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NEWS BRIEFS

Shahabuddin greets Biswas

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday heartily congratulated President-elect Abdur Rahman Biswas, reports BSS.

Results gazetted

Abdur Rahman Biswas was officially declared elected President of the country yesterday, reports UNB.

The Election Commission in a gazette notification said Biswas "has officially been declared to be elected President under Section 11(2) of the Presidential Election Act, 1991."

Badrul's press conference

Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury will address a press conference at his Gulshan residence today at 4.15 pm. Justice Chowdhury is expected to make observations on yesterday's presidential election which he lost, reports UNB.

Hasina visits defeated Badrul

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina visited Badrul Haider Chowdhury at his Gulshan residence yesterday afternoon. Hasina went to his residence straight from Sangsad soon after the result of the Presidential election was announced.

Partners leave Awami League alone to fight the battle

Biswas elected President

By Staff Correspondent

Abdur Rahman Biswas of the ruling party BNP won the presidential election on Tuesday by a wide margin. He secured 172 votes as against 92 bagged by his rival Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, who was backed by the Awami League.

The election held at the chamber of the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) amid tight security was conducted by the Chief Election Commissioner, Justice M A Rouf, who declared Biswas elected after the counting of votes at 5-42 pm.

This was for the first time in Bangladesh that there were two presidential candidates contesting under parliamentary system. Two other titular Presidents under the system—late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury and Mohammadullah—were elected unopposed.

The election marked the final phase of transition to parliamentary system unanimously adopted by the parliament on August 6, and endorsed by the voters in the September 15 referendum. This is what the three main political alliances had promised among other things in a joint declaration on November 19, 1990 when the democratic movement was at its peak.

The presidential election was however, boycotted by the Jatiya Party, which commands

support of the third largest number of MPs. Jamaat, the fourth largest party in parliament, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) with five seats and the Workers Party, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, the National Democratic Party, the National Awami Party and the Islami Oikya Jote with one member each abstained on different grounds.

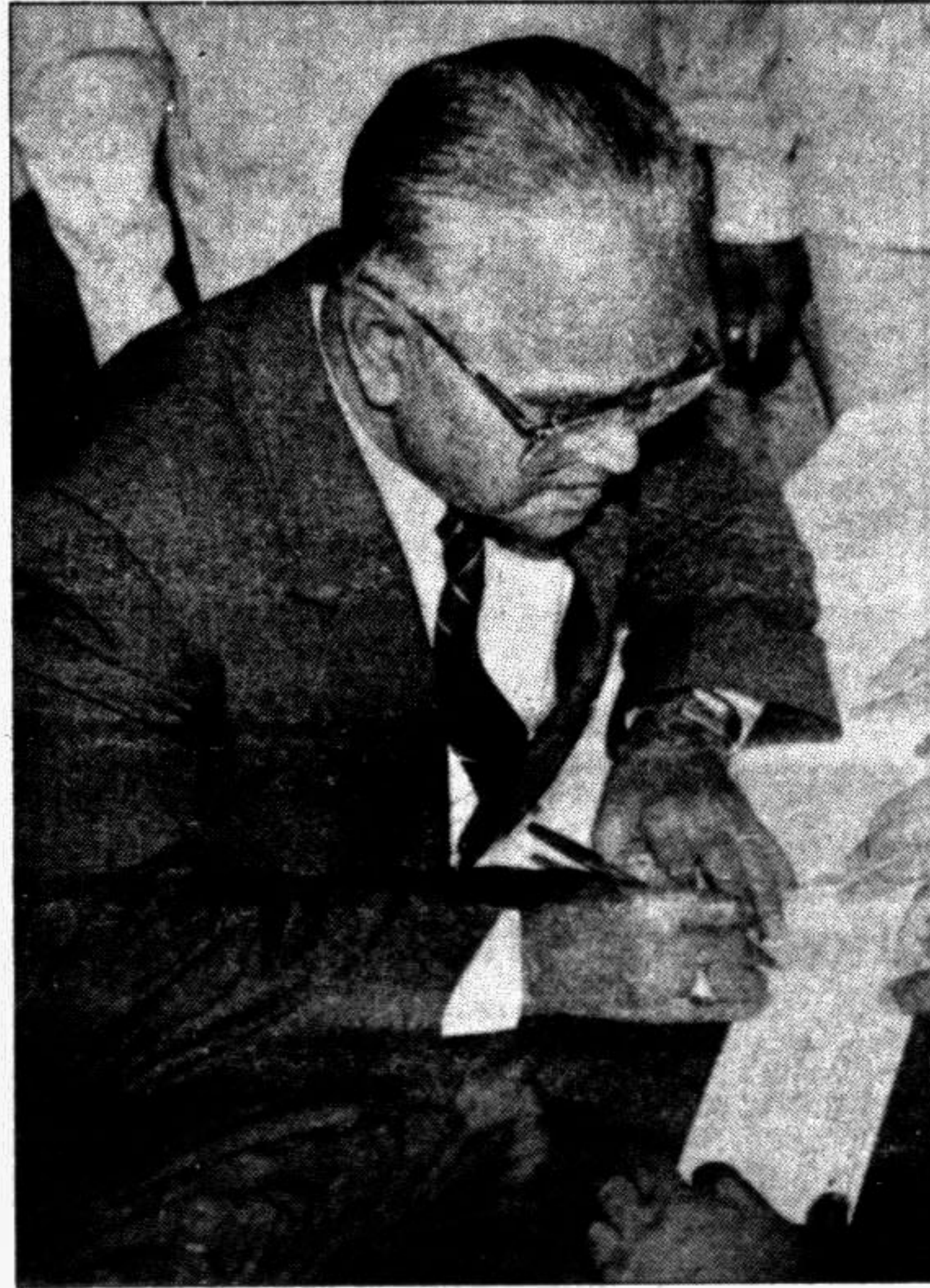
Out of a total of 330 voters, 264 cast their votes. Sixty five others either boycotted or abstained from voting while AL MP Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury was absent as he was abroad.

