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NEWS BRIEFS

UK parliamentary
body due today

A six-member British parliamentary delegation led by Conservative Party MP Michael Colvin arrives in Dhaka today on a six-day visit to Bangladesh. The delegation will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Razzak Ali, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz, Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Local Government Minister Abdus Salam Talukder and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina. reports BSS.

Shops, houses gutted
in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Sept 4: Some 28 shops and 22 kutcha houses were gutted in two separate fires in the town today. Local people said in one incident fire originated from an oven at a restaurant in the Reserve Bazar area burning 24 shops completely. In another accident, the blaze originated from a lamp in a house in the Pora Pahar area and gutted four shops and 22 kutcha houses. reports UNB.

Case against 7
postal employees

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 4: The postal department has filed a case against three assistant postmasters and four office assistants with the Anti-Corruption Bureau charging them with misappropriating Taka 30 lakh. They have been put under suspension after the matter was detected by an audit team recently, said an official source.

Task Force on Investment submits 18-pt plan
\$240m invested in share
market this year

The country's capital market is expected to attract some 200 million US dollar in the near future, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the high-powered Task Force on Investment held at the International Conference Centre yesterday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The Task Force report, which was placed before the meeting, also disclosed that some 240 million dollar had already been invested in the capital market this year.

Claiming that portfolio investment has been on increase at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the report said the transaction at the DSE in-

creased to one billion dollar during the last fiscal (1993-94). This is a 40-fold expansion in the last two-and-a-half years.

A fund of 100 million dollar is being set up for Bangladesh's capital market by Smith Newport, a Hong Kong-based company.

The Task Force, headed by Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan, was constituted on April 14 this year, immediately after the Prime Minister's visit to Japan.

It was formed to formulate an action plan for attracting overseas investment, accelerate the pace of development and create more employment

opportunities.

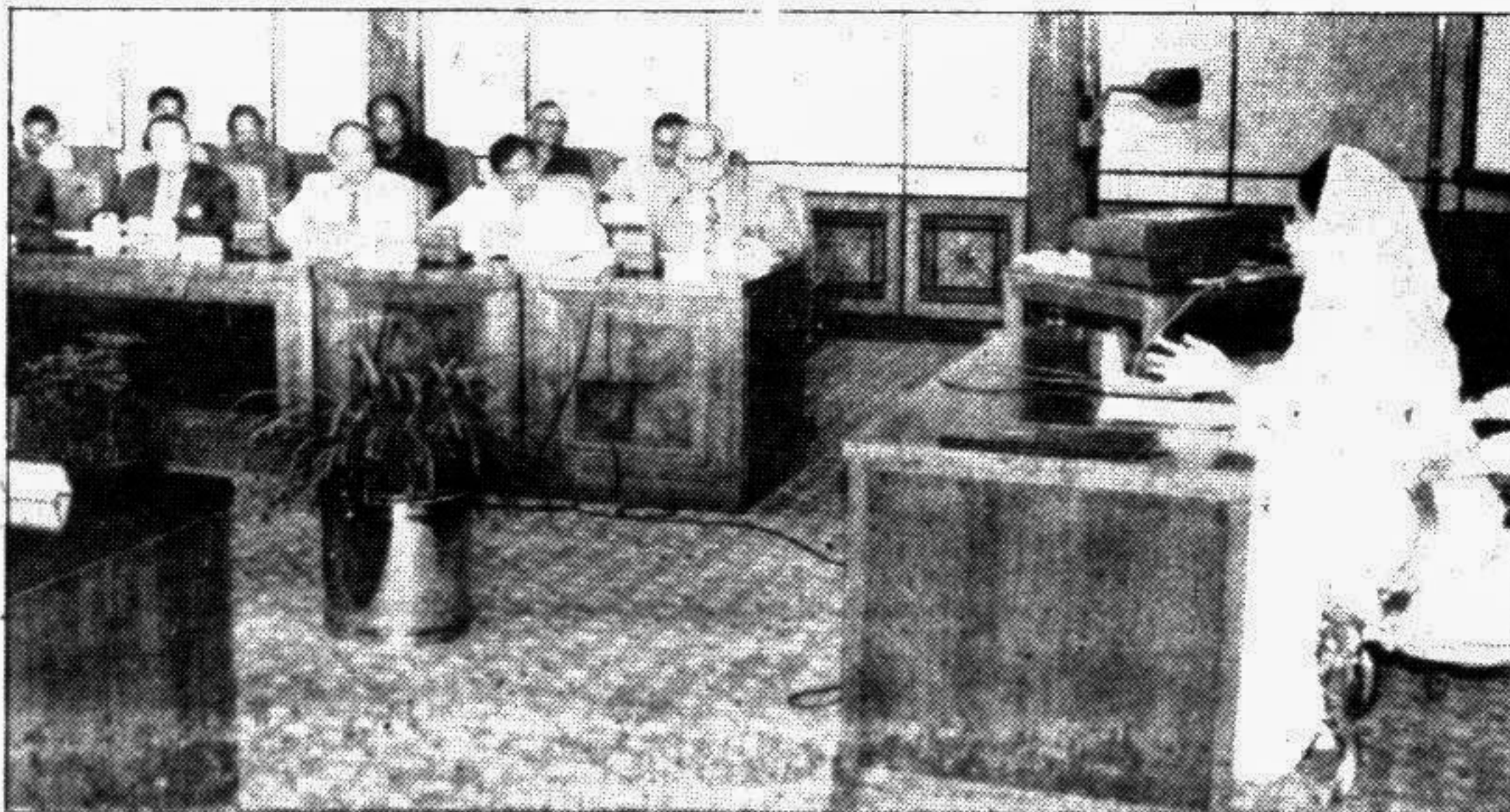
The interim Task Force report listed 13 obstacles, including infrastructural limitations, low rate of local investment, lack of coordination among the government bodies, workers' indiscipline and corruption that stood in the way of foreign investment.

