



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is greeted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin yesterday during the official welcoming ceremony in Beijing. —AFP/UNB photo

PM: Beijing confce

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grammes throughout the UN system, the Prime Minister said.

Begum Zia also proposed establishment of a high-level UN Commission made up entirely of women of great eminence who would serve in their personal capacities.

Elaborating, she said the commission would put forward specific proposals and suggest programmes to facilitate the implementation of the Platform of Action, dubbed a charter of socio-economic emancipation of womankind.

Above all, she said, it would monitor and evaluate the performance of all UN bodies and agencies on issues relating to women. The several eminent and distinguished women who are holding top positions in the UN system may also be invited to serve in their individual capacity on the Commission.

In her third proposal, Begum Zia suggested that the UN Secretary General take the lead in institutionalising an annual award to be given to a woman, whose achievements during the year would earn her the title: Woman of the Year.

She said the person should be selected by an international jury of great eminence. Perhaps the Secretary General could invite the distinguished chairperson of this Conference, to serve as the first chairperson of the International Jury.

"My three proposals relate primarily to the international community and specifically to women of great eminence who have a global vision," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said in her address as third speaker to the opening session of the august forum.

"While considering these proposals," she went on, "we must not forget the millions of women in our own countries, who struggle day and night to improve the quality of their lives and contribute in their own modest way to female emancipation, enlightenment and empowerment."

National awards can be instituted for these women, who have contributed in their own modest way to the uplift of women in their respective countries.

"...We shall endeavour to remember the significance of the World Conference on Women in Beijing... we shall pay tribute to the sacrifice and contribution made by countless generations of women."

Our vision for the future world is not for one that is ideal, but for one that is just; not for one that is unattainable, but for one that is achievable," she told the mammoth gathering.

While observing that this vision can be transformed into reality, Begum Zia said "improving the condition of women is a vital investment in future of humankind."

"There must be commensurate new and additional resources in the form of finance, technical know-how and technology transfer from developed to developing world," she said.

Besides investment on women, the Prime Minister identified new relationship between man and woman and support to the creativity of women as two other crucial factors that the conference should reiterate for the advancement of womenfolk.

Saying that women are a fundamental force in eradicating poverty, charting a sustainable future and attaining regional and global peace, she asserted: "We must do everything possible to create, promote and sustain awareness of the role and contribution of women by all means possible."

"We must affirm the need for new relationship and harmonious partnership between men and women, governments and citizens, indeed, all those who can contribute solutions to complex social problems... this must be buttressed with responsible society in which supportive role of government is indispensable."

Begum Zia at banquet by Jiang Zemin

BEIJING, Sept 4 (BSS): Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders tonight attended a banquet at Beijing state guest house, hosted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Pak Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Iceland President Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Ugandan Vice President Dr Speciosa Kazibwe, Vietnamese Vice President Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, UN Under-Secretary General Ismat Kittani, chairman of the conference Chan Mohua and conference secretary general Gertrude Mongella among others, attended.

Earlier Begum Zia and other leaders were accorded a ceremonial reception at the Great Hall of the People.

Jiang Zemin received them, exchanged greeting and had brief discussion.

Later Jiang Zemin, Ismat Kittani and Gertrude Mongella spoke at the welcoming ceremony conducted by Chan Mohua.

Begum Zia later tonight initialled the UNESCO Statement on Women's Contribution to Culture of Peace in a simple ceremony at her Beijing hotel suite.

The Statement will be presented to the UNESCO member states at its 28th General Conference in November with the intent to integrate the commitments in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 1996-2000.

Benazir's late-night shopping

BEIJING, Sept 4: Late-night regulars at Beijing's most popular ice cream parlour, Baskin Bobbins, were shocked to find themselves surrounded by police Sunday, when Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto popped in for a midnight snack, reports AFP.

Bhutto and members of her governmental delegation to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women had decided on some late-night shopping at the Beijing Friendship Store, shortly after their arrival in the Chinese capital.

The store had closed hours before but when Bhutto arrived in a black Limousine escorted by numerous police cars at around 11:30 pm, she found that all four floors had been reopened for her convenience.

Having completed her shopping spree, Bhutto and ten other women delegates then ducked into the 24-hour Baskin Bobbins next door.

Border trade

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ments with China and India.

Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star that the border trade would help strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Both the countries would benefit from the trade, he added.

Officials here said the trade would generate employment opportunities for people living in the border areas.

Talking to this correspondent, Syed Mahmudul Huq, former president of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association and Managing Director of Myanmar-Bangladesh Fisheries Ltd, said border trade would definitely have a positive impact on Bangladesh's economy.

He thought that the trade would ultimately go in favour of Bangladesh as it would import raw materials and export consumer items.

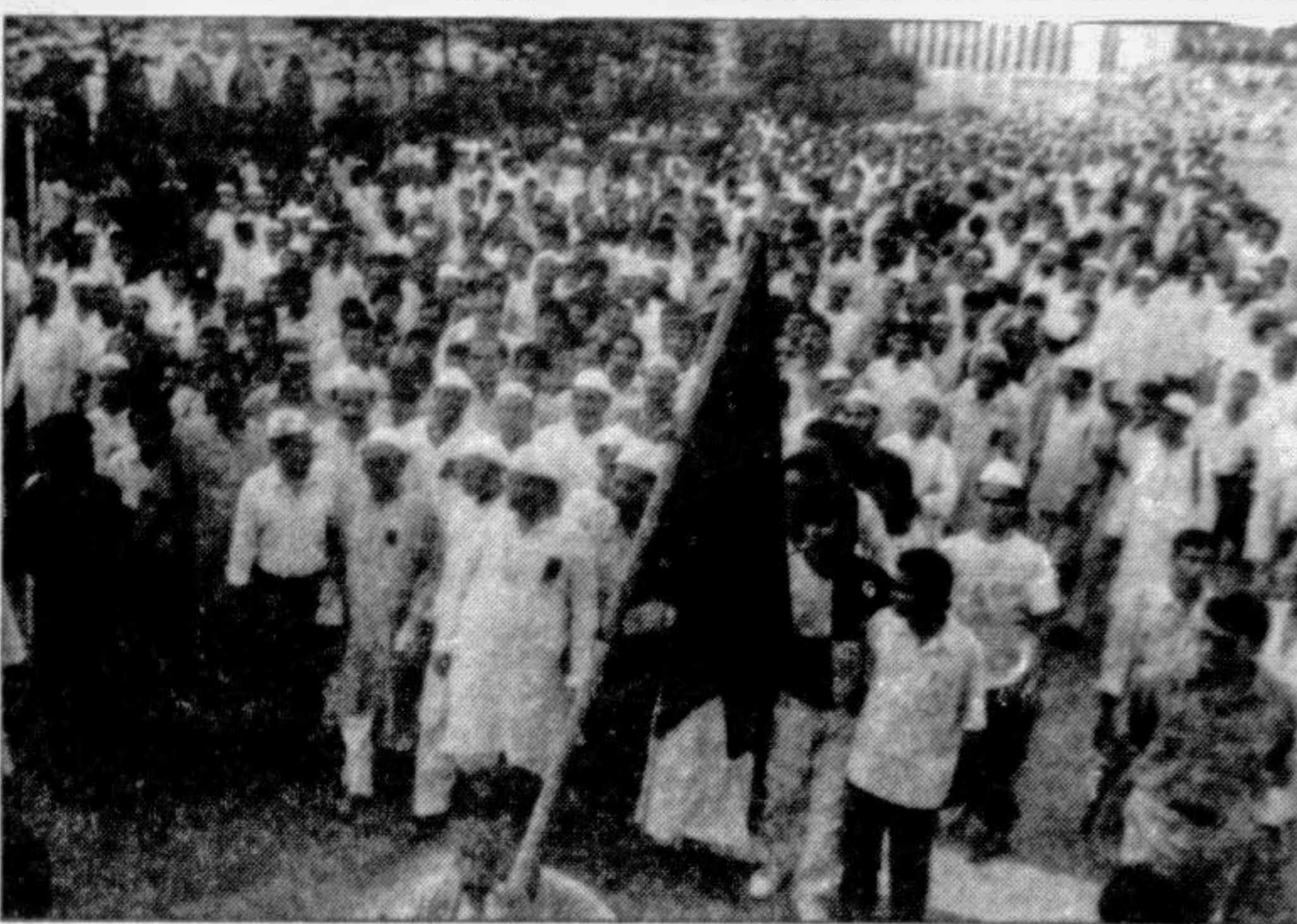
Local businessmen are, however, concerned over dual exchange rate of the currency. Unofficially, Bangladesh Taka has an edge over Kyat, the currency of Myanmar. Traders feel that it may help encourage border trade and trade through hard currency.

Sonali Bank of Bangladesh and the Myanmar Investment and Commerce Bank will officially look after the trade affairs.

With the commencement of the border trade, one can buy goods worth US dollars 2,500 at a time without any registration, or Letter of Credit, official sources said.

Bangladesh is expected to import items like — timber, forest products, bamboo, fresh vegetables, pulses, garlic, chilies, spices, betel nuts, shrimp, fruits and rice while it would export to Myanmar products like — pharmaceuticals, ceramic goods, tobacco, leather products, cosmetics and toiletries, newspaper and fertilizer.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Minister tonight held a meeting at Cox's Bazar Circuit House with the officials, business leaders and local elite. Trade and trade-related matters came up for discussion at the meeting.



The Awami League brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mourn the death of Abdur Rahim, killed at Mirpur in the city during hartal hours Sunday. —Star photo

JP office case

Charges not proved, says defence counsel

The chief defence counsel of former president H M Ershad yesterday appealed to the special judge's court to discharge the case against his client as the prosecution could not prove beyond reasonable doubt that Ershad abused his position in renovating an abandoned house in the capital, reports BSS.

The prosecution charged the former president with spending a huge amount of government money in renovating and refurbishing the house.

Submitting the argument on the second day in the special case against Ershad and two others, Khandker Mahub Hossain, the defence counsel, said his client had neither received any benefit from that work nor there was any concrete proof that he had ordered the work. "The case has been instituted with political motive only to harass my client," Hossain said while concluding the argument.

Ershad is the principal accused in this case relating to spending of about Taka 82 lakh to refurbish a house in Dhanmandi residential area, used as the central office of Jatiya Party. Former works minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary Abdur Rouf were charged as abettor to the principal accused.

Zinat Ara, Additional Session and District Judge (First Court), Dhaka, who was presiding the court, adjourned the proceedings till September 5 as the defence argument remained incomplete.

After Hossain finished his part, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, the defence counsel for Mostafa Jamal Haider began the argument, but it remained inconclusive when the court was adjourned.

Khandker Mahub Hossain alleged that one after another case has been instituted against his client to be fool the people and also to lower the image of the former president.

World women's confce

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lowed by real action."

Boutros-Ghali took aim at countries, which he did not name, for balking at granting equality for women, especially for denying them the same access as men to economic, social and political power.

Liberal countries, led by the United States and Scandinavia, have been opposed by a loose alliance of eight or nine conservatives, ranging from the Vatican and other ardently pro-Roman Catholic countries to Iran and other Muslim states.

The squabble is over working women's rights to fertility control and abortion, but also over the notion of 'equality', which some Muslim states charge is incompatible with Islamic law.

Women activists fear that if the discord — covering around a fifth of the key document — is not resolved, a fudgy or conservative text could in fact erode two decades of gains.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto delivered a condemnation of female infanticide.

The cries of the girl child reach out to us," Bhutto told the UN gathering's opening session. "This conference needs to create a climate where a girl child is as welcome and valued as a boy child."

Women in the Islamic world were being held back my men, she said. "It is really a patriarchal or tribal society which today is denying women the rights they previously enjoyed and that our Islamic teaching

Half-day hartal

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No untoward incident was reported during the hartal hours from six am to noon. The Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami extended their support to the hartal call.

All modes of vehicles were off the roads while shops and educational institutions closed in the Mirpur thana area.

The Awami League claimed the deceased rickshawpuller Abdur Rahim as a worker of its front organisation, Sramik League.

The protest rally at the Mirpur Section 1 Intersection was chaired by S A Khan, president of Ward-12 unit of the party.

The Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami brought out separate mourning processions in the city yesterday protesting the killing.

The AL processionists carried the body of the rickshawpuller from the eastern gate of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Wearing black badges, the processionists paraded the city roads.

Earlier, Rahim's namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

UNB adds: Abdur Rahim was buried at Mirpur graveyard yesterday.

Earlier, Awami League president Sheikh Hasina went to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue to see the body of Abdur Rahim.

The Jatiya Party brought out a procession from Muktangan at Paltan area and it ended in front of Jatiya Press Club after parading Gulistan area.

Robin Raphael

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Apart from bilateral matters, Raphael said, she will exchange views with Bangladesh leaders and officials on regional and international issues including "peacekeeping".

Replying to a question, she did not rule out the possibility of her discussion with the Prime Minister and opposition leaders on the country's current political scenario. She, however, said that "my visit has nothing to do with the domestic situation."

Raphael flew in from Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of a three-nation swing that will later take her to Pakistan. But she is not visiting India this time.

Besides having official talks with Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Raphael will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia before leaving for Pakistan on Thursday.

Her talks with the Foreign Secretary will cover bilateral matters like economic cooperation, trade — particularly export of readymade garments to US, and food aid under PL-480, official sources here said.

Raphael's itinerary also includes meetings with leaders of some major opposition parties including Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina.

Chinese restaurant ransacked in city

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified youths ransacked a Chinese restaurant, Chang Pei, at Maghbazur in the city yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a group of about 15 young men from a nearby college attacked the restaurant at about 12:30 pm. They went to the restaurant for lunch.

Salil Chowdhury critically ill

CALCUTTA, Sept 4: Music director Salil Chowdhury was put on peritoneal dialysis as his condition remained critical at the Woodlands Nursing home tonight, according to doctors attending him, reports PTI.

The dialysis was conducted considering his worsening renal condition.

The Midnight File

Downpour claims 39 in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: At least 39 people were killed in widespread rains that pounded the whole of north India and army was called out to help Punjab and Haryana civil administrations in relief and rescue operations. The downpour continuing for the past 36 hours widely damaged telecommunication network, reports PTI.

4 manpower recruiting agents arrested

The operation squad of the special branch yesterday raided two manpower recruiting offices in the city and arrested four persons including two businessmen on charges of making fake visas and illegal manpower business, reports BSS.

The squad raided the Dia Enterprise and Dia Tours and Travels at the Maghbazur intersection and arrested the owner of the business house Akhtaruzaman Bhuiyan alias Dipu, 35, and his associate Nour Hussain alias Nuru, 30.

Police said that Dipu and Nuru had been doing the fake visa business for quite a long time and sending people abroad including Malaysia. They were also cheating people in the name of manpower business.

The arrested persons have been given 120 days' detention.

The operation squad also raided the Gemini Travels and S B International at Naya Paltan yesterday afternoon and arrested the owner of the organisations, Aziz Sikder, 30, and his associate Abdul Gafur, 25. They were arrested on charges of engaging Bangladeshi women in prostitution by sending them to the Middle Eastern countries as house-maids.

Police also said that the business house had been sending young women as house-maids to the Middle Eastern countries for quite a long time. A victim recently went to the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait and informed the mission of her tragic tales. The Bangladesh ambassador later informed the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry has recommended to cancel the licence of this business house and ordered 120-day detention for the arrested persons.

The operation squad has also recovered 240 passports including those of 40 women and seized many papers including forged seals.

Varsity officers' strike from today

By DU Correspondent

Officers of nine universities across the country will go on a two-day strike from today to realise their demands.

The Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Federation has called the strike demanding amendment to their "down-graded-pay-scale" and representation in different university bodies including the senate and syndicate.

The BNP Secretary General alleged that few political parties had been engaged in "conspiratorial activities" for the last few years to make the government and Parliament ineffective and have been following the course of hartals, gheraos, sieges and destructions.

He said the people did never associate with the Opposition in such kind of "terrorist" activities. He said after failing to get public support the Opposition first had boycotted the Jatiya Sangsad session on a flimsy ground.

"But as the people did not extend support to their illogical, undemocratic and unconstitutional demand, they resigned en masse to make the Sangsad and parliamentary democracy ineffective," he said.

He said the Opposition's claim of a successful hartal was not correct. "In fact the people have no support for hartal," he said. He congratulated the people for ignoring the Opposition programme and carrying out their normal activities.

BNPPP

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to begin amid an opposition-called dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city tomorrow.

The emergency meeting of the BNP parliamentary group is being held in the absence of the Prime Minister and BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, who is now in the Chinese capital for the International Conference on Women.

BNP chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain is the convenor of the party's parliamentary party.

BNP MPs are likely to speak on the party stand in the backdrop of the opposition agitation for a non-party caretaker government to conduct the next general elections, party sources said. They may also discuss possible ways out of the long-standing political impasse, the sources added.

নির্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয়
ভোটার আইডি কার্ড প্রকল্প
শেরেবাংলা দপ্তর, ঢাকা।
নং-নিকস/আইডি/২১২/৯৫/১৫৪ তারিখ ৪-৯-১৯৯৫ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, নির্বাচন কমিশনের ভোটার আইডি কার্ড প্রকল্পে কাশিয়ার এবং স্টোর সহকারী পদে নিয়োগের জন্য আগামী ৬-৯-৯৫ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ স্থগিত করা হইল। কাশিয়ার পদপ্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ১০-০৯-৯৫ইং এবং স্টোর সহকারী পদপ্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ১১-০৯-৯৫ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। স্থান ও সময় অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে। এই জন্য পৃথকভাবে আর কোন চিঠি দেওয়া হইবে না।

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