Besides, the ruling BNP and the Awami League members, only three others—Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party and independent members Major (Retd) Hafizuddin and Nurul Islam Mont—took part in the voting.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia was the first to vote minutes after 2 pm. She was followed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz and other BNP members.

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina, followed by the party MPs, entered the House at 3-35 pm. Before casting vote, she also registered protest with the Chief Election Commissioner similar to the one made earlier by Nasim.

Hasina left the House immediately after voting.
 See Page 12 Col. 4



VOTING FOR A WIN: Abdur Rahman Biswas signing the counterfoil of a ballot paper. — Star photo

An arduous journey to democracy ends

By Reazuddin Ahmed

The arduous journey to parliamentary democracy ends today with the swearing-in of the newly elected President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed takes up the job of Chief Justice immediately after Abdur Rahman Biswas assumes office this afternoon.

This is for the first time since independence that the nation has seen the peaceful and orderly transfer of power to a democratically elected government.

The last on the agenda for reverting to parliamentary democracy was the election of president on Tuesday. Abdur Rahman Biswas, the ruling party candidate, polled 172 votes while his rival Awami League backed candidate Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury got 92 votes.

Thirty-five members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, five members of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and one member each from NAP (M), JSD, NDP, and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) did not cast

their votes in the presidential election. The Jatiya Party boycotted the election while Jamaat, CPB and all others abstained.

Jatiya Party boycotted the elections to protest the harassment of the party chief deposed President H M Ershad while the Jamaat abstained as it did not find any national consensus candidate. The CPB, NAP, JSD and Workers Party abstained as both the presidential candidates had met Jamaat leader Prof. Golam Azam. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Moulana Obaidullah felt ignored by the ruling party as none approached them for votes.

The final ballot count surfaced the fact that Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, claimed to be the candidate of national consensus, did not get votes from any opposition party other than his sponsor the Awami League (91) and one vote from the Ganatantri Party.

The denial of support to Justice Chowdhury by the See Page 12 Col. 7

Parties abstaining from voting explain their positions

By Staff Correspondent

Sixty-five Members of the Parliament belonging to eight opposition parties abstained from voting in the presidential election.

They were 35 from Jatiya Party, 20 from Jamaat-e-Islami, five from Communist Party and one each from National Awami Party (NAP), Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), National Democratic Party (NDP), and Islami Oikya Jote.

The Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party (JPPP) at its Tuesday morning meeting decided to abstain pleading that election through open ballot would be a 'farce' and the would be president, being a party nominee, could not be a symbol of national unity. The JP decision was taken also to protest the government's alleged obstruction in the party's normal functioning and detaining of the party leader.