It also gave an 18-point recommendation to attract and expedite the growth of foreign investment in the country.

The recommendations include: Massive investment campaign at home and abroad.

Improvement of infrastructure and law and order, reduction of harassment to possible investors, reduction of bureau-

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of the high-powered task force on investment at the International Conference Centre yesterday. — PID photo

LDF leaders meet
PM tomorrow

By Nurul Kabir

Leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF), an alliance of eight left leaning parties, will meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tomorrow to discuss ways of resolving various political and economic problems now confronting the nation. LDF sources said.

The LDF leaders have also

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Hasina returns

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina returned to Dhaka yesterday after performing 'umrah'.

She went to Saudi Arabia along with her sister Sheikh Rehana and performed 'umrah' two times on behalf of their late father and mother, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Begum Fazlunnesa.

During her visit, Hasina also attended a number of functions organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad, the Bangabandhu Smriti Sangsad and the Friends Society of Dahrar, Jeddah and Medina.



Abdus Samad Azad seen receiving Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at the Zia airport yesterday on her return after performing Umrah in Saudi Arabia. — Star photo

BNP stand dims talks
prospects: Nasim

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament said yesterday that the possibility of a dialogue with the ruling party had been jeopardised due to the latter's rigidity against the demand for a caretaker government to conduct general elections.

The observation was made last night by Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim after a two-hour meeting of the leaders of the opposition groups with Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

Nasim told newsmen that the boycotting Opposition was now determined not to return to the House unless the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) moved a bill seeking constitutional provisions for holding national polls under a caretaker administration.

The opposition chief whip also called upon the people to make the September 10 'Dhaka Siege' programme a success to topple the government headed by Begum Khaleda Zia.

Acting leader of the Opposition in parliament Abdus

Samad Azad, Mahiuddin Ahmed, Tofael Ahmed and Matia Chowdhury of the Awami League (AL), Moudud Ahmed, Munirul Huq Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain Manju of the Jatiya Party (JP), Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Anwar Ali of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party (NDP) were also present at the news conference.

Briefing newsmen Nasim said, "The ruling party, in the face of popular pressure, eventually agreed to hold a discussion with the Opposition on the issue of a caretaker administration and Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury had invited the acting leader of the opposition to a dialogue."

"The Opposition, which believes in peaceful negotiations to resolve any political crisis, accepted the proposal unanimously," the opposition chief whip said.

But he alleged that the

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N'ganj AL leaders
get bail

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 4: A High Court Division Bench today granted anticipatory bail to the town Awami League (AL) president Prof Nazma Rahman, secretary Shamim Osman and six others of the party.

They have been charged with murdering another AL activist, Shohel, during a clash between two factions of the party in the town on August 15 and 16 last.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M M Ruhul Amin granted the bail after the accused submitted petitions in the morning.

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Gunshots break
calm at DU

By DU Correspondent

Sporadic gunshots yesterday evening broke the calm that prevailed on the Dhaka University campus after Thursday's gunbattle between two rival student bodies.

Some unidentified gunmen fired at least six shots near the TSC, DU Library and Aparajaya Bangla creating panic among the general students.

A few minutes before this, the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, student front of the Jatiya Party, brought out a procession and held a rally at the TSC road crossing to protest Thursday's

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ROK PM leaves
for home

South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug left for home yesterday afternoon concluding his three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Lee and his wife Madame Chung Hwak Sil were seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Begum Rahman.

Foreign Secretary M R Osmany, Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Ambassador to South Korea Fazlur Rahman and South Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh Jong Kyon Byun were present.

Members of the Korean community present at the airport bade farewell to their Prime Minister.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Foreign Minister described the visit as 'fruitful' and said that it would further

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Live cricket
on BTV

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast live four matches of the four-nation World Series cricket tournament which began at the Premadasa Stadium in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo yesterday.

BTV has already made necessary arrangements with Doordarshan of India, which holds the rights for the tournament featuring World Cup holders Pakistan, their arch-rivals India, Australia and hosts Sri Lanka.

The matches to be telecast are: Australia vs Pakistan on September 7, the day-night encounter between Australia and India on Sept 9, another day-night fixture between the sub-continental superpowers India and Pakistan on Sept 15 and the final on Sept 17.

Meanwhile, BTV will also cover the opening and closing ceremonies of the Hiroshima Asian Games, scheduled start in the Japanese city from October 2, a BTV source said.

Opposition charge
unfair, says
B Chowdhury

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday disagreed with the Opposition charge that the government had backed out from its own proposal for a dialogue to end the current stalemate in Parliament, reports UNB.

"This is unfair," he said when a group of reporters sought his comments over the Opposition's accusation against him. "I don't think the atmosphere for dialogue has been spoiled," he added.

Prof Chowdhury flatly disowned the remarks attributed to him in a section of the press on September 2 that a caretaker government is a 'grotesque' idea. He said he was misquoted.

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US seeks to defuse row over abortion issue
UN population confce
opens in Cairo today

CAIRO, Sept 4: The United States, warning the population time bomb was an emergency, sought here today to defuse a row with religious conservatives over abortion on the eve of a UN conference, beginning tomorrow, reports AFP.

With the battle lines drawn between a US-UN alliance on the one hand and the Vatican and Muslim states on the other, Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto set off for Cairo

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to argue for Islamic values against those from the West.

But Timothy Wirth, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs at the US State Department, said Washington had held "very productive talks" with the leadership of the US Catholic church.

"Accusations and allegations have been made, which I hope have been cleared up," Wirth said at a briefing ahead of the conference opening just north of the Egyptian capital.

He said there were different interpretations of the notion of sexual and reproductive "rights" written into a 113-page draft action plan aimed at slowing the world's runaway birth rates.

The Vatican, joined by con-



Sakiba and Sabira, two dancers of the Mridanga Sangskritik Sangathan, a cultural organisation, performing a ballet number at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday. — Star photo

BNP, Jamaat discuss
dialogue agenda

By Staff Correspondent

In a bid to prepare the ground for a dialogue, ruling party leaders held an exclusive meeting with the Jamaat-e-Islami leaders at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

The ruling party's key negotiator — Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury — discussed the possible agenda for the proposed dialogue with Jamaat's parliamentary party chief Matur Rahman Nizami.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder and Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Jamaat's Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Anwar Ali also attended the meeting.

After the two-hour meeting, both sides said the caretaker government issue and Election Commission reforms came up as the possible agenda for the formal government-Opposition dialogue.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, they said.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury told newsmen after the meeting that he had also telephonic conversation with the Jatiya Party's acting chief, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

He said he hopes to hold a formal meeting with the JP leader shortly.

Prof Chowdhury further said, "I tried to contact the Deputy Leader of the Opposition today but he was not available. I would have a second round of talks."

He denied he described the caretaker idea as "strange or absurd."

The Deputy Leader of the House said a seminar or a discussion is designed to discuss the pros and cons of an issue this should not be linked with a formal dialogue.

In reply to a question whether the Jamaat may join the current Parliament session, Prof Chowdhury said: "Ask Jamaat."

