

Dhaka Day by Day

Bangladesh to make it into The Times Travel Page

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Eulogizing Bangladesh by any of us, Bangladeshis, is such an easy task. The truth will be spoken wrapped up in a web of fabrication or exaggeration. After all, it's our land that we are talking about and can extend to whatever heights we like, isn't it?

But when an outsider or a foreigner talks about it, you get the real picture minus the make-up, an impartial view, you may say.

Actually for outsiders how much could a few snapshots of rickshaws or the Parliament building, a dinner of Bangladeshi cuisine, or even the George Harrison song say. Not much definitely.

Maybe, listening stories from friends, some might casually promise to rummage through a few brochures, travel guides or even visit the country; but of course forget the passing thoughts next moment.

It is exactly in such moments that an exciting travel piece by some travel writer could help the interested person very much.

With only this thought — to make Bangladesh attractive to his countrymen, George Dorgan, a freelance journalist has been to Dhaka recently. His assignment was to promote the exciting Bangladesh through an article in The Times of London. "I had to see this country about which I heard so much through music, plays,

and songs," said Dorgan enthusiastically.

Dorgan who was sponsored by Amin Ali, a reputed businessman in London actually came to know about Bangladesh through its food. He was promoting its cuisine last year.

"I am so moved by my visit here, the first touch of real Bangladesh that I got was through jatra, a new theatrical form for me," he explained. The strong vocal control, the stylised gesture of this famous indigenous music opera enthralled him.

He was more touched genuinely by the fact that the people here are so committed to, so

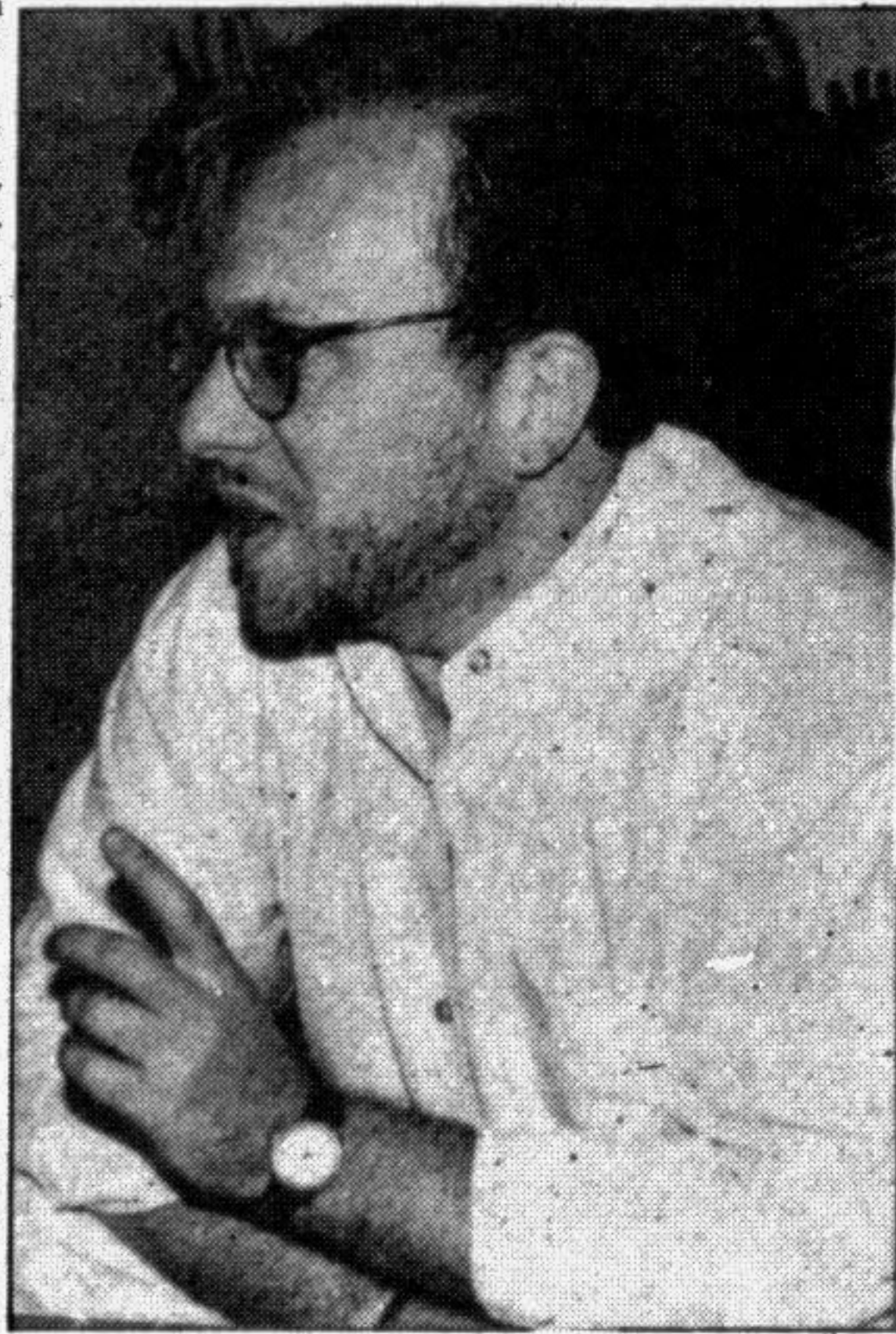
intent on promoting Bangladesh but not as a basket case. He felt that the people living in a foreign land are all part of their motherland.