Jamaat at its meeting Tuesday decided to stay away because, it said, the election was not on the basis of national consensus and understanding which belied people's expectations.

It said the people expected a consensus in the Parliament. See Page 12 Col. 6

Biswas pledges to uphold Constitution

President-elect Abdur Rahman Biswas on Tuesday pledged that he will keep himself above caste and creed as well as party politics to uphold the Constitution, reports UNB.

"I will remain above party politics," Biswas told reporters at the Sangsad Bhavan immediately on announcement of the election results.

A broad smile was the instant reaction of the 6-year-old new President who was wearing a black suit with a matching tie.

"I will endeavour to uphold the Constitution and dedicate myself to the cause of the masses," the soft-spoken President-elect said.

Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury who lost to Biswas 172-92, votes in the Presidential race was not immediately available for comment.

Chowdhury, famous for his historic judgment undoing decentralisation of the High Court, retired as Chief Justice early last year.

Swearing-in today

By Staff Correspondent

President-elect Abdur Rahman Biswas will be sworn in today at 4.30 pm at Bangabhaban. He will be the 12th President of the republic. The oath will be conducted by the Acting Chief Justice MH Rahman.

The newly elected President will replace the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who, as per the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution, will assume the office of the Chief Justice. During his 306 days in the office of President since December 6, 1990, Justice Shahabuddin continued to draw his salary as Chief Justice.

His close aides indicated that he might opt for voluntary retirement. But Justice Shahabuddin himself remained See Page 12 Col. 1

Abstainers have backed BNP: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said that Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury won a moral victory in the presidential election.

"Justice Chowdhury would certainly win if the election was held through secret ballot," she said adding, "The total process in the election only proved to be a moral defeat for the BNP."

Talking to newsmen at her parliament office just after casting her vote in the election, Sheikh Hasina said that her party took part in the election registering protest against the election system.

Justifying the AL's participation in the election, she said that the parliamentary system was the commitment of the AL during the parliament elections and the election of a President was the last step towards transition to parliamentary democracy.

She criticised the holding of the poll in the Parliament chamber saying, "Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure has been violated by this which has

created a bad precedence." She mentioned that the chamber should be used for the sitting of the House only.

As regards the results of the presidential election, Hasina said that the result was known since the poll was held in open ballot.

She pointed out that a case against the polling system was already under the consideration at the Court.

The AL chief criticised other opposition parties and groups for their abstention in the polling and maintained that by doing so those parties virtually supported the ruling party.

"They have pushed democracy and the nation towards a critical situation for which we are worried," she said and added that her party had done whatever was necessary to uphold democracy.

Hasina observed that the boycott of the election was part of the blue print for a bigger crisis which might be created in future. "There is no other reason for breaking the See Page 12 Col. 7



Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, flanked by Awami League leaders, entering the Sangsad Bhavan. — Star photo

Uphold ideal of service, Shahabuddin

The chiefs of three services made farewell call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, the Acting Chief of Naval Staff Commodore Fakhruddin Ahmed and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Chowdhury stayed with the Acting President for some time.

The Acting President and Supreme Commander of the

Armed Forces thanked them for their co-operation in discharging their duties.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, said in Dhaka on Tuesday that public servants should uphold the ideal of service at all cost in the supreme national interest.

Speaking at a farewell accorded to him by the officers of the President's Secretariat at the International Conference Centre, the Acting President said government employees, being servants of the people should discharge their responsibilities towards

the masses without reservations.

He said they should be in favour of truth, justice and fairness alone to be able to make positive contributions towards national advancement in all fields.

Secretary of the President's Secretariat Mir Mustafizur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Justice Shahabuddin advised the public servants to serve the elected government with utmost sincerity to help strengthen the nascent See Page 12 Col. 7

Fighting eases in Croatia after truce offer

ZAGREB, Oct 8: Fighting appeared to ease in Croatia today after the Yugoslav army offered a new ceasefire, but a Croatian official said the rebel republic would not agree to its conditions, reports agencies.

Yugoslav media reported sporadic shooting but no major clashes overnight and battlefronts seemed quieter than in recent days, which saw the fiercest fighting in a conflict lasting more than three months.

after the Air Force rocketed the headquarters of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on Monday, Croatian leaders met during the night to consider an army proposal to silence its guns if Croatia lifted a blockade of army bases by midnight (2300 GMT). Croatian Foreign Ministry spokesman Anton Babic said the offer was unacceptable. For as long as the federal army is present in Croatia.... how can we take away our guardsmen?" he asked.

