

# Loans: 12 directors

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have been identified as: NC-CBL — Abdul Momen, M Haider Chowdhury, Wazullah Bhuiyan and Alamgir Kabir; City Bank — Zakaria H Chowdhury, Anwar Hossain, ABM Firos, and Azizul Haq; Islami Bank — Md Abdullah, and Fazle Azim.

Earlier the Bangladesh Bank had asked nine private commercial banks to realise the defaulting loans within two months taken by 32 directors by flouting the banking regulations. These defaulting directors owe about Tk 150 crore to the respective banks.

These banks are: Arab-Bangladesh Bank, National Bank, Uttara Bank, United Commercial Bank, City Bank, IFIC Bank, Pubali Bank, NC-CBL, and Islami Bank.

The central bank's serving of notices will complete the two-month deadline on October 23, 27 and the first week of November. However, the deadlines for repayment by the directors will be counted from the day of serving notice by the scheduled banks.

If the directors fail to re-

# Ban on catching live crabs during breeding period

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to ban catching and exporting of live crabs during the period from December to February.

In a notification recently, the Ministry for Forests and Environment said that catching and exporting of live crabs had to be banned during their breeding period.

The exporters and growers of live crabs, opposing the decision said, Bangladesh would lose the export market abroad.

They said the country would be lagging behind in competition with neighbouring countries if the export of live crabs was banned.

The breeding of crabs takes place in the deep sea and the catching never hampers the production, they argued.

# Pandemonium at ICB meet

By Staff Correspondent

A pandemonium was created at the Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) when a shareholder came under fire from some stock brokers yesterday afternoon.

As the meeting was in progress, some stock brokers stood up and asked Alamgir Bhuiyan, shareholder, to stop speaking after he described the Dhaka Stock Exchange as a club. But Alamgir continued speaking, a participant at the meeting told The Daily Star over telephone.

# Hope still flickers

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has to help the opposing camps to identify the key-personality of the interim or caretaker government.

Meanwhile, after enforcing a 96-hour hartal across the country last week, the major opposition parties have announced a fresh package of more programme including a week-long shutdown from November 11.

The opposition parties have so far been enforcing their programmes with the ruling party making almost no effort to resist their political opponents on the streets.

With only one side agitating on the streets, the probability of casualties — physical, political and economic — is never that high.

But side by side with holding anti-hartal rallies in and outside the capital, the ruling party leaders have now started claiming that the people this time would resist on the streets the seven-day hartal. Understandably, the BNP had decided to face the Opposition on the streets. Our politicians belonging to both the ruling and the opposition camps use to impose their party decisions on the silent majority in the name of "the will of the people."

The opposition parties agitating for a non-party caretaker government love to argue that they, as the champions of the peoples' cause, have to agitate to any extent to make sure that the government of Begum Zia is not in power during the next national polls. The opposition

mistrust in the government seems to be the main reason behind the demand for a caretaker government.

They are not ready to pay heed to the ruling party claim that it had so far held several hundred local-level polls, including elections to the City Corporations, which did not spark off any controversy.

The ruling party argues that it would, therefore, be an irresponsibility on the part of the government to allow the Opposition to enforce a seven-day hartal at the cost of the sufferings of the citizens.

Mobilising public opinion against the Opposition, the ruling party leaders have already started calling upon the people to take steps against politics of shutdown.

It is, therefore, clear to all sane individuals that the contending political camps are now ready for an undesirable political confrontation in the name of upholding peoples' interests. Ironically, many opinion polls have so far shown that the people are opposed to any political confrontation over issues like caretaker government. Because, people can understand pretty well that the bone of contention between the rival political quarters was basically nothing but as to who would control the election machinery during the polls.

A solution to the political crisis is possible if the major parties concerned are willing to accommodate each others views.

# In hope of reunion

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But the 12 kids inside the Shishu Palli in new clothes and with fresh hair cut were least concerned about their parents or the place they were in. All said that they wanted to go back to Bombay and none of them spoke in Bangla.

The waiting women were not allowed to see the children as Helmut Kutin said that it was now the duty of the social services and the Home Ministry to tell the Shishu Palli who their parents were. And only then the NGO would hand over the children to their parents. It was learnt that eight out of then 12 children have no knowledge about their homes or families.

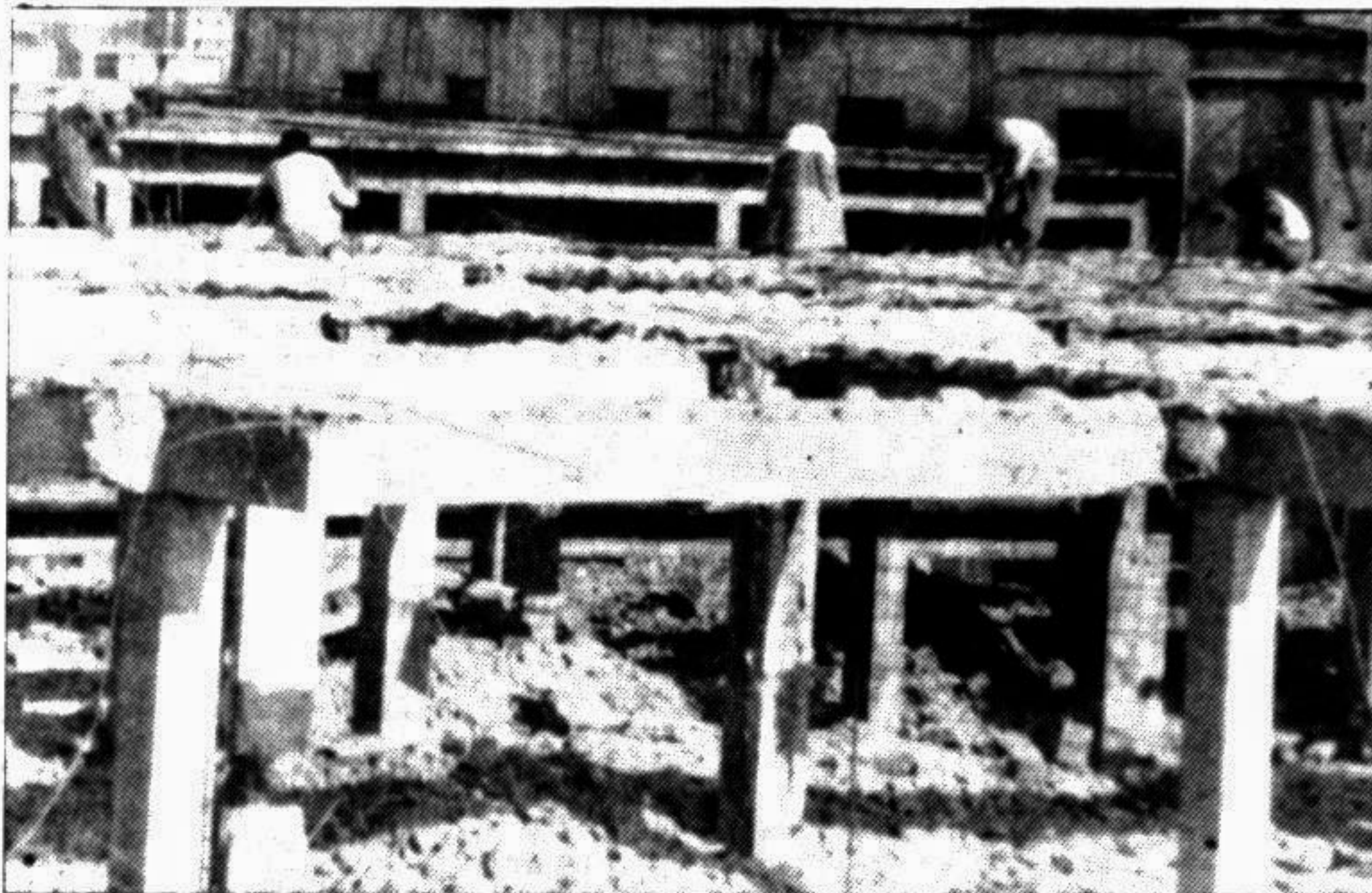
"Mein Bombay Jana chahta hein. Humko baba maa nehi chahie. Unlog garib, humko leke felda keya?" (I want to go back to Bombay. I don't want my parents. They are poor, what will they do with

me?), said Arif in flawless Hindi.

Arif said that he was a student of class five and learnt Hindi, Marathi and English in the remand house where he always stood first in the class. Other kids, aged between seven and nine, were playing around with the balloons given to them by the President of the SOS Kinderdorf. One was named Liteballi, apparently a name given by their caretakers at the remand house in Bombay.

"You are looking at children who are older than their age because they have gone through a lot of tough time at this age. They need time to reintegrate into family life. They are unaware of what had happened to them and now they need to regain their normal age," said Kutin.

Kutin felt confident that within a 'very short period' the kids would be rehabilitated and they would start a normal life.



A market building at Jatrabari in the city being demolished for not being constructed as per the Rajuk plan. — Star photo

# Farakka: PM at UN

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The Prime Minister said vegetation was dwindling and salinity was spreading in the south threatening industry and agriculture with ruin. Fish and animal resources, Begum Zia said, were facing extinction.

The Prime Minister said that many might question the justification of the United Nations in the backdrop of numerous conflicts big and small and gross violation of human rights and justice around the world.

She expressed her grave concern over the aggression perpetrated against the smaller states, the genocidal conflicts and ethnic cleansing and the denial of the right of lower riparian countries to water of the common rivers.

Despite these drawbacks, Begum Zia said, mankind had not yet been able to evolve a more effective forum.

"However, there can be no thought of abandoning it as there is still no alternative," she added.

The Prime Minister underlined the need for strengthening the United Nations to realise the goals for which it was created by its founding fathers.

Begum Zia said that the 50th anniversary offered an ideal opportunity to review its achievements and look forward to a strengthened and reinvigorated United Nations.

Road accidents

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stantly towards that end. "Police is also contributing their mite in this respect," he added.

The minister said the government had recently constituted a National Road Safety Council with the responsibility of framing policies and setting targets for prevention of accidents.

Oli Ahmad also said that the government was going to establish modern vehicle inspection centres to check the plying of unfit vehicles on roads. Five such centres will be established in the first phase — two in Dhaka and one each in three metropolitan cities.

"Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said, pedestrians are also seen using highways and roads in the cities and towns very carelessly which is also responsible for most of the accidents," he said.

# Saifur: Soft loans

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credit and rural road development projects, including Ashuganj-Sylhet road, the minister said.

Referring to hartals, he said "It is no good, it is suicidal. Political process should be kept aloof from economic activities. Political issues should be resolved through political instruments without penalising the economy."

In response to a question on the bank loan defaulters, he said, "Our actions are not targeted towards any individuals, rather, we want to remove delinquency from the banking sector to give it a firm footing since the banking sector is like lubricant of an economy."

Dwelling on Bangladesh's presentation at the WB-IMF annual meeting, the minister said, "We took initiative to persuade the rich countries including the G-7 for stepping up replenishment of the WB's IDA-11 and the Asian Development Bank's ADF-7 in a bid to reduce poverty in the developing countries."

"Though the rich nations now show indifference after the cold war and are reluctant to continue their contributions in the name of their domestic economic problems, these agencies are necessary for eradication of poverty," he had said at the meeting. "Till people remain under poverty, there will be unrest and regional conflict. Poverty and democracy can not go side by side," he added.

In this connection, the minister referred to a letter written to leaders of G-7 countries requesting their contributions to IDA and the ADF.

Despite the Congress' opposition, US President Bill Clinton stressed at the WB-IMF meeting the need for continued support to the less developed countries in the form of soft term lending under the IDA, Rahman said.

About the NAM summit, he said they had resolved that all barriers — information, trade, financial, environmental and cultural — should be removed. They also suggested that the WB and IMF should be made more representative and accountable and the UN should be democratized.

# 93.80 pc eclipse over Dhaka

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ing the brief period of the total eclipse, a number of constellations and sister planets in the solar system.

The National Museum of Science and Technology in a press release yesterday warned people not to look at the solar eclipse directly with naked eyes as harmful rays like ultra violet ray emitted from the sun could even damage eye cornea totally.

Director of the museum Prof AM Azizur Rahman in the press release suggested few safe means to witness the eclipse. One can see it through a solar filter, or a filter prepared by putting two dark X-ray films on one another, or by using a number 15 arc welder glass used in welding factories.

The most indigenous method would be taking a black or blue bucket, filling it with water mixed with turmeric powder and seeing the celestial bodies in the reflection of the water.

The science museum has organised viewing of the partial eclipse in the city at the southern part of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Through a video projector, the eclipse would be shown on two video screens inside the Sangsad tunnel. Scientists will be present there to explain the eclipse to viewers. The tunnel road will remain closed from 6 am to 12 noon for the purpose.

The museum director further noted that the eclipse was nothing but a simple incident of nature and that all age-old fears or superstitions surrounding it were baseless.

In the city, people have taken preparations to see it as advised by the science museum. A number of morning schools have rescheduled classes to allow students see the eclipse at home.

During the eclipse, the Water Development Board will provide data about the intensity of tides at different points, including Chalna, Khulna, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

The Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARSO) will take snaps of the solar eclipse in Dhaka.

A good number of people including some scientists and students have left for Hiron Point through the Mongla port to witness the full eclipse. The Mongla port authority has introduced a special ferry service "promod tore" on the occasion.

People in Cox's Bazar appeared scared of the event because a lunar-calender forecast that there was a possibility of earthquake and tidal bore due to the eclipse.

In Pabna Cadet College, a seminar on solar eclipse was held yesterday which was attended by the college's faculty members, students, Principal Abul Ashraf Noor and participants from the town. The principal told The Daily Star over phone last night that the students would be allowed to witness the rare event today.

Radio Bangladesh has taken up an elaborate programme on the eve of the total solar eclipse. The programme includes special announcement every hour on protective measures for the viewers.

The last eclipse, seen from the country took place for two hours from 3.22 pm on February 16, 1980. The Department of Zoology of Dhaka University had conducted an observation on the impact of the eclipse on birds, according to Chairman of the department Prof Md Sohrab Uddin Sarkar.

Scientists found out that house crows and jungle crows appeared agitated during and after the eclipse while common mynas became noisy, the rose-ringed parakeets became less noisy than usual and other birds which were on their flights maintained low altitudes during the full eclipse.

# UN Day today

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Bangladesh Shishu Academy today. It will be inaugurated by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharrar Hossain.

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Eimi Watanabe will be present as special guests.

Starting every day at 3:00 pm, the Meia will include children's painting competition, essay writing competition, UN film screening sessions and cultural programmes.

UN System, NGOs and relevant government departments will put up display stalls in the fair.

A colourful rally of people from all walks of life, especially students and scouts of different city schools, government officials, diplomats and UN representatives, will be held at 7:30 am today.

It will start from the Engineers' institution and end at the Meia venue (Shishu Academy) via National Press Club.

Bangla Academy will organise a function on the day at the academy's seminar room to distribute prizes among the winners of the poetry recitation competition. Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will distribute prizes.

A cultural function will be held at the Osmani Memorial Hall where information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam will be present as chief guest.

# The Midnight File

## Sino-US summit venue changed

HYDE PARK, New York, Oct 23: The White House has changed the site of a summit Tuesday between President Bill Clinton and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, after Chinese officials objected to a human rights exhibit on display at the original venue. White House spokesman Michael McCurry told reporters in Hyde Park, where Clinton was meeting Monday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, that the Chinese had asked that the summit be moved from the New York public library, reports AFP.

# Clinton: Garments quota

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Clinton said he was happy to learn that Bangladesh had made notable achievements in various fields in the last few years.

