

Dhaka Day by Day

A Life-long Crusader Who Conquers Physical Constraint

by Haroon Habib

Fifty years ago, doctors of the Calcutta Medical College Hospital pronounced the final words about the disease that the young magistrate of Burdwan, Golam Rahman Khan, was suffering from. Retinal hemorrhage, the dreaded disease, the doctors said, is not to be cured. The team of doctors which treated Khan for weeks, told him that he must reconcile with the inevitable.

One of the brilliant officers of the former Bengal Civil Service, Golam Rahman Khan suddenly started suffering from a crucial eye complication just after joining as a magistrate in Burdwan after spending a few months in Dhaka as a junior officer. It was the time when the World War II was on. Khan was immediately rushed to the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, where doctors tried their best, but failed to restore his eye sight.

The brilliant Calcutta University boy, from a middle-class Bengali Muslim family of Barisal, who dreamt of serving his people as an able-bodied man, had to leave the corridor of the hospital in distress. He came out of the hospital to enter a different world, which he has never seen, by holding the hands of a sympathetic friend, Akram.

But does everyone surrender to the fate? No. There are at least some who do not accept their destiny, but fight to justify their presence as human beings. Golam Rahman Khan, who later became well-known as Prof G R Khan, is one of those brave souls who fought relentlessly, and won the battle against physical odds.

"Supta Smriti" or the dormant memories — the recently published autobiography of Prof G R Khan, is the unique narration of his fight against blindness. It is a sincerely told life-story, a 64-page book, of a courageous man. The brief autobiography is an inspiring prose of a determined person, who compelled the British Indian government to take decision for his reinstatement in a suitable job, but he later joined as a lecturer of Calcutta Islamia College, the institution which produced many illustrious sons in the undivided subcontinent.

Not in Calcutta alone, Prof G R Khan had been well-known as one of the finest professors of economics in the former East Pakistan. Notwithstanding his blindness, he taught economics with a tremendous success in various government colleges in Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi, including the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. He wrote several serious books on economics and banking — some of which are still read both at

home and abroad.

"Supta Smriti" is so lucidly written that it gives one the test of reading a novel in which the novelist created a blind hero, who had seen the vital part of the sub-continental history, and fought valiantly against his blindness and social injustices.

Khan did not only fight for his place in society, but also went for the last limit of his treatment available in India at that time. With an assistant along with him, the blind crusader travelled to Bombay from Calcutta. He was treated for months at Bombay's Dadar Blind School under direct supervision and care of famous doctor R M Halder. He later reached Delhi for treatment under Dr R S Agarwal, a famous psychosolar physician.

