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4 killed, 34 hurt in road accidents

At least four persons were killed and 34 injured in road accidents in Chittagong, Meherpur and Pabna yesterday, reports UNB.

Two passengers were killed and 14 others injured in a road accident in Mirsarai thana under Chittagong district early yesterday.

Police said Maziful Islam, 30, of Nilpara and Anisuzzaman, 28, of Patikabari in Sadar thana of Kushtia district died on the spot and 14 others injured when a Chittagong-bound night coach overturned at about 4:45 am.

The injured were rushed to the Mastanagar Hospital, while the bodies were sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene. A case was filed.

Meanwhile, a man was killed and 20 others were injured when a minibus overturned on Meherpur-Kushtia road at Wapda crossing in Meherpur yesterday.

Deceased Ali Hossain, the

Young man shot dead in city

By DMC Correspondent

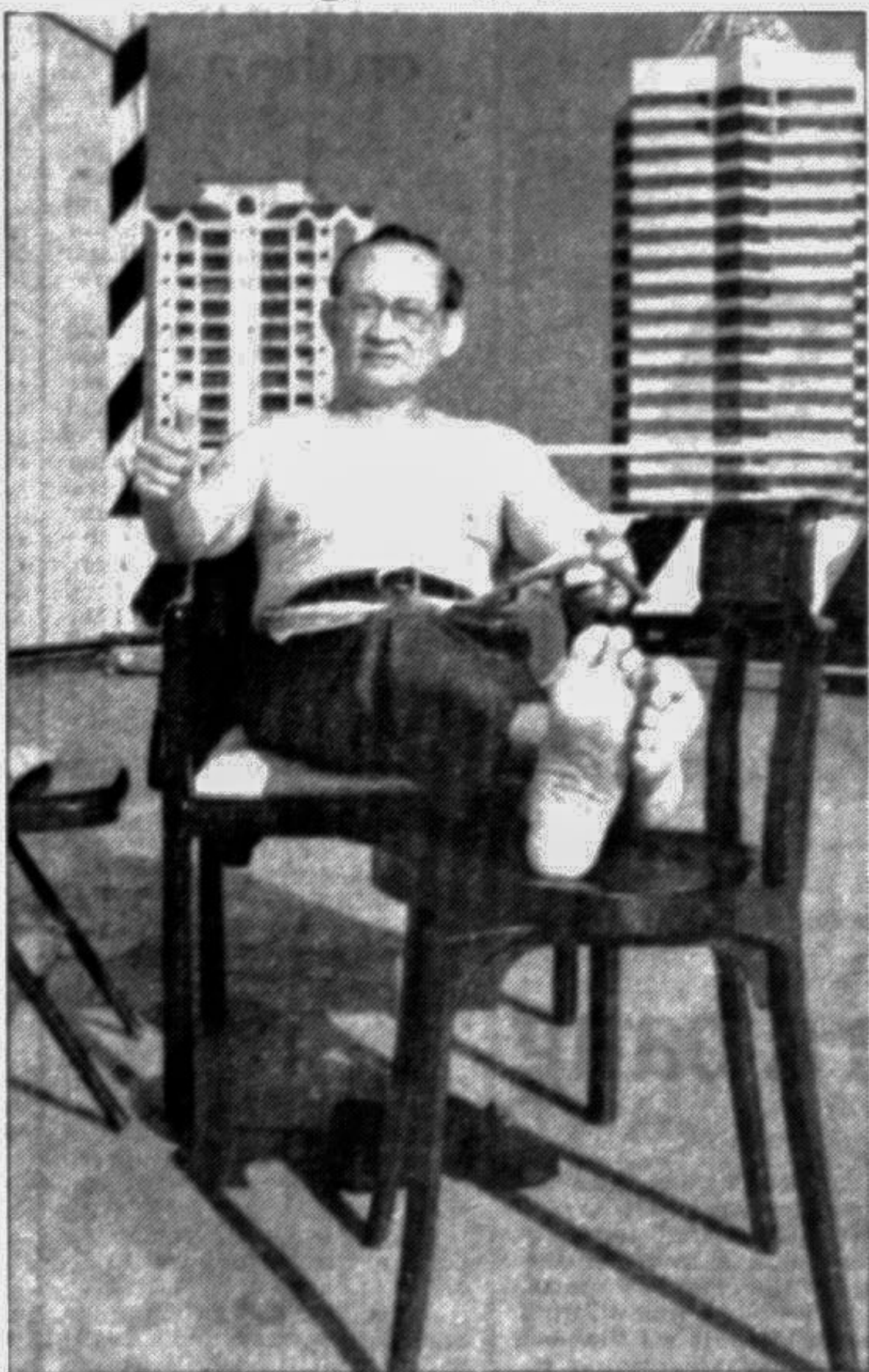
A young man was shot dead and four others were injured reportedly in a clash between two rival groups at Jurine under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

Faruq Hossain, 24, son of one Md Alaiddin, who sustained fatal injuries in his belly, died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 6:30 pm, hospital sources said.

The injured - Jashim, 17, Sohel, 22, Hanif, 27, and Sumon, 20 - were admitted to the DMCH.

DMCH sources, quoting local people said, some terrorists attacked Faruq and others near Balur Math in Jurine due to previous enmity.

However, Faruq's uncle, Shah Alam, alleged that his nephew was killed as he refused to pay money to a gang of extortionists. They allegedly demanded toll from a shop at Jurine where Faruq worked as a manager.



President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines recovering from a surgery on a blocked carotid artery gives a thumbs up as he spends the morning of Christmas Day sunbathing on the rooftop of suburban Makati Medical Center in Manila yesterday.

Christmas celebrated

Christmas, the biggest religious festival of the Christian community marking the birthday of Jesus Christ, was celebrated in the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday with due solemnity and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Thousands of devotees thronged the churches in the early hours and prayed for peace and prosperity of the country.

The programmes started in the small hours yesterday with the ringing of bell 12 times in churches. The day's programmes also included visit to the houses of the friends,

Editorial on page 4

singing of Christmas carol and distribution of gifts and Christmas cakes. Special candles were also lit, at homes and churches.

Saint Mary's Church at Laxmi Bazar, Kafur Church, Holy Cross Church at Farmgate, Roman Catholic Church at Kakrail and YMCA Church at New Eskaton were decorated with multi-coloured 'stars'.

Christmas programmes began with recitation from the holy Bible, delivering sermons, repenting and remorse, rendering chorus, praising the lord and offering prayers seeking the lasting peace for Bangladesh.

The day was a public holiday.

Bangladesh Betar and Television broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. National dailies published special supplements and articles on the occasion.

Arsenic

From Page 1

place during quarternary period (25,000 to 80,000 years back) and commonly known as Younger Deltaic Deposition (YDD).

This sediment also continues eastwards into Bangladesh and covers almost the entire alluvial region. If it's true, about 50 per cent land of Bangladesh covering 50 million population is at risk.

Dipankar Chakraborty, in his report, said Bangladesh sweet water surface resource like river, wetland, lake are one of the highest in the world.

'Arsenic calamity in Bangladesh can only be brought in control in withdrawal of ground water is restricted and proper utilisation of surface water is made', he said.

SOES started arsenic work in West Bengal and identified only a few villages and now in 1996 it has identified 825 villages where people are drinking arsenic-contaminated water.

Comparing the arsenic problem of Bangladesh with West Bengal experience, it found many similarities.

Govt, PCJSS reach consensus on permanent solution: Abdullah

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 25: Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and chairman of the 11-member National Committee on Hill Tracts Abul Hasanat Abdullah has said they have reached a consensus with the Janosanghati Samity for a permanent political solution of the hill tracts problems, reports BSS.

Abdullah said this after the

Nagaland minister's wife, 2 relatives killed in blast

KOHIIMA, India, Dec 25: An Indian provincial minister's wife and two of his relatives were killed today after attending Christmas services, in a bomb blast by suspected militants in the far eastern state of Nagaland, police said, reports AFP.

K Hollon, the Nagaland Industry Minister, his wife, daughter and grandchild were travelling to the state capital Kohima when a bomb planted by militants on a stationary vehicle exploded at Dimapur district, a police spokesman said.

Khaleeda back home

From Page 1

welcoming her back home as soon as she came out through the VIP lounge of the airport with the help of a crutch. Most of the central leaders of the party and a host of her relatives were present at the airport to receive Begum Zia who landed at 12:15 pm.

Clad in a blue saree and a black shawl over it, Begum Zia looked exhausted. She was escorted by top party leaders onto the open-roofed jeep.

Earlier, truck and bus-loads of workers and supporters of BNP started gathering at the airport premises with colourful banners, festoons and portraits of Shaheed Zia and Begum Zia since 9 in the morning.

Security system at the airport nearly collapsed as a section of the BNP workers forced their way into the restricted zones. They also moved indiscriminately, some in cars, in different areas of the airport. Some of them also forcibly entered the VIP lounge.

From the airport, Begum Zia straight went to her Cantonment residence.

UNB adds: Begum Zia in her speech also expressed her deep

gratitude to the countrymen who prayed for her recovery.

Senior party leaders, including Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Col (Retd) Ol Ahmed, Nazmul Huda, M A Mannan and Salahuddin Ahmed received her as she alighted from the aircraft.

Begum Zia was accompanied by her two sons - Tarek Rahman and Arafat Rahman - former ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and her private secretary Mosaddek Ali Fala.

Party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other leaders, including Abdus Salam Talukdar, Saifur Rahman, Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Shamsul Islam, M K Anwar, R A Cani, Jamir Uddin Sircar, Moshed Khan, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Nazrul Islam Khan, Ahmed Nazir, Ehsanul Kabir, Khurshid Jahan Huq, Selima Rahman, Amanullah Aman, Mirza Abbas and Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie, were present at the airport.

The BNP chairperson went to Saudi Arabia on November 27.

Mugda-Kamalapur link road

From Page 1

Kadomtala, Rajarbagh, Madarake, Nandipara, Dakshingon, Baikda and Manikda areas use the existing road - Mugda-Kamalapur link road.

It is the only direct road link between these areas and Kamalapur-Motijheel areas.

BR sources said that due to heavy congestion of containers full of import-export cargo, the Chittagong Port authority gave Tk 50 crore to BR for immediate expansion of the ICD at Kamalapur.

With business booming and transportation of goods between the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chittagong on the rise, ICD expansion became a dire necessity, said a BR official. Moreover, the Mugda-Kamalapur link road is situated on land owned by BR, he pointed out.

For ICD expansion digging of the link road on both side of the railway road, earlier leased as fields for growing vegetables, was going on for about two weeks.

The spade work, however,



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One injured jail inmate dies at Khulna hospital

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 25: One of the two convicts brought from Jessore and later admitted to sadar hospital at noon died this evening, Liqueat Ali, 40, was awarded the life term imprisonment last year in three murder cases.

Hospital sources said the other injured convict Palash, 30, is also in a critical condition.

They were severely injured during the police operation in Jessore Central Jail.

Biman suspends Dhaka-S'pore route controller

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has suspended its Dhaka-Singapore route controller for misuse of power, harassment of passengers and corruption, official sources said, reports UNB.

The commercial officer of Biman administration, Mizanur Rahman, during discharging his duties as controller of the route allegedly overlooked every flight ignoring rules.

As a result, the officials said, the passengers of the route since November had to suffer as they used to be offloaded while the Biman incurred loss of both money and its image.

The officials said for example, a total of 36 passengers were offloaded on December 18 for overbooking by the route controller.

They said he had sealed 370 seats of different Biman flights in the route from November 1 to December 31 by 'fake' booking.

Mizanur Rahman, who was earlier withdrawn from the Sales-Promotion Department of the national airlines, returned to Dhaka-Singapore route last October. He was cautioned on November 25 for the overbooking.

Convict dies in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: A convict of Rajshahi Central Jail died of breathing problem at a hospital here today, prison sources said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abu Dayem, 45, who hailed from Manikganj of Ishurdi in Pabna district.

Doctors said Dayem was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital at about 7 in the morning and died at 2:20 pm.

NDC Shahiduzzaman made the body report and mentioned there was no injury. His body, however, was sent to RMCH morgue for autopsy.

Stolen denim worth Tk 12 lakh recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police have recovered a truck and cotton cloths denim worth about Tk 12 lakh which were stolen from Tejgaon in the city last Sunday.

According to police, four persons - Ataur Rahman, Lokman Hossain, Amir Hossain and Khorsheed Alam - were arrested for their alleged involvement in stealing the vehicle and the cloths.

Garipur district administration and Tongi Pourashava and hospitals there are also providing facilities for the Ijtema. A number of NGOs and socio-cultural organisations are also setting up booths around the Ijtema venue for providing emergency services.

Death of BCL leader Situation at Tangail tense

From Our Correspondent

TANGAIL, Dec 25: A tense situation was prevailing here following the death of one Bangladesh Chhatra League leader, Saiful Islam, last Sunday.

A police official of the Tangail Kotwali thana said rival groups fired shots and threw hundreds of bombs after the district administration had withdrawn Section 144.

Clash at ferry ghat in Bhandaria: 25 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARSAL, Dec 25: At least 25 persons were injured in a clash at the Charkhali ferry ghat of Bhandaria in Pirojpur district this morning.

According to witnesses, more than two hundred people led by bus owners and leaders of the labour unions attacked the 'garadars', and passengers.

Some 20 shops and hotels and autorickshaws were ransacked.

This incident, according to sources, was a sequel to the clash between the two groups on Tuesday.

BNP urges int'l HR bodies to probe Jessore jail incident

BNP yesterday requested the international human rights organisations to probe the violations of human rights in Jessore Central Jail, reports UNB.

In a statement, party secretary general Abul Mannan Bhuiyan reiterated the demand for constituting a judicial commission to investigate the jail incidents.

He demanded of the government to ensure proper treatment of the jail inmates injured in the police crackdown in Jessore Central Jail on December 22.

The government did not make proper arrangements to ensure treatment of the jail inmates injured in police firing and lathicharge, he alleged.

This is not only a violation of civic rights, but also an insult to the internationally recognised human rights.

The BNP leader expressed concern over the 'increasing repression of present government on BNP' and called upon the government to shun the path of torture and repression.

'We want to remind this fascist government that BNP and the people cannot be suppressed by repressive measures', he said, adding 'the fall of fascism is inevitable with the resentment of people.'

Bhuiyan strongly protested the filing of 'false' cases

SAARC law confce begins in city tomorrow

The 5th SAARC Law Conference begins in Dhaka tomorrow to discuss how to ensure development through rule of law, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day conference at International Conference Centre (ICC) at 9:45 am.

About 200 judges, jurists and senior lawyers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the host country Bangladesh will participate in the meeting.

Barrister Amirul Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh apex body of the SAARC Law Association, will preside over the conference.

Sramik League, Sramik Dal activists clash in Khulna: 18 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 25: Some 18 persons, including five policemen, were severely injured in a clash between the supporters of the Jatiya Sramik League and the Jatiyatadai Sramik Dal here tonight. Many shops and hotels were looted during the clash.

All the injured have been admitted hospitals.

According to eyewitnesses, the clash began when a group of Sramik League activists went to the skid ghat for capturing the Handling Workers' Union Office. The police immediately went into action to disperse the rival groups.

Biswa Ijtema

From Page 1

European countries. Devotees from abroad will increase this year, the organisers said.

About one thousand volunteers of Tabligi Jamaat, belonging different professions, have been working for the last four months to prepare the field, in stall facilities for water, power and sanitation and set up the huge pandal, the sources said.

The whole area has been adequately lighted, a few hundred tubewells have been sunk and temporary wooden and bamboo ghats set up along the river. The government has also provided medicare and transport facilities.

In addition to giving some special trains on December 28, 29, 30, 31, all trains going along have been ordered to touch the Tongi station.

Every year, Biswa Ijtema usually takes place at the end of January but this year it is being held earlier, ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

Garipur district administration and Tongi Pourashava and hospitals there are also providing facilities for the Ijtema. A number of NGOs and socio-cultural organisations are also setting up booths around the Ijtema venue for providing emergency services.

The Parishad welcomed the fresh peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and the PCJSS which concluded on Tuesday at Khagrachhari Circuit House with both sides expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the dialogue.

শাখা স্থানান্তর

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থেকে

মৌজা-সকই, বাড়িয়ান # ৯৫০/৮৮৫, দাশ # ১০৬৬, হোজি # ১৬২

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৯ Nishan

জনতা ব্যাংক

ডাকা বাংলাদেশ

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