

Indian oil workers threaten strike

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: Indian oil workers have threatened a nationwide strike after an engineer kidnapped by Maoist separatists was found dead on Thursday, four days after the government pledged to secure his release, reports Reuters.

Officials in India's important oil producing Assam state in the northeast said police found the body of B P Srivastava, an engineer from the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), after security forces raided a rebel hideout.

His colleagues promptly threatened to renew a strike they called after the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) rebels killed another kidnapped ONGC worker B S Raju.

That strike, which paralysed cash-strapped India's oil industry last week, was called off when the government pledged to secure the safe release of Srivastava and six other hostages.

"We give the government 72 hours...to secure the safe release of our colleagues. If we

don't get their safe release we will go on strike", the Delhi branch of the ONOC Officers' Union announced on Thursday.

Kashmir

AFP adds: Muslim militants today suspended a 10-day general strike that crippled Kashmir but a shutdown gripped a neighbouring Hindu region to protest the abduction of a bank manager.

Life returned to normal across the Kashmir valley after a rebel group announced a four-day "relaxation" in the strike, called to demand removal of security pickets from downtown Srinagar, news reports said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said shops, business establishments, banks and government offices reopened while private and public transport returned to the roads in the Muslim-majority valley.

The strike was called by the Al-Umer Mujahideen, one among the Muslim groups fighting to secede Kashmir from India. It paralysed life all over the valley.

JN Hall student assaulted, ousted by BCL workers

By DU Correspondent

Bidhan Ghose, a resident student of the Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall, was seriously assaulted Friday morning allegedly by a group of the Chhatra League (S-A) supporters in his hall room.

His elder brother, a worker of the Jatayabadi Chhatra Dal, earlier resided in that room.

The Chhatra League attackers also ousted Bidhan from his room (Number 277) in the south building of the hall.

Bomb blast

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Later in the afternoon, Awami League held a rally at the Shahid Minar Square.

Addressing the meeting Abdus Samad Azad said Awami League had extended all cooperation to the government in the hope of consolidating democracy and bringing about people's welfare, but the government belied all the expectations.

Miladunnabi

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the country's educational institutions in connection with the observance of the holy occasion. The competition will be held on various events including kerat, recitation, Haamd and Naat.

Tamuddun Majlis has arranged a discussion on Miladunnabi today at 4 p.m. at the Bishwa Grantha Kendrya auditorium. Eminent Islamic thinkers and educationists will take part in the discussion.

Bangladesh Ahle Sunnat will hold a religious rally this afternoon in front of the National Press Club. The Jamayat's other programmes include holding of milad and offering special prayer. The Jamayat will also bring out a religious procession after the rally to mark the occasion.

Nazrul Institute has taken up elaborate programmes including Milad Mahfil to observe the occasion in a befitting manner. The Institute will also hold a discussion on "Hazrat Muhammad (SM) in Nazrul's poem" and "Haamd and Naats of Nazrul" today at 4 pm at "Kabi Bhavan".

Miladunnabi Uddjan Committee of Salmullah Road, Mohammadpur has arranged an open recitation and kerat competition for children in observance of the holy occasion. The Committee will also hold a religious discussion (Waj mahfil) to be participated by eminent Islamic thinkers.

