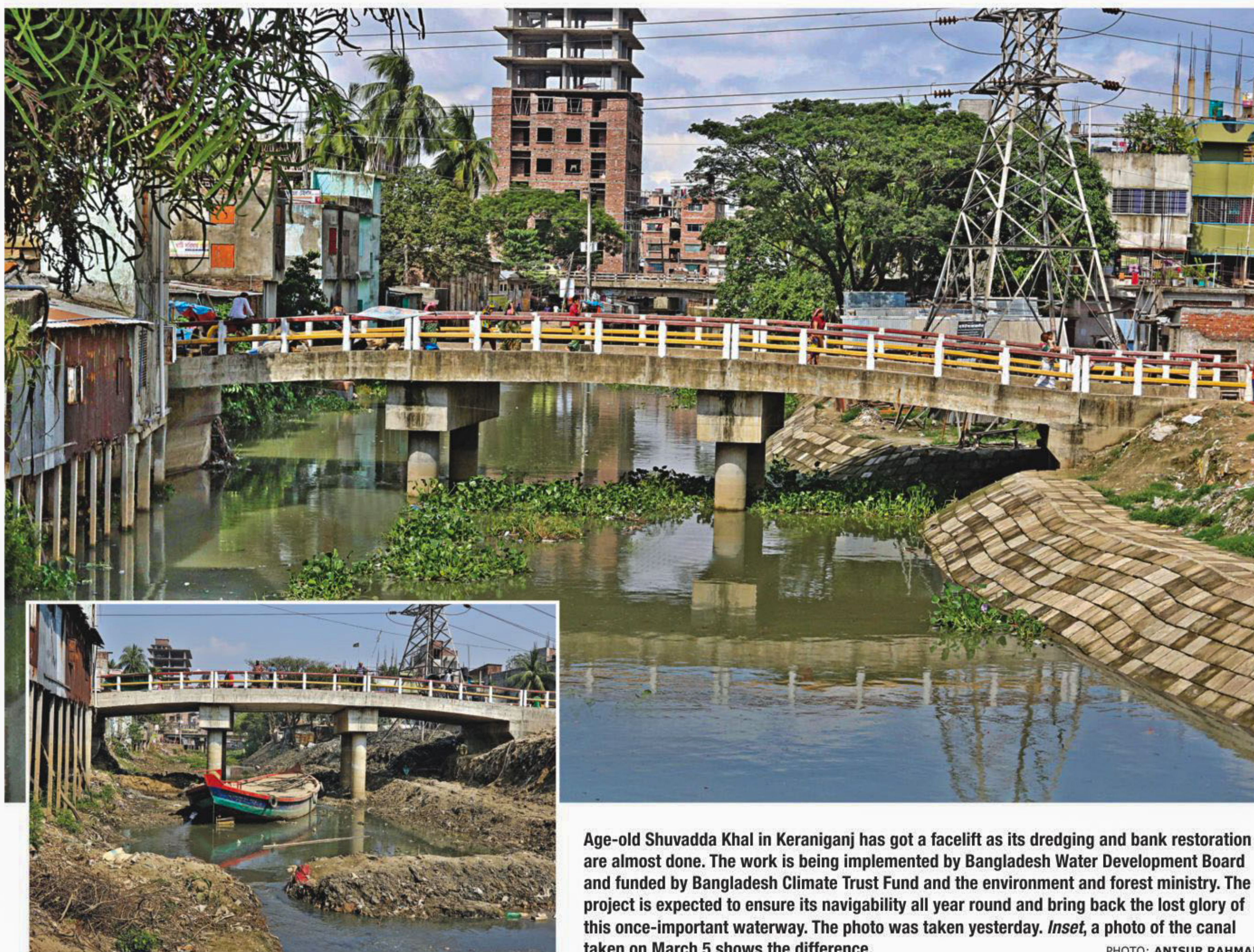
"We will form committees of Chhatra League in each of the 92 or 93 private universities. Wherever there is a campus, there will be a Chhatra League committee," said BCL President Saifur Rahman Sohag.

Speaking at an "emergency meeting" on creating awareness against militancy in the capital yesterday, he claimed that militancy is growing in the campuses where there are no activities of the BCL.

State Minister for Textiles and Jute Mirza Azam and former BCL leaders welcomed the announcement, arguing that a section of students get involved in militant activities in the absence of progressive political activities in private universities.

However, some of them observed that all the private universities should not be

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**Age-old Shuvadda Khal in Keraniganj has got a facelift as its dredging and bank restoration are almost done. The work is being implemented by Bangladesh Water Development Board and funded by Bangladesh Climate Trust Fund and the environment and forest ministry. The project is expected to ensure its navigability all year round and bring back the lost glory of this once-important waterway. The photo was taken yesterday. Inset, a photo of the canal taken on March 5 shows the difference.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Never inspired terrorists**  
*Claims Zakir Naik; not returning to India this year*

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi**

India's controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is under the scanner of Indian security agencies for his alleged provocative speeches, yesterday dismissed the allegation that his sermons had inspired any terror activity.