"They've got to stop first because they attacked first," he told British Broadcasting Corporation television from Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The Croatian Parliament was due to meet today to discuss making the final break from Yugoslavia more than three months after declaring independence.

In Belgrade, Serbian leaders and the Yugoslav army, seeking to head off sanctions by the European Community at the last minute, asked the EC to guarantee a new ceasefire.

But an EC diplomat said the Community, angry because its ceasefire calls were ignored by both sides, was unlikely to agree.

Tensions remained high in Zagreb after Monday's air attack increased fears of all-out civil war in Yugoslavia, a country of 23.5 million people.

Yugoslavia's three senior Croat politicians Tudjman, federal President Stipe Mesic and Croatian Prime Minister Ante Markovic — narrowly escaped when warplanes attacked Tudjman's headquarters in Zagreb with rockets.

The Federal Defense Ministry and Air Force command denied responsibility for the attack, raising yet more questions about the ability of Yugoslav leaders to control the country's well-equipped federal forces.

Croatia and Slovenia on Tuesday claimed full independence from Yugoslavia.

BCL activist killed, hartal call in Munshiganj

From Our Correspondent

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 8: The local unit of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League on Tuesday called a day-long hartal in protest against the killing of one of its leaders.

Shahin (24), General Secretary of Munshiganj Hariganga College Chhatra Sangsad succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Tuesday afternoon.

He was first injured by some youths on September 26 and was admitted to Munshiganj Sadar Hospital. See Page 12 Col. 4

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড ১৯৯১-৯২ কর বৎসরের জন্য আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল

কোম্পানী ব্যতীত সমস্ত করদাতাদের জন্য ১৯৯১-৯২ কর বৎসরের রিটার্ন/বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতিতে রিটার্ন দাখিলের সময়সীমা ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯১ হইতে ১৫ই অক্টোবর, ১৯৯১ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে। বিদ্যমান আয় করদাতাগণ ছাড়াও বিদেশে মোট আয় বিপত্তি আয় বৎসরে ৪০ হাজার টাকার অধিক ছিল তাদের উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে রিটার্ন দাখিল এবং রিটার্ন অনুযায়ী শেষ কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

আয়কর রিটার্ন কর্তৃক সকল কোম্পানি প্রধান ডাক্তার থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতির আওতাভুক্ত করদাতাগণ প্রস্তুত আয়কর রিটার্ন কর্তৃক 'বিনির্ধারী' স্বকর্তি দিয়ে ব্যবহার করতে পারবেন। বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতির আওতাধীন করদাতাগণের ক্ষেত্রে বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতির আওতাধীন আয়ের উর্ধ্বসীমা ১০ লাখ টাকা এবং বৎসর করদাতাগণের ক্ষেত্রে বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতির আওতাধীন আয়ের উর্ধ্বসীমা ১ লাখ ২৫ হাজার টাকা। এই পদ্ধতিতে ব্যবসায় নিয়োজিত যুগ্ম করদাতাগণের জন্য কোন গ্রুপ না করে ২ লাখ টাকা পর্যন্ত ব্যক্তিগত মুদ্রাধন গ্রহণ করার ব্যবস্থা আছে। তবে এই গ্রুপ করদাতাগণ যদি ব্যক্তিগত মুদ্রাধন গ্রহণ অথবা স্মিটার শিফট বিনির্ধারিত করেন সেক্ষেত্রে ৩ লাখ টাকা পর্যন্ত মুদ্রাধন কোন গ্রুপ না করে গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

শেখাভীষণের মধ্যে বীরা হিসাবের খাতাধার রাখেন এই গ্রুপ করদাতাগণের ক্ষেত্রে বিনির্ধারী পদ্ধতির সুবিধা কলঙ্ক আছে। ১৯৯১-৯২ কর বৎসরে কর হার ব্যক্তিগত করদাতাগণ কোম্পানি মোট আয়ের ৪০ হাজার টাকার উর্ধ্ব অংশটি আয়ের এক তৃতীয়াংশের বেশী হবে না।

সরকার আশা করেন যে, আয়করদাতাগণ তাদের সঠিক আয় ঘোষণা করে যথাসময়ে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করবেন।

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 জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড