

Rebel Serbs in E Slavonia to rejoin Croatia

ERDUT, Croatia, Nov 12: Rebel Croatian Serbs in east Slavonia agreed today to rejoin Croatia, lifting the threat of fighting over the territory which could have wrecked peace hopes in the Balkans, reports Reuter.

UN mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg said after Serb leaders signed a peace draft. "I think we have experience the start of the end of the war in ex-Yugoslavia."

Stoltenberg and US Ambassador Peter Galbraith presented the Serbs with a draft worked out at the Balkan summit in the United States by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The mediators later returned to Zagreb for the agreement of the Croatian

government to the terms ending a Serb rebellion which erupted in war when Croatia broke away from former Yugoslavia in 1991.

The Croatian army captured two other rebel enclaves earlier this year and Tudjman threatened to use force in east Slavonia if the Serbs did not back down by the end of November.

Zagreb alarmed the UN this week by openly reinforcing its troops in the region which borders Serbians-led rump Yugoslavia and was regarded as a potentially dangerous flashpoint for a renewed war between Croats and Serbs.

Full details of the agreement were not immediately disclosed but the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported it contained 14 points and apparently offered concessions to the Serbs.

Chief Serb negotiator Milan Milanovic said he agreed to a one-year period of transition to Croatian rule with the option of a further year if needed.

Galbraith said the signing was "historic" and added: "for the first time in this conflict, an issue has been resolved peacefully by signatures and not by bullets."

The mediators said the agreement would preserve the multi-ethnic character of east Slavonia, allowing the return of almost 100,000 Croatian refugees driven out in 1991.

It will also let east Slavonia's Serbs remain and avoid the fate of some 150,000 Serbs who fled their homes in west Slavonia and Knin Krajina when the Croatian army attacked this year.

Auranga

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member of parliament belonging to the Awami League who was sentenced to life term in a murder case was given bail by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court last week.

The High Court bench comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman on a prayer from Hemayetuddin granted bail on November 9. Senior advocate Serajul Haq moved the bail petition, which was opposed by Assistant Attorney General Syed Abu Kaisar on behalf of the state.

Deputy Attorney General Al-Haj M Shamsul Alam and Amirul Kabir Chowdhury moved the stay prayer.

145 returnees

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these people came on their own or they were deported, a high official of the Home Ministry said, "the matter is being investigated."

Meanwhile, the Pakistan High Commission here expressed "ignorance" about the alleged deportation of any Bangladeshi from Pakistan.

"The matter was checked from Pakistan where the authorities have shown their ignorance about any forced deportation," said a press release issued by the High Commission yesterday.

The Home Minister could not be contacted till 11:00 pm last night for comment. The Pakistan High Commission claimed that, "about 150 Bangladeshi nationals who returned on Saturday by a Biman flight are holders of Bangladeshi passports."

They have travelled back on their own without any compulsion from any authority in Pakistan, the release added and advised all Bangladeshis who want to go to Pakistan for employment to obtain work permit and get registered there.

100 tolas gold

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also seized his baggage and recovered three wrist watches.

The Chief Purser was not arrested as no police case was filed in only a departmental case was registered by the Customs, the officials added.

