

STOL service operation may be delayed

BARISAL, May 30: The operation of the private sector short take-off and landing (STOL) service is likely to be delayed by more than two months due to rain and other problems, reports UNB.

Most of the licence holder companies seem to be reluctant in starting the STOL services between Dhaka and Barisal, Comilla, Lalmonirhat, Shamsheernagar, Thakurgaon and Ishwardi.

According to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), meantime, six private airlines were given provisional licence to operate STOL services. These private airlines are: Falcon Aviation Ltd, Borak Air, Green Air, Parabat Air Ltd, Royal Bengal Airlines and South Asian Airlines.

In Barisal, the airport at Rahmatpur, about 12 kilometres from the town, is now ready for operation of STOL services.

Meanwhile, civil aviation authority has constructed 2,600 ft long and 100 ft wide runway. This runway is expected to be extended up to 3,000 ft within this year.

Besides, marking of the airfield for STOL operation, VHF system including IRT link, high power security light and wind sock have already been set up for smooth STOL services — the CAAB sources said.

On the other hand, the government has also undertaken Taka 20 crore project for constructing a full-fledged airport here within 96-97 financial year, it is learnt.

Tibetans protest tax increases: 7 arrested

BEIJING, May 30: Chinese police in Tibet arrested at least seven people during two days of Tibetan protests over tax increases, the London-based Tibet Information Network said Monday, reports AP.

The network quoted unofficial sources in Lhasa, Tibet's capital, as saying that some shopkeepers closed their shops in protest over the higher business taxes. It was not clear how high the tax increase was, with unofficial reports ranging from 20 per cent to 100 per cent, the network said.

It said the protests began Friday when more than 100 Tibetans gathered in front of government offices and shouted slogans against the higher taxes. Riot police sealed off the area and dispersed the crowd, the network said.

It said more protests were held Saturday, and seven people were arrested.

Staff in a hotel that overlooked Friday's demonstration site closed the curtains to keep guests from seeing the protest, the police impounded the passports of three foreigners caught looking from their rooms, the network said. Lhasa authorities have declared it illegal for foreigners to even witness demonstrations.

Meanwhile, the network said a source in Lhasa had confirmed reports that four Tibetan Buddhist monks were arrested for staging a protest in Lhasa last Tuesday. Five nuns were reported arrested in a similar protest Wednesday.

GCC states may boost oil exports to Asia

ABU DHABI, May 30: Gulf Arab states, which control one fifth of world crude supplies, are expected to boost oil exports to Japan and other Asian countries to meet a steady growth in demand amid declining supplies there, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said yesterday, reports AFP.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil giants are already major crude exporters to East Asian nations and believe those clients will account for the bulk of the increase in future supplies.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), outlining local oil developments, said Asian markets offered better profit margins as prices there are higher than in the recession-hit West.

"Crude exports from other Asian countries are expected to diminish because of the growing internal demand in those countries, thus consolidating future exports from the UAE and other Gulf suppliers," it said in a report.

It gave no figures for the whole Gulf but said 82 per cent of the UAE's 1993 oil exports of about two million barrels per day (BPD) went to Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, India and other Asian states.

It said the recession had depressed crude sales to the west and consequently hit demand and the profit margin.

Asian countries also accounted for 92 per cent of the country's exports of refined products of about five million tonnes, the report said.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf oil producers have been engaged in projects to boost output capacity to meet demand for OPEC oil, projected to rise by nearly 10 million BPD by 2000.

The projects will push the UAE's capacity to nearly 3.5 million BPD in 2000 from 2.5 million BPD, while in Saudi Arabia it will reach 10 million BPD in 1995 and 12 million BPD in 2000.

Kuwait's capacity is expected to exceed three million BPD while Iraq had projected a rise to five million BPD.

The four countries currently produce around 13 million BPD and their crude reserves account for about 55 per cent of the total world oil reserves.

Japan has remained the top importer of Gulf oil, receiving about 2.8 million BPD, nearly 60 per cent of its oil needs. Independent Japanese estimates have forecast levels will reach 70 per cent in 2000.

China, with crude reserves of 24 billion barrels, has started to buy oil from the Gulf as it expects to be more reliant on imports to face a large increase in domestic demand due to a rapid economic growth.

China, also a major market for Gulf fertilizers, currently produces around 2.8 million BPD of oil compared with three million BPD five years ago.

France agrees to open Orly to British Airlines

PARIS, May 30: The French Transport Ministry confirmed Monday that the government will allow British airlines to offer four flights daily between London and Orly airport outside Paris starting June 13, reports AP.

The decision, reported earlier Monday in Britain's Financial Times, followed a meeting over the weekend between French Transport Minister Bernard Bosson and British Transport Secretary John MacGregor.

The June 13 date is earlier than a promise made by the French government two weeks ago to open Orly to British airlines by the end of June. British Airways and its French unit TAT, as well as Air UK are expected to begin service.

France had been reluctant to comply with an order from the European Union Commission to open London-Orly routes to British carriers. Bosson previously had threatened that the French government would fight the Commission order in court.

But the French decision comes as Paris tries to obtain EU permission to pump hundreds of millions of dollars into its money-losing Air France during reorganization.

France has argued that it needs to restructure the Air France group before full deregulation, an effort by the 12-nation EU to boost competition. The group's domestic airline, Air Inter, is saddled with money-losing routes it agreed to run in exchange for more profitable ones.

Meantime, two French airlines, Air Outre-mer and Air Liberte, are threatening to take action in Britain to achieve access to Heathrow airport. The French Transport Ministry said discussions are under way with London authorities on the issue.

13,000 more Palestinians allowed to work in Israel

JERUSALEM, May 30: Israel decided Sunday to allow another 13,000 Palestinians to enter the country to work, raising the total number of workers from the Gaza Strip and West Bank to 25,500, the Labour Ministry said, reports AFP.

The ministry's spokesman Hanan Robin said, the 13,000 construction workers would have to be over the age of 25, married, and have already worked in Israel for at least five years, for security reasons.

Since the army sealed off the occupied territories on April 7, following a bus bombing which left eight Israelis dead, the closure has been progressively eased.

Besides the 25,500 permits, Israel has allowed 16,000 Palestinians to return to work in annexed east Jerusalem. Most are hospital, aid or embassy workers, business people and military administration employees.

Before February 25 massacre in the West Bank town of Hebron when a Jewish settler shot dead 30 Muslim worshippers, 50,000 Palestinians from the territories were employed in Israel.

Israel has decided to import 18,000 foreign labourers, mainly from Romania and Thailand, to replace chief Palestinian labour.

DCCI assures cooperation in boosting exports

Leaders of the Dhaka Chamber yesterday assured continued cooperation with the government in promoting economic activities in the country, particularly in boosting export, reports UNB.

The assurance came from a delegation of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its President A Rob Chowdhury while exchanging views on economic and commercial activities with Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam at his ministry.

During the discussions, the minister said the present government was pursuing various liberal economic policies to encourage the private sector as it could play an important role in achieving economic prosperity.

Mentioning the task force functioning to expedite export Shamsul Islam said the bottlenecks, if any way of promoting the export, would be removed within 24 hours through this high-power committee.

He also stressed the need for proper guidance to the new entrepreneurs by chamber leaders side by side the government assistance.

The DCCI President appreciated the government cooperation in trade sector and stressed the need for balancing the economic policies on the global context as well as protecting the local industries.

Chowdhury also offered their cooperation in keeping the prices of essentials within the purchasing power of common man.

Among other, Senior Vice President and directors of the chamber were present in the meeting.

Sanctions cost Belgrade \$45b

BELGRADE, May 30: International sanctions imposed against Belgrade for backing separatist Bosnian Serbs have cost the country 45 billion dollars since they were imposed two years ago, the daily Politika reported yesterday, reports AFP.

Citing government experts, the newspaper said that in the first year of the embargo, imposed by the United Nations on May 31, 1992, industrial production dropped by 10 per cent on 1991.

9 officials of Pak central bank suspended

KARACHI, May 30: Nine officials of Pakistan's central bank have been suspended for negligence in connection with a multi-million dollar banking scandal, source said here, reports AFP.

A senior executive of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), speaking on condition of anonymity, said the action had been taken following an investigation.

The scandal surfaced when former chief executive of local private bank — Mehran Bank Limited (MBL) — was arrested for allegedly embezzling more than 36 million dollars on foreign exchange bearer certificates issued by SBP.

The jailed banker, Younus Habib, has also been accused by the government of misappropriating tens of millions of rupees since the bank's establishment in 1991 and doling out large sums to politicians and a former army chief.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said a judicial probe would be conducted into the scam.

Dhaka seeks intensified access to consumer product markets

The major role played by specialised German trade fairs in the export promotion activities of developing countries like Bangladesh has been made increasingly manifest in recent years, says a press release.

The need to earn and conserve precious foreign exchange has motivated both the government and the industry to make consistent forays into foreign markets, with particular reference to the avowedly key German market in Europe. The traditional exports of Bangladesh have found commercial expression in several marketing events that trade fairs have essentially come to represent. Among them is the international trade fair for consumer products focusing on individual home and lifestyles, the Ambiente, held in Frankfurt every year, ever since the Frankfurt International Spring Fair was split four years ago to categorise

selected product ensembles for more intense and qualitative interaction.

As it happened, Ambiente '94 also found the Bangladesh exporters in strength, displaying an impressive range of ceramics, jute products and jute hammocks, basketry, porcelain and household articles through seven firms. While the items on view were apparently conventional, the differences in product design and development were particularly evident in comparison with those of previous years. Changes in consumer preferences were also taking a toll of business demand, according to the exhibitors.

A slight dip in business results was the general impression conveyed by the Bangladesh exhibitors this year, attributed to the sluggishness of the German market. However, other European countries, notably Greece and

Portugal, have managed to stem the downward slide. It was understood, Bangladesh's exports to Germany last year rose to more than DM 330 million.

The Frankfurt International Fair Ambiente has come to be recognised as an international trend-setter for consumer products focusing on table decoration and the kitchen, interior design and gift sectors not only for a national market but rather for the ambience of homes everywhere.



Mazid to take over as NBL MD

By Staff Correspondent
The Managing Director of Pubali Bank, Kazi Abdul Mazid, will take over as the Managing Director of National Bank Ltd (NBL) with effect from June 1.

When asked for reasons of his changing the bank, Mazid, a veteran banker of the country said, "I am switching over to explore and exploit new opportunities."

NBL is the first private bank of the country that can obviously claim leadership in promoting garment industries in Bangladesh, the outgoing MD said.

In 1979 he joined the American Express Bank in Dhaka as its Deputy Country Manager and was posted in New York in 1983. He was also the Chief Manager, Hong Kong branch of BCCI.

Mazid became the MD of Pubali Bank Ltd in 1992 at a crucial time when the bank was reeling under a net loss of Tk 28 crore.



Khwaja Kamal Shah, Area General Manager of Singer Bangladesh Ltd seen inaugurating the company's 46th show room cum-sales centre at Azimur in the city yesterday. Mahbub Jamal, Chairman and Managing Director of Singer along with other high officials and elite of the city were also present on the occasion.

Japan favours compromise on plan for whale sanctuary

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico, May 30: Japan is seeking middle ground between a French proposal to ban whaling below the 40th parallel and its own plan for a smaller sanctuary and limited hauls of the minke whale, reports AFP.

Kazuo Shima, Japanese representative at a four-day meeting here of the International Whaling Commission, said he was "disappointed" at what he called a conspiracy of lies by environmentalists against his country.

"It's important to protect dwindling resources, but with regards to the minke whale, with an estimated population of 750,000, those resources must be exploited," Shima said, referring to Japan's proposal.

He said Japan's proposal to hunt up to 2,000 minke whales, whole meat is consid-

ered a delicacy in Japan, in no way threatened the species.

On the contrary, Shima told a press conference, giving whales total protection with no population control would disrupt global fishing yields, since the marine mammals consumed five times more fish than humans caught.

He said that while France's proposal to ban whale hunting south of the 40th parallel to save 11 whale species enjoyed widespread support, it needed closer scientific study before it could be approved.

Chile, which opposes the creation of a sanctuary which would include any of its territorial waters, has also proposed a smaller whale sanctuary.

The 40th parallel circles the globe south of Buenos Aires, Santiago and South of Australia and the southern tip

of Africa.

Shima said Japan would favour a compromise among all the proposals for whale sanctuaries put forth at the meeting.

The President of the Whaling Commission, Luis Fleischer of Mexico, urged participants when the meeting opened Monday to reach "fair and equitable" agreements to regulate whaling.

But he acknowledged that hunting "continues to be relevant to some indigenous communities and to the culture of some countries."

Seventy-five per cent of the votes of the 31 countries represented at the meeting must approve a proposal for it to pass.

Japan's initiative counts on support from Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

Zimbabwe's ostrich exporters bury their heads in the sand

Zimbabwean ostrich producers may be selling the future of their industry by exporting too many birds. But the money is hard to resist.

To protect ostrich farming and prevent the rise of production in other parts of the world, a ban was imposed on exports of live ostriches.

Some Zimbabwean producers mourned their lost profits. They make about 100 dollars per bird when the meat is sold locally, 200 dollars if exported, when it ends up on the tables of specialist restaurants in Paris, Brussels, London — and Pretoria, where smoked ostrich meat was served at South African President Nelson Mandela's inauguration banquet in May. But producers can earn 10 times as much by exporting a live bird.

An ostrich couple sold within Zimbabwe fetches 4,000-6,000 dollars whereas European and North American producers trying to build their own ostrich industry will pay between 20,000 and 60,000 dollars for a pair.

In addition, neighbouring Botswana and Namibia continued to export live birds and eggs. So after three years the

ban was lifted.

In the following three months, almost 1,000 of the world's largest living birds and 350 eggs (each equivalent to 24 hens' eggs and requiring 40 minutes to boil) were sold to Europe and North America, where there is demand not only for meat but also for feathers and eyelashes which are rated highly as dust-collectors in the microchip industry. Exports averaged 200,000 dollars a week.

Holland has been the biggest European buyer, partly because the country accepts Zimbabwe's quality and inspection standards.

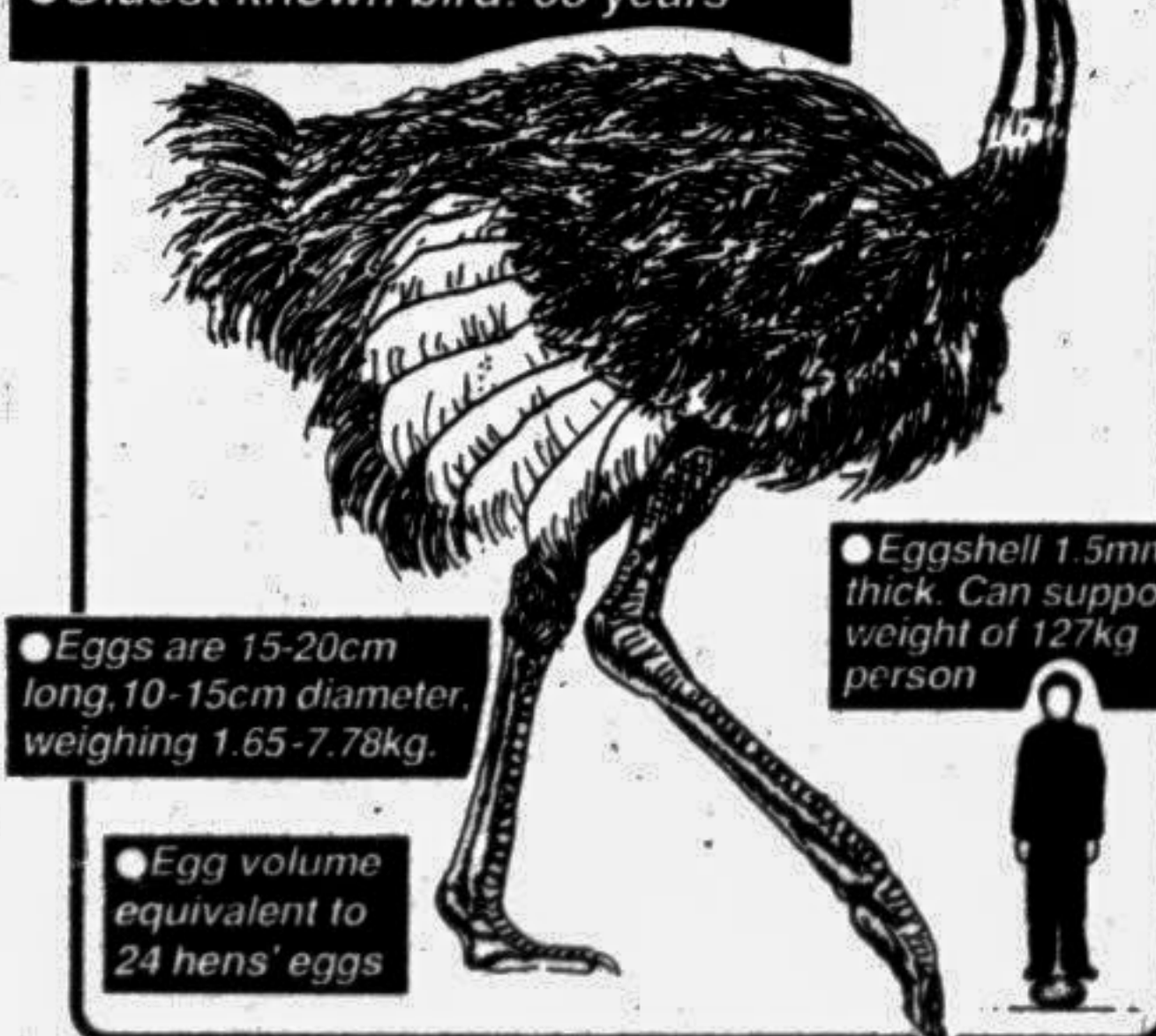
The United States now has an estimated 20,000 birds and has adopted restrictions on ostrich meat imports to protect its nascent industry. The European Union is considering similar measures.

The lure of the non-flying bird in health-conscious Europe and North America — which at the beginning of the century knew ostriches only for their feathers as worn by high-kicking cabaret dancers is its low-fat meat and fine skin.

Michel Bellemare writes from Harare

Ostrich—the flightless bird

- North African variety is world's largest bird — up to 2.74m tall and weighing 156 kg
- Oldest known bird: 68 years



Some Zimbabwean producers are worried that the Northern market will finally dry up, as producers build up local flocks to meet demand.

A local journalist warned: "The contentious issue is whether exporting live birds and eggs for breeding in North America and Europe will not be suicidal in that up-coming ostrich producers in the northern markets may soon pose stiff competition to ostrich meat imported from Africa."

"Put another way, since the ostrich is uniquely African, is it in the long-term interest of African countries to help establish overseas ostrich farms by exporting live ostriches and eggs?"

Chris Foot, executive manager of the Ostrich Producers Association of Zimbabwe, echoes these concerns. "The live bird market is short-lived," he says.

"Once the demand is fulfilled, the competition will revert to meat, hide and feather sales," he points out. "This means two things are absolutely imperative: a slaughter facility or several facilities that

can cater to all of Zimbabwe's birds and, secondly, a marketing strategy to ensure we sell our product."

