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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Hartal in Comilla on June 8**

From Our Correspondent  
COMILLA, June 5: The Comilla Bibhag Bastiyaban Parishad has rescheduled its hartal call on June 8 instead of June 6.

**US envoy meets Works Minister**

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill called on Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia at his office yesterday. They discussed matters of mutual interests, reports UNB.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka Notice**

The date for advance income tax payment for the 4th quarter of the current financial year is June 15, 1994.  
The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I. T. Form No. I. T. 31 (B) (amended) challan.  
The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74(1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form.  
It may be mentioned that the limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assessee is now Taka 1,00,000/=.  
All assessee concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 4th quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1994-95 under this system by June 15, 1994. Simple interest @ 12% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

**National Board of Revenue**

DPP (G) 10561-31/5  
G-959

**Opposition to continue boycott**

**JS session from today**

The budget session of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) begins this afternoon with the Opposition parties still bent on boycotting the proceedings of the House.  
The national budget for fiscal 1994-95 is likely to be placed on June 9.  
Meanwhile, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is learnt to have been trying hard to bring the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Opposition in Parliament closer to resolve the present political impasse.  
The crisis has been created due to the Opposition demand

for holding general elections under a caretaker government and the ruling party's refusal to entertain the idea. The Opposition, however, ruled out the possibility of any dialogue in such a situation.  
Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, told newsmen yesterday that the leaders of the opposing camps are likely to hold an official meeting today to discuss ways of ending the present crisis. Replying to a question, the Speaker also said it would be a pre-summit meeting.  
I have proposed to the

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia to have a dialogue with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina to resolve the crisis and Begum Zia responded positively to the proposal, the Speaker told reporters at his office yesterday morning. He, however, said that the ground had to be prepared for the success of the proposed 'summit-level meeting', and talks between the leaders of the two sides could be held to that end.  
The Speaker also informed

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**Dialogue only after caretaker bill: Hasina**

Sheikh Hasina has said the opposition will go for a dialogue only after the government comes up with an announcement expressing its readiness to bring a constitution amendment bill for a caretaker government to hold national polls, reports UNB.  
"Let them come with the announcement first... we are ready to sit for a dialogue," the Leader of the Opposition said at a meeting with the Overseas Correspondents' Association Bangladesh (OCAB) in Dhaka

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**Opposition rejects BNP's offer for talks today**

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party has invited the Opposition to a meeting this morning to discuss the stalemate caused by their boycott of Parliament, reports UNB.  
The invitation was sent to opposition group leaders by BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukar.  
The Opposition leaders, in a sharp reaction last night, rejected the invitation terming it "a farce".  
Salam Talukar in his letter invited the Opposition leaders to meet at Committee Room No. 2 of the Sangsad Bhavan at

10 am today "to discuss the situation arising out of the absence of opposition members from Parliament".  
The brief letter was sent yesterday evening in the ruling party's letterhead.  
Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim turned down the invitation of the BNP Secretary General saying the question of attending such a meeting does not arise at all.  
Giving his reaction to UNB last night, Nasim questioned the wisdom of calling the meeting by the BNP Secretary

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**Sinister, even bizarre!**

By Staff Correspondent

In a sinister, even bizarre incident, the national flag hoisted at the South Plaza of the Parliament building was replaced by an unidentified man with a cloth banner resembling a flag yesterday morning.  
A 60 inches by 45 inches white piece of cloth, with an orange colour circle surrounded by five stars, carried Arabic and English inscriptions which read: 'Auzu billahe minash shatuanir razim bis-milla hir rahmanir rahim' and 'La ilaha illallahu muhammad-pur rasulallah'.  
At around 10:40 am two students — one from the Dhaka

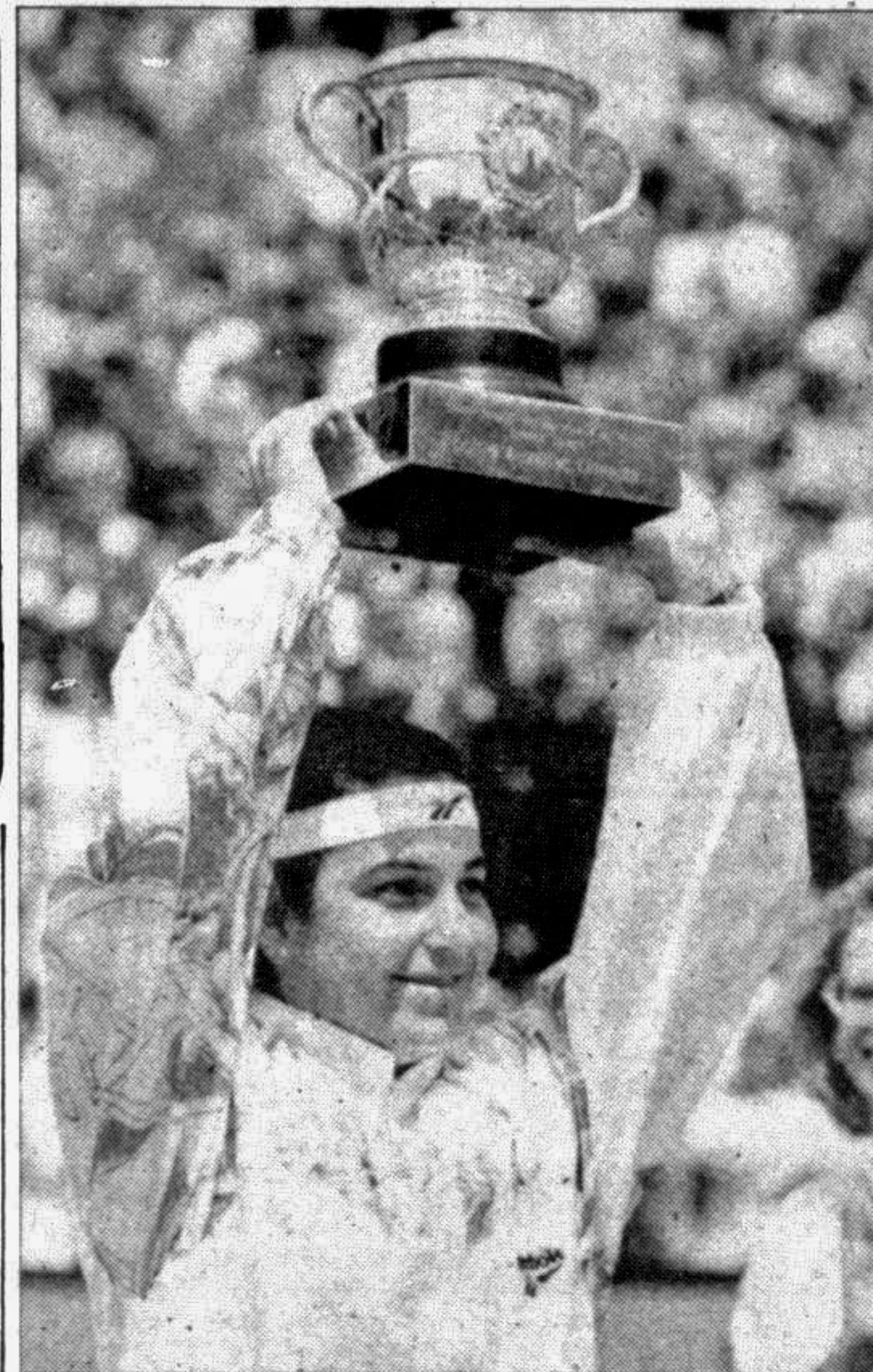
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**No progress in talks with tribal team**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 5: The Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Hill Tracts Affairs today held a meeting with a four-member refugee delegation from India at Ramgarh Rest House under Khagrachhari hill district to discuss the repatriation of tribal refugees.  
The four-member refugee delegation led by Upendra Lal Chakma, Chairman of the Refugee Welfare Association, arrived at Ramgarh this morning and held talks with the

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Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain lifts the French Open trophy after defeating Frenchwoman Mary Pierce in the final in Paris June 4. Sanchez-Vicario won 6-4, 6-4. — AFP photo

**Govt employees postpone programmes**

All programmes of the Government Employees Co-ordination Council, scheduled for June 7 and 8, have been postponed, reports BSS.  
The decision was taken at a meeting of the central executive committee of the council Saturday. The meeting was presided over by Abdul Mannan, executive president of the council.  
The programmes of the Government Employees Co-ordination Council have been postponed in view of its continuation of discussions with the higher authorities on their five-point demand under the chairmanship of the Establishment Secretary in light of the talks with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury on May 31.

**Police still looking for Taslima Nasreen**

By Staff Correspondent  
Police could not arrest Taslima Nasreen, the controversial writer, till midnight last night.  
Different law enforcing agencies, including the Detective Branch (DB), raided different places, on Saturday and Sunday to arrest her, but in vain.  
The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka, Saturday issued a non-bailable warrant of arrest against Nasreen following a police case accusing her of 'blasphemous statements' against Islam made by the 32-year-old author in an interview published in the Calcutta-based daily The Statesman on May 9.  
Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel police station, Moham-

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**No changes in DV-1 Rules**

The US Embassy announced yesterday that there has been no change in the rules for applying for an immigrant visa under the US DV-1 programme.  
A USIS special release said despite inaccurate press reports about changes, the guidelines previously issued by the US Embassy in Dhaka remain valid. As specified in those directions, the applicant's native country, name, and address should be written in the upper left hand corner of the envelope.  
Applications for the DV-1 lottery from Bangladesh must be received at the US address no later than June 30. Applications which were received prior to June 1, the first day of program eligibility, were automatically disqualified, as explained in the original announcement.

**PM urges India to solve water crisis**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon India to resolve the Ganges water sharing problem to help prevent desertification in a vast part of Bangladesh, reports UNB.  
"Desertification has started in the western region of Bangladesh because of a drastic fall in the Ganges flow in the dry season. It's not a natural process. It's man-made. As a member of the world family I call upon India to resolve this life-and-death problem of our four crore people."  
She made the call while speaking at a function on the occasion of World Environment Day, observed yesterday in the country, as elsewhere round the globe, to create awareness against environmental degradation with the theme — "One World, One Family."  
"The Ganges flow had dropped to an alarming low due to unilateral withdrawal of the international river's water by India at the Farakka barrage, affecting all sectors of the economy as well as lifestyles of the people of the northwestern part of Bangladesh."  
The Prime Minister called for all-out, united efforts to protect the country's worsening environment for maintaining the beautiful flora and fauna of the motherland.  
She also sought assistance of the world community in this effort. "We expect the assistance of all members of the worldwide human family in this effort."  
The function was arranged to distribute the "Prime Minister's Award-1992", in tree planting. The Prime Minister gave away nine gold, nine silver and nine bronze medals among individuals, educational institutions and organisations in nine categories for their outstanding performances in the afforestation drive.  
The gold medal recipients are Ghata 2 Government Primary School in Dohar thana of Dhaka district, Malikhala High School of Pirojpur, the Bangladesh Agriculture University, the Islamic Mission of Sonargaon, Dowara Union

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**Thousands join in prayers at D-Day remembrance**

PORTSMOUTH, England, June 5: Thousands of veterans, VIPs and ordinary people joined in prayers of remembrance Sunday at a seaside service for the Allied troops that took part in the D-Day invasion. Beyond the sea wall, an armada set sail for France to reenact the start of Europe's liberation, reports AP.  
The sunny weather marked a change from the gray and rainy skies on the invasion's eve 50 years ago. A chill wind made rough sailing for boats of every size and shape that filled the Solent, a stretch of water leading to the English Channel where part of the D-Day armada assembled.  
Flag-waving crowds cheered the arrival of VIPs from 14 countries including Queen Elizabeth II, President Clinton and Princess Diana, making a rare appearance with the royal family. As the crowd waited, a World War II Dakota aircraft and gliders, used in the initial D-Day assault, flew overhead.  
**Murtaza Bhutto out on bail**  
KARACHI, June 5: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's estranged brother was released on bond from jail Sunday amid an uproar from hundreds of raucous supporters who blocked traffic and danced in the street outside the courtroom, reports AP.  
Murtaza Bhutto was jailed last November when he returned to Pakistan after 16 years in exile. He was charged with sedition and terrorism, with most of the accusations leveled by Pakistan's military dictator.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaking at an all Opposition meet at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. — Star photo