"Killing innocent people is prohibited in Islam and I condemn all terrorist attacks," he said and claimed that he was a victim of media trial with his statements being blown out of context.

Naik, now in Saudi Arabia, said in a Skype press conference in Mumbai yesterday morning that he would not return to India this year.

"I am not running away," he said, adding that he was ready to cooperate with any investigation.

He said that so far, no Indian official or agency contacted him with queries.

Indian media reports that two of the youths involved in the terror attack in Dhaka on July 1 were inspired by Naik, a charge he denied.

Both the federal Indian government and the authorities in Western Indian state of Maharashtra are probing

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**RACE TO WHITE HOUSE**  
**Trump picks Mike Pence as VP**

**REUTERS, Washington**

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump announced Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his vice presidential running mate yesterday, after postponing an event on his decision following the deadly truck attack in France.

Republican sources had said on Thursday that Trump had decided on Pence, but the campaign had not confirmed this until now.

Viewed as a safe pair of hands, Pence, 57, has diverging views with Trump on his proposed Muslim ban and trade, and is more socially conservative, but he could help unify a divided party behind Trump's

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**No schooling for 1 in 10 children**

*Big challenge ahead to ensure education for all children by 2030, says UNESCO*

**REUTERS, New York**

Some 263 million children worldwide, nearly one in 10, do not go to school, posing a daunting hurdle to the United Nations' efforts to educate all children by 2030, the UN's cultural agency UNESCO reported on Friday.

The number is "staggering," yet marks an improvement from 2000 when some 374 million children did not attend school, UNESCO said.

Many children out of school live in areas of conflict, others are girls living in societies that do not advocate educating females and others live in countries that do not make secondary school compulsory, the report said.

Children in their late teens are four times more likely to be out of school than younger children, it said.

"Our focus must be on inclusion from the earliest age and right through the learn-

ing cycle, on policies that address the barriers at every stage, with special attention to girls who still face the greatest disadvantage," said UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova in a statement.

U.N. member nations last year adopted a set of global goals for 2030 that included a call for children around the world to complete primary and secondary school.

"These new findings show the hard work ahead if we are to reach this goal," Bokova said.

Armed conflict poses a major barrier to education, UNESCO said.

Around the world, 22 million out-of-school children of primary education age live in conflict areas, it said.

Also, many children not in school live in sub-Saharan Africa, where three out of five children of secondary school age are not in classes, it said.

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**COX'S BAZAR**  
**Temple security stepped up after 'threat'**

**STAR REPORT**

Police yesterday beefed up security at 10 temples in Cox's Bazar following threats received in the name of global terror outfit IS.

The security measures were intensified as separate letters were sent on Thursday to two leaders of religious minority, threatening to kill them as well as priests in 10 temples in the town before July 30.

Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station, told our district correspondent, "Patrolling and surveillance in the surrounding areas of the temples have been enhanced. Plainclothes police have also been deployed."

The leaders who received the threat letters are advocate Ranjit Das and Babul Sharma -- president and general secretary of Cox's Bazar district Puja Udjapan Parishad.

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**Man quits job to hunt Pokemon**

**ODDITYCENTRAL.COM**

Tom Currie, a 24-year-old Pokemon fan from New Zealand, recently quit his job so he could spend the next two months travelling all around the country to hunt all the Pokemon in the mobile game phenomenon Pokemon Go.

Currie was working at a Hibiscus Coast cafe in Auckland when he decided that in order to become the best Pokemon Go hunter the world has ever seen he would need to quit and focus all his attention on the app.

Every morning, he fills up his flask with coffee, packs his lunch and heads out looking for new

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**A sand-laden truck plunges into a canal as the bridge over the water body collapses in Basail area of Agailjhara upazila, Barisal, on Thursday, snapping road communications between Madaripur and Basail and four other villages of Agailjhara.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Confusion over road crash death count**

**PANKAG KARMAKAR**

Statistics by a non-government organisation on casualties in road accidents during Eid holidays contradict with the government data, raising confusion over the accurate number of victims.

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association yesterday claimed 155 people were killed in road crashes in between July 1 and July 9 across the country. But the government says 42 people died in road crashes during the corresponding time.

Such a difference in the numbers of casualties has created confusion among people, road safety activists and experts.

Accurate information is very important to take necessary measure to check road accidents, said Kazi Md Saifun Newaz, assistant professor of Accident Research Institute (ARI) at Buet.

Talking to The Daily Star, road safety activist Aminur Rasul said if the authorities concerned do not have proper data on accidents, it would not be possible to address the problem.

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association unveiled the report at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. It claimed the report was prepared on the basis of news reports of 14 national and regional newspapers and online news agencies.

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**MITU MURDER**  
**7-yr-old son shows signs of mental trauma**

**SHAHEEN MOLLAH**

The seven-year-old boy who witnessed the brutal murder of his mother Mahmuda Khanam Mitu in Chittagong last month is now showing signs of psychological problem.

"Sometimes, Maheer speaks incoherently. He is taking some mental

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**PRAYER TIMING JULY 16**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION