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Cabinet resents
Occidental's
failure to
extinguish fire

By Nurul Kabir

Members of the cabinet yesterday expressed strong resentment over the Occidental Energy Venture's "failure" to extinguish the fire at the Magurchara drilling site in Moulvibazar, cabinet sources said.

The cabinet members also agreed in principle that the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram Mosque "should go immediately", especially following his "instigation" behind the recent incident at the Islamic Foundation premises that led President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to quit a religious function without addressing the audience.

The cabinet also decided to undertake relief and rehabilitation programmes in the flood

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Repatriation
from Nayapara
camp postponed

From Our Correspondent
COXS BAZAR, July 21: The planned repatriation of 200 Rohingya refugees from the Nayapara camp here has been postponed due to the deteriorating law and order situation, officials said.

However, 2000 refugees from Kutupalong, another camp in the district are expected to be repatriated to Myanmar tomorrow.

Some 3,000 Rohingya refugees at the Nayapara camp, unwilling to go back home, refused to take their weekly ration today and reportedly chased the officials. Three refugees were arrested from the camp, police said.

BRD and riot police have been deployed.

After the repatriation resumed last Sunday police have arrested six refugees on charge of rioting. On Sunday, 13 persons were injured in a clash between police and refugees opposed to repatriation.

BTW's reply to
BNP soon

Star Report

Bangladesh Television (BTW) will reply to BNP as regards the party's preconditions for the Leader of the Opposition, Begum Khaleda Zia, to appear on the programme *Deshbashi Mukhomukhi*, Director General of BTW Syed Salauddin Zaki told The Daily Star last night.

"We're reviewing the conditions set by BNP and of course we'll respond," he said adding that BTW's reply would be communicated to the opposition party in a day or two.

The DG, however, did not elaborate.

On June 24 last, the DG had written a letter to Begum Zia requesting her to appear on the BTW's live programme. In reply BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP set some conditions and sought discussions with the BTW authorities before Begum Zia agreed to appear on the TV programme.

The conditions included impartiality of the presenter and questioners, assurance of not tarnishing the image of BNP and its leaders and not distorting the voice, picture or sound while telecasting the programme.

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Gas well fire rises to 30-40 ft again

Star Report

The height of the Magurchara gas well fire rose again to 30 to 40 feet yesterday afternoon.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet quoted an official in Moulvibazar as saying that several other small flames were seen in the affected area while the gas leakage through a large number of points continued for the third consecutive day yesterday.

When contacted, Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain last night said, "The situation is not very dangerous. But it will be dangerous if proper steps are not taken."

He further added, "The gas is now coming out through loose

added.

The rig, which is to be used for drilling the relief well, brought from Thailand reached Fenchuganj this morning through river route. Now it will be taken to the Magurchara gas field area.

Security measures had already been tightened in and around the gas field area. Occidental has imposed restrictions on movement of people. Even a good number of government officials and manager of the Fulbari Tea Estate were refused entry to the area yesterday. Occidental would now issue pass for entry into the gas field area.

An official of Occidental
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The Sammilita Nari Samaj held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding retrial of the Shima rape and murder case.

Reinvestigation
into Shima
rape case
demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj yesterday demanded reinvestigation into the Shima rape case.

At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the leaders of the women's organisation also demanded stern action against those responsible for 'faulty and farcical' investigation into the rape case.

They urged the government to ensure proper dispensation of justice in all cases involving repression of women, said a press release.

Farida Akhter, Sultana Kamal, Nahid Rahman, Shirin Akhter, Naila Khan spoke at the rally.

Later, Nari Samaj activists brought out a procession raising slogans for punishment to the persons involved in the rape and responsible for death of Shima.

Meanwhile, scholars and academicians from USA, UK, Denmark and Australia at a conference on 'Thinking through Feminism' have expressed their solidarity with the Sammilita Nari Samaj in their See Page 12 Col 2

Bangladesh take on mighty Sri Lanka today

Sports Reporter

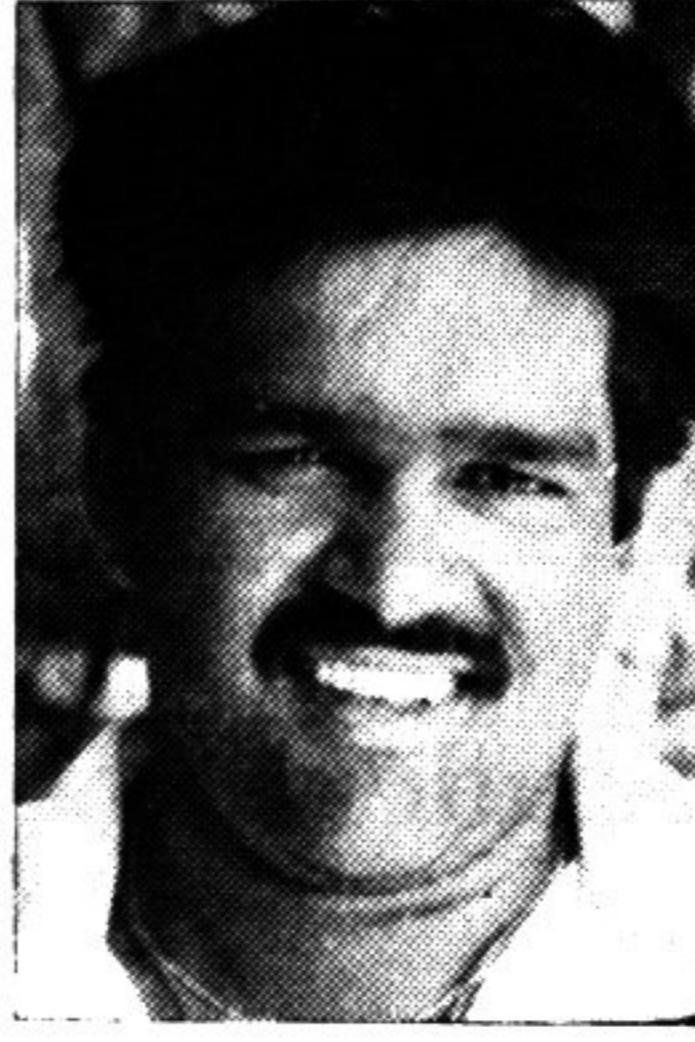
Bangladesh will take on world champions Sri Lanka in their second match of the sixth Asia Cup at the Sinhalese Club ground in Colombo today.

