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# Tofael on fertiliser

From Page 1

protests from some Opposition Bench members. The Chair then gave the floor to BNP deputy Col (retd) Akbar Hussain who rose on a point of order to say that a minister, while giving a statement under Article 300, could not give reference to notices. The Chair overruled the objection saying there were such precedences in the Fifth

Parliament. In his long statement Tofael spoke about stock position of fertiliser, its distribution, and issuance and cancellation of fertiliser dealership.

He said, according to the IFDC, fertiliser price is seven per cent less this month than that during the corresponding month last year. The IFDC observed with great satisfaction that contrary to the previous year's, fertiliser price marked fall during the Robi-Boro sea son this year, said Tofael.

Eighteen farmers had to die for fertiliser in March 1995. We took lesson from the past experience. Our government has no intention to do business or do politics with fertiliser," the Industries Minister said.

He said, the previous BNP government had introduced the fertiliser dealership system and recruited 2437 dealers. Too many dealers were recruited for some districts and thanas. He said, 165 dealers were recruited for Chittagong Sadar thana and over 100 for Sarishabari thana.

#### Shima's death: Probe body chief in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: The retired Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court Dalil Uddin Ahmed arrived here this afternoon to begin the work of the enquiry commission set up to probe the death of Shima Chowdhury He will be staying here till

Tuesday. Shima, a garments factory worker, died white in safe cus-

tody in Chittagong jail Meanwhile, two magistrates have completed their investigation into the death of Shima Chowdhury.

#### 100 shanties

From Page 1 dozen of kutcha houses were burnt in a fire at another slum in the same area of Mirpur Section 10 yesterday

Fire brigade sources said, the flame that originated from a kitchen of a house at about 3:30 pm, was extinguished within 20 minutes.

#### Fire at book fair Our Staff Correspondent

adds: A fire broke out in a stall at the Amar Ekushev book fair at Bangla Academy in the city vesterday afternoon. Some clothes in the stall

Atoshi near Gate No-1 of the fair located on the road in front of the academy was burnt in the fire that started at about 6 pm. fire service sources said The cause of the blaze could

not be known immediately. One unit of the fire brigade posted at the fair premises brought the fire under control within a very short time.

The Present government has rationalised the number of dealers so that there cannot be more than five in one thana, he added. Tofael said though 954 new dealers have been recruited and dealership of 32, cancelled on specific reasons, those of 'BNP men' have not been cancelled despite pressure from various quarters including the Fertilizer Dealers Association.

The Industries Minister said 28 buffer stocks of fertiliser have been built in the country and district level monitoring committees formed to ensure availability of fertiliser at thana level. There is a commit tee headed jointly by himself and Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury and a control room has been set up at the BCIC Bhaban to moni tor the fertiliser situation in the country, the minister said

Tofael said the government had to buy 1.55,000 MT urea from KAFCO and import an other 1,95,000 MT through open tenders. "We have to buy fertiliser at Tk 10.249.43 per ton and produce it at a cost of Tk 5,022 per ton whereas we have to give subsidy to supply fer tiliser to farmers at a rate of Tk 3.725 per ton.

"The government has to count Tk 292 crore each year for fertiliser as BCIC's fertiliser production cost does not match the price the government offers to farmers.

#### CCC to rehabilitate 200 homeless families

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: Chittagong City Corporation has undertaken a project to rehabilitate as many as 200 homeless families of the city at Sholoshahar Burma Colony, reports BSS. The decision to rehabilitate

the rootless families was taken at a meeting of the corporation held at its auditorium with City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the chair. Chief executive, secretary

and heads of different departments of the corporation attended the meeting

City Mayor urged all to extend their cooperation for proper implementation of various welfare oriented programmes in the city.

#### Savings

From Page 1

After six months of investment on the savings certificate. a client can draw profit of Tk 6,750 on a certificate of Take one lakh. Tk 13,500 on Tk 2 lakh, Tk 33,750 on Tk 5 lakh and Tk 67,000 on a Taka 10lakh certificate.