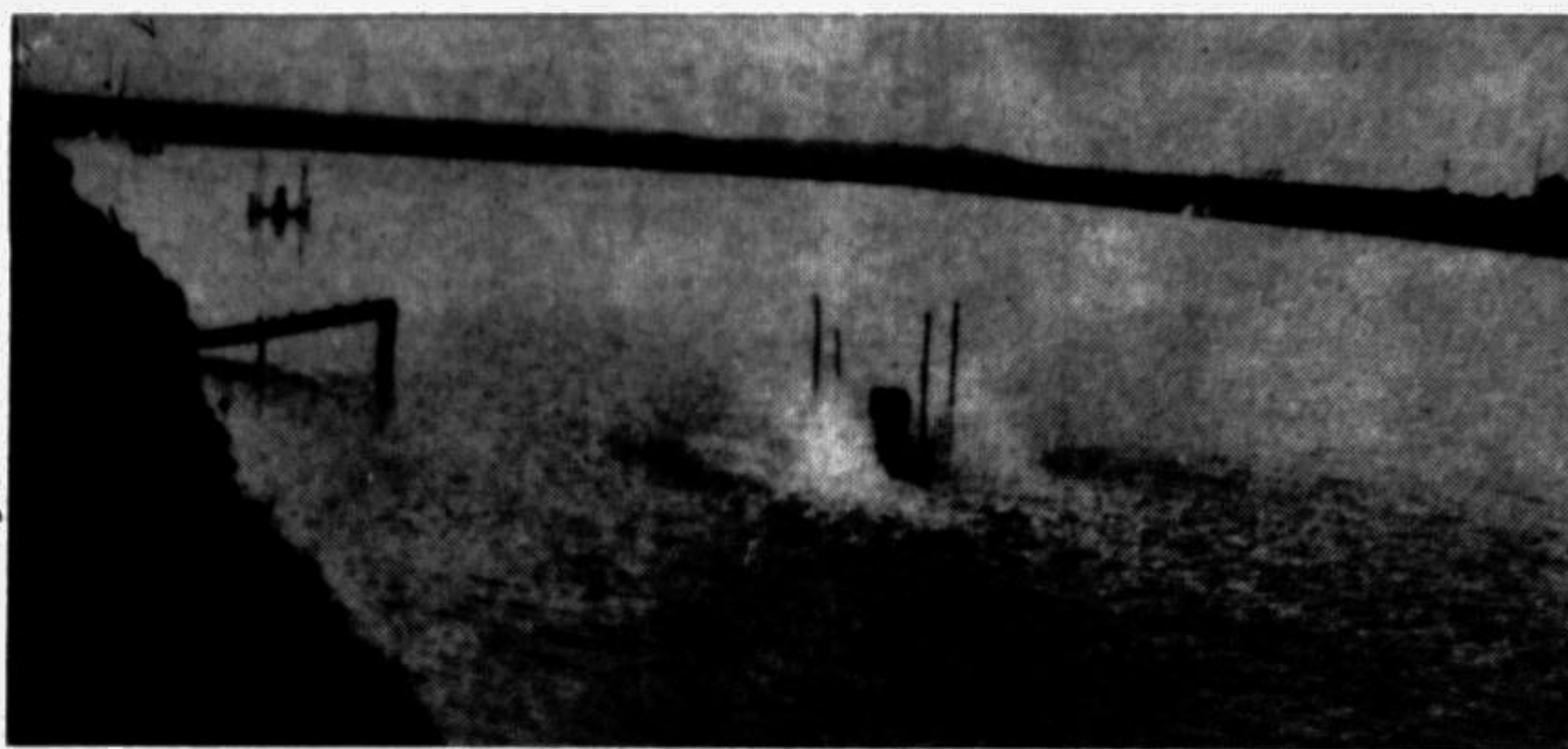
Bangladesh Secret Mission, will hold Quran Khawani, Situnnabi Mahfil, Milad and special prayer after Magreb prayer at Patuatuli Jam-e-Masjid.

Haqqani Anjuman and its branches through out the country have chalked out elaborate programmes including holding religious congregations, Ursekul Majlis and special prayers in observance of the occasion. The Anjuman's main programme will be held on September 22 at the premises of Haji Shahab Mosque adjacent to the mazars of the three national leaders where leading Haqqani ulema will take part in the discussion.

Nakhlapara Baitul Jannat Mosque has been holding a four-day programme in connection with the celebration of the holy occasion. The programme which began on September 18 with a religious discussion, will conclude through holding zikir, milad and special prayer tomorrow at the mosque premises.

"We must remain alert against anti-people autocratic rulers on the one hand and about fake preachers of religion on the other."

She said, "Let the teachings of Allah and the Prophet be our guide."



Aerators adding extra oxygen to water in a pond of the Aqua Culture Farm Limited, the first scientific fish farm in Bangladesh.

Shrimp culture: two crops a year possible

From Mostafa Kamal Majumder

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 20: Modern shrimp farm in the suburb of Cox's Bazar town is expected to give a per acre yield of 2400 kilograms, almost ten times the average of 250 kg per acre, this year.

Owners of the farm — Aqua Culture Farm Limited — say they have already harvested a crop of 900 kg per acre. By December, another crop of 1500 kg an acre is expected.

