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Opposition deadline

Place bill for caretaker govt by June 26

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament have demanded of the government to introduce a bill in the Jatiya Sangsad by June 26 seeking constitutional provisions for holding general elections under a caretaker government.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina announced the deadline at a press briefing at her Sangsad Dhaban chamber yesterday evening.

"If the government fails to move the bill within the stipulated time, the entire Opposition will be compelled to launch an all-out agitation to realise the demand for a caretaker administration", Hasina said.

She, however, did not explain the nature of the agitation.

Sheikh Hasina said the government had lost its credibility, especially regarding its willingness to hold free and fair elections. "We are demanding the provision for a non-partisan caretaker government to institutionalise democracy by ensuring peoples' right to exercise their franchise freely and fearlessly", she said.

Turning on the issue of the Opposition boycott of Parliament proceedings, Hasina alleged that the BNP had been preventing them from entering the House, by ignoring their demand for caretaker government.

She maintained that the proposed national budget for '94-95' if passed by the BNP legislators alone, would not be acceptable to the people as well as the international community.

"The onus of passing the budget without the participation of the Opposition members would lie with the ruling party", Hasina warned.

Replying to a question, the AL chief said that she would not accept any discussion on the issue of caretaker government unless the treasury bench moved a bill in this regard.

"Discussion on the issue on See Page 12 Col 8

Memo to Speaker

Striking teachers call 8-hour hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Liaison Committee of the striking teachers of non-government schools and colleges has called an eight-hour hartal in the city today to press home its four-point demand.

The call for 6 am to 2 pm hartal has been supported by the opposition political parties including the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Workers' Party, Ganatantri Party, JSD (Inul), BSD (Mahub), Gana Forum and other smaller parties, the Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) and different student bodies including Chhatra League (M-I), Chhatra League (B-K).

Torch processions were brought out in the city in support of the hartal and public announcements over micro- See Page 12 Col 1

Workers can purchase privatised units

By S Y Bakht

The government has decided to allow the workers and employees to participate in the bids to purchase public sector industrial units being privatised.

According to highly placed official sources, the decision was included in the comprehensive privatisation policy approved by the cabinet on June 2. The new policy also allows for off-loading shares of public sector units (PSUs) through the stock market with an objective to make the ownership more broad-based.

In related developments, the World Bank has agreed to fund a 2.5 million US dollars technical assistance project to strengthen the Privatisation Board while a proposal has also been forwarded to set up a privatisation fund, to facilitate the purchase of PSUs by the entrepreneurs; the sources said. The board, meanwhile, has also eased the terms of payment for the privatised units and is targeting a total of 25 PSUs for sale during the 1994-95 fiscal year, in addition to the 13 units already finalised for sale. Furthermore, nine public sector jute mills are also scheduled to be privatised during the year under the jute sector restructuring project.

The recently approved privatisation policy is the first comprehensive measure since 1976, when the de-nationalisation process was started, the sources noted. The policy consolidated and updated the existing privatisation policies and guidelines issued from time to time.

The policy encompasses various aspects of privatisation, including selection of PSUs, modalities of sale and valuation of the units.

It allows the privatisation See Page 12 Col 1

Cabinet okays amendment to 4 laws

The cabinet yesterday approved amendment to four laws and a proposal for leasing out certain ghats and points of landing controlled by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) through negotiations for 1994-95 fiscal, reports UNB.

The four laws to be amended are the Land Acquisition and Requisition Ordinance 1982, the Alluvion and Deluvion Act 1950, the Fisheries Protection Act 1950 and the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority Act 1980.

Officials said the approval was given in the regular meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Prokrichi strike begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The country's professionals go on a three-day strike today. The Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council, has called the strike likely to be observed by its 70 thousand members to press for democratisation of the existing bureaucracy and to protest the government's alleged failure in outlining the administrative reforms.

Professionals on duty in the emergency medical services, power and gas supply, telecommunication, uniform services, customs, final examinations under the universities and educational boards, the Jatiya Sangsad and the Prime Minister's office have been exempted.

The strike will be followed by a grand rally at the Engineers' Institution in Dhaka on June 16 where a programme for further campaign would be announced.

Leaders of the Action Council at a meeting called upon their members to observe the strike peacefully.

Doctors, engineers, agriculturists, teachers and members of the 26 non-administrative See Page 12 Col 7

BNP to move bill to strengthen EC

by Nurul Kabir

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), in a bid to resolve the present political impasse, has decided to move a bill in Parliament seeking a 'foolproof' electoral system through strengthening of the Election Commission.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the BNP standing committee, the highest policy making body of the party, held yesterday afternoon with Prime Minister and party chief Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The draft legislation would most likely be placed in Parliament before the expiry of the Opposition 'deadline' given to the government for moving a bill seeking provision for a non-partisan caretaker government for holding general elections, a standing committee member told The Daily

Star last night. The opposition deadline, announced by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday, expires on June 26.

The standing committee meeting of the BNP resolved that if the opposition parties were sincere about their demand for free and fair elections, they would respond positively to the ruling party move for providing wide powers to the Election Commission to ensure pollings in a free and healthy atmosphere.

The BNP policy makers, at their 90-minute meeting beginning at 1:30 pm at the Prime Minister's office, unanimously served that strengthening of the Election Commission by providing it with more powers See Page 12 Col 4

Opposition move designed to unseat govt: Rafiq

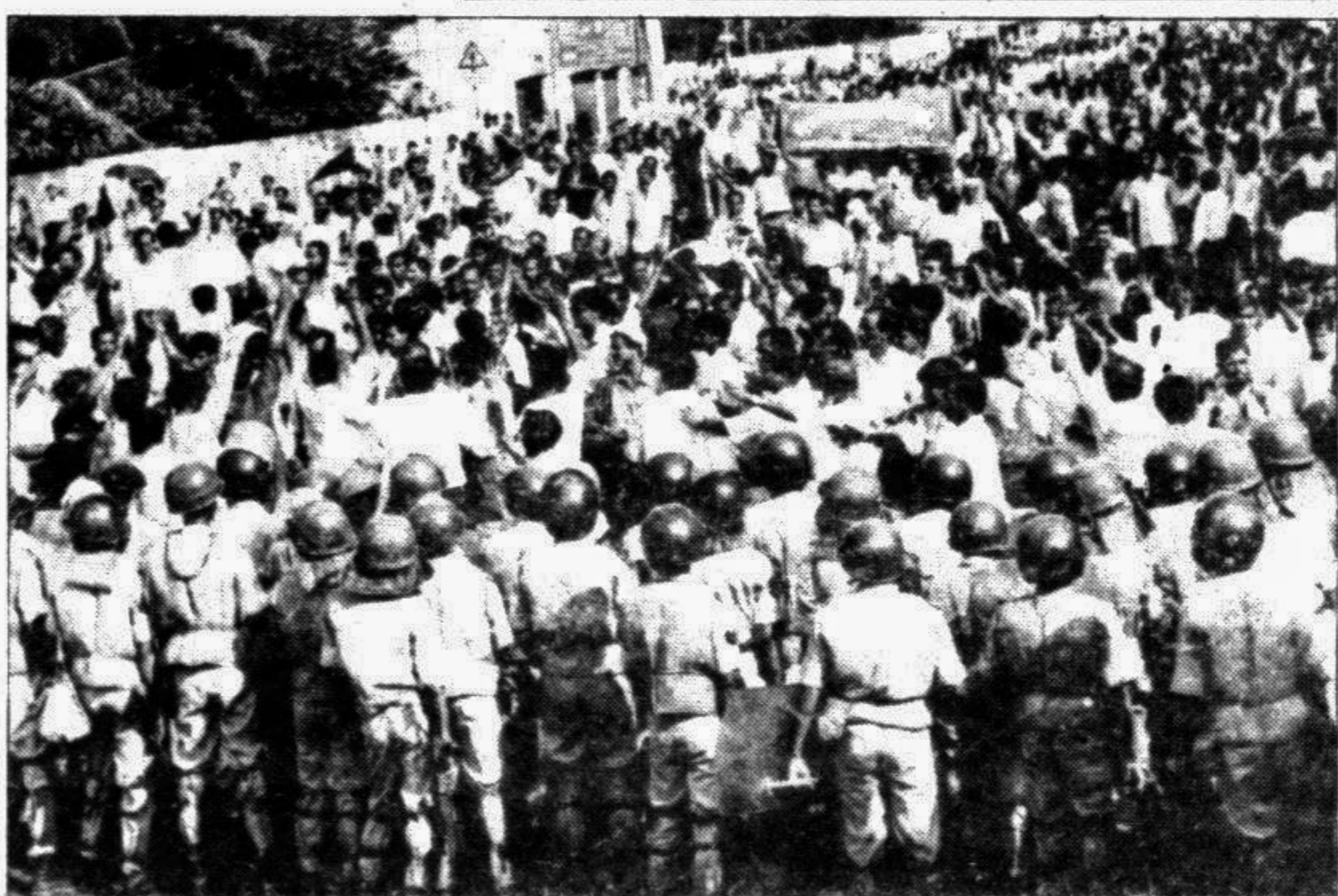
Ruling BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday questioned the sincerity of the Opposition demand for fair and impartial polls and said that their move was designed to unseat the government and destroy democracy.