Anyone aged 18 and above can buy the certificate amounting to maximum Tk 10

It will be available with the National Savings Bureau, all commercial banks including Bangladesh Bank and post offices of the country.

The interest on it is income tax-free, it is movable and can be exchanged anytime with proportional amount of profit.

The investors can appoint a nominee for the certificate, and if it is burnt, lost or damaged, the authorities will issue declaration in lieu.

## S Asia Dialogue on Cultural Cooperation from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day Fifth South Asia Dialogue on Čultural Cooperation, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), will begin at the BRAC Centre at Rajendrapur in Gazipur district tomorrow.

The dialogue will focus on three themes: women in society, fundamentalism and communalism and social justice and human rights.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, chief of the CPD said at a press conference at its office yesterday that the dialogue was expected to be attended by 25 eminent personalities from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Eminent local personalities including academicians economists, ministers, lawyers social activists, researchers, editors, essayists and artists will attend the dialogue which will be concluded in three sessions. The Dialogue will help ex-

plore the presence of a shared cultural identity within the South Asian region which may provide a more substantive basis for co-operation between not just the government but also the people of South Asia, Prof Sob-Mr Justice Muhammad

Habibur Rahman, former Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government will inaugurate the dialogue as chief guest.

#### Student killed

From Page 1 family members.

The cause of the killing could not be known immedi-

Local people said a gang of armed men, reportedly led by a terrorist chased Dilip when he was passing Nakhalpara area. At one stage, the gang opened fire indiscriminately when Dilip tried to hide in a house at East Nakhalpara. At the time, a stray bullet hit Ruhul Amin.

According to local people, Ruhul Amin was caught in the cross fire when two gangs of ter rorists started a gunfight over a previous rivalry. Police arrested one Shid

dharta in this connection. A murder case was lodged by Ruhul's elder brother

The body of Ruhul was sent to the DMCH morgue for au-

# CHT Meet

From Page 1

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah was quoted by BBC as saying the conference has been postponed due to the on-going peace pro-

BBC also reported that 20 participants from Bangladesh were refused visa by the Thai embassy in Dhaka.

Foreign Ministry sources when asked, however, said that they did not ask the Thai embassy to refuse visas and if it had been done so, it might have acted on its own. The conference on CHT is be-

ing co-sponsored by the Asian Indigenous People's Pact, National Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights in CHT and some other organisations.

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VENUE: DHANMONDI

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GATE OPENS AT: 9:00 AM

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TICKET: TAKA 175 ONLY

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## Humayun Zahir murder

## Showcause on govt, proceedings stayed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the government to showcause as to why the 'Humayun Zahir murder case' should not be withdrawn from the 3rd Court of Additional Session Judge, Dhaka and be tried by the High Court Division or by any other competent court which the court may deem fit and proper.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Naim Mohammad Mominur Rahman also fixed the case to come up on top of the list as 'part-heard' for hearing on March 3.

The court also ordered stay of all further proceedings of the Session Case No-137 of 1994 now pending with the 3rd Court of Additional Session Judge. Dhaka till March 3.

The father-in-law of deceased Humayun Zahir filed a Criminal Revision case challenging the impugned order dated February 1 passed by the trial court rejecting the petition for adjournment of hearing of the case for moving the High Court against the order dated January 30 allowing the prayer

the High Court.

6 JCD activists

held in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

tivists of the Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal were arrested by

the Kotwali police here last

Police said, two of them -

Abdus Samad Tuhel and

Shamim Ahmed — are wanted

in connection with several

cases. The four others are: Liton

Ahmed, Kutan Miah, Hafij Ali

procession in the town and

blocked the main road for some

time last night to protest the ar-

SSC examinees

gherao PDB office

From Gaibandha

Correspondent

eral hundred SSC examinees

gheraoed the office of Power

Development Board at Gob-

indaganj yesterday demanding

the situation under control. The

resident Engineer, Rafiqul Is-

lam gave the assurance that he

would ensure regular power

supply from 6 pm to 12 mid-

Woman trafficker

country boat for going to Ba-

hadurabad ghat. His movement

created suspicion in the minds

of the policemen who later

challenged him but he could not

give any satisfactory reply. Po-lice arrested the accused and

According to his confes-

sional statement, he is a retired

army man now working with Shamrat & Co. of Narayanganj

as a sentry. He came to

Bonarpara with the intention

Alefa, 15, Eleka, 10), Hosne Ara,

11) of village Gochabari under

Shaghata thana, Azima, 14, of

village Paschim Kachua under

Shaghata thana, Anjuna, 14.

