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The Daily Star

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NEWS BRIEFS

Villager killed by Indians

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, September 30 : A Bangladeshi national was killed on Sunday at the border village of Bitarkul of Oonrighat upazila by Khasia tribals living in India. Abul Kalam (30), a day labourer, was shot dead by Khasias in the fields at 7 am. Police sources said Kalam had a land dispute with the Khasias.

College teachers begin strike

A full-day abstinence from duty was observed Monday in the government colleges under Dhaka, Jessore and Rajshahi boards at the call of Bangladesh Government College Lecturers Association. The abstinence programme will continue for indefinite period for materialising the 12-point demand of the association, reports BSS.

PNG dismisses governor general

PORT MORESBY, Sept 30: The cabinet of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu decided here today to sack Governor-General Sir Serei Eri for breaching the constitution, reports AFP.

Election Commission calls meeting of MPs on Oct 8 to hold presidential poll

Biswas-Badrul straight fight

By Staff Correspondent

BNP nominee Abdur Rahman Biswas and Awami League-backed candidate Justice Badrul Haider Choudhury are set to fight a straight battle in the October 8 presidential election.

Another candidate for the post, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain, withdrew his candidature on Monday, the last date for withdrawal, in favour of Justice Choudhury.

The Election Commission through a gazette notification the same day called a meeting of the 330 members of parliament at the parliament chamber on October 8 for the election.

The Election of President Law, 1991 provides for calling a meeting of members of parliament with at least seven days' notice for the election.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice M A Rouf, who will conduct the presidential election, told newsmen that the Election Commission would also send letters individually to all MPs for the meeting though there was no such legal obligation.

The Commission will start printing of ballot papers and other preparatory work from tomorrow (Tuesday) for holding the election.

Alhaj Mokbul Hossain submitted the withdrawal letter to

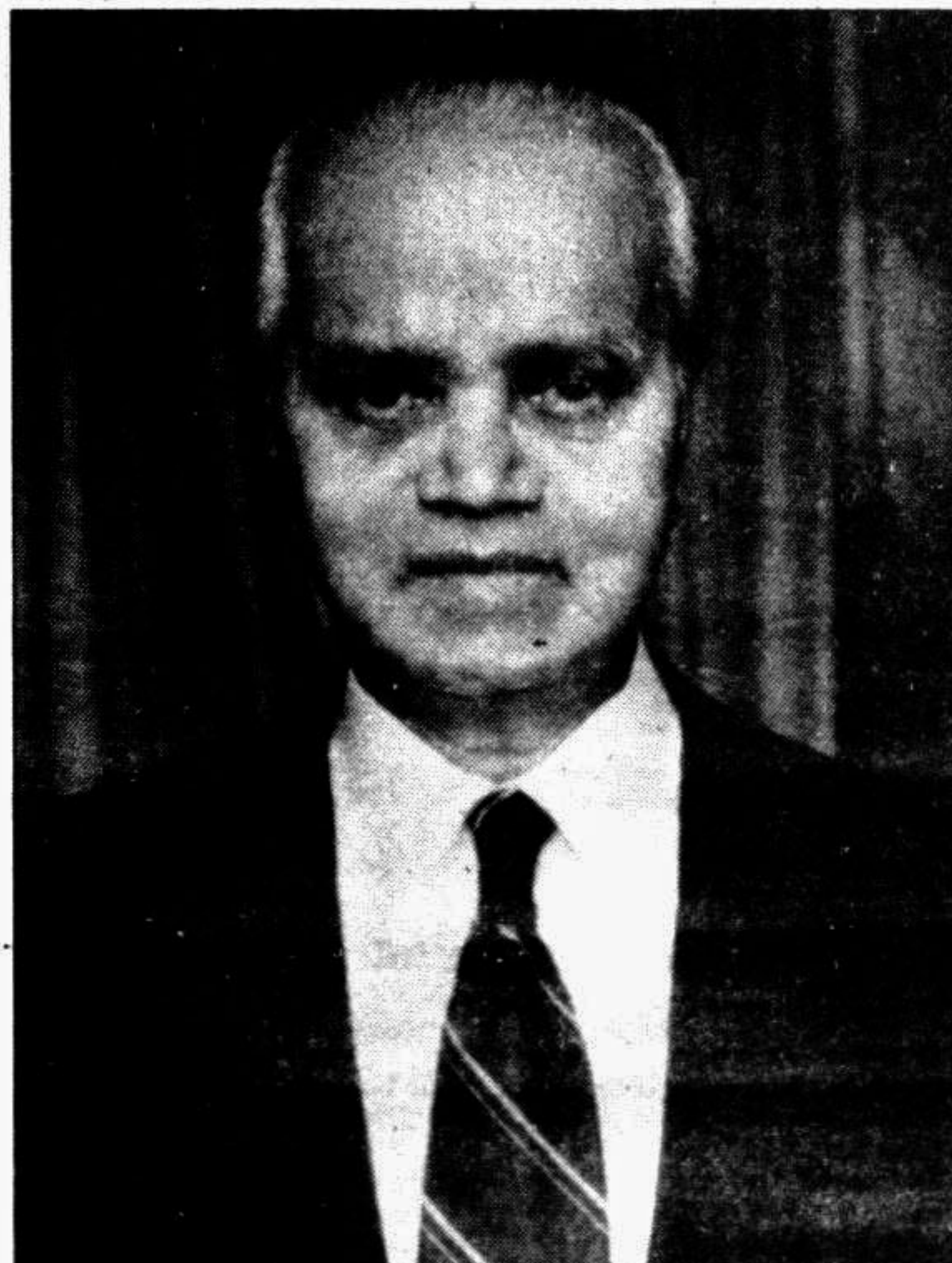
the Chief Election Commissioner in the presence of Awami League MPs Shahjahan Khan and Rahmat Ali.

