

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Anything but Baby-friendly

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Dhaka is anything but baby-friendly. You wouldn't realise how unfriendly unless you are to take care of a baby yourself.

The problem begins obviously at the beginning when the baby is nothing but a cluster of few cells and you are planning to visit a gynecologist. Finding a good doctor is just a matter of luck, if not your right as a citizen. The fact is supported by an unofficial survey which says that out of every ten pregnant women, only one is totally and honestly satisfied with her doctor.

You cannot discuss your fears and problems with them. They wouldn't give you more than five minutes because of the long queue outside his/her chamber. "I changed my doctor even on my ninth month because I could trust no one, it might be my problem but they were all so rude," says Tisha, now a mother of a month-old son.

"Mine always scolded me and I got to see him only for five minutes a month; he even shouted at me when I was in labour," says another woman who has a 12-month-old son. "I would never have another child because of the traumatic experience I had with my doctor," says another woman.

Then there is the hospital problem. "If you are not a known personality or don't have someone known among the hospital staff you are utterly helpless and have to cope somehow with the hospital's uncaring service," explains Tisha.

After you bring the baby home, there begins another story. If you have a car you are saved, if not entirely, atleast partially. If you have to hire a rickshaw or a scooter, you will be forced to curse your luck until you reach your destination.

You love your child but others couldn't care less. Your frustration reaches its peak when you are stuck in a traffic jam. Almost all the vehicles emit black smoke, the impatient drivers who care a fig about traffic rules, honk their horns as if there are his slaves and he is the lord of the streets.

Well, what are you doing in the streets with your child? Many might question, but you want to take him or her out in the fresh air (well whatever fresh is left in it), roam around in parks, see him run and play around the trees, and on the grass, teach him or her to love mother nature, take them out on a fishing trip, etc. etc.

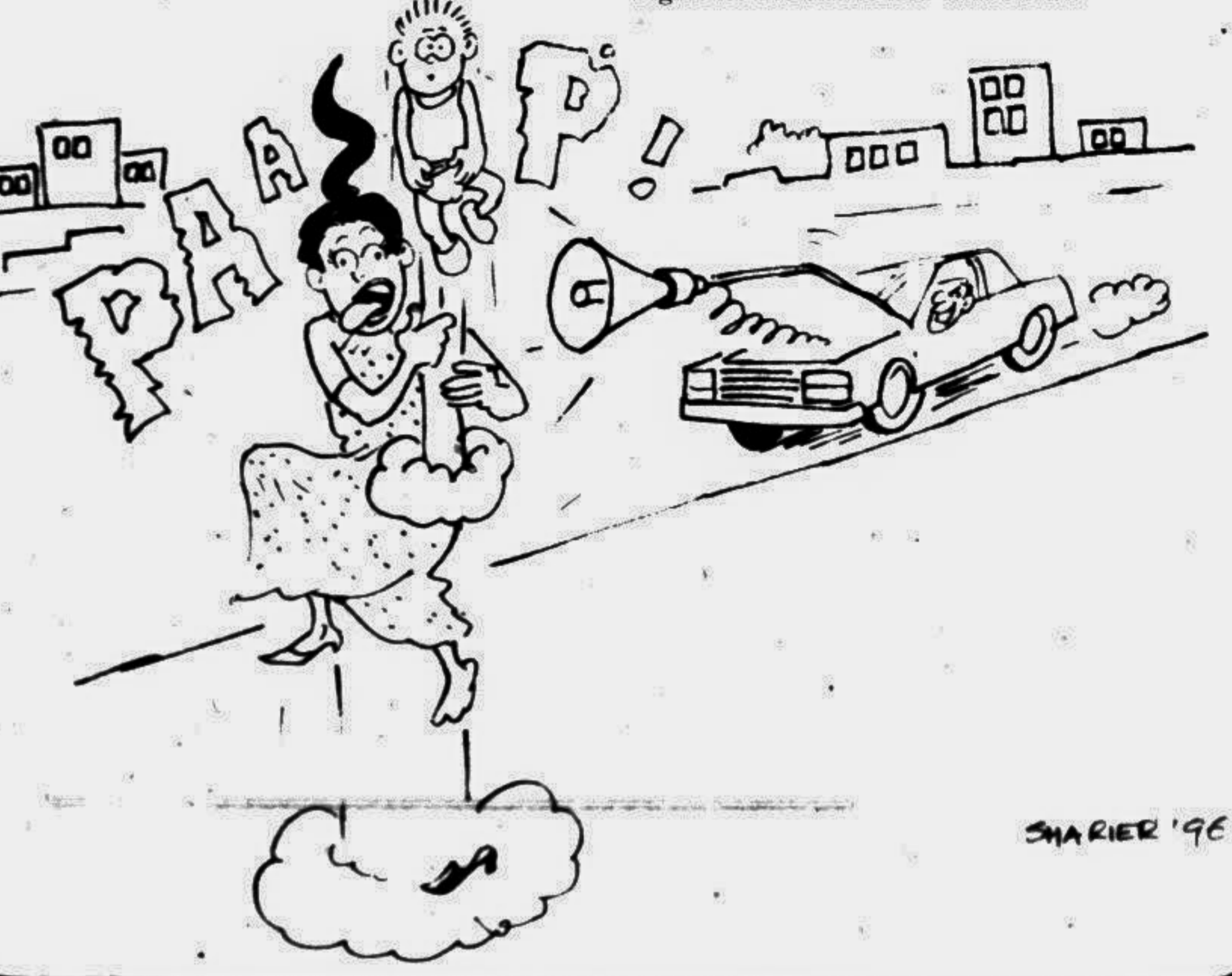
Of course you cannot entertain any such possibilities, because this is Dhaka—a city where evenings are infested with insects and mosquitoes, parks with suspicious characters, lake sides with damp, grass covered with (soft) traps, noisy streets with polluted air and almost insane motorists.

Leaving all these aside, there's altogether a different aspect: the problems of a working mother. "I wanted to breastfeed my child for at least three months, but I joined work when my daughter was a month's old and then maintaining a 9 am to 5 pm job and a breastfed child was simply out of question," says a young mother working in an international organization.

"I have no baby-sitter, I don't want a formula-fed baby, therefore my ultimate choice was to leave my maternity job," another mother talks about her problems and her simple solution to it.

Being breast-fed exclusively for the first five months is a child's birth right. But there are only a handful of organizations that are accommodative to working mothers and their problems. With no maternity leave, which should be three months, with no quality day care centre in or around one's workplace, a mother can only stay back home to take care of her future.

Children are our only link to the future, giving them our very best is thus a matter of their right. But how much we can offer to these little citizens is a matter of perception only. We are nonchalant, rather ignorant, about the needs of our future. And in such an environment that is not at all baby-friendly, how pathetically life begins for the babies and ends for us!



### BSD concerned at govt policy on privatisation

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convenor Khalekuzzaman expressed his concern over the statement of Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at a seminar on Monday regarding the privatisation of nationalised industries, reports UNB.

Khalekuzzaman in a statement yesterday said that people did not change the government to push the working people to the doorsteps of death by following the industrial policy of the past governments.

He said people will soon realise the real face of the ruling Awami League and what it meant by the 'government of consensus'.

Castigating Tofael Ahmed, he said the disinvestment policy of the present government will reveal the real traits of Awami League.

### Conservation of forest stressed

Experts at a workshop yesterday emphasised on the conservation of forest and natural resources of the country, reports UNB.

Importance of intensive research was also discussed in the workshop, organised by Forest Department and Bangladesh chapter of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) at BARC auditorium in the city.

Former Planning and Agriculture Minister Dr Fasih Uddin Mahtab was the chief guest at the workshop on 'Identification of joint programme between the Forest Department and IUCN, Bangladesh in conservation management of natural resources'.

It was also addressed by former Vice Chancellor of BAU Dr AKM Aminul Haque, head of South and South East Asia Regional Coordination office of IUCN Dr M Zakir Hossain and head of IUCN Anwarul Haq.

### BPJA condemns attack on photo journalists

Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) yesterday expressed strong indignation at the incident of attack on photo journalists by the 'unruly' professionalists and demanded appropriate measures against the persons responsible for the attack, reports BSS.

In a statement, the association general secretary AKM Mohsin said 'during the siege Election Commission programme of a political party the photo journalists on duty were attacked and physically assaulted by a group of demonstrators'.

'We strongly protest the incident and demand appropriate actions against the attackers,' he said.

Mohsin warned that 'the association will be forced to take its own programme if such incidents are repeated'.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributing certificates among the students of Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Gazipur, at a convocation yesterday. — PID photo

### What's on today...

**Science lecture:** Prof Anun Nishat of BUET will deliver a lecture on 'Options for River Training'. National Museum of Science & Technology has arranged the lecture session. Venue: NMST auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

**JSD council '96:** The council '96 of Dhaka city unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will be held. Chief guest: ASM Abdur Rob. Shipping Minister and JSD general secretary Special guest: Noor Alam Jiku, JSD president. Venue: Engineers' Institute. Time: 4 pm.

**Symposium on Endoscopic Surgery:** Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh will jointly hold a symposium on 'Endoscopic Surgery in Gynecology'. Venue: BCPS auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.

**BSCIC council '96:** The annual council 1996 of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation will be held. Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Industry and Commerce will attend the inaugural session of the council as chief guest. Venue: BSCIC Training Institute auditorium, House 24, Road 13 Sector 6, Uttara Model Town. Time: 9:30 am.

**Workshop on Fisheries:** A workshop on fish quality assurance programme will be held today. State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain will be present as chief guest while Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Irshadul Haq and FAO Representative Hiroyuki Konuma as special guests. Director General of Department of Fisheries (DOF) Md Liaquat Ali will chair the workshop, jointly organised by DOF and FAO. Venue: Seminar room of Matshey Bhaban. Time: 2 pm.

**Training on acupuncture:** A three-month long training programme on Acupuncture will begin. Chinese Acupuncture Training Centre has arranged the course. Venue: 183/1, School Road, 2nd floor, Mohakhali. Time: 2:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 6 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka South:** The 10th regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. It will be a joint meeting with Rotaractors and Interactors of the club. Venue: Purbani hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown:** The 917th regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: White Castle Restaurant, 20, Faisal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 5 pm.

**BARRA press confce:** Bangladesh Rural Reconstruction Association (BARRA) in cooperation with Proshika ADAB, Nijera Kari, CDA, will hold a press conference on 'Global Food Security'. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:30 am.

**Rotary Club of Shyamoli Dhaka:** The 11th installation ceremony of the club will be held. A cultural programme will follow. Guests: Abdur Razzak, MP, poet Sofia Kamal. Venue: Sheraton hotel. Time: 5 pm.

### Weather

#### Dry weather forecast

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says no appreciable change in day temperature is likely during the period.

In its outlook for subsequent five days weathermen predicted little change.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Dhaka and Khulna yesterday and the lowest 22.5 degrees at Barisal.

The sun sets today at 06:06 pm and rises tomorrow at 05:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	morning	evening
Dhaka	35.4	27.2	78	75
Chittagong	34.3	25.0	77	75
Rajshahi	34.6	25.6	72	73
Khulna	35.4	27.0	80	82
Barisal	35.2	22.5	78	67
Sylhet	33.4	26.0	68	—
Cox's Bazar	—	24.8	—	—

### PM gives Tk 1 lakh for treatment of DU teacher

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a cheque for Tk 100,000, to the Dhaka University Teachers' Association for the treatment of Abdul Malek in response to an appeal from the DUTA, reports UNB.

Abdul Malek, an Associate Professor of Islamic History Department of the University, is undergoing treatment at the Birla Heart Research Centre in India.

DUTA president Dr Johurul Huq and general secretary Dr Arelim Siddique received the cheque on behalf of the ailing teacher.

### Recounting of votes in Ctg-13 seat demanded

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: Alhaj Nazrul Islam Chowdhury who was an Awami League candidate in Chittagong-13 (Chandernai) constituency today demanded judicial inquiry into the alleged irregularities in counting vote cast in his constituency in September 5 by-election, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club here Nazrul Islam Chowdhury also called for postponement of the official election results of the constituency till submission of the inquiry committee report.

The Awami League (AL) candidate alleged that there was wide inconsistency between the total votes cast and unofficial election results of the polling centres in his constituency. In this context, he demanded recounting of votes of the constituency.

Speaking about terrorist activities and other malpractices allegedly adopted by BNP leader and former minister Oli Ahmed, he held Oli Ahmed and his terrorist groups responsible for all malpractices and tempering of election results.

### Gherao programme Mannan Bhuiyan hails party activists

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan greeted his party leaders and workers as well as the people for making the yesterday's Election Commission Secretariat gherao programme a success, reports UNB.

In a statement, he said the spontaneous participation of a large number of commonman in the programme has proved that the people have a profound hatred against the Chief Election Commissioner for his cooperation with the ruling party in rigging and unleashing terrorism.

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খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, খুলনা

নং-খুল/পট-৪৭/৯৫-৯৬-৮৬ তার: ০২/০৯/৯৬ ই

### পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের কয়েকটি ডিসিপ্রিনে বাবহারের জন্য কম্পিউটার, কম্পিউটার যন্ত্রাংশ ও ভোল্টেজস্টাবিলাইজার ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বিক্রেতা/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত পুনঃ টেন্ডার আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী টেন্ডারদাখলগণকে নিয়মাবলী সম্বলিত কাগজপত্র ও টেন্ডার সিডিউল ক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে ২০০১-দুইশত) টাকা (অফিসেরতয়োগ্য) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগে নগদ জমা দিয়ে উক্ত বিভাগ থেকে টেন্ডার সিডিউল এবং শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত কাগজপত্র গ্রহণ করতে হবে। পত্রিক ডেডলাইনসহ বিদ্যমান সর্বস্বত্বসমূহে গৃহীত কোন কোন শর্ত হতে ব্যাঙ্ক ডাফট অথবা পেমেন্টের মাধ্যমে টেন্ডার হিসাবে উক্ত মোট মূল্যের ৩% (শতকরা তিন) টাকা পত্র টেন্ডারদাখলগণকে সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত সংস্থায় সরবরাহ করতে হবে। আই, আর সনদপত্র ও টেন্ডার লাইসেন্সই প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় কোন টেন্ডার বিবেচনা করা হবে না। টেন্ডারসমূহ আগামী ১৬-০৯-৯৬ ইং তারিখ বেলা ২-০০ টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে কক্ষ রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে ফেলতে হবে। টেন্ডার ডাকযোগ্য/কুরিয়ার সার্ভিসের মাধ্যমেও পাঠানো যেতে পারে। তবে তা অবশ্যই ১৬-০৯-৯৬ ইং তারিখ বেলা ২-০০ টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে পৌঁছাতে হবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ২-৩০ মিঃ সময় টেন্ডারসমূহ টেন্ডারদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) খোলা হবে। টেন্ডার খোলার দিন কোন টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না। এই টেন্ডার স্থানীয় টেন্ডার হিসাবে বিবেচিত হবে এবং যন্ত্রপাতির মূল্য স্থানীয় মুদ্রায় পরিশোধ করা হবে। কোন কারণ না দর্শিয়ে যে কোন বা সমুদয় টেন্ডার বাতিল, গ্রহণ এবং অন্যান্য সকল ক্ষমতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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D-955

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