After exchanging views and pleasantries, Clinton said he had heard much about Bangladesh specially after the visit of his wife Hillary Clinton to the country.

Referring to her daughter's visit to Bangladesh with Hillary Clinton, the US President told Begum Zia that "My daughter was very keen to see you once again".

At the reception, US first lady Hillary Clinton referred to her experience during the visit to Bangladesh and once again appreciated Bangladesh's food for education programme and the programme for women education.

She then turned to Nepalese Prime Minister Deuba now attending the reception and said, "Your country could usefully follow such programme on education".

Earlier, at the New York Public Library, Hillary Clinton received Begum Zia and said, "I am glad to meet you again".

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian region Rabin Raphel also discussed at length various issues of Bangladesh with Begum Zia.

Raphel expressed the hope that democratic process would continue in Bangladesh for the betterment of its people. At the reception, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia exchanged pleasantries with a host of world leaders including the President of South Korea, President of the Maldives, Prime Minister of Denmark, President of Mongolia, President of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister of Nepal.

The members of US National Security Council and US Secretary of Transportation also talked to Begum Zia. They highly appreciated Bangladesh's contribution in the UN peace keeping efforts throughout the world.

They also mentioned Bangladesh's contribution in the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

# Student feared drowned near Cox's Bazar beach

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 23: Minhajuddin Yasir, 19, a student from Dhaka who passed the recent HSC examinations in first division, is feared to have drowned in the sea here this morning.

Minhaj and his family members, including his parents, came here yesterday from Dhaka to visit the sea beach of Cox's Bazar. And all of them went to the beach today at about 9 am.

They got into the sea water near Labani point and all started swimming. Suddenly, Minhaj was swept away by the low-tide current.

The police and fire service personnel could not recover the body after heavy search in the sea till late this evening.

Minhaj, a resident of 13/A Eskaton, Dhaka got first division in the HSC examinations under Dhaka Board. The results of the examinations were announced Saturday.

His father had promised him a trip to Cox's Bazar if he passed the examinations in the first division.

# Injured Shibir activist dies in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: An activist of the Islami Chhatra Shibir who received bomb injuries in a clash with the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Satkania College on October 21, died in a city clinic this morning.

Anwar Hossain was critically injured in a clash between the supporters of Shibir and JCD, police and party sources said. The college was closed sine die to avert further untoward incidents.

Following the death of Anwar, Shibir brought out a procession in the city demanding arrest of the killers.

## বন্যাত কৃষক ভাইদের পুনর্বাসনে

### অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের কৃষিক্ষেত্র

বন্যাকে মেনে নিয়েই এদেশের মানুষের জীবন-যাপন।

সাম্প্রতিক বন্যা হয়ে নিয়ে গেছে উত্তরবঙ্গের কৃষকদের শস্যদানা, আশ্রয়-আবাস; কিন্তু নিতে পারেনি তাদের দুঃ মনোবল ও সংগ্রামের স্মৃতি/তাদের পুনর্বাসনে ও পুনর্গঠনে আবারো এগিয়ে এসেছে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক। চলতি রবি যৌসুমে পলিসিড উর্বরা জমিতে ইরি, বোরো, গম, আলু, ডাল ও তৈলবীজ জাতীয় কসলসহ মরিচ, পিঁয়াজ, রজন ইত্যাদি চাষে ব্যাংক উপদ্রুত এলাকার ব্যাপক ঋণ কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ করেছে। এ ছাড়া হাঙ্গের বলাদ পাওয়ার টিলায় বা সেচয়ন্ত্র ক্রয় অথবা পুকুরে মৎস্য চাষে অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের কৃষিক্ষেত্র অঙ্কন করে কৃষক ভাইদেরো উপকৃত হোন।

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সোতালী কসলে মার্চ জুয়ে তুলতে

বন্যাত ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষক ভাইদেরো বিকট-স্থ

অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের কৃষিক্ষেত্র বিতরণকারী শাখায়

যোগাযোগ করুন।

**অগ্রণী ব্যাংক**

দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

Editor: Mahfuz Anam