Mokbul Hossain, who was an AL candidate in the recent by-election of Jatya Sangsad in a Dhaka city constituency, said in his letter that he was withdrawing his candidature in the greater national interest to uphold the spirit of the War of Liberation, help establish national consensus and unite all pro-liberation forces.

Mokbul Hossain and his men went to the Election Commission office right at 2 pm carrying a typed letter signed by him. But Shahjahan Khan, MP, who recently joined AL from JSD (Inu), was opposed to the submission of a plain letter and said, "basically this is a fight against 'razakars' and the cause of withdrawal of candidature should be clearly mentioned in it."

Mokbul Hossain and Rahmat Ali, MP, tried to insist that they could make these points to journalists while announcing the withdrawal of candidature. Shahjahan Khan, who engineered the nomination of Mokbul Hossain remained firm and sat down to write a fresh letter himself. The handwritten letter was then signed by Mokbul Hossain at 2-28 pm.

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LOCKED IN A STRAIGHT FIGHT FOR PRESIDENCY: (Left) Abdur Rahman Biswas of BNP and (right) Justice Badrul Haider Choudhury backed by Awami League.



— Star photo

Opposition may file writ challenging validity today

Ordn to stop floor-crossing in presidential election

By Staff Correspondent

The government has promulgated an Ordinance amending the Election of President Act, 1991 with a view to enforcing the constitutional provision against floor-crossing during the presidential election.

The Ordinance, signed by the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on September 28, states that the election of President by Members of Parliament will be treated as proceedings of the House and the provisions of Article 70 of the Constitution against floor-crossing will be

applicable.

The Opposition made an affidavit last night to file a composite Writ petition against the hasty amendment of the law, and the provision of open election of the president.

Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Motiyya Chowdhury and Rahmat Ali of the Awami League, Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party, Prof Abdul Hafiz of NAP are to be the petitioners of the Writ case to be moved by Barrister Amirul Islam and Advocate Zakir Ahmed among others.

Barrister Amirul Islam declined to disclose the details of the case on Monday. He only hinted that it would be a composite case against the procedure set for the election of president.

Opposition leaders termed the promulgation of the Ordinance as a moral defeat for the government because it indicated that the ruling party could not trust its own Members of Parliament.

When asked to comment about the fate of the election in view of the proposed Writ petition.

See Page 12 Col. 3

Hasina to return early

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina is likely to cut short her tour in Europe and return a day earlier than scheduled due to political developments in Bangladesh.

Awami League sources said Hasina is expected to return on October 6 from Paris where she is due to attend a party conference October 5. Earlier, the Awami League chief was due back home October 7.

She addressed a conference of the UK unit of Awami League in London Sunday.

Meanwhile, according to the sources, Hasina was keeping daily contact with leaders of her party and other opposition groups to know the latest developments ahead of the October 8 presidential election.

She had telephonic talks

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JS summoned on October 12

Star Report

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has summoned parliament on October 12 (Saturday) at 4 pm at the Sangsad Bhaban. This will be the third session of the fifth parliament.

Though there is a convention that 15 days' notice should be given to summon a session of parliament, only 12 days' notice has been given this time.

According to parliament secretariat sources summoning of parliament only 12 days before is neither a violation of the Constitution nor an ignorance of the Rules of Procedure. But there is a long standing convention that the

session of parliament should be called giving at least 15 days' notice.

