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The Daily Star

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36 Shibir activists held in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, June 5: Police arrested 36 activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) from different places of the city today.

Police said the arrested persons include students of Rajshahi University, different colleges, madrasahs and schools in the district.

Acting on a secret information, the Detective Branch of police raided the transports in which the Shibir cadres were travelling to participate in the rally near the Binodepur area of Rajshahi University this morning, police said.

See Page 12 Col 7

New economic bloc to be launched in Bangkok today

Leaders of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand will sign a declaration in Bangkok today launching a new bloc to promote socio-economic condition of about 1.12 billion people of the four Asian nations, reports UNB.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury who left Dhaka yesterday for Bangkok will lead the Bangladesh delegation to a ministerial meeting in the Thai capital today.

The meet, also to be attended by Ministers of India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, will be followed by signing of the declaration.

Power-generating firms allowed to sell surplus power to nearby units

The ninth meeting of the Board of Investment (BOI) held at the Prime Minister's Office last night called for gearing up the activities of BOI to attract more foreign investment as well as simplifying various procedures, reports BSS.

Chaired by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister M

See Page 12 Col 1

JP rebels outline 'next course of action' today

By Staff Correspondent
Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain, who are leading the Jatiya Party rebels, announce their next course of action today, sources close to them said.

They are going to outline their programme, besides holding a council meeting of the JP, at a press conference at 5 pm at a city hotel.

JP chief H M Ershad on Wednesday expelled them from the party. It was the third expulsion for Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Kazi Zafar and Shah

See Page 12 Col 3

Inside Today

Article
Floods in Bangladesh and the Regional Perspective
by Amjad Hossain Khan Page 4

International
ROK govt vows to uproot student violence Page 5

Business
Govt planning to set up new urea factories
DSE index continues to fall on lower volume Pages 6, 7

Supplement
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains one page supplement on National Day of Sweden Page 8

Water & sewer rates increased by 5 pc

By Shehab Ahmad

The Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has raised the water and sewer rates by five per cent since March, making per thousand litres of water cost Tk 3.70.

The rise had been 2.5 per cent from March 1 and the rest from June 1, WASA sources said.

"The last hike in water rate was 25 per cent in 1993 and 1994. We should have raised the rates by eight per cent to adjust with the new power tariff to cope with the operational costs which rose by 35 per cent," a top WASA official said.

WASA provides piped water to 1,60,000 subscribers and less than one third of them get sewer facilities. It is finding it difficult to meet demands of the city which remains perennially short by 45 crore litres per day. It has a daily output of some 85 crore litres.

"We are fighting a losing battle to provide water to the citizens of the metropolis whose ranks are being swollen by four and a half per cent annually by new migrants," the official said.

But the WASA's woes are not going to be over so soon as the work on upgradation of century-old water-works at Chadnighat would not be completed before March next year.

It currently provides 1.5 crore litre of water, treating surface water from the highly polluted Buriganga at Labagh. Under a Japanese grant it will be able to supply 3.5 crore litre of water in the old quarters of the city.

But the citizens will have to wait to quench their thirst fully until the year 2002 when a World Bank-aided project to pipe water from the Shitalakha goes into operation.

The 172 million US dollar project is designed to supply 22.5 crore litre of water per day to meet the city's demand.

However, work on the project is yet to commence as the WASA is yet to complete all conditionalities on schedule. So far four conditions have been met and another will be met by June 15.

Tender for commencing the project is, however, being processed. Despite the preliminary progress, sources in the WASA

See Page 12 Col 6

Sectt employees split over talks with govt

The Secretariat employees agitating for the restoration of old office timing and new pay scales, split into three factions yesterday over a report that some leaders of the Sangikto Karniachari Parishad had a clandestine deal with the government to frustrate the movement, reports UNB.

The three groups accused each other of collaborating with the government and betraying the employees.

Yesterday the employees started assembling at two separate places inside the Secretariat from 9 am, defying a government ban.

At about 11 am, while observing a token strike, the employees held three separate rallies.

Parishad leaders Habibur Rahman and Shah Alam addressed a rally in front of the 14-storey building while another group of employees staged demonstration near the 19-storey building under the leadership of Zafar, Aftab and Azizur Rahim, leaders of the same organisation.

The third group, under a bridge linking the 19-storey building with the Ministry of Works, criticised the leaders of the other two rallies for, what it called, destroying the unity of the employees for their personal interests. This group was addressed by one Salamullah.