Mohammad Nizamuddin, managing director and Imran Ahmed, director of the farm, say it was but for the April 29 cyclone that their first crop of the year was not above 900 kg an acre.

The cyclone-induced storm surge had not only flooded the nine ponds of the farm covering 29.1 acres, but also whipped up as many as 72 boats and barges into those. After the cyclone those vessels had to be taken out of the ponds by cutting their banks.

The Taka 2.5 crore farm first started in 1985 as an ordinary gher on the bank of the Bankkhali river at Khurushkul union under Cox's Bazar sadar upazila. Modernisation of the farm started in 1987 when the Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agriculture Company Limited sanctioned loan for the project. By 1989, shrimp yield in the farm crossed the 1000 kg-an-acre-per-year mark.

A pioneering project, the Aqua Culture Farm, has registered the first major breakthrough in Bangladesh. Says Nizamuddin, "Shrimp culture

can be intensified to raise output by following its example."

He says unplanned expansion of shrimp culture can be stopped through intensification by adopting scientific methods and environmental damages caused by encroachment of forest and agricultural lands can be minimised.

The farm traps shrimps and other fishes during the dry season. Shrimp fries are released only in well maintained ponds. Saline water is pumped into the ponds and released through pipes.

The ponds are prepared to ensure adequate nutrients in the mud and proper chemical balance in the water. Unlike other farms, this farm does not grow any other fish species along with shrimps. Aerators are used to add extra oxygen to the water.

Since this farm is thoroughly mechanised it is possible to harvest two crops a year, in place one crop harvested in other farms. After harvesting a crop the bottom of each pond is cleaned and limed to obtain the required acidity and alkalinity balance before releasing fresh fries.

Imran Ahmed, who is also an AL member of parliament, told this correspondent that after starting the farm as an ordinary 'gher' he had read a newspaper article on scientific methods of shrimp culture and at the advice of a friendly Singaporean businessman he went to Indonesia to see for himself a modern shrimp culture project. We were con-

vinced that our farm could also be modernised to intensify shrimp production, he said.

First they tried to get loan from Bangladesh Krishi Bank, but failed. Then the Saudi company came forward with help. The project was then re-designed in keeping with the advice received from a Japanese expert. The first crop of the farm under intensive culture had suffered due to excessive rainfall in 1987.

In the process they have decided to opt for more locally available tools and equipment to make the project viable.

Imran Ahmed said, they had set up a hatchery along with the project following advice of foreign experts, but subsequently it appeared that the salinity of the water available from the nearby Bankkhali canal was inadequate for running a hatchery. Thus the hatchery component had to be dropped after spending Taka 25 lakh.

They are confident that the Taka 400 crore export earning in 1989-90 can be increased at least ten times through vertical expansion which can also take care of the long-term environmental aspect by stopping encroachment of forests and paddy fields.

In Tiwan per acre yield of shrimp is about 5000 kg a year, and a family owning an acre of shrimp farm can lead a luxurious life, Nizamuddin said. In Bangladesh, 300 thousand acres of land are now under shrimp cultivation, but productivity remains very low.

Burmese military urged to remain united

BANGKOK, Sept 20: A senior Burmese leader has called on the armed forces to remain united and resist "destructive elements," according to an official radio report monitored here Thursday.

"Member of the defence forces, who are constructing national unity, must remain steadfastly united, and it is necessary for them not to be confused by divisive tactics and instigation by destructive elements," Major-General Myo Nyunt said in a speech to army officers and soldier in Rangon.

Myo Nyunt, a senior member of the ruling state Law and Order Restoration Council and Rangon area commander did not elaborate.

A large proportion of the armed forces backed the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) in May 1990 elections.

The NLD won more than 80 per cent of the vote but the junta has refused to handover power, saying a new constitution must be drafted first, while numerous NLD members remain imprisoned on various charges.

500 tola gold haul at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs officials on Friday seized over 500 tolas of gold worth about Taka 45 lakh from a passenger arriving at Zia International Airport from Bangkok. The passenger, Abdur Rahim Khan, was also arrested.

According to Customs officials, when the Thai airlines flight TG-321 arrived from Bangkok the movements of the passenger aroused suspicion among the Customs Surveillance Team members on duty at the airport.