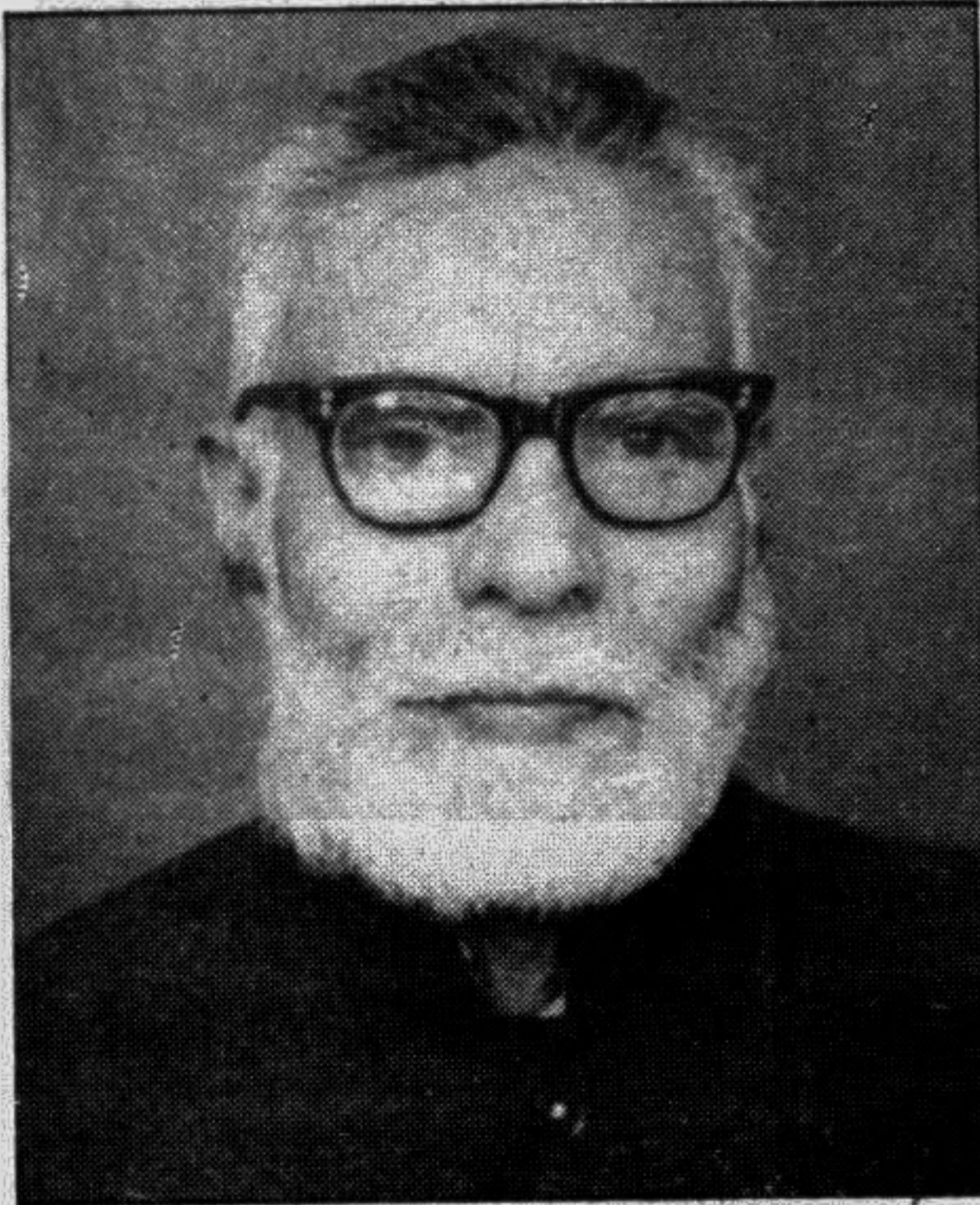
The book reveals how Khan was assisted by Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda while he was in Presidency College, famous educationist P N Banerjee, famous lawyer Ramendra Majumder, Justice Sir Syed Nasim Ali, philosopher Saidur Rahman, Dr Syed Sajjad Hussain, former President Justice Abu Syed Chowdhury and many others who knew him well. While he saw the end of his journey to restore his eyesight, Prof Khan, by dint of his determination, made his presence felt in society, which was not so compassionate to him. He dedicated the book to his best friend, Akram, who stayed back in Calcutta.

This autobiography is full of personal and socio-political accounts of Khan's struggle for survival and of

the last phase of the British Raj in India. It is also in intimate observation of an impartial and silent spectator over the tragic Hindu-Muslim riot in Calcutta.

Giving the accounts of his last journey from Calcutta's Sealdah station towards Natore of Rajshahi, a day after the partition of India, Khan wrote: "...Finally we reached the station. Rabin and Hasan were with me. Parul also came with us. I have left Calcutta many a times, but returned here ultimately, and never thought of leaving the city forever, nor Calcutta abandoned me for a while. But divorce is a reality this time. Calcutta is now in a different country, and we are here as foreigners.... The train was about to leave. Hasan whispered: Didimoni — Parul — is weeping. These eyes drops were my last reward from Calcutta."

The book is not a well-decorated production, but through its publication at the lag end of his life, Golam Rahman Khan possibly ventured to score his last win over his physical infirmity. And, to any reader of this autobiography, Prof G R Khan has succeeded even possibly in his last fight.



Golam Rahman Khan



Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman addressing a seminar "The Bosnian Crisis: Different Dimensions" at the BANSDOC auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on page one)

DESA plans to reduce system loss by 10 pc.

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) plans to bring down its present system loss by about ten per cent to 18.22 per cent by the end of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The system loss in DESA was recorded at 28.84 per cent in May and the target for the current month is 27 per cent, a high level meeting held at DESA Bhaban was told yesterday.

DESA's target in various fields for fiscal 1993-94 was formally announced in the meeting attended by Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain and top officials of the ministry.

The utility during its 21 months of operation brought down the system loss in transmission and distribution by more than ten per cent from 38.26 per cent, the meeting was told.

The Energy Minister said when commercial operation of DESA was launched in October 1991, the combined system loss in transmission and distribution was 38.26 per cent. The system loss came down to 32.33 per cent in June last year, he said. The figure for June was not yet available.

Dwelling on procurement and disposal of power projection for the current fiscal year, the Energy Minister said DESA would purchase 3948 million kilowatt hour of electricity. He said realisation of power bills for the current year including arrears had been fixed at Taka 869.78 crore. In the eleven months of last fiscal year, DESA realised Taka 428.75 crore as power bills, he added.

Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Faizur Razaque, chairman DESA/STS Mahmud and senior officers of DESA were present.

DU student stabbed

By DU Correspondent

A Dhaka University student Zakir Hossain was stabbed at the Shahidullah Hall by some unidentified miscreants yesterday afternoon.

According to sources, Zakir, 24, a third year student of the department of chemistry, DU, received serious injury on his back while he was in the hall canteen at about 6 pm yesterday.

Later, Zakir was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

SPGRC plans 3-day demonstration next month

By Staff Correspondent

Some one lakh stranded Pakistanis, known as Biharis, will converge in the capital next month to demonstrate for their prompt return, organisers said.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Tuesday, leader of the stranded Pakistanis M Nasim Khan said that their members from 66 camps across the Bangladesh would take part in a three-day special congregation from August 12 to demand their return to the country of their choice.

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) will organise the congregation.

An estimated 2.38 lakh Biharis, who opted for Pakistan as their country of choice, have been stranded in Bangladesh since its independence in 1971.

Briefing the newsmen, chief patron of the SPGRC Nasim Khan appealed to the government to abandon its plan to demolish the refugee camps in Dhaka.

He alleged that some of the stranded families have already been evicted from their houses in Dhaka and about 2000 others have been threatened because of the demolition programme taken up by the Dhaka City Corporation.

Khan also said that ration supply to the Chittagong camp has been suspended and water and power supply have been cut off.

General secretary of the SPGRC Shawkat Ali and other senior leaders of the organisation were present at the press conference.

Saudi CI sheet worth Tk 20cr for cyclone-hit people received

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Nearly eight thousand metric ton galvanised corrugated iron (GCI) sheet equivalent to Taka 20 crore, a grant from the government of the royal Saudi Arabia for the 1991 cyclone-affected families of Bangladesh, was formally received here at CSD godown today, reports BSS.

Relief Secretary M A Hakim received the grant from the representatives of the government of the royal Saudi Arabia.

The GCI sheets will be distributed among the cyclone-affected families of eight coastal districts of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Noakhali, Luxmi-

pur, Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari.

The affected families are classified into two groups — most affected family "A" category and comparatively less affected family "B" category. Each "A" category family will get two bundles of GCI sheets while the "B" category will get one bundle of GCI sheets.

The representatives of the government of Saudi Arabia are engineer Nasir S D Khayd and Abdullah I Al-Turki.

Director-general of the Relief Department Md Shafiqul Islam and local DC were, among others, present.

Japanese envoy meets Shamsul Islam

The Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka called on Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan here yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest especially the economic and industrial relations existing between the two countries.

Obituary

Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, a leading businessman of Narayanganj, died of heart ailments Sunday. He was 62, says a press release. His kulkhwan will be held held tomorrow (Thursday) at his Masdar residence.



- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 Recitation from the Geta
5:25 Sports programme: Olympic World Sports Special
6:35 Hijal Tomal
7:00 Open University
7:25 Tagore songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Writer Tale Tale: Dance programme
9:00 Film: The Fall Guy
10:00 News in English
10:30 Ujjibon
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:45 Closing.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Under the influence of active monsoon moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

Met office forecasts day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature of 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest of 24.2 degree was recorded in Rangamati yesterday.