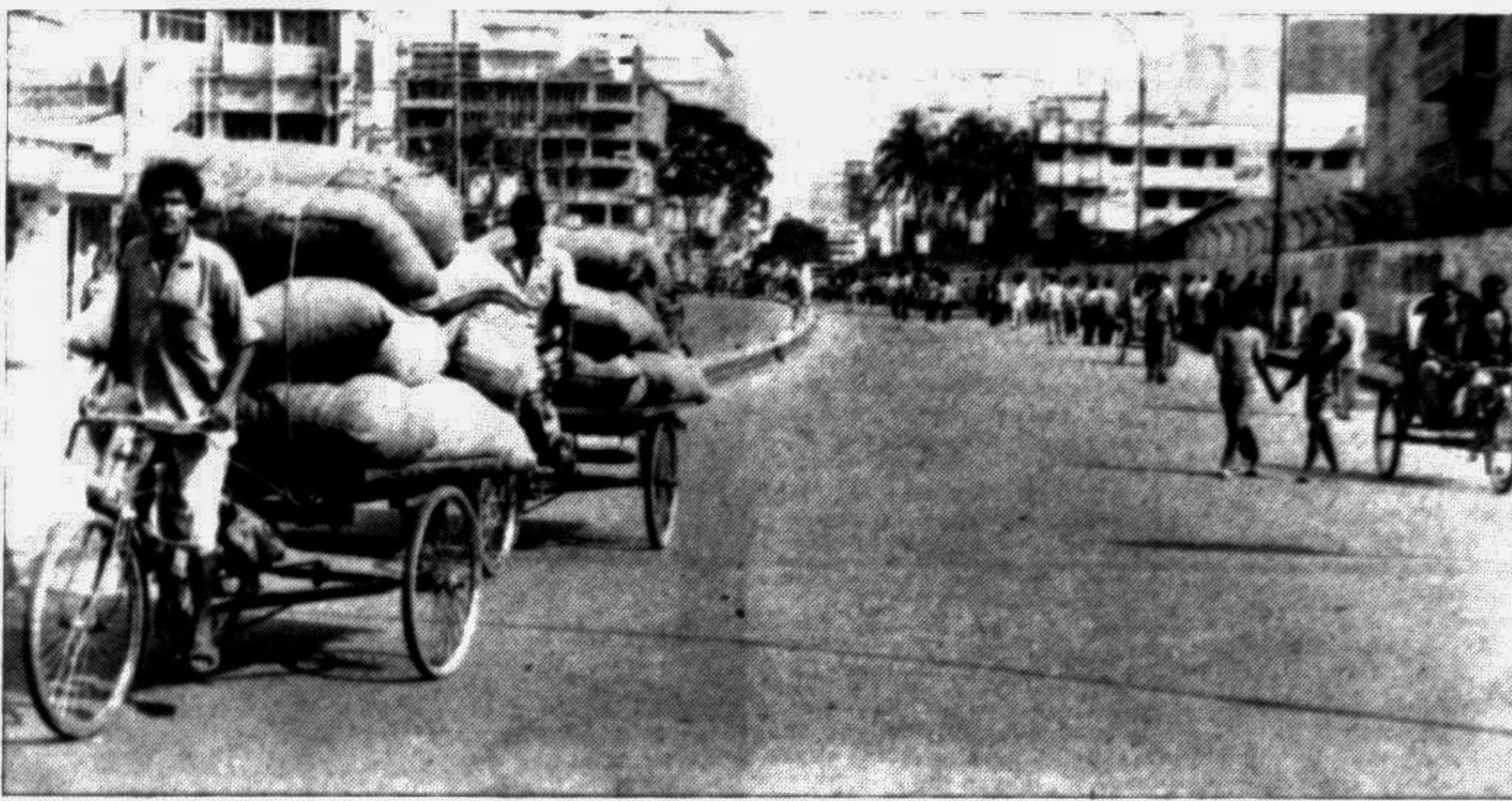
When contacted, a Biman official expressed his ignorance about any such incidence.

"If any such incidents occur, we will carry out our own investigation after taking up a departmental case," he said.

G-5: Hasina

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I learnt that she is going to receive a letter from the Prime Minister tonight. Let us see what happens next," said a member of the G-5, which is negotiating since October 9 for a dialogue between the top political leaders.

Earlier, on Saturday, journalist Faiz Ahmed, a member of the group, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for certain clarification on the agenda for a political dialogue.



Topkhana road in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

— Star photo

Hartal: Over 100 injured

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at the opponents and a gunfight erupted. Over 100 rounds of shots were fired and a large number of bombs were exploded during the fight.

Police and BDR posted near the spot did not intervene at the beginning, but at around 12:30 pm fired several rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells, witnesses said.

At least 60 people were wounded in the clash — 14 of them by bullet hit. Many of them were admitted to different local hospitals and clinics. The condition of eight was stated to be critical. They included Kamrul Hasan of Jatiya Party, Shahmeem and Suman of Awami League, policemen Mohammad Sadeq and Jahangir Alam, and pedestrian Shahabuddin.

Police Havilder Sadeq, who received injuries in the waist and leg, was being operated upon at Narayanjan Hospital, while constable Jahangir, who was injured in his leg was also operated upon.

The pro-hartal activists set up a human barricade on the rail track at Chashara at about 8 am, but they left the spot at the request of BDR personnel to allow a train to run from Narayanjan to Dhaka.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal adds: At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League at

Patharghata thana in Patuakhali district. Of the injured, seven were admitted to Patuakhali Hospital in critical condition. They are Razzak, Jamal, Ripon, Ziaul, Inam, Tohin and Anwar.

In the city, police resorted to lathicharge and sprayed hot coloured water on the pickets as they tried to take back one of their associates whom police picked up on charge of damaging rickshaws in Farm Gate area at about 9 in the morning.

Awami League leader Matia Chowdhury was kept waiting for an hour at Farm Gate police box as she went there to register a protest against the action on her party workers, eyewitnesses said. Five people were injured there.

Police resorted to lathicharge on an AL procession near Malibagh intersection. Some 10 people including party leader Hashimuddin Haider Pahari were reportedly injured.

AL alleged that their processions came under attack from the BNP activists at Kachukhet and Ibrahimpur during hartal hours.

Two policemen — Mohammad Shah Alam and Mustafizur Rahman — were injured when unidentified youths hurled bombs at them at Rampura near the Television Bhawan at around noon. Shah Alam was admitted to Police Hospital, while Mustafizur was released after first aid.

Separate processions were brought out and rallies were organised by the three par-

ties in different parts of city, particularly in the Secretariat areas during the hartal period.

AL General Secretary Zilur Rahman addressed a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club, Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju addressed a rally at the west side of Manik Mia Avenue and Jamaat Secretary General Mattur Rahman Nizami spoke at a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

A good number of rickshaws were seen plying in different parts of the city during hartal hour. Motorised vehicles, however, remained off the streets.

Long distance bus services remained suspended while train services were partially disrupted throughout the country. Six out of 12 intercity trains and most of the other trains operated normally. Railway sources said.

Airport sources said, all international flights operated as scheduled, but four out of 11 domestic flights of the Biman were cancelled due to hartal.

An official handout said, production in different enterprises of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation and Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation was as usual during hartal period.

Our correspondents and news agencies reported peaceful observance of hartal and disruption of normal life in different areas of the country.

4 killed, 16 injured in road accidents

At least four people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents yesterday in Rangpur and Sirajganj, report agencies.

On the Rangpur-Bogra highway at Madaripur, two persons were killed and 15 others injured when a minibus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a cow.

The victims were identified as Azim Uddin, 60, and Hasanur, 8. All the injured were admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Sirajganj, two people were killed and another was seriously injured in two road accidents in the district today, police said.

10 injured in AL-BNP clash

RANGPUR, Nov 12: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between activists of the BNP and Awami League in the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash began at about 7:00 pm when an Awami League procession came under attack of the BNP activists at Old Press Club area. The two groups chased each other exploding home-made bombs.

Shahbaz Sharif remanded for 6 more days

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12: An Islamabad court today remanded in custody Shahbaz Sharif, younger brother of main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) leader Nawaz Sharif, for another six days, court sources said, reports Reuter.

Witnesses said Sharif was brought to court under tight security after the expiry of an earlier seven-day remand ordered on November 5.

17 die in Nepal's bldg collapse

KATHMANDU, Nov 12: Building collapses caused by heavy rains in Nepal claimed 17 lives today, raising to 43 the number of avalanche-related deaths in the Himalayan region in two days, officials said, reports Reuter.

On Saturday, an avalanche killed 26 people, including 13 Japanese.

Rescuers armed with special digging equipment rushed to a remote region near the 8,848-metre (29,028 feet) high Mount Everest to look for the bodies of the Japanese trekkers buried in two metres (yards) of deep snow, tourism officials said.

Dialogue move yet to make headway

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talks with the party policy planners in the past few days, the minister quoted the PM as saying, "I did not ask for name/ names of a neutral person/persons as head of the Opposition-demanded caretaker government. I don't believe that there is a neutral person in the country or such a person, if there is any, can run the affairs of the state."

Elaborating the PM's contention on the issue, the minister, also a member of the BNP Standing Committee, said that Begum Zia's remark to the group of five eminent citizens was simply misinterpreted. In fact, he went on, the PM meant that there was no neutral person to head an interim government and in a lighter vein

she wanted to know from the group if they (the AL) could name any neutral person.

By saying this, the BNP leader explained, the PM did not mean that she sought name/names of neutral person/persons from the Opposition.

"We don't want to stop the current practice of exchange of letters between the two leaders (Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina) although we understand it well that the exercise would be a futile one unless either side shifts from its position," said another senior leader of the BNP. "We've gained politically from the PM's noble initiative to write to her political rival and don't want to be blamed for ending the process."

Other sources in the BNP said the party was discussing

two options in case the ongoing efforts to settle the political problems by November 22 failed, the deadline for announcing the schedule for by-elections to the 147 vacated Opposition seats in parliament. Elaborating they said, the Prime Minister might request the President to dissolve Parliament when the November 22 deadline approaches or the by-polls schedule may be announced.

Referring to the PM's recent call to the Opposition to participate in the by-elections, they said she meant that if the opposition parties agreed to the five plus five formula for an interim government with a BNP MP heading it, the by-polls would be needed to have the opposition nominees in the proposed interim cabinet.

The Midnight File

Peres unexpectedly attends Rabin's memorial rally

TEL AVIV, Nov 12: Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres unexpectedly attended a Tel Aviv memorial rally for Yitzhak Rabin today despite reports security chiefs had urged him to stay away. Live television showed Peres greeting the assassinated Prime Minister's widow Leah at an enclosure for dignitaries at the square where Rabin was killed on November 4, reports Reuter.

3 killed, over 1000 hurt during hartals this yr

Star Report

At least three persons were killed and over 1,000 injured in various incidents during hartals called by the opposition parties this year according to newspaper reports.

Public stripping of one person on a hartal day, was also reported.

The law enforcing agencies rounded up at least 217 people on hartal days during this period. Of them, over 100 were tokais (street urchins).

Two political activists were killed — one at Brahmanbaria and the other at Kushtia — on October 16, the first day of the Opposition called four-day hartal.

A rickshawpuller was shot dead in a clash between two rival groups at Mirpur in Dhaka on September 3, the second day of a 32-hour hartal.

Among the injured, there were passers-by and police-

men besides activists of political parties.

Many were injured in encounters between pro-hartal activists and police besides clashes between rival political groups.

Political activists were injured in clashes between pro-hartal and anti-hartal groups.

Vehicles including a few police vans, ambulances and transports of newspapers came under attack on most of the hartal days. On some occasions, train communication was disrupted as pro-hartal activists put up barricades and removed fishplates.

The major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — have been agitating for general elections under a caretaker government. Their agitation programmes included hartals — both country-wide and district level — ranging from 6 hours to 96 hours.

Atlantis blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, Nov 12: Space shuttle Atlantis blasted off at 7:30 am (1230 GMT) today on a mission to dock with the Russian space station Mir. Atlantis is to link up with Mir on Wednesday for the second visit to the 10-year-old Russian space station by a US space craft this year, reports Reuter.

PM's letter

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won through the sacrifice of the shaheeds of the anti-autocracy movement. My letter clearly expresses our sincere and earnest interest in this regard.

"We consider a terror-free, rigging-free, free, fair and peaceful election as a corner-stone of democracy. For this purpose, we have already taken several positive steps, including amending election related laws. In addition, we had proposed free discussion to further improve the laws and practices connected with holding of elections, and to come to acceptable solutions in this regard."

"I firmly believe that it is possible to solve any problem through discussions. Therefore, I propose, once again, that let us sit for a dialogue on the existing problems. With a view to solving the present crisis, you are free to raise any issue as a part of your agenda. But for the purpose of a fruitful dialogue, it will not be proper to impose any pre-condition."

"Come, let us sit for a dialogue with an open mind. May Allah help us."

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন // ম্যানহোলের ঢাকানা চূরি রোধ করুন)

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের জ্ঞার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকরের বিল পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ পরিচালিত বিশেষ অভিযানের কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।

আগামী ৩০-১১-৯৫ইং তারিখের মধ্যে হালনাগাদ সময় বকেয়া পরিশোধকারী গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকরের সারচার্জ মওকুফের সুবিধা দেয়া হবে।

বকেয়া পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকর আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তাকে অথরাইজড অফিসার হিসেবে নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। অথরাইজড অফিসার খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের মালমাল ক্রোক করতঃ বকেয়া আদায়ের কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করছেন।

বকেয়া আদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং পিডিআর এন্ট্রির অধীনে মামলার বিড়ম্বনা এড়ানোর নিমিত্ত আজই বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিকর পরিশোধ করুন।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এড়ানোর নিমিত্ত উক্ত নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে বিল পরিশোধের জন্য প্রয়োজনে ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট রাজস্ব আঞ্চলিক অফিস বা প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা ও অথরাইজড অফিসার (ফোনঃ ৩২৫২৪০) অথবা বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

আপনাদের সেবায় নিয়োজিত
ঢাকা ওয়াসা

গোনা - জাতঃ ৪৮২/৯৫
ডি-১১২৩

Editor: Mahfuz Anam