"Two weeks isn't enough, people say, 'do this, do that, eat this, try that.' Believe me I would come again," he said, expressing his thrill. "I have seen very little of this beautiful place, but what really got my attention and what comes first in my mind is the tinkling sounds of the rickshaw bell. The harmonious plucking sound of the tea leaves in Sylhet," he related. Cox's Bazar seduced him; the cliffs, the forest, the greenery and a walk along the world's longest (90 km), beach was new to him. "The beaches I know in the West are not even half of this, they are always too crowded," he explained excitedly.

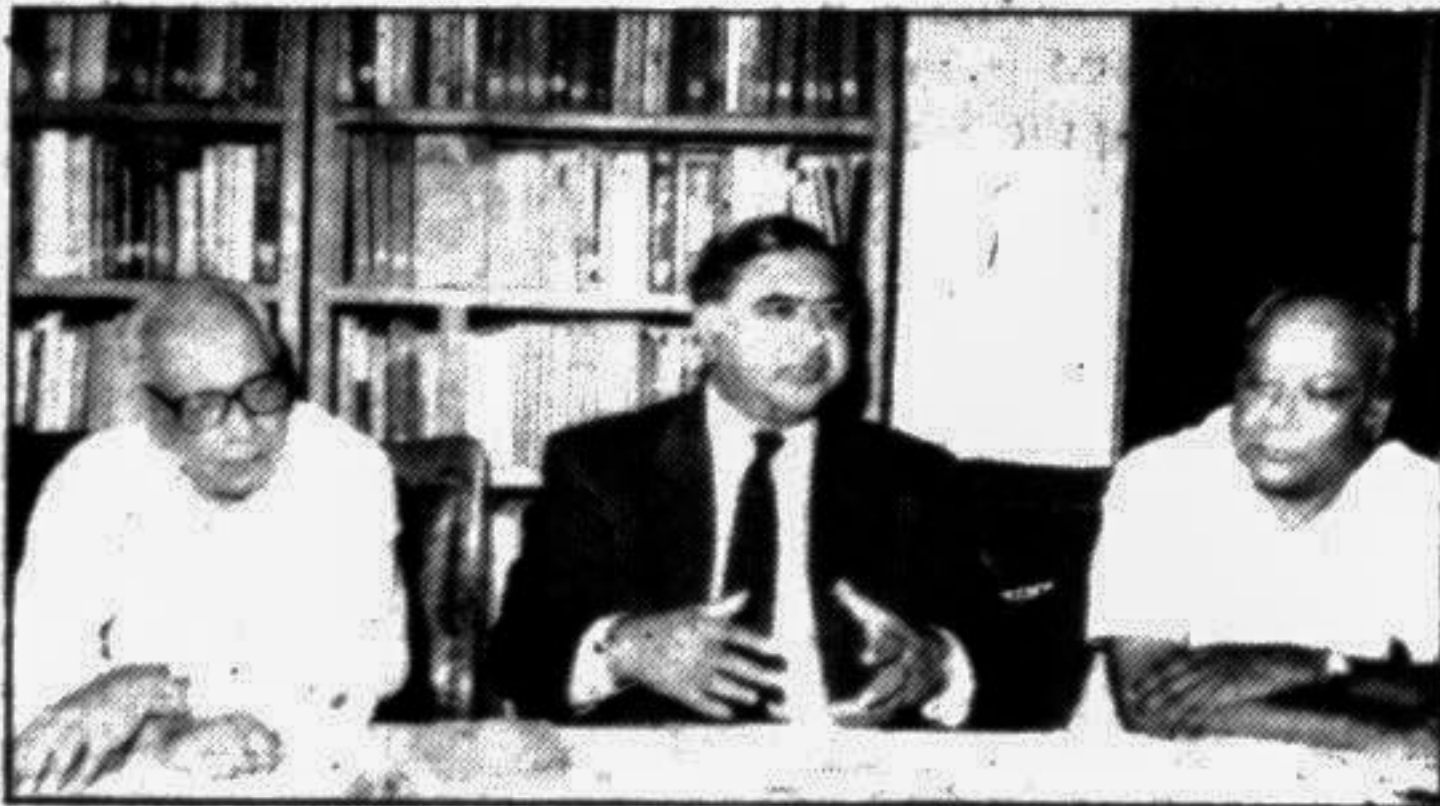
The trip to Sandwip and Mohakhali was a memorable experience. "The two islands seemed lonely to him. In Dhaka the house of the Nawabs, the Ahsan Manzil seemed rather sad, maybe, because of the patchy restoration work," he felt. But he was quite taken aback by the Tara Mosque, the Red Fort.