Rainfalls recorded during the day time yesterday across the country were: Teknaf-4cm, Sitakundu 3 cm, Srimongol, Sandwip, Rangpur and Bholra-2cm each. The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.16 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (9am, 6pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Dinajpur.

Roadside land to be leased out for plantation

Government has decided to lease out the land on both the sides of railway lines and roads, and highways to encourage tree plantations, reports BSS.

Intending members of the public will be given lease of the land for the purpose on softer terms and conditions where tree plantation is possible under certain preconditions. The planters will be allowed to enjoy fifty per cent of the yield and timber of the trees as and when they are grown up.

The decision taken on Monday by the Ministry of Communications is aimed at augmenting the tree and timber resources in the country, keeping ecological balance and checking environmental degradation.

The terms and conditions are inclusive of non-planting any sapling within the signal area of railway stations, 200 feet of bridges and culverts and outside the curvature of roads and railway lines, and no cyclone-prone species should be planted.

The species approved by the arboriculture section of Roads and Highways Department of Ministry of Communications are jarul, shishu, mehagani, karai, arjun, neem and acacia among the timber yielding varieties while mango and jackfruit among the fruit-bearing ones.

Individuals willing to take lease of the land may contact local executive engineers of Roads and Highways and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMS) of Bangladesh Railway as the case may be.

Muslim women in US face hidden discrimination

By Staff Correspondent

Muslim women in the United States have been facing a sort of "hidden discrimination" in getting job and other positions in that country, two Muslim women holding leading position in the US told audience in the Worldnet satellite dialogue programme Tuesday.

Ms Sharifa Alkhateeb, president of the North American Council for Muslim Women (NACMW) and Dr. Amirah Azhary Sonbol, Professor of History, Georgetown University told audience at Dhaka, Lahore and Peshawar that they sometimes face discrimination even in salary structure.

The American Cultural Centre auditorium studio in Dhaka and two other studios in Pakistan were hooked up with the Washington studio for one hour under the programme.

They alleged that the news media in the US was hostile to Muslims and always try to tarnish the image of the community as "terrorist". They pointed out the recent incident of bomb blast in World Trade Centre and subsequent reports and arrest of a Muslim man.

They also alleged harassment and said many people of Muslim community were questioned by FBI personnel and sometimes their public entrance was restricted.

But they said that the American laws were fair enough to protect the rights of a citizen. Once one becomes an American national he or she can enjoy full support of the law and can go to court to seek justice.

The two Islamic thinkers said that Islam was now becoming popular in the US with increasing community and individual involvement.

The NACMW president said that her organisation regularly go to schools for preaching Islam. The Muslims are gradually entering into the mainstream American life, they pointed out.

Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bd) Ltd. 349-350, Tejaon I/Area, Dhaka. Tender Notice. Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bd.) Ltd, Tejaon, Dhaka invites sealed Tenders from the Experienced Contractor for Handling, Carrying & Cleaning against Tender No. KCC/MPIC/D-05/93 dt. 30-6-93.

2,300 tonnes of rubber produced locally, JS told

Domestic production of rubber in the 516 rubber gardens in the country was 2,300 metric tons annually which meets 30 percent of the country's requirement, reports UNB.

This was stated by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Khalifur Rahman of Awami League.

Replying to a supplementary question from Zainul Abidin Faruq (BNP), the minister said that of the 516 gardens producing rubber, 16 are state-owned and 500 small gardens in the private sector.

Country's annual requirement of 7,500 metric tons can be met from domestic sources if 89,000 acres of land acquired for rubber production are fully utilised, the minister said replying to Shahidullah Khan (BNP).

Garments worker run over by train

By DMCH Correspondent

A garments worker was killed when a running train knocked her down near Dhaka Cantonment rail crossing in the city Tuesday morning.

The victim identified as Shilpi, 20, was seriously injured and was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

She succumbed to her injuries after admission. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Body recovered

Police recovered a body of a minor boy from a drain near AGB colony, Motijheel yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Mosharraf Hossain, (2). Mosharraf, son of Mohammed Selim, a rickshawpuller was missing since Friday.