In May an existing sheep and goat abattoir in Bulawayo, 450 kilometres west of Harare, is receiving its first birds after undergoing a few changes. But producers, most of whom are located around Harare, say that transport costs will be high and that because it is government-owned they will not have sufficient control over its operations.

Instead, they are pinning their faith on a new slaughter house in Norton, 30 kilometres west of Harare, the first brick of which was laid last March and which will be owned and managed by producers. But the facility will not be ready until September 1995.

The question is whether it is too late and whether once again Africa will pay the price of exporting its raw materials instead of using them to build its own industry. — Gemini News

Michel Bellemare is a freelance Canadian journalist.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ)
সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট।
ফোন নং-৬৩৩৯

ফেরীঘাট হইতে টোল আদায়ের
নিমিত্তে ইজারাদার নিয়োগের
কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(২য় আহ্বান)

কোটেসন বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং : ০০/সি.সি.-১৯৯৮-৯৫ই (২য় আহ্বান)।
তারিখ : ১৯৯৮-৯৫ই অর্থ-বছরের জন্য (১লা জুলাই, ৯৫ই) হইতে
০০শে জুন/৯৫ই পর্যন্ত। চন্দ্রপুর ফেরীঘাট টোল আদায়ের
কোটেসন।

১লা জুলাই/১৯৯৫ই তারিখ হইতে ৩০শে জুন/১৯৯৫ই তারিখ পর্যন্ত চন্দ্রপুর ফেরীঘাট
টোল আদায়ের টোল আদায়ের জন্য যাত্রীসম্পন্ন যাত্রী ও যানবাহন প্রত্যেকের হইতে
সিলেটসড়ক কোটেসন ২য় বাহা আহ্বান করা যাইবে। কোটেসন বাণ্যায়ী ০১-০৬-৯৫ই তারিখ
পূর্বে ১২-৩০ মিনিটে সিদ্ধান্তকরকারী ও তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, সিলেটের
অফিসে প্রদান করা হইবে। উক্ত সিদ্ধান্ত পূর্বে ১২-৩০ মিনিটে কোটেসন প্রকৌশলীর অফিসে
অফিসে উপস্থিত কোটেসনকারীদের সম্মুখে (মাসের উপস্থিতি) প্রদান করা হইবে। ইচ্ছুক যাত্রী
ও যানবাহন প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে ০১ জুন সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগে যাত্রা করণ/প্রকৌশলী সড়ক বিভাগের
টোলা হিসাবে প্রতি মাসের জন্য উক্ত ১০% (দশ শতাংশ) নিম্নলিখিতকরকারীর কার্যালয়ে কোটেসনের
সম্মুখে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় কোটেসনটি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। সিভিল ও অন্যান্য
পর্তকালী অফিস চলাকালীন সময় সিলেট সড়ক সার্কেলের অধীনে সড়ক নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে
এবং সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগীয় সড়ক ও-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে প্রতিবেশ নম্বর টা ১০০/-
(একশত) গ্রান্ড কল্লার (কেমেন্টসেড) বসিন করা যাইবে। কোটেসন সোলার তারিখে কোন কোটেসন
করবে বিজ্ঞান করা যাইবে না।

৩য় কার্যালয়ের যাত্রা নং-১০৮, ০৫-০৬-৯৫ই তারিখে জারীকৃত কোটেসন সোলি,
সিভিল ও পর্তকালী অফিস কোটেসনের অধীনে প্রদান করা যাইবে।

১৭ আহ্বানের অধ্যক্ষকরকারী কোটেসনকারীদের পূর্বে দাখিলকৃত বাতিল/বি/সে-অর্ডারে ২য়
বা ৩য় কোটেসন দাখিল করিতে পারিবে।

সোঃ ইদ্রিস মিয়া
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ)
সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট।

DFPG (10117-25/5)
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