Noori, 13. Zulekha, 14, of

Bonarpara under Shaghata

The girls were identified as

rescued the seven girls.

to procure teenage girls.

thana.

From Page 1

Police were deployed to bring

regular power supply.

GAIBANDHA, Feb 23: Sev-

The local JCD brought out a

and Najmul Kabir.

SYLHET. Feb 23: Six ac-

of accused Aktaruzzaman Babu for Division in the jail and directing the jail authorities to transfer him to Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital

It was alleged in the petition that in the name of treatment, the accused will enjoy the benefit of remaining outside the jail and tamper evidence and threaten witnesses not to be present in court and not to give evidence against him.

"There is serious apprehension that fair and impartial trial cannot be had before the courts of District and Additional District and Sessions Judges and as such in the interest of justice and for fair and impartial trial the case should be transferred to this Hon'ble High Court Division for trial as it is an exceptional case of great public importance" the petition submitted.

Barrister Zamiruddin Sirker assisted by Advocate Idrisur Rahman and Masuma Aktar Mita moved for the petitioner, while senior Advocate Sirajul Huq along with Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud assisted by Anisul Huq represented Aktaruzzaman Babu.

#### JP MP granted President

From Page 1 discussion on the President's

By Staff Correspondent address. Regretting the delayed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, an MP start of the sitting due to lack of of the Jativa Party, who was quorum, the Speaker urged all awarded one-year rigorous imthe members to attend the sesprisonment by the Jhalokathi sion on time and sought coop-District Court on Saturday was eration from all concerned in granted bail for one month af this regard. ter providing a bail bond of Tk He announced that from now 30 lakh the same day.

on, the day's sitting would begin Bhutto, who faces six other with discussion on the presicases for misuse of power. dential speech. talking to The Daily Star from Taking part in the discus-Barisal last night said that he would return to Dhaka tomorrow to lodge his appeal before

sion, AL MP Abdul Kader Siddiqui said he felt proud of get ting the opportunity of speak ing on the address by a good person like President Shahabuddin Ahmed Replying to the Opposition

members' contention that the presidential address only contained the government plans and activities, he said in a parliamentary democracy, a speech by the President was bound to reflect the government position.

Kader Siddiqui also urged his Opposition colleagues to shun the practice of opposing the presidential address just for the sake of opposition.

Prof Shahidul Islam of the BNP blamed the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for 'directing' the President to deliver his speech on the government's position.

Golam Mohammad Kader of Jatiya Party thanked the President for speaking of the rule of law and separation of the judiciary, but criticised him for 'not citing the government plan' to repeal the Special Powers Act

#### Bill passed

From Page 1 cific period.

Earlier, senior BNP legislators like Sheikh Razzak Ali, Jamiruddin Sircar, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, Ziaur Rahman and Dr Mayeen Khan opposed passage of the bill, arguing that it had sought 'unlimited power' for the government especially in terms deferring the local level polls. They said that the bill had eventually proposed empowering the government to defer the polls for an indefinite period which was violative of the spirit of the Constitution.

A large number of BNP and JP lawmakers also proposed several amendments, most of them suggesting a specific period for deferment of the polls that ranged from 45 days to 180 days. But they were rejected by voice votes. M K Anwar of the BNP refused to argue in favour of his proposed amendments as the Chair allocated him 'only two minutes' for justifying four amendment proposals.

It can be mentioned here that the last cabinet meeting had resolved that the UP elections would be held in September this year.

# Infighting delays

organised to gather data and information.

sion was announced by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in July last year as per her election commitment to make the ad-

ernment nominated Prof Najumunnessa Mahtab of Public Administration Department, Dhaka University; Prof Nazrul Islam of BUET, Syed Manzoor Elahi, a leading businessman; Khaled Shams, deputy managing director of Grameen Bank; ATM Shamsul Huq, former secretary and AL candidate in the last election, and Hafizuddin Khan, Comptroller of Accounts and Auditor General. But another member could not be accommodated as the government did not agree to a suggestion to have an efficiency unit at the PM's office headed by a secre-

A vast agenda was assigned to the commission to study, among other things, the Public Administration Efficiency Study, 1989; Public Adminiswards Better Government in Bangladesh, 1993; Government that works Reforming the Public Sector, 1996 and related World Bank report and Administrative Reorganisation Committee report, 1996. The commission would

study these reports and identify

the recommendations which could be implemented. Besides, it is to come up with recommendations about improving the current status of transparency, efficiency, accountability and effectiveness of the public administration, suggest ways of streamlining the size of the administration and manpower and review all aspects of the structure of civil service and its system of 'incentives' in order to 'make it more effective, eontemporary and dynamic'. While recommending changes in the rules and regulations concerned, the commission may suggest decentralization of government activities and reorganisation of the local government system and make specific suggestions to prevent the tendency for corruption at different levels of administration. the sources said.

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#### RU Shibir stages sit-in on campus

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 23: The Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) Raishahi University Unit staged a sit-in in front of the Administrative Building this morning protesting removal of Prof M Yousuf Ali from the office of the Vice Chancellor

Over one hundred ICS activists took part in the sit-in programme.

#### Covert trial

From Page 1 organised by UBINIG, a private development research organisation. Held at WVA auditorium, it was attended by leaders of women's bodies, physicians and NGO workers. Quinacrine is a sclerosing

agent that causes inflammation. The drug pellets inside the wombs, burn uterine tissues and forms scabs. The inflammatory response results in the formation of scar tissue blocking the inner end of the fallopian tube which ultimately prevent the sperm from reaching the ovum.

was alleged that Quinacrine, basically an antimalarial drug used for chemical sterilisation, had been used on 530 women in the Chittagong slums. The programme was being carried out by the Principal of Chittagong Medical College, violating the government procedures for trials of new drugs and contraceptives, according to a statement issued following the discussion. It was noted at the discussion

that the World Health Or ganisation (WHO) stated in un equivocal terms that Quinacrine should not be used for sterilisation of women as questions of its safety still remained unresolved. The statement also de

manded that the programme of sterilising women with Quinacrine be stopped immedi-Prof Shree Mulay, gave brief history of the emergence

anti-malarial drug Quinacrine as a chemical sterilisation method and focused on its clinical trials carried out in Bangladesh, India and other countries, mostly developing The discussion was participated by, among others, Farida

Akhter, Nasreen Huq, Gena Corea. Dr Anwar Hossain and Prof Latifa Akhand. Later, a documentary, - The Human Laboratory - based on

the trials of Norplant and Quinacrine was shown.

#### Manzur murder From Page 1

in the head at point-blank range and killed and it was ab-

solutely a cold-blooded murder. After the investigation, police submitted chargesheet against former president Hossain Mohammad Ershad, Major General (retd) Mohammad Abdul Latif, Lt Col (retd) Shamsur Rahman Shams, Major (retd) Kazi Emdadul Hug and Lt Col Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuiyan (LPR) and the charge was framed against them. Two accused H M Ershad and

Lt Col Mostafa Kamaluddin (LPR) got bail. The case is now pending for trial in the court of First Addi-

tional Sessions Judge, Dhaka. Khandker Mahbub Hossain moved the bail prayer for Lt Col (retd) Shams.

# BNP movement

Discussing the CHT situation, the meeting observed that the problem turned more serious due to a weak stand of the government.

or the parliament, it said. The BNP meeting called upon the government not to

sure security of the people living in the CHT region and resolve the crisis upholding the constitution.

for the share market scandal which allowed draining out of huge capital from the country, the meeting demanded formation of a committee comprising equal number of MPs from ruling and opposition parties to probe it.

forex reserve had reduced

## meet at Feni Wednesday BNP Chairperson and Leader

of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Feni Airport at 3 pm on Wednesday, reports UNB.

ter the party's grand rally in the city's Manik Mia Avenue on December 7. Begum Zia begins here scheduled countrywide organisational tour from her home

The BNP Chief is expected to deliver an important speech at Feni meeting regarding her party's next course of action in view of the country's present po-

7 speech at Manik Mia Avenue, had announced that her party would announce a tough programme against the government after Eid-Ul-Fitr.