Talking to UNB at his Parliament office, the Works Minister said: "They (Opposition) are not interested in fair election but to remove the present government by a mere plea of caretaker government."

Rafiq, also a member of the ruling party's Standing Committee, said his party is in no way scared of holding impartial polls to ensure people's verdict and strengthen democracy.

"But the very concept of a caretaker government is contrary to the fundamental principle of the Constitution and democracy."

See Page 12 Col 5



Police intercepting a march towards Parliament by the striking teachers at the Bangla Motor Crossing in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Japanese team visits EPZs

A group of the visiting Japanese delegation yesterday visited the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar and saw the facilities for industrial investment there, reports BSS.

The DEPZ officials explained to the visiting group various incentives and opportunities for investment at the zone for export as well as domestic markets.

There are about a hundred industrial plots at the DEPZ.

Out of the total 24 ventures there, including the eight that have already gone into production, nine are owned by South Koreans, five each by Hong Kongese and Bangladeshis while the rest are joint ventures with Germans and China.

The Japanese team saw a Korean unit manufacturing See Page 12 Col 3

Private investment in power sector underscored

Country's electricity generation capacity has to be enhanced at least to 5000 megawatt by the end of this century to meet the ever-increasing demand, the Energy Minister said stressing the need for private investment in power sector, reports UNB.

"Demand of electricity is increasing in the country day by day, but the generation cannot be increased in conformity with the demand," Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain said while presiding over a high-level meeting held yesterday to review the overall progress in the function of See Page 12 Col 6

Hasina blames govt for repressing journalists

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the government for repressing newspapers, journalists and employees and said her party stood for ensuring free press and people's rights to food and vote, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with the members of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) at her 29 Minto Road residence, the Opposition leader said journalists were beaten, voice of newspapers was gagged, workers were sacked and agreements with professional groups violated in last three years of the BNP rule. See Page 12 Col 4

12 get 40 yrs' RI each in Sabuj murder case

BARISAL, June 13: Twelve people were today sentenced to 40 years rigorous imprisonment each in a case of murder committed in 1992, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge A F M Mustafa, in his judgement in the sensational Sabuj murder case, also fined all the accused Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer another six months in prison.

Those found guilty are: Mujibur Rahman Talukder, Kalu, Javed Ali Farman, Hafiz, Harun, Arun, Shahid Hawlader, Shamim Bepari, Hanif Sarder, Abdus Sattar Talukder, Rafique Khalifa and Kabir Sarder. The last named two were tried in absentia.

According to the prosecution, a group of armedmen attacked Jahangir Hossain Bhuiyan alias Sabuj on June 29, 1992 while he was crossing Kashipur Bazar by a rickshaw. Sabuj succumbed on way to hospital to injuries he sustained during the attack by miscreants who also chopped one of his hands off.

On the following day, Sabuj's brother Shafulul Islam filed a case with Barisal Kotwali thana against 12 people and police submitted charge sheets against them on December 5 last year.

Polytech Institute closed as students clash with police

By Staff Correspondent

Soccer enthusiasts of the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute clashed with police in the city's Tejgaon Industrial Area yesterday leaving scores of people injured. They were demanding rescheduling of their examinations so that they could watch the coming World Cup football games.

The violence erupted when the police intervened to restore suspended communication on the road in front of the institute at 10 in the morning. Earlier the students put up barricade on the road. During a two-hour battle, students, passers by, police See Page 12 Col 7

Slump in supply of sea fish in Ctg markets

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 13: Supply of sea fish to the city markets has slumped causing a sudden price hike as the country's biggest joint venture fishing company Sea Resources Ltd stopped deep sea fishing.