Customs officials challenged the passenger just when he was about to walk out of the red channel after completing the necessary baggage checks at the counter.

After he denied carrying any illegal items with him, a deputy collector on duty ordered a body-check on the passenger. During the search 50 gold bars of ten tola each and 20 gold chains weighing 20 tola was found rapped in carbon paper with scotch-tape inside the thick canvas shoes the passenger was wearing.

Officials of other departments at the airport were also present during the recovery.

The Midnight File

Seven killed in Indian firing

ISLAMABAD, Sept 20: Indian troops opened fire into the Pakistan ruled sector of disputed Kashmir, killing seven civilians and injuring 20, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency said today. It accused Indian troops of "unprovoked firing" on Thursday across a United Nations-monitored ceasefire line into Pakistan-ruled Azad (Free) Kashmir's Neelum Valley, reports Reuters.

Koirala dismisses 47 civil servants

KATHMANDU, Sept 20: The four month-old Nepali congress government of Girija Prasad Koirala has dismissed 47 civil servants and promoted 44 others to the vacated posts, an official announcement said. The dismissed officials included three high-ranking secretaries, along with additional secretaries, first and second class officials and some junior officials, reports APP.

Perez de Cuellar won't stay on

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 20: Javier Perez de Cuellar on Friday ruled out the possibility of his staying on as UN Secretary General after his term expires at the end of this year. "I am leaving this office in three months and 10 days," he said at his annual news conference.

Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian career diplomat, has run the world organisation for 10 years, reports AP.

Seven editors freed in Greece

ATHENS, Sept 20: Seven newspaper editors, jailed for defying Greece's controversial new anti-terrorism law, were freed today after spending 11 days in prison.

The jailing of some of the country's top editors, including former Socialist Press Minister Dimitris Maroudas, set off the fiercest censorship row since Greece was run by an iron-fisted military dictatorship from 1967 to 1974, reports Reuters.

21 killed in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Sept 20: Militants gunned down six securitymen and injured six others and abducted a child in Punjab since last night. Elsewhere in the state, 15 people, including four militants, were killed during this period. Meanwhile, there is no trace of the 17-year-old school boy Rajinder Singh, grandson of the sister of former union Home Minister Buta Singh, who was kidnapped on August 20 from Amritsar, reports PTI.

Y'slav attack

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tervene with its authority," he told reporters.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke of Australia said UN intervention was needed because Yugoslavia had effectively ceased to exist as a country and was gripped with an "escalating tragedy." He made the comments in a letter he sent Wednesday to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that urged Security Council consideration of the issue.

The United Nations is prohibited under its charter from intervening in internal matters of member-states, although the

conflict in Yugoslavia is entering a gray area since Croatia and Slovenia have declared their independence.

The 12-member EC decided Thursday not to send an armed peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia. But EC foreign ministers, meeting in the Netherlands, agreed to study the possibility of a later deployment.

Military experts and political officials from the Western European Union, a defense alliance, will meet Monday in Bonn to begin drawing up a blueprint for possible European military action.

Baker reports progress

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thoroughly and that both sides would stay in touch.

Baker met King Hussein on Thursday and both men urged the Palestinians not to miss the chance for peace, with the Jordanian monarch warning that the alternative is disaster.

"I only hope they will realise that time is short and the alternative to serious progress is only disaster," King Hussein told a joint press conference following talks with Baker.

"What other options are there?" he asked. Baker echoed the King's remarks and stressed that the US-brokered peace conference, slated for October, was the best opportunity that has presented itself in a long, long time.

"It is going to be a long time before the bus ever comes by again," the US official added. "If this opportunity is missed, in my opinion, the Palestinians have perhaps the most to lose."

Baker, on a seventh tour of the region to set up the peace conference since the end of the Gulf war, has also been to Israel and to Egypt.

During each stop, except Cairo, he presented officials, including Palestinian figures, with letters of assurances outlining the scope of a Middle East conference jointly sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

Informed Palestinian sources have said that the document was "insufficient because it failed to mention the right of the Palestinians to self-determination on the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Baker also met with hostility in Israel where several officials have accused US President George Bush of being a liar and of anti-Semitism over his orders to Congress this month to delay granting Israel 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees.