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BAF jet explodes
after landing
at ZIA

A training aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force exploded on the ground at about 4 pm yesterday, nearly two hours after its emergency landing at the Zia International Airport, reports UNB.

The jet fighter, a Chinese-built A-5, made the emergency landing at the airport about 2 pm after its engine caught fire while in the air.

Firemen rushed to the spot soon after it had landed and were engaged in dousing the blaze when the aircraft exploded. The cause of explosion is yet to be known.

Five firemen were injured, two seriously, in the explosion. The injured firemen were admitted to the Combined Military Hospital.

No official account of the accident was available but unofficial sources said the lone

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Hearing of charge
against Taslima
October 4

The hearing of charge against controversial writer Taslima Nasrin, accused of blasphemy, will be held on October 4 in the court of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dhaka, reports UNB.

Taslima, who quietly left the country on August 9 and is now in Sweden, was yesterday represented in the CMM's court by her lawyers Barrister Sarah Hossain and Advocate Idrisur Rahman. The CMM transferred the case to the ACMM who set October 4 for arraignment.

The court on June 4 had issued a warrant of arrest against Taslima upon a case filed by Motijheel Police accusing her of hurting the religious sentiments of the Muslims by suggesting revision of the Holy Quran in an interview with the Calcutta daily Statesman.

Her observations on the Quran and writings had evoked countrywide criticism. She went into hiding and after about two months surrendered to the High Court which granted her bail on August 3.

25 hurt in N'ganj
gunbattle

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 4: At least 25 persons were injured, nine of them seriously, during a four-hour gunbattle between two rival groups in Nandipara here today.

The injured include Rokon, 17, Shambhu Nath Das, 24, Masum, 21, Titu Chowdhury, 22, Biswajit, 15, Nurul Islam, 17, Shahin, 17, and Gita Rani Saha, 30. Some of them were admitted to the Narayanganj Victoria Hospital while the rest to the Rose Clinic.

Local people said, a group of youths of Deobhog Bhuiyabagh attacked some youths of Nandipara at about 11 am. Armed with pistols, rifles,

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিচালিত সম্পত্তি ব্যবস্থাপনা বোর্ড

১ম বার তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন

সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, তালিকাভুক্ত পরিচালিত বাড়িতে বসবাসকারী যে সকল খেলাপী বিক্রয়পত্র প্রাপক বিক্রয়পত্র পাওয়ার পর শর্তমতাবেক ১(এক) মাসের মধ্যে ২০% ডাউন পেমেন্ট পরিশোধ করিলেও নির্ধারিত ৫(পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে অবশিষ্ট বিক্রয় মূল্য পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হইয়াছেন, কিংবা যে সকল খেলাপী বিক্রয়পত্র প্রাপক বিক্রয়পত্র পাওয়ার ১(এক) মাসের মধ্যে ২০% ডাউন পেমেন্ট পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হইয়া পরবর্তীকালে তাহা পরিশোধ করিয়াছেন এবং গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক তাহা পুণীত ও নগদায়িত হইয়াছে, কিন্তু অবশিষ্ট বিক্রয় মূল্য নির্ধারিত ৫(পাঁচ) বছর সময়সীমার মধ্যে পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হইয়াছেন ঐ সকল খেলাপী বিক্রয়পত্র প্রাপকগণের পাতনা অবশিষ্ট সময়দ্বয় অর্থ পরিশোধ করার সময়সীমা শেষ সুযোগ হিসাবে ৩০-৯-৯৪ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করিতে সরকার সম্মত হইয়াছেন। তবে এই ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য যে, বর্ধিত সময়সীমা ৩০-৯-১৯৯৪ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অবশিষ্ট সময়দ্বয় অর্থ পরিশোধ করিতে না পারিলে সংশ্লিষ্ট বাড়ির ক্ষেত্রে ইতিপূর্বে প্রদত্ত ডি-এন, বরাদ্দপত্র, বিক্রয়পত্র, বিক্রয় চুক্তি ইত্যাদি বাতিল করা হইবে। মামলাবদ্ধ বাড়িসমূহ এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির আওতাভুক্ত হইবে না।

ডিএনপি-৩০৩০-৩১/৮

৯-১৯৯৪

চেয়ারম্যান

পরিচালিত সম্পত্তি ব্যবস্থাপনা বোর্ড, ঢাকা।