The joint venture company owning 14 deep sea trawlers suspended fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) due to lack of vital navigational equipment which were recently seized by port police, company officials said. Consequently, prices of all kinds of fish have gone up sharply in the local as well as See Page 12 Col 6

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

অভিনন্দন

ঋণ রিসিডিউল করার সুবিধা কতিপয় জেলার অধিকাংশ খেলাপী গ্রহীতা গ্রহণ করেছেন বিধায় সেসব জেলার অর্থাৎ দিনাজপুর, রংপুর, যশোর, পাবনা, সিলেট, নোয়াখালী ও বগুড়া জেলার গ্রহীতাদের কর্পোরেশন অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছে।

বিস্তারিত এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে এইচবিএফসি পুনরায় জানাচ্ছে যে কর্পোরেশন সরকার নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে সরল সুদ চার্জ করে। মূল ঋণের ওপর সুদ এবং মূল ঋণ (জিসিপাল) ব্যাংকের ন্যায় একত্রিত করা হয় না।

- ১.০ রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা এখনো বলবৎ আছে। ১লা জুলাই ১৯৯৪ তারিখ হতে খেলাপী গ্রহীতাদের নাম প্রকাশিত হবে। তালিকা হতে অব্যাহতি পেতে হলে ৩০ শে জুন ১৯৯৪ তারিখের মধ্যে রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন। এবং কর্পোরেশনের এস.আর.এম জনাব আবুল কাশেম-এর সাথে (ফোন: ২৪৪৫৭১) যোগাযোগ করুন।
- ২.০ আপনি ইনসেনটিভ লাভে ব্যর্থ হচ্ছেন কি? ১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থবছর হতে নিয়মিত পরিশোধকারীদের চার্বকৃত সুদের ৫% ইনসেনটিভ হিসাবে তার একাউন্টে জমা করা হবে। বাৎসরিক হিসাব বিবরণীতে (আগস্ট মাসের শেষ নাগাদ প্রস্তুত হয়ে যাবে) জমাকৃত ইনসেনটিভ আপনি দেখতে পাবেন। আপনার (রিসিডিউল সুবিধা গ্রহণকারীসহ) কোন কিস্তি বকেয়া থাকলে তা এখনই পরিশোধ করে ইনসেনটিভ গ্রহণ করুন।
- ৩.০ কুষ্টিয়া, খুলনা ও টাঙ্গাইলসহ কয়েকটি জেলার বেশ কিছুসংখ্যক খেলাপী গ্রহীতা রিসিডিউল সুবিধা গ্রহণ করেছেন। তাদেরকে সত্বর রিসিডিউল সুবিধা গ্রহণ করে হিসাব নিয়মিত করার পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে।
- ৪.০ মামলা সংক্রান্ত কেইসে যারা ৪টি কিস্তি জমা দিয়ে রিসিডিউলিং-এর সফতিপত্র দাখিল করেছেন অথচ মামলা খরচের টাকা জমা করে সোলেনামা করেননি, তাদেরকেও যথাশীঘ্র সোলেনামা করে কেইস নিষ্পত্তির জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে।
- ৫.০ ঢাকা জোন- 'এ' এবং 'বি'-কে ধানান্তিক্ত ৪টি জোনে বিভক্ত করা হয়েছে। নবগঠিত জোন-১, ২, ৩ ও ৪-এর জন্য নির্ধারিত রঙের মেমো বই সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনাল অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- ৬.০ ১৪ই এপ্রিল, ১৯৯৩ হতে ২৬-৫-১৯৯৪ পর্যন্ত যারা ঋণের আবেদন করেছেন তাদের সকলের ঋণ কেইস নম্বর (০০০০) হতে ০১৯২৫ পর্যন্ত এবং ২০০০১ হতে ২০০৪৫ পর্যন্ত পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে। এ সকল আবেদনকারীদেরকে তাদের নতুন ঋণ কেইস নম্বর ও মেমো বই সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ঋণের কিস্তি সময়মত পরিশোধ করুন এবং অপরকে ঋণ গ্রহণের সুযোগ দিন

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