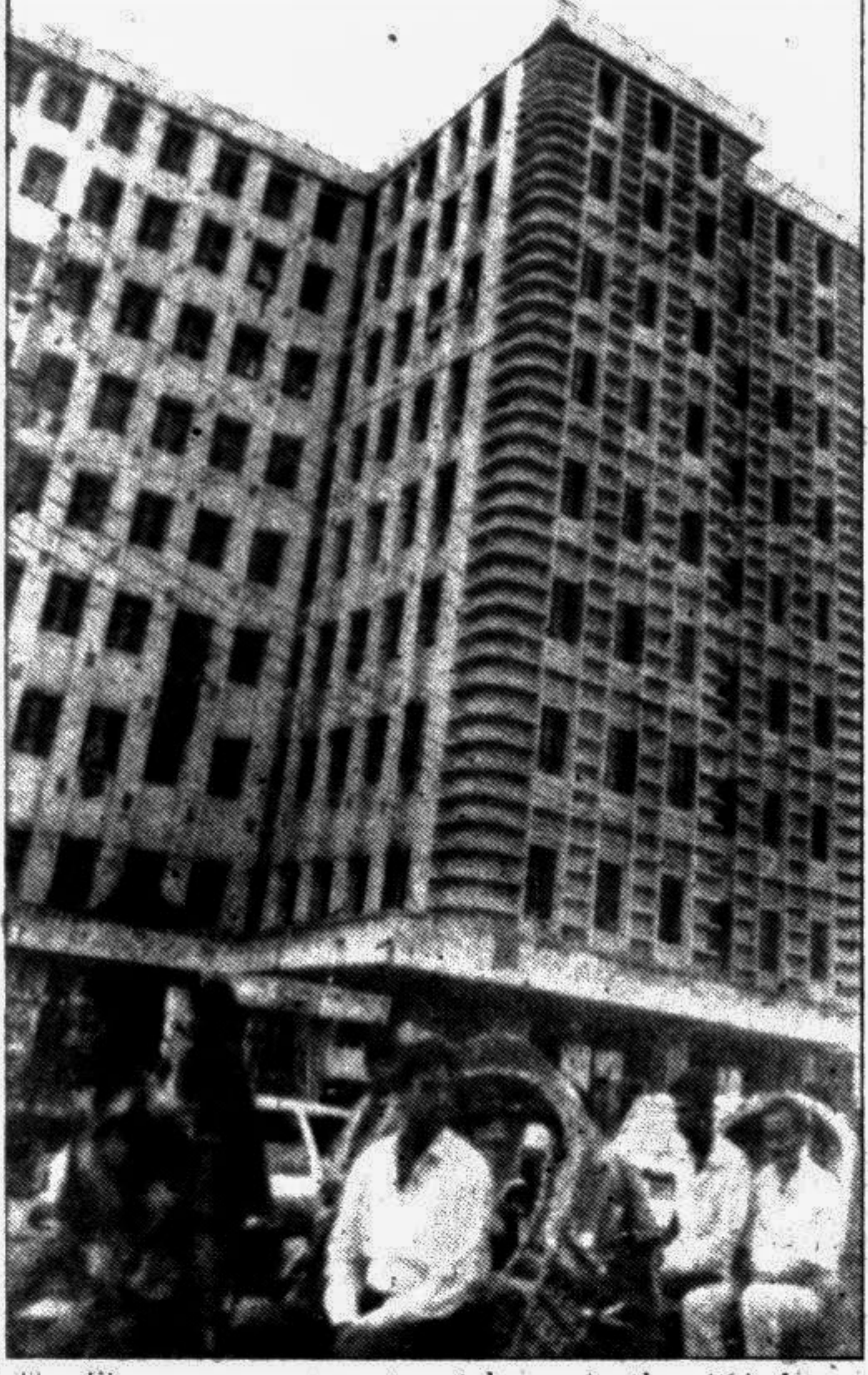


Insecurity haunts 85 families at Elyseum

By Nazmul Ashraf

Some regretted, some said no and others just walked away. This is what had happened at the Elyseum government rest house when The Daily Star correspondent recently approached several residents to comment on the situation prevailing there. They all remained tight-lipped and were unwilling to talk to the journalists after last Wednesday's gruesome murder of a schoolboy Ishtiaq Ahmed Isha at the sixth floor of the nine-storied building. A sense of insecurity haunted the members of the 85 families living at the building even six days after the killing.