Addressing the rally, Habib and Alam admitted that they had met with the Prime Minister, but did not disclose the contents of the discussion.

The three groups chanted

See Page 12 Col 3

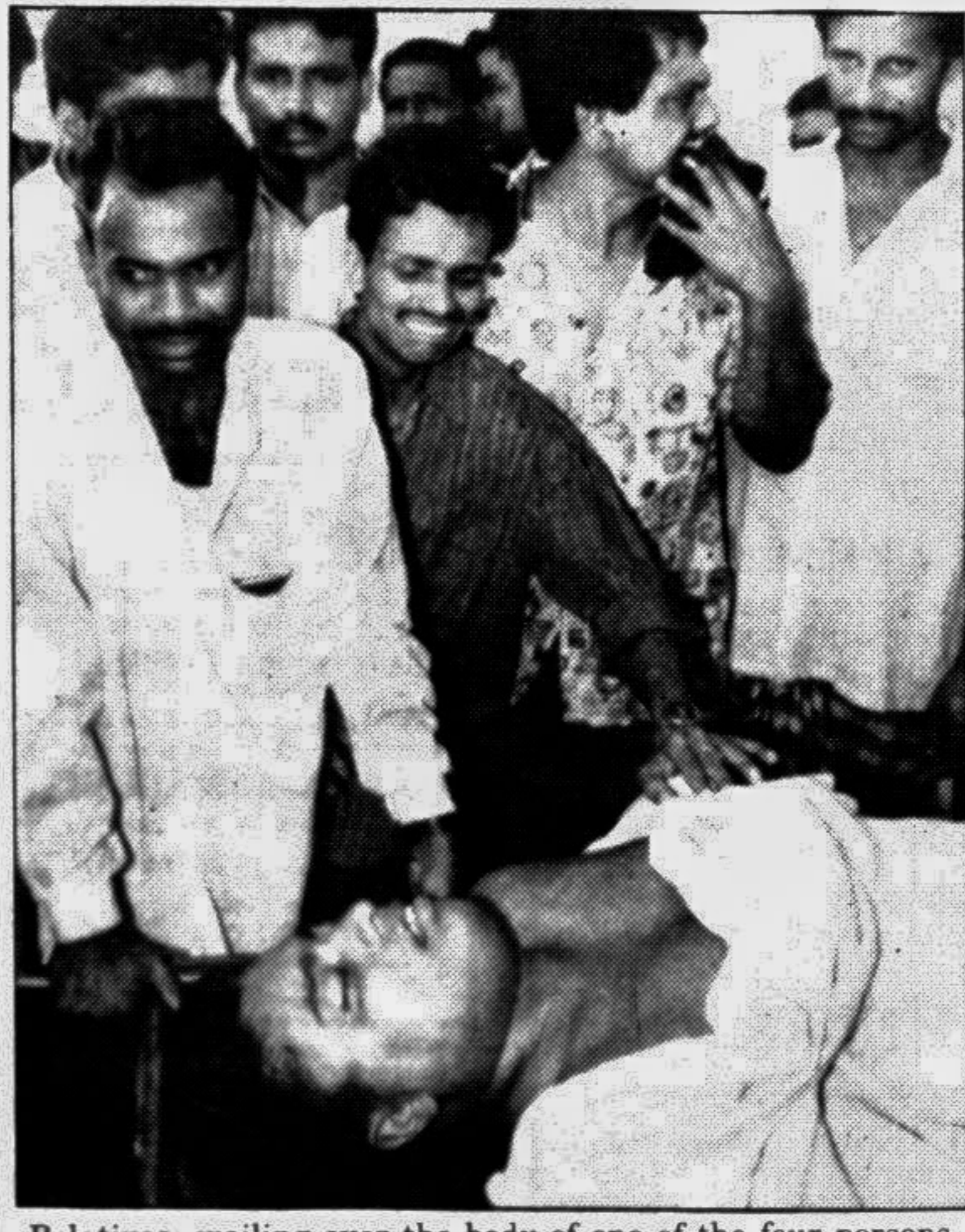
AL Parliamentary Board meeting today

By Staff Correspondent
A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) will be held at 4 pm today at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Applicants seeking to contest the June 30 by-polls in the Manikganj-3 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad have been advised to appear before the ALPB tomorrow afternoon for

See Page 12 Col 3

Road accident kills three BNP, Jubo Dal leaders of Tongi



Relatives wailing over the body of one of the four persons killed in a road accident at Tongi yesterday. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent
Four persons, including three leaders of Tongi thana units of BNP and Jubo Dal, were killed in a road accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Joydevpur, yesterday. Another person was injured.

The deceased were identified as Rana Ahmed, 30, Abdul Awal, 55, Md Mofizuddin, 34, BNP and Jubo Dal leaders and microbus driver, Jahangir Alam, 30, according to police and sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police said the accident occurred when a Joydevpur bound microbus from Tongi collided with a Dhaka bound passenger bus from Gading in Golaiar-char area at about 12:45 pm.

The injured identified as Md Shafiquddin, 35, a BNP activist, was under treatment at a clinic in Tongi, police said adding the victims were the residents of the Tongi Bazaar area.

Rana Ahmed, general secretary of Tongi unit of BNP, died on the spot. His body was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Of the three other deceased, Abdul Awal, former president of Tongi unit of BNP, succumbed to his injuries on the way to the DMCH.

The commissioner of ward No three of Tongi and thana Jubo Dal president, Md Mofizuddin and the microbus driver

See Page 12 Col 1

Consensus needed, minister tells seminar 'Privatise BMTF, Chittagong Steel Mills without delay'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for immediate privatisation of the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory at Gazipur and Chittagong Steel Mills at Chittagong.

They said that as those two units had been incurring losses over the years and there was no alternative to privatising them.

If the buyers do not show interest to buy the units fearing huge liabilities, the government should go for joint venture with private companies, they noted.

They also expressed their views in favour of formation of a task force to make proper recommendations for taking actions about the future of the two units.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, former industries minister Zahiruddin Khan, Prof Mozafer Ahmad, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former director of East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (EPIDC), Sharif Afzal Hossain, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industry (BCI), and a number of former government officials who were involved in the implementation of the two projects participated in the discussion held at the CIRDAP auditorium.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) arranged the seminar to seek opinions on two independent studies on those projects conducted by Prof Nazrul Islam and AF Mujtahid under the auspices of the CPD.

Tofael Ahmed said that the government was very much interested to privatise all loss-making State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) but to implement the decision there should be a consensus among the major political parties.

He said that the issue would be placed before the parliament for debate and seeking suggestions on could be done in this regard.

The minister termed the previous government's decision regarding closure of BMTF as timely and said that if it was not shut down at that time the factory would have incurred further losses.

Explaining the reason behind the previous government's

See Page 12 Col 8



The BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting reduction of the size of security force for party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, attack on her brother Syeed Iskandar and bid to raid the office of her son Tarek Rahman. — Star photo

Previous security for Khaleda demanded

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP has demanded immediate reinstatement of the previous security arrangement for party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia.

Otherwise, he warned, the government would be held responsible for anything following "withdrawal of her security forces."

Begum Zia's official security, provided by the caretaker government during the last general elections, was downgraded on Wednesday.

Addressing a largely-attended

See Page 12 Col 1

Alleged woman child lifter beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent
A group of people beat an unidentified woman to death suspecting her to be a child lifter at Shahidnagar in the old part of the city yesterday.

Lalbagh thana police found the victim aged about 30, lying in an unconscious state beside a road at 11 am.

Police said they rushed the injured woman to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she breathed her last at about 1:30 pm.

The local people told police that the woman was roaming around the area since morning. At about 10:30 am some people, caught the woman suspecting her to be a child lifter and started beating her.

None was arrested in connection with the incident till last night. A case was lodged with Lalbagh thana. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

19 girls suffered acid burn injuries in May

By Staff Correspondent
A total of 19 young girls received acid burn injuries during the month of May this year.

Of them, one was 12 years old, fourteen were between 13 and 20 and the rest above the age group of 20, a press release of the Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK) said.

According to an ASK survey report, in most of the cases the girls became the victims of acid throwing because of their rejection of overtures.

The report was prepared on the basis of news items published in nine national dailies.

The ASK also conducted a similar survey from January to April during which as many as 36 girls received acid burn injuries. Fifteen of the victims were in the age group of 11 to 20.

Luckatoorah Tea Estate, about 3 kilometres off Sylhet town.

The third well is expected to be drilling at a nearby place of the second well. It is located at a place between the Luckatoorah and Malnichhera Tea Estate in the outskirts of Sylhet town. The reserve here is also estimated to be about one trillion CFT.