"I am very much fond of Nazrul Islam. I read his works in English, even had the opportunity to listen to Shabnam Mustari, so naturally I visited his mazar," he said. The experience for him was rather an uneasy one. He felt that the grave was at one forlorn corner with no road marks leading to it. "There was not a single one of his verses on his tombstone. Next time he would visit the archaeological sites, he said. "To round up my trip is not an easy job. I can write a thousand words on Bangladesh, there's a stream of impressions," he said. "In general, I was surprised by things I thought would be natural and on the contrary I was not astonished with things I thought would be new for me," he said.

Dorgan got the true picture: all right — Bangladesh is as beautiful as it is unpredictable.



Dorgan delves deep in Bangladesh.



Dr Kamal Hossain (C) speaking at a discussion on the recently held South African elections — to which he was an observer — organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday. Also seen are Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed (L) and Fakhruddin Ahmed (R).

IPPNW meet ends

The three-day meeting of the South Asian delegates of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), concluded here yesterday with adoption of a plan of action for promotion of peace and prevention of war, says a press release.

The plan of action delineates a number of new initiatives towards a campaign by physicians for public advocacy for the vital need to halt the arms race in the region including development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

The physicians for prevention of nuclear war were awarded UNESCO Peace Prize and the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1985 for their worldwide work.

The project is coordinated and directed by Dr Gururaj Mutalik, and is regionally managed by Dr M A Majed from Bangladesh.