## Prince Charles

sion of a seminar on "NGO-Business Collaboration" being organised by PRIP Trust and PWBLF. Later, the organisers will accord a reception to him. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina will host a dinner in honour of Prince Charles at the Bangabhavan the same During his stay, the Prince of Wales will also visit commu-

TIONAID at Adabar in the capi-On February 28 the Prince will visit Chittagong where he will inaugurate the new British

Council Library building. He will fly by a special helicopter to the off-shore rig of Cairn Plc to sec the progress of gas drilling work. The Prince who is coming after a tour of Kuwait and Qatar

will be leaving Dhaka the same evening at 9:30 pm.

alarmingly, export was about to stop and the country had become dependent on import due to the wrong policy of the gov-ernment. Local industry was on

the verge of ruination, it ob-

... The entire economy has become stagnant," it said.

served.

It expressed concern at the price hike of essentials and agricultural inputs, particularly fertiliser, and politicisation of fertiliser dealership, fertiliser smuggling, and low price of paddy, jute and other agricultural produce.

Sounding a note of warning

to the government, the main opposition party said the people would give befitting reply if the government takes any decision against the interest of the country or its independence and sovereignty. It called upon the people to

remain alert against the government move to give transit to India in the name of Asian Highway, form sub-regional group, and the conspiracy to import electricity from India.

Criticising politicisation and nepotism of the ruling party, the BNP standing committee observed that the country was heading for a deep political crisis due to the failure of the government in running the

#### Madhupalli From Page 1

He also introduced sonnet, a

genre of English literature, in Bengali literature. An agricultural exhibition and handicraft show is on in

celebration of his birth an-

niversary. Michael Madhusudhan Dutta, who gave touches of modernism on Bengali literature, was born on January 25 in 1824. The festival was delayed

due to Ramadan.

people gathered in front of the Michael Madhusudhan Institute on the bank of the Kapatakhya Hasina told the gathering

Hundreds and thousands of

that a poet who contributed a lot to Bengali literature can't remain ignored and unsung. "It's your pride that you have

had a man like Michael born among you." she told the crowd, adding he gave Bengali literature acquaintance with the world arena.

Later, the PM visited the ancestral home of Michael Madhusudhan.

## PM: Opposition

the best way.

From Page 1

Ganges water treaty with India, she said the government was framing plans so that the available water could be used in

About different problems of

the region, the Prime Minister said the government had allocated Tk I crore for solving the water logging problem of the area. If necessary, the government will allocate more money to remove the water stagnancy. About a planned EPZ in the

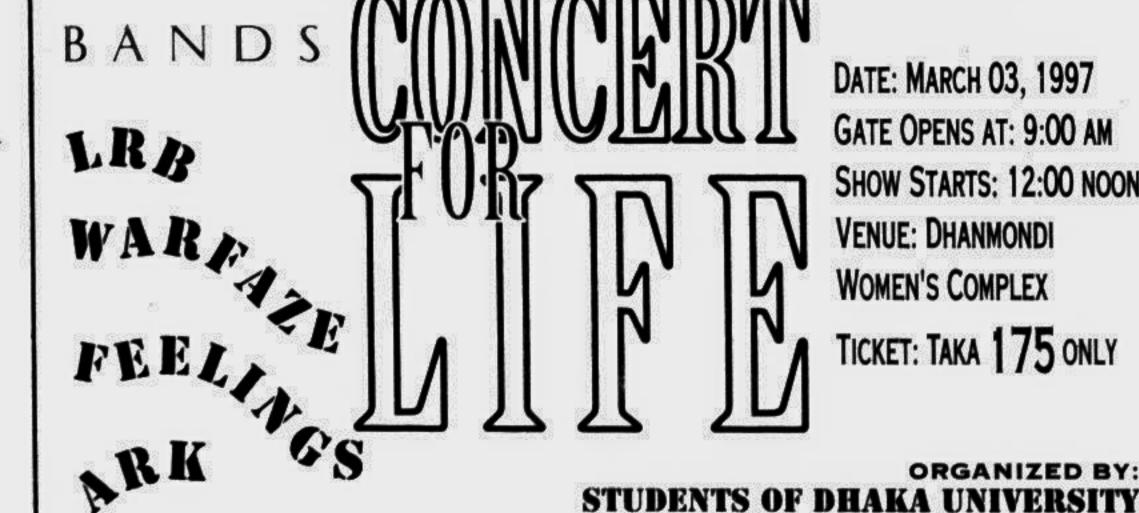
Khulna, she said decision had already been taken to set up export procession zone in the re-She also called upon the lo-