However, the secretariat sources said that it would be a violation of the Constitution if the gap between two consecutive sessions was over 60 days. This Clause was incorporated in the Constitution through the passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill.

Parliament secretariat sources said that the first and foremost task during the next session of parliament was the election of a new Speaker as the post of Speaker has fallen vacant with the resignation of presidential candidate Abdur

See Page 12 Col. 7

BCCI situation: British team in city to study options

Star Economic Report

A British team of provisional liquidators now in the city is assessing the BCCI assets and liabilities with the government, Bangladesh Bank and BCCI to examine various options including possible re-floating.

The three-member team, earlier appointed by a London court following request by Abu Dhabi owners of the bank, arrived in Dhaka Friday and is expected to stay till Wednesday, according to competent sources.

The team will submit its report to the court by December 2.

BCCI operations in Bangladesh were suspended on July 6, as also in 70 other countries of the world, following alleged money laundering by the bank.

Following the suspension of operations, majority shareholders of the BCCI in Abu

Dhabi maintained that it was possible to restructure and re-float some of the bank branches in some countries with necessary administrative changes and injection of capital. A preliminary assessment by the owners of BCCI suggested that restructuring of the bank was possible in at least eight countries including Bangladesh out of 70 where its operations have been suspended. The team has already visited some countries to assess the exact situation of BCCI branches.

However, BCCI sources said that since suspension of the banks operation, total loans given to the borrowers in Bangladesh stood at Tk 430 crore out of which 30 to 35 per cent were stated to be bad debt. The government and Bangladesh Bank officials are

expected to request the visiting team that the loan loss provision should be adequate and made in full.

Earlier, the government allowed interest-free advance to the holders of current account in foreign currency with BCCI branches in Bangladesh. The local depositors were also given non-interest bearing advance. In both the cases, the advance limit was Tk 50,000. The trade circle termed the move as too inadequate to cope with the situation.

Deposits in foreign currency by the foreign missions and a number of Bangladeshi nationals with BCCI Bangladesh totalled Tk 150 crore, an informed source said. The missions include most of the embassies of the Middle East countries and some donor agencies.

Transport strike continues

ARICHA, Sept 30: Road communication of the capital with 36 north-western and south-western districts remained suspended for the fourth consecutive day today (Monday) despite withdrawal of strike this afternoon by the Inter-District Truck Drivers Union, reports UNB.

But North Bengal Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation and Faridpur Zila Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Joutha Parishad continued the strike.

Faridpur Malik-Sramik Joutha Parishad, an organisation of road transport owners and workers, enforced the strike on September 27 following a clash the day before between transport workers of Faridpur and Rajbari over collection of tolls from all transporters at Alladipur on Dhaka Faridpur highway.

All modes of inter-district vehicles were off the 13 routes of the 20 south-western districts causing immense suffering.

See Page 12 Col. 2

Armed forces part of the people: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday urged the armed forces to work untidely with the people for national development and progress, besides safeguarding country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

"You (army) are part of the people, sons of this soil. Development of the army is inseparably interlinked with the progress of the nation. You are not only to safeguard the country but also to build the nation," she told a gathering of senior army officers and soldiers at Senakunja.

Begum Zia said the army-men could play an important role by working in keeping with people's hopes and aspirations and vital interests to achieve national uplift.

The Prime Minister, in charge of the Ministry of Defence, stressed the need of well-trained and well-organ-

ised armed forces for protecting national independence and said efforts would continue to train and modernise the army.

See Page 12 Col. 6

UN nuclear inspectors leave Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Sept 30 : The sixth mission of UN experts inspecting Iraq's nuclear facilities and led by American David Kay left here at dawn today for Bahrain. UN sources said, reports AFP.

Kay told reporters that his team's departure was in accordance with a decision from the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and that another UN mission was expected in the Iraqi capital this week.

On Sunday, David Kydd, an IAEA official, charged with overseeing the removal and destruction of Iraq's weapons

of mass destruction, said Kay's mission would be going to Bahrain where documents seized from various Iraqi nuclear sites would be translated.

The seizure last week led to a stand off between the UN team and Iraqi authorities with 44 inspectors spending four days in a Baghdad car park, refusing to hand over the piles of documents, photographs and videotapes that had been assembled.

On Saturday Kay announced that the materials — 3,000 photographs, 18 hours of videotape and 5,000 pages — would be sent to the IAEA in Vienna for further analysis.

The UN inspectors returned to their hotel here at dawn Saturday. Iraqi authorities accused the mission of spying and demanded that the documents — which they said were merely personnel records — be handed over.