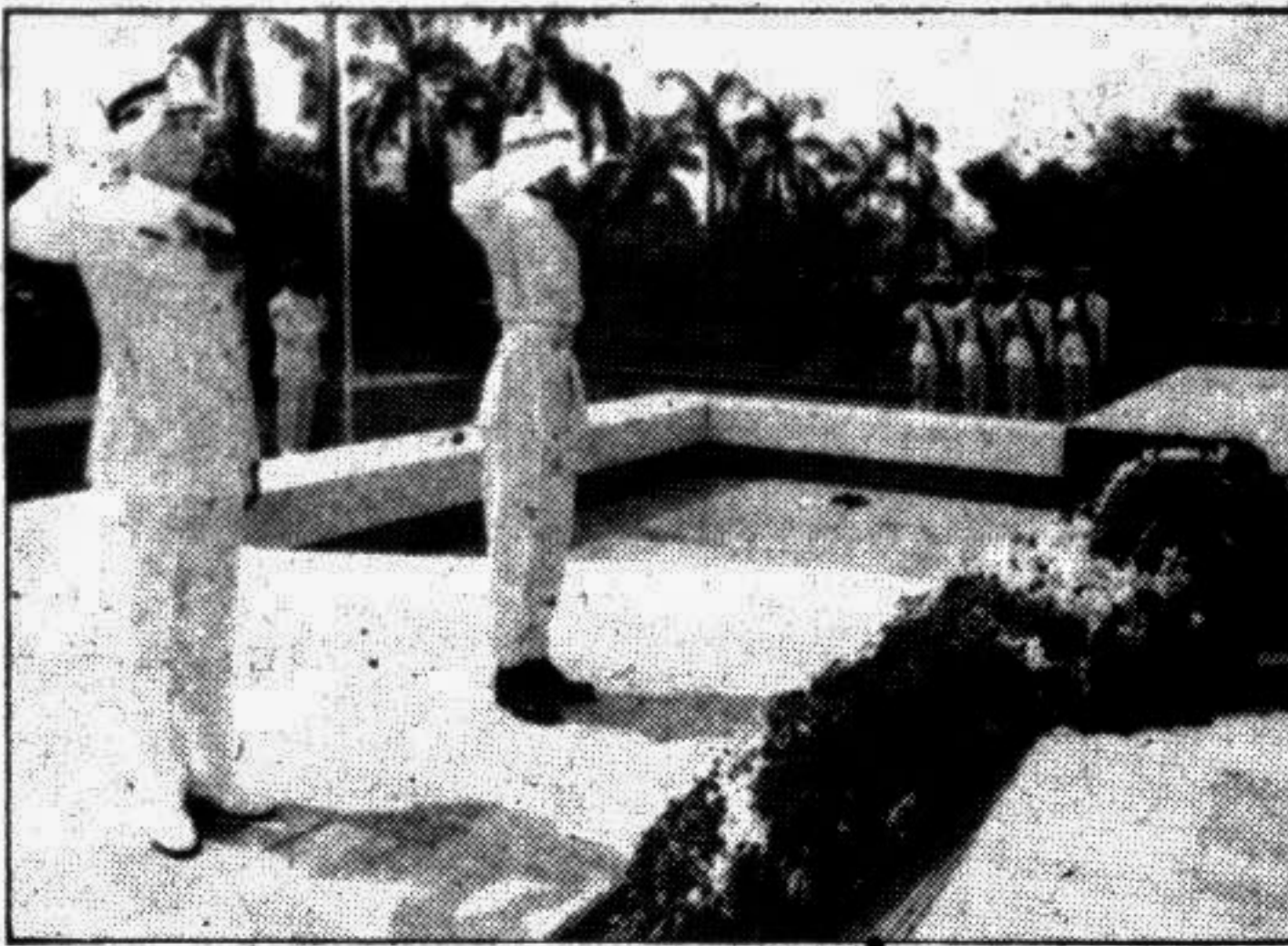
The delegates included Dr Gururaj Mutalik, Dr M A Majed, and Dr Gazi Abdul Hoque of Bangladesh, Dr Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed of Pakistan, Dr S S Shrivatswa of India, Dr Bharat Pradhan and Dr Saroj Dhalal from Nepal.



Wednesday

4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Ghurur
Programme summary
Documentary: World Cup '94
5:10 News in Bangla
Children's Programme:
Amra Nati in
Bangla
Open University
Togore song
7:20 News in Bangla
Dance programme
Film show: The A-Team
9:05 News in English
10:00 Programme on population
11:30 Khabar/The News
12:00 Live telecast of UEFA
champion clubs cup final

অধ্যাপক মোঃ আব্দুল আজিজ
রেজিষ্টার



Chief of the Pakistan Navy Admiral Saeed M Khan paying homage to the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971 at the Shikha Anirban — the Eternal Flame — at the Dhaka cantonment yesterday. — ISPR photo

Bangladesh has one phone set for every 380 people

Bangladesh is lagging behind even the tiny member countries of the SAARC in telecommunication having one telephone set for every 380 people, reports UNB.

There are now 273,687 telephones in the country for about 11.5 crore people, while the Maldives has, on an average, a telephone for every 17.9 of its citizens, this was disclosed at a seminar in the city yesterday to mark the 26th World Telecommunications Day.