**Ansarman shot**

By Staff Correspondent  
A police constable's inept handling of rifle inflicted bullet-wound on an Ansarman, M Ali, 30, at Banani outpost of Gulshan Police Station in the city yesterday afternoon.  
Gulshan police said that when constable Mofazzal Hossain was cleaning his loaded gun, a bullet slipped and hit Ali who was sitting nearby in a room in the police outpost around 2:30 pm.

**Companies Act '94 to go before JS**

By Special Correspondent  
The new law, aimed at ensuring smooth functioning of the companies, incorporates major changes in the Act formulated by the British rulers some 80 years ago.  
"The new Act will substantially simplify the procedure of floating new companies," said the source, pointing out that the process under the existing Act of 1913 is complicated and also cumbersome. The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies has been fully authorised to handle matters related to the formation of companies while the state's power to control them has been amply reduced.  
Provisions to protect the rights of minority shareholders in companies have also been added. Under such provision, one-tenth of the shareholders of a company can appeal to the High Court individually or jointly if the Directors run the company affairs against their interest. The court can issue necessary orders in such cases.  
Other provisions to protect the interests of the shareholders have also been added. Payments of dividends to the shareholders within two months of its declaration has been made mandatory under the proposed law.  
According to the draft, a person can continue as managing Director of a company for five years at a stretch after which he must be reappointed with the approval of the

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**Business leaders seek tax cuts, incentives for local industry**

Star Report  
Leading businessmen of the country yesterday called for raising the minimum taxable income to Tk 75,000 from Tk 50,000.  
The business leaders, in separate pre-budget interviews with The Daily Star suggested that the budget should waive income tax in the export sector, reduce duty and tariff on imported industrial inputs and reduce VAT rate to 10 per cent from 15 per cent.  
The call was made by Presidents of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Latifur Rahman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Abdur Rab Chowdhury and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Redwan Ahmed MP.  
BCCI chief Mahbubur Rahman suggested keeping the difference between the rates of duty on finished goods and raw materials at 30 per cent.  
In support of this view, MCCI chief Latifur Rahman said, "Our industries are still largely dependent on imported raw materials. If duty and tariff on imported industrial raw materials are not reduced as against those of similar finished imported goods, the local industries will be affected."  
Regarding income tax, DCCI President Abdur Rab Chowdhury strongly suggested that all government officials must pay income tax like others in the country to increase government revenue. He said that the Ershad regime exempted officials from paying income tax "to keep the bureaucracy under control".  
BGMEA chief Redwan Ahmed suggested exemption of the garments sector from paying excise tax, VAT and sales tax to make the ready-made garments export more competitive. "Also, net income from export may be made 100 per cent income tax deductible. This will provide incentive to the exporters," he said.  
Regarding the raising of the minimum taxable income, Latifur Rahman said, "This might help increase consumption in the country as people will have more savings. Increased consumption will increase government revenue through VAT and other taxes."  
About the procedure of collecting corporate tax, Abdur Rab Chowdhury said the government will have to collect taxes on the basis of consolidated balance sheet from those entrepreneurs who have more than one industrial units. Elab-

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**STAR QUIZ 5 LUCKY DRAW & PRIZE-GIVING OF STAR QUIZ 4 TODAY**

The Lucky Draw to determine the winners of STAR QUIZ 5 and prize-giving ceremony of STAR QUIZ 4 will be held today, 6 June, 1994 at the Jatiya Press Club Auditorium at 6 PM.  
**Murtaza Bhutto out on bail**  
**A M Zahiruddin Khan**  
Hon'ble Minister for Industries will be the Chief Guest  
**ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.**  
The Daily Star .....  
**we choose to lead.**