cal investors to set up mills and factories, assuring them of allout help from the government. Referring to the long-cher-

ished Rupsha bridge, Hasina said the government had plans to set up the bridge along with railway lines.

# ONLY TAKA 175 CAN SAVE A **DHAKA VARSITY** STUDENT

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### tration Sector Study, 1993; To-From Page 1

Formation of the commisministration more dynamic, accountable and pro-people. When it was formed, the gov-

tary, who was to be a member of the commission.

নুক্লল হক সিকদার বাবস্থাপনা পরিচালক পলমল গ্রুপ ভোটাৰ নং-৯৬৫

প্রধান সমন্বয়কারী ও এম

## From Page 1 sure security to public life and

"It has become essential to save the people from this intolerable situation," the BNP meeting said in a resolution.

for lighting products, radio and TV sets

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Moreover, contents of the talks between Jana Sanghati Samity and the government were not disclosed to the people

take any step that could endanger the country's existence. It demanded urgent steps to en-Criticising the government

The BNP meeting said the

Khaleda's public

This will be the first public meeting of the Leader of the Opposition outside the capital af-

district, Fine. She was elected an MP from Feni-1 in the seventh general elections.

litical and economic situation. Begum Zia, in her December

# From Page 1

will attend the concluding ses-

nity service projects of AC-

প্রোজেকশন মিটিং বিসমিল্লাহির রাহ্মানির রাহিম সম্মিলিত পরিষদ প্যানেল পরিচিতি আজ ২৪শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৭ কেন্দ্ৰীয় প্ৰোভেকশন সভা হোটেল সোনাৱগাঁও পুল সাইড विरक्ष ५३।। দল নেতা : মেন্তকা গোলাম কুদুছ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ড্রাগন গ্রুপ জিন্নাত আলী মিয়া কে এম জামান (রোমেল ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, স্যামারণ জ্যাপন লিঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক আশা গার্মেন্টস লিঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, হলিউড গার্মেন্ট্স লিঃ ভোটার নং-১১৪৮ 845 N. 258 ভোটাৰ নং-৫৬০



থক্কার মনির উদ্দিন

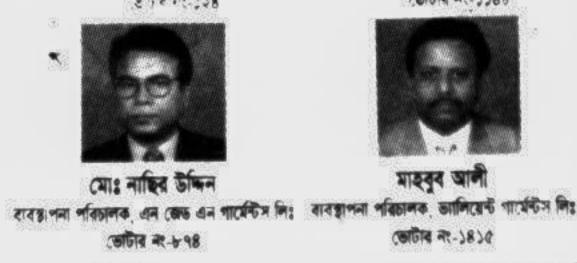
আবুল কাসেম হায়দার

ভোটাৰ নং-১৪১৫ আমির হুমায়ুন মাহ্মুদ চৌধুরী সমস্বাকারী ও এম, ডি সমস্বৰকাৰী ও চেয়াৰমাত

মেহের প্রুপ

সকল সম্মানিত পোশাক শিল্প মালিকবৃন্দের দোয়াপ্রার্থী।

শক্তিশালী ও গতিশীল বিজিএমইএ গঠনে সহায়তা করুন



ইয়ুখ প্রদেশ