Arab countries believe that Israel will use the money to settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories.

President Assad on Thursday told the American network ABC that giving Israel the loan guarantees would obstruct the peace process to the extreme.

Syria has expressed readiness to participate in the peace conference but Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara said late Wednesday that the letter of assurances would be studied

thoroughly and that both sides would stay in touch.

Baker said here Wednesday there would be no conflict between assurances given to the various parties in the Middle East.

Official Damascus Radio said in a commentary: "Syria has not and will not recognise any interpretations to the wording of international resolutions that we have already adopted to proceed with the peace process, if these interpretations differ from the original content of the international organisation's resolutions."

Parliamentary

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congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia for her assuming the office of the Prime Minister and wished that Allah would grant her courage, strength and capability to guide the nation to peace, prosperity and happiness.

Bangladesh Hindu Oikya Front while hailing Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her role in changing from presidential to parliamentary form of government, also congratulated the Acting President for performing his duties.

Olul Islam Chowdhury (Sokku Miah) of Bangladesh Republican Party has hailed Begum Khaleda Zia for assuming the office of the Prime Minister under the Parliamentary form of government.

Others who hailed Begum Zia included Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity, Manik Mia Parishad, Dhaka Sahar Jubo Sangstha, Janadal and Bangladesh Pustak Badhi Samik Federation.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, chairman, Liberty Forum, has congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption of office as the elected head of parliamentary government.

In a statement, Justice Chowdhury also extended felicitations to all political parties for their sincere cooperation in arriving at a consensus in making the historic transition. He appealed to opposition parties to play their due role so that democracy could be meaningful and a success.

It was referring to United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Editorial on page 4

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 7

and people's cash donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund were not distributed properly in the affected areas.

Relief materials were either misappropriated or used for political purposes by the ruling party, the opposition leader further alleged.

Hasina said the so-called relief operation of the government was confined to state-owned radio and television only.

"People's well-being cannot be ensured merely by flying over the affected areas on board helicopters at public expense and showing the aerial trips on television."

This government came to power by making "false" election promises to the people, she said adding that although an announcement was made to exempt agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000, the decision has not yet been implemented.

On the contrary, she said poor farmers are being harassed after an official order that only those unable to pay the loan of Tk 5,000 will be exempted. "This order is fully aimed at serving the political purpose of BNP."

The Awami League chief said her party stood for establishing the rights of the deprived multitude. Awami League will not rest until economic emancipation of the poor and the deprived masses is achieved, she assured.

While Hasina was visiting different relief centres and affected areas, thousands of villagers rushed to her to tell their tales of woes.

People at many places complained that they have not yet received any relief material from the government. At Rajbari Maternity Centre, only 250 kg of rice were distributed for 985 inmates over the last 10 days, she said.

The Awami League chief asked the party units and workers to stand by the side of the suffering masses in flood-hit areas through relief and rehabilitation work.

ইসলামিক ফাউন্ডেশন বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক আয়োজিত পক্ষকাল ব্যাপী

সীরাতে নবী (সঃ) মাহফিল

১৪১২ হিজরী

১২ই রবিউল আউয়াল থেকে ২৬শে রবিউল আউয়াল ১৪১২ হিজরী

৫ই আশ্বিন থেকে ১৯শে আশ্বিন ১৩৯৮ বাংলা

২১শে সেপ্টেম্বর থেকে ৫ই অক্টোবর ১৯৯১ ইংরেজী

স্থানঃ বায়তুল মুকাররম মসজিদ

শুভ সূচনা করবেন

মাননীয় অস্থায়ী রাষ্ট্রপতি

বিচারপতি সাহাবুদ্দিন আহমদ

সময় : ২১শে সেপ্টেম্বর শনিবার সন্ধ্যা ৬-৪৫ মিঃ

পক্ষকাল ব্যাপী সীরাতে নবী (সঃ) ১৪১২ হিজরী অনুষ্ঠানমালায় অতিথিত্ব থাকবে

ওয়ায মাহফিল, ক্বিরাত মাহফিল, সেমিনার, ইসলামী সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিযোগিতা

পুস্তক প্রদর্শনী ও বিক্রয়

আপনাদেরকে সাদর দাওয়াত জানাচ্ছি।

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