The inspectors were allowed to leave the parking lot after an agreement reached Friday that allowed them to keep the material after it had been catalogued.

Iraqi specialists took part in the inventory and were permitted to copy the printed and filmed material.

Baghdad on Sunday stepped up its allegations against Kay,

charging that not only was he a CIA agent but that his team contained other spies, including an Israeli.

Iraqi officials last week expressed concern that the personnel files they said had been seized by the inspectors could fall into the hands of US and Israeli intelligence agents, thereby endangering the security of Iraqi nuclear scientists.

Reuter from London says: The UN weapons inspection team has provided the first evidence that Iraq was interested in detonating a nuclear device, a senior U.N official said today.

Kydd said two key elements

emerged from the team's interim reports and their impressions.

"Firstly (there is) the tangible evidence for the first time that the Iraqis were indeed interested in detonating a nuclear device and were assembling the documents that would give them the designs for that purpose," Kydd told British Broadcasting Corporation.

Secondly (there is) the indication... that they do have a series of contracts signed with foreign firms... for items that they needed for their nuclear programme," he said in a radio interview from Vienna.

Govt decides to renegotiate KAFCO deal

The government Monday decided to renegotiate with Japanese entrepreneurs the agreement on Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (KAFCO), reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting which considered the recommendations of the 4-member cabinet committee formed early this month to review the agreement signed at the fag end of the Ershad regime.

The meeting asked the committee to negotiate with the foreign shareholders of the company mainly on the pricing of gas and the letter of guarantee for payment of foreign bank credit of 229 million US dollars.

Bangladesh is to hold 30 per cent share in the 459 million dollar export-oriented project and the rest by Japanese companies.

The joint venture agreement stipulated, among others, Bangladesh is to supply the main raw material — natural gas — to the factory at cost.

See Page 12 Col. 6

DESA starts functioning from today

The much-talked-about DESA goes into operation today aiming to cut an abnormal system loss and provide better service to power consumers, reports UNB.

A milad-mahfil was held Monday afternoon on the eve of its launching at DESA's posh office at Abdul Gani Road. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain attended it.

"Dhaka Electric Supply Authority will definitely provide better service to its valued customers because controlling and supervision will be more easier and accountable under this new setup," DESA Chairman Syed Kamrul Alam told UNB today.

DESA, an offshoot of Power Development Board (PDB), was created on March 6, 1990 for streamlining power distribution.

See Page 12 Col. 8

US Embassy may issue statement on OP-1 winners

By Staff Correspondent

The US Embassy in Dhaka may issue a statement concerning OP-1 immigration lottery winners who did not get visas a USIS official said Monday.

The winners were on a three-day hunger strike that ended Monday to press their demand.

"I don't know the exact day the statement will be issued. It may be Tuesday or Wednesday or the day after," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The ambassador was in consultation with Washington

See Page 12 Col. 1

বন্যায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত এলাকার চাষীভাইদের আশু করণীয়

- বন্যায় পানি সরে যাবার পর পরই বয়স্ক বাঙালি চাষীরা সৎবেই করে গুঁড়ি গুঁড়ি ৭-৮টি চারা ঘন করে রোপন করুন। রোপন কাজ আশ্বিনের মাঝামাঝি পর্যন্ত চলাতে পারে।
- বাঙালি চাষীরা না পাতলা গোলো স্থানীয় জাতের আউল ধান(হাসি কলমী, বাইট, গড়িয়া) আশ্বিনের মাঝামাঝি পর্যন্ত সারিতে বা ছিটিয়ে বপন করুন।
- ছুবে যাবার পরও যেসব ক্ষেতের বাঙালি চাষীরা বেঁচে আছে, সেসব ক্ষেতের পানি নামার সাথে সাথে ইউরিয়া সার উপরি প্রয়োগ করুন। চারার পাতায় পলিমাট লেপে থাকলে পানি ছিটিয়ে ধুইয়ে দিন।
- আর্থিক ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত জমির এক পার্শ্বের চাষীরা তুলে নিয়ে অপর পার্শ্বের ফাঁকা জায়গাগুলো পূরণ করে দিন। স্ট্র খালি জায়গায় অন্য ফসল আবাদ করুন।
- বন্যায় পানি নেমে যাবার সাথে সাথে ডেকা মাটিতে ছুটা বা মাঝকলাই বুনে দিন। একই জমিতে পরে গম বা বোরো ধানের আবাদ করা যাবে।
- বিস্তারিত জানতে হলে নিকটস্থ কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ কর্মীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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