Panic-stricken residents of the building were now extra cautious about allowing in any unknown visitors. Despite stepped up security measures at the entrance, the residents were verifying identities of the visitors before opening their doors, security personnel told The Daily Star. Authorities have meantime reinforced security measures by employing two more guards to control visitors, caretaker of the building Golam Hossain said, adding that the visitors record book was being strictly maintained since the October 19 murder. Besides, he said, a schedule for visiting hours was introduced on Sunday. According to the schedule, the hours have been fixed from 6 am to 8 am and from 8 pm to 10 pm. Visits have been prohibited during 8 am-2 pm when the guardians of the families usually remain out of doors. The measure has been introduced in consultation with the allottees — all government officials. The notice hung on the collapsible gate says that during the banned hours, a visitor may be allowed to enter the building accompanied by a security personnel upto the room he/she intends to visit. In all cases, a visitor must put on the register his/her name, the time of entrance and exit, the resident and his flat number he/she wants to visit. A caretaker, five security guards and as many sweepers are employed by the government to look after the rest house-turned government staff quarter situated at 11 Hatkhola Road near the city's busy Motijheel area and the Banglabazar.



The Elyseum government rest house in the city's busy Hatkhola Road. —Star photo

"We are supposed to look after the government property and supervise entry or exit of belongings of any house", Golam Hossain said. A security guard, on condition of anonymity, told this correspondent that the visitors' register could not be maintained earlier due to non-cooperation of the residents. The caretaker of the Elyseum building was absent from his office on the day Isha was killed because he had to look after two other government circuit houses in the New Bailey Road, one source said. Although built as a hotel by a private entrepreneur, Muslim League politician Kazi Abdul Kader, the government took over the Elyseum building after the liberation of the country in 1971 as an abandoned property and has been using it as a rest house for the government officials since then. In view of the acute accommodation crisis in the city, junior civil servants were usually allotted the small flats of one and two rooms. The Public Works Department maintains the building. There is no auditorium, commonroom, library or other amenities for the 85 families living here. An association formed by the residents run a kindergarten school for their small children in the ground floor.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at the Hatgopalpur High School ground in Jhenidah yesterday. —PID photo

Constitution: Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 3

father's profession." Begum Zia said some day not only the children of the rich, those of the labourers, farmers and rickshawpullers, too, would become doctors, engineers and heads of government. She listed her government's free primary education, food-for-education, free education and stipend programmes for girl students — all aimed at achieving that avowed goal. She told the crowd that the country was now witnessing two contrary trends in politics — one for development and the other for destruction. While the government party is relentlessly working for the development of the country, the Opposition has been indulging in the politics of destruction, she said and called upon the people to reject the politics of anarchy and rally under the banner of the BNP for changing the lot of the commonman.

In a rebuttal to the Opposition positions and criticism of her government, the BNP chairperson said they were coming up with variegated issues to cover up their failures and follies and also to turn the wheel of development backward. "The post-Liberation government and the autocratic regime had looted the people's wealth and rendered the country a bottomless basket," she said in a veiled reference to the Awami League and Jatiya Party regimes. She said only the BNP had twice succeeded in removing the stigma of the country being an international basket case always in the grip of

Non-gazetted govt employees observe 5-hr strike

By Staff Correspondent

Non-gazetted government employees observed a five-hour work stoppage for the second day yesterday, as per their programme to press home their 14-point demand which includes pay rise. Bangladesh Government Employees Coordination Council and Bangladesh Government Employees Solidarity Council had jointly called the strike. The non-gazetted employees also held a demonstration in the Secretariat premises yesterday. Leaders of the two councils have called a grand rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club on November 8, from where they would announce their new programmes.

150 hurt as N'ganj BNP workers clash

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 25: Some 150 people were injured in a series of clashes between two rival groups in the town since Monday night, police and witnesses said, reports UNB. A fight Monday night between Joseph and Hassan groups, said to be two factions of the local unit of the BNP, in Tanbazar and its adjoining areas left about 100 injured. Witnesses said last night's clash erupted when the supporters of the Hassan group allegedly stormed the local BNP office while a ruling party MP was in a meeting at about 8 pm. The MP was trying to mediate peace between the two feuding groups.

Gas price reduced

From Page 1 Col 4

electricity and 90 per cent of its fuel requirement is met by gas. The energy minister said the government has received 22 offers for installing power generation since the sector was opened to the private sector. Explaining the delay in taking decisions on the offers, he said most of them lacked comprehensive proposals. The intending firms have been asked to put specific proposals, he added. Moreover, the minister said the government was also perplexed in determining the tariff of the electricity to be produced by the private generators when the PDB was selling at subsidised rates. "The private sector will naturally seek profit." "We are, therefore, thinking of first corporatisation of the power generation sector and then commercialisation to offset burden on the consumers," he said. Raising serious complaints about erratic power supply in their plants, members of the FICCI cautioned that the phenomenon could turn out to be a foremost barrier in Foreign Direct Investment in the country. "Unless there is marked improvement towards uninterrupted power supply, specially to the industrial units, the much sought-after foreign investment will shy away and the existing investors will be left with very little alternative, but to think of withdrawing their capital from the country," said

Mahbub Jamil, the FICCI President. While assuring the complaining entrepreneurs of the government's utmost sincerity to ensure uninterrupted power to the industrial units, the minister said that gap between the demand and generation was fast widening with the new generation plan facing severe fund crisis. Freezing that fund by the multilateral donors, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to the power sector in view of high rated system loss has further burdened the sector, he added. He cautioned that the power sector would require 2.5 billion US dollars of investment to meet its electricity needs of 3983 megawatt in 2000 AD. "We now badly need investment to double our generation capacity," the minister said. The country's current generation capacity is 1900 MW. The demand is projected to increase to 2721 MW by next two years, leaving a chance of significant shortfall in production in the coming years. As an interim measure, Dr Hossain called for load management, and requested the industries to try to restrain from using electricity during the peak hours, from 6 pm to 10 pm. He also suggested that the commercial establishments close shutters by 6 pm. The minister further suggested cluster industrialisation instead of setting up of industries in isolation.

UK minister resigns

LONDON, Oct 25: Junior Minister Neil Hamilton today resigned from the government, Prime Minister John Major told the House of Commons, reports AFP. Hamilton had been accused of submitting questions to Parliament on behalf of Mohammed al-Fayed, the Egyptian owner of London's Harrods Department Store, who allegedly offered Hamilton a week's holiday in his Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1987.

17 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 25: At least 17 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of students at Dhanbandi in the town today, reports UNB. The clash between the supporters of the Sirajganj Islamiya Government College GS Shamim and AGS Arif Hossain erupted reportedly following a dispute over sharing of Tk 6,000 earned from an opera organised by them. Two of the injured — GS Shamim and Habibur Rahman — were admitted to the General Hospital with stab injuries. The rivals reportedly belong to the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). A case was filed with the local police.

Road blockade

From Page 1 Col 8 Dhaka College students in stopping the traffic movement on Mirpur Road. The students from these colleges came to the Dhaka College to participate in the Bangladesh College Students' Association (BCSA)'s Dhaka Education Board gherao programme demanding reduction of the price of paper. Police intercepted the procession of the students near the overbridge at the New Market. The students demanded punishment of the persons responsible for the killing of Mustafiz. The students also announced a series of agitation programmes to realise their demand for reduction of the price of paper. As part of the programmes, the BCSA will observe a strike in all colleges across the country on November 10. The students also held a rally near the overbridge which was addressed by among others Khalid Mahmud, Riazuddin Ahmed, Emdad Amir Khan. The Dhanmondi police said no untoward incident occurred during the agitation of the students.

Tough security for Clinton

From Page 1 Col 5 6,000 officers for the Jerusalem stretch alone, including 500 outside his hotel, the King David. The United States has flown in two Blackhawk helicopters for security surveillance, and explosives detection equipment, army radio and newspapers reported. Hamas, a Muslim fundamentalist group, that claimed responsibility for three attacks in Israel since October 9 threatened more attacks in a leaflet published on Monday, and vowed to retaliate if Israel makes good on reported threats to assassinate its key leaders. Another Hamas leaflet circulated in the West Bank denounced the Israel-Jordan treaty. Clinton is coming to witness the festive signing of the peace treaty before 5,000 guests at a desert border crossing just north of the Red Sea. In Amman, the appearance of machineguns, security police and soldiers at locations from Parliament to the hotel where part of the US delegation will stay followed a warning on Monday by King Hussein that he would not tolerate violent

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The Midnight File

PLO-Israel talks end

CAIRO, Oct 25: The PLO and Israel ended a fourth round of talks on Palestinian elections today, unable to reach agreement on an electoral council, saying they would try again next week. Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said his delegation gave the Israelis a paper outlining their ideas on the set-up of the council in response to over 30 query points he said, the Israelis submitted, reports Reuters.

3 Gulf states lift ban on flights to India

DUBAI, Oct 25: The Gulf states of Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates today lifted a ban on flights to India introduced after last month's outbreak of plague in India. Officials in the three countries said the ban was lifted because the plague was now under control, reports Reuters.

Talks break down

From Page 1 Col 4 Meanwhle, talking to this correspondent last night, sources in the Opposition camp said the Opposition decision to insist on a pledge by the ruling party yesterday to accept the demand for an interim administration was taken at a hurriedly called meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban office of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday afternoon. They said Sheikh Hasina, who presided over the meeting, insisted that the government should make the concession before the proposed second round of talks. The sources added that two non-Awami League MPs attending the meeting had opposed the idea of pressing for the BNP's commitment so early in the dialogue process. The Opposition leaders are to sit today to plan their next course of action, sources said. Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyanwu's emissary Sir Ninian Stephen could not be reached for comments on the latest developments.

One held

From Page 1 Col 8 Police said Siddique, during interrogation, had confessed to his guilt. He reportedly admitted that he had killed them following a family feud. The two minor girls and their mother were murdered on a boat in the Karnaphuli river. The murderer then threw the body of Ferroz into the river while the bodies of the two girls were dumped near the Kalurghat bridge, police added. Previously only independent, not party members, were allowed to run for election.

Khulna clash

From Page 1 Col 7 around 11 am, the district administration enforced Section 144 banning the assembly of four or more persons to prevent any meetings, processions or any kind of political demonstration. But the Shibir supporters, in violation of the prohibitory order, brought out processions and attended a rally at the Shantidham crossing in the afternoon. Shibir leaders Sheikh Qamrul Ahsan and Abdul Wadud addressed the rally. Later, at a press conference at the Khulna Press Club, they called strike in all educational institutions of the country for tomorrow. They will hold a demonstration in front of the Khulna Metropolitan Police office on October 29 and near the DC's office on November 1. Today's half-day hartal paralysed city life as all sorts of vehicles were off the roads and traders kept their shops shut. Government and private offices, financial houses and educational institutions were closed. Extra police guards were deployed in front of the Shibir, Jamaat, JCD and BNP offices. Tension was prevailing in the town with police and BDR patrolling the city thoroughfares.

1 killed, 15 hurt in Sylhet road mishap

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 25: A rickshawpuller was killed and 15 others were injured in a road accident on Sylhet-Sunamganj road yesterday. The victim Shaheb Ali 17, was crushed by a speeding minibus which overturned into a roadside ditch following the accident near Dabor bridge. He died on the spot, the driver and helpers made good their escape. Sunamganj police seized the minibus. The injured were admitted to the Sylhet, MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital and Sunamganj Sadar Hospital.

MC College

Another report says, the student of MC College, Sylhet brought out a procession in the town to press for immediate introduction of honours courses in 15 subjects in the university college. They also handed over a memorandum addressed to the Education Minister to the Deputy Commissioner. A meeting was also held at the premises of DC's office with AKM Shahedur Rahman in the chair.

CU Chhatra Dal begins strike

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: The Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called for an indefinite strike in the Chittagong University from today to protest against the party activists by the Islami Chhatra Shibir, reports UNB. The JCD alleged that the Shibir activists had attacked some of their partymen on the campus on Monday night and forced them out of dormitories. They said that they will continue the strike until the culprits are brought to book. The campus sources said, JCD activists had locked the main gate of the university Monday night and also put up barricades on the approach road to the campus this morning. Meanwhile, the Shibir has called for strike at the Chittagong University tomorrow.

IJC session

From Page 1 Col 8 and low quality jute. "This programme has ushered in new hopes in numerous jute growers in our country," he told the delegates. Production of pulp and paper from green jute, Shah said, would help minimise the pressure on limited forest resources and maintain ecological balance. In order to expand the bulk use of jute, research and development programmes on jute geo-textiles and jute composites must be carried forward, he said, adding large-scale comprehensive programmes on jute geo-textiles and jute composites need to be undertaken, if any global impact is to be created. Representatives from five exporting countries and 22 importing countries, observers, international agencies and trade houses are participating in the session of the IJC, the policy-making body of the IJO.

Srima Dissanayake, widow of Sri Lanka's assassinated opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake looks on as her son, Navin (L) places flowers on the slain politician's remains yesterday in Colombo. Dissanayake was slain Monday.



ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা
স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ

আপনার শহর সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন।
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"মশা" নগরীর সমস্যা

আপনার বাড়ির সেপটিক ট্যাংক নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন। প্রয়োজন বোধে মেরামত/সংস্কার করার ব্যবস্থা নিন। সেপটিক ট্যাংক মশার ঝুন্ড দেওয়ার জন্য সিটি করপোরেশন স্পেশালিস্টদের সুযোগ দিন। সেপটিক ট্যাংক, জলাবদ্ধতা ও কোপ-বাড় মশার বংশ বিস্তারকে সহায়তা করে। আপনার সহযোগিতায় নগরীতে মশার সমস্যা দূর করা সম্ভব হবে।

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।
ফোনঃ ২৫১১৪৭

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