The fourth well would be drilled at a remote village named Dighabak in the Nabinagan thana of Habiganj district. It is about 12 kilometers off the Sherpur bazar on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway. The officials are expecting a very good reserve in this Dighabak well, according to the preliminary survey.

Nigel Hopkins, President and General Manager, Occidental of Bangladesh Ltd, visited the Moulvibazar well Monday last.

See Page 12 Col 8

US co to drill gas well in Moulvibazar June 12

From Md Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, June 5: US oil and gas exploration company Occidental is expected to begin the drilling of its first gas well in Sylhet region from June 12, said an official of the company.

The officials and workers are now engaged in the final preparatory work of the Moulvibazar Well-1 project located at the remote Fulbari Tea Estate area in Komolganj thana of Moulvibazar district.

The well is located at about 8.45 kilometres from the thana headquarters of Srimangal. The approximate gas reserve in the well would be about one trillion CFT, company officials estimated.

Drilling of the well would continue for about two to three months, the official said, adding that drilling of the second well named Luckatoorah Well-1 in the region will begin after the completion of the first one. The well is located in the

HC verdict on removal of two SEC members stayed

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks the operation of the High Court judgement declaring the removal of two members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as illegal, reports BSS.

On May 29 last, a division bench of the High Court pronounced a judgement declaring that the removal order of two permanent members of the Securities and Exchange Commission was void and without any lawful authority.

After receiving the judgement the Attorney General filed a leave petition for appeal in the chamber of Justice (Appellate Division) Latifur Rahman who stayed the operation of the judgement and fixed yesterday for hearing the petition.

See Page 12 Col 8

Attack on DGFI men: 2 arrested placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent
Two persons arrested on charges of assaulting DGFI and police personnel at Kawran Bazar in the city Wednesday were placed on two-day police remand yesterday.

Tejgaon police said that they produced the two — identified as Ahmed Imdadul Anwar and Zulfikar Ali — before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the afternoon. The court granted the remand for further interrogation.

However, Maj (ret'd) Sayeed

See Page 12 Col 8

HC stays election tribunal's judgment on Sayeedi

The High Court yesterday stayed the judgment of the Pirojpur district election tribunal declaring the election of Jamaat MP Moulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi "illegal and void," reports UNB.

The election tribunal delivered the judgment upon a petition filed by Awami League leader Sudangshu Shekhar Halder who lost to Sayeedi in the 1996 parliamentary polls.

A High Court division bench comprising Justice Kazi Saifuddin and Justice Gopal Shaha admitted an appeal challenging the judgment after

See Page 12 Col 2

Tele links in Ctg disrupted for 11 hours

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 5: Telecommunication was disrupted in most areas of the port city for about 11 hours till 11 am today as the Central Digital Exchange at Nandankanan tripped last night, T&T sources said.

Twenty thousand telephones under this exchange were affected.

The telecommunication was restored at 11 am after repair work.

The General Manager of T&T, Chittagong, when contacted, said the exchange had tripped due to high voltage of electricity.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

• কর দেয়া আপনার নৈতিক দায়িত্ব।
• প্রদেয় কর যথাসময়ে পরিশোধ করুন এবং অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

চলতি আর্থিক বছরের চতুর্থ ও শেষ কোয়ার্টারের জন্য অধিম আয়কর প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ১৫ই জুন, ১৯৯৭ইং। সংশ্লিষ্ট করদাতা কর্তৃক দেয় অধিম আয়কর ফরম নং আইটি-৩১(বি)(সংশোধিত) চালান ফরমের মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এই ফরমের যে যে স্থানে '৭৪(১)' সংখ্যটি উল্লেখিত আছে তার স্থলে '৬৪' সংখ্যটি প্রতিস্থাপনপূর্বক চালান ফরমটি যথাবিত্তি পূর্ণ করে করদাতাগণ অধিম কর পরিশোধ করবেন। উল্লেখ্য, সকল শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য অধিম আয়কর প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে মোট আয়ের আর্থিক সীমা বর্তমানে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল করদাতাকে ১৯৯৭-৯৮ কর বছরের জন্য চলতি আর্থিক বছরের ৪র্থ ও শেষ কোয়ার্টারের অধিম আয়কর ১৫ই জুন, ১৯৯৭ইং তারিখের মধ্যে এই পদ্ধতিতে প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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