The situation in the country is on further decline with the needs growing in the perspective of an expanding economy, Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan told the seminar.

The minister said Sri Lanka has a telephone per 17.8 people, Pakistan 76 people, India 111 and Nepal 174.

In view of the situation, he said, the government had undertaken certain policy measures to arrest the decline by installing new telephone lines throughout the country.

Some 67,500 digital telephone lines will be installed in

the southern part of Dhaka metropolitan area — 30,000 lines in Chittagong metro area and 150,000 additional digital lines in five major cities.

A new satellite earth station and international trunk exchange at Mahakhali in Dhaka will be installed, while a packet switching system is going to be installed for data communication in and outside the country, Khan said.

The Industries Minister pointed out that the country is expected to achieve a target of 1.3 million telephone lines by the year 2000.

Bangladesh Civil Service (Telecom) Samity organised the seminar which was presided over by its president Anwarul Huq. Post and Telecommunication Secretary Dr A M M Shaukat Ali and Chairman of the T & T Board Fazlur Rahman also spoke.

Siddique Ali Miah presented a paper on "Telecommunication and Culture" and S M Khabiruzzaman presented another paper on "Development of Outside Plant Network" at the seminar, held at a local hotel.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

Met office forecast rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at a few places over Dhaka and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong divisions during the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country, the forecast added.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 33.5 degree Celsius and the minimum 22 degrees.

Country's highest temperature, 38.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 19.6 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:35 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:14 am.

JU Eid vacation from May 19

Jahangirnagar University (JU) will remain closed from May 19 to 31 on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha and summer vacation, official sources said, reports BSS.

Classes and academic activities will resume on June 1. The decision was taken at a meeting Monday.

Confce on disaster from May 23

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-ur-Rashid will leave here for Japan on May 21 to attend a five-day world conference on "Natural Disaster Reduction," reports UNB.

The conference will be held in Yokohama of Japan from May 23-27.

The State Minister will lead a four-member Bangladesh

delegation to the conference convened by the United Nations General Assembly for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), said an official hand-out yesterday.

The IDNDR was launched by the UN General Assembly through a resolution adopted on December 22, 1989.

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NOTICE FOR CLOSURE OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS AND THE SHARE TRANSFER BOOK

Notice is hereby given that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, the 28th May, 1994 to Saturday, the 18th June, 1994 (both days inclusive) and during that period, no transfer of shares will be effected.

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
M. A. Qasem
Director

Date: 17th May, 1994

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Interested candidates may send their curriculum vitae, along with a list of references and a passport size photograph to the General Manager HRD and Personnel, by May 31, 1994 at the address given below. Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted and all applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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যোগ্যতা: স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীসহ লাইব্রেরী সায়েন্সে স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা লাইব্রেরী সায়েন্সে স্নাতক সন্মানসহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী এবং কোন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/সরকারী/আধাসরকারী এবং স্বায়ত্বশাসিত কিংবা অন্য কোন স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠানে লাইব্রেরী কার্যক্রম পরিচালনায় ৮ (অষ্ট) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মোট ১৫ (পনের) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। শিক্ষাবিদগণ (পাবলিক এডমিনিস্ট্রেশন) কোন পরীক্ষায় ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী থাকতে পারবে না। বিধেয় যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন একটি শর্ত পূরণযোগ্য।

বয়স: ন্যূনতম ৪০ (চল্লিশ) বছর। উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য সদস্যপদ/প্রশাসনিকপদের সভাপতিত্ব কৃতিত্ব ১০ (দশ) সেট দরখাস্ত, ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ফটোগ্রাফ এবং রেজিষ্টারের অনুকূলে ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার ব্যাংক ডাফট/পেমেন্ট অর্ডার সহ আবেদনপত্র যথাযথি পূরণপূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ০২-০৭-৯৪। ০৪ (চার) টাকা মূল্যের ডাকটিকিটসহ নিজ ঠিকানা সন্নিবেশিত খাম পাঠিয়ে রেজিষ্টারের দপ্তর হতে আবেদনপত্রের কর্মম সত্ত্বার করা যাবে। কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্মপত্রের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না।

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