Selim lives in a slum near Motijheel.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A multinational Service Oriented Company based in Dhaka has position in the MID LEVEL MANAGEMENT in the Information Technology Department. Candidates must have minimum five years' working experience in computer related work including knowledge of: (a) UNIX Operating System, (b) SSP Operating System, (c) RPG II Programming, (d) LAN, (e) WAN.

The company offers attractive remuneration and benefits commensurate with qualification and experience. Please apply with a recent passport-size photograph and contact telephone number on or before 15 July 1993 to PO Box No. GN-6052, Dhaka or Box No. D-2757 C/o The Bangladesh Observer, Dhaka.

Please mention Information Technology Dept. on the Envelop.

Exporters Association of Bangladesh এন্ডপোর্টার্স এসোসিয়েশন অফ বাংলাদেশ Notice

July 05, 1993

Further to the notices published by us in the press on 23.8.92, 6.3.93, 30.5.93 and 23.6.93 once again through this notice for the information of all concerned it is stated that an Association of the Exporters of Bangladesh is going to form in the name "Exporters Association of Bangladesh" to protect the interest of the Exporters, to take joint stand on point of Exporters Common interest, to take joint stand on common issues concerning the Exporters, to ensure growth of export trade abroad. Interested firms and organizations are cordially invited to join this Association and also to attend the next meeting of the promoters of this Association at the BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka at 4:30 p.m on 17.7.93 instead of 30.6.93 as notified earlier.

Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Convener.

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা জেলার সাব জজ ও অর্থ কল আদালত নম্বর - ২

দেওয়ানী ডিক্রিয়ারী মোঃ নং-২৮/৯১

(দেওয়ানী মোকদ্দমা নং - ৪০/৯০ হইতে উদ্ভূত)

দাখাল ক্রেডিট লিমিটেড প্রিন্সিপাল অফিস/শাখা, ৭-৮ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

ডিক্রিয়ার।

- বনাম -

- ১। জনাব রেজা নূর মোহাম্মদ, পিতা - মৌলবি জহাঙ্গীর আবেদীন, সাকিন - ৩৬/৩, এয়ারপোর্ট রোড, সউদিয়া সুলার মার্কেট (৪র্থ তলা), ঢাকা এবং বাহুবুল হোসেন বিল্ডিং (১১ তলা) রুম নং- ১১০৫, ২৭, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
২। মিসেস জাহানারা বেগম, পতি - রেজা নূর মোহাম্মদ, সাকিন - ৭৬, তেজকুশা পাড়া, বানা - তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।

দাখিক।

ডিক্রির টাকার পরিমাণ :- টাঃ ১০,৪৯,০৩০/১০-০০ লে জন্ম পর্যন্ত।
নিলামের তারিখ :- ১১-৭-৯৩ ইংরেজী।
ঢাকা জেলা জজকোর্ট গ্রাউন্ড।
নিলামের স্থান :- ১২ বাটিকা।

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ডিক্রিয়ারের দ্বারা ঢাকা আদালতের জন্য নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত স্থাবর সম্পত্তি উপরে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময় এবং স্থানে প্রকাশ্যভাবে নিলামে বিক্রি করা হইবে। ক্রয় হইতে হইতে উক্ত নিলামে অংশ গ্রহণ করিতে অনুমতি করা যাইতেছে।

"ডিক্রির বর্ণিত সম্পত্তির বিবরণ বাহা নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে"

জেলা - ঢাকা, বানা - সাবক তেজগাঁও, হায়েল কার্টনস্টেট অধীন, জে, এল নদর - ২৭১, মৌজা-আবাসনসাহায্যহিত, সি, এস বস্তিমান নদর - ৩৪৭, এস, এ বস্তিমান নদর - ৭৫৮, ৭৫৯, ৭৬০, মিউনিসিপাল বস্তিমান নদর - ৮৪০/১/১, এস, এ দাগ নদর - ১২২০ এর মধ্যে মোট জমির পরিমাণ ০৯৭৫ বর্গফুট হক, কুক, গৃহাধীসহ। যাহার চৌহদ্দি দলিল নম্বর- ১২৯৭ তারিখ - ৩০-৬-৮৭ ইংরেজী অনুসারে গণ্য হইবে।

সেপেরেশ্যার

ঢাকা জেলার সাব জজ ও অর্থ কল আদালত নম্বর-৩