Weather permitting, the match will start at 10.30 BST. Bangladesh Television and Bettar will cover the match live.

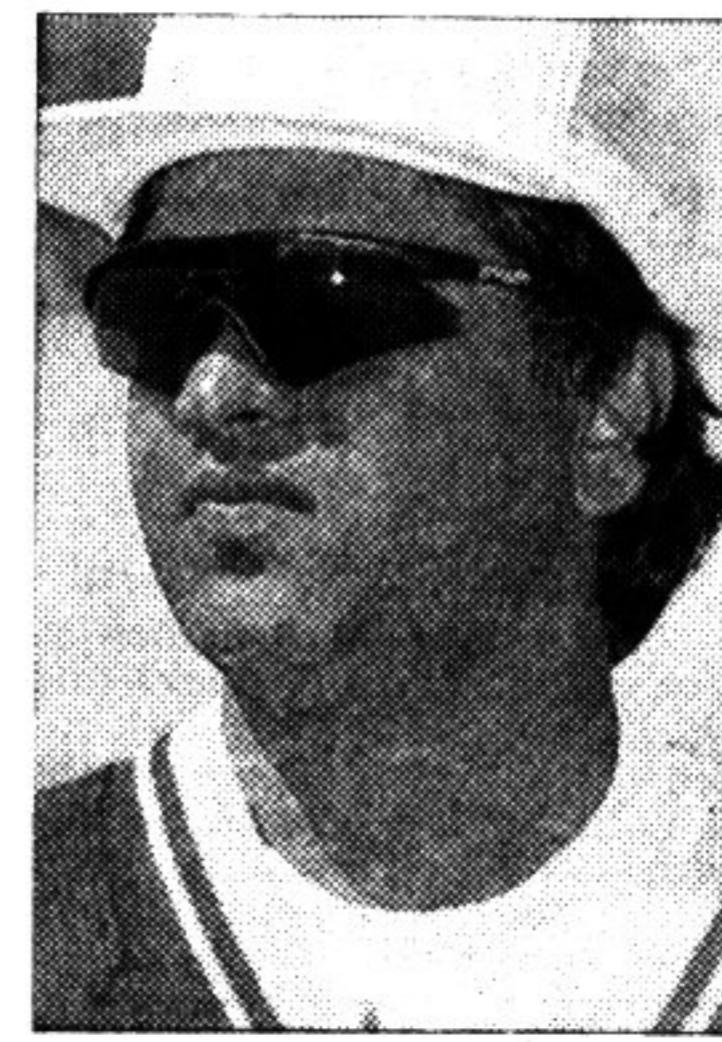
For hosts Sri Lanka, who have already confirmed their place in the Saturday's final with wins against Pakistan and India. Their last league match today against the minnows will be just an academic affair.

But for Bangladesh, who conceded a 109-run defeat at the hands of former world champions Pakistan in their inaugural match, it will be yet another acid test in the big league.

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Akram Khan



Arjuna Ranatunga

5 die, 50 missing in Patuakhali launch capsized

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 21: The bodies of five persons were recovered and at least 50 passengers remained missing after a launch capsized in the river Tetulia near Nurainpur under Baufa thana of Patuakhali district this morning.

According to witnesses, the passenger launch "ML Falguni" sailor for Barisal from Taltali of Barguna district at about 6:30 am with nearly 300 passengers on board.

The launch sank after hitting a cargo vessel.

Some of the passengers jumped into the river. Many of them were rescued by people on board other vessels, witnesses said.

The bodies of five unidentified passengers were recovered by the local people soon after the accident.

The TNO of Baufa informed that police have been sent to the spot.

Work has started to salvage the sunken launch.

Writ seeking IFIC
AGM under
court-appointed
person filed

By Staff Correspondent

pers at the podium in the presence of the President, the sources said.

The issue came up at the cabinet meeting last night and it gave the go ahead in this regard to State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam, who is ex-officio Chairman of the governing body.

The Khatib was removed from the body earlier.

He has also been accused by the religious affairs state minister of having a hand in the incident.

Maulana Muhiuddin Rababani and Maulana Alimullah, President and Secretary General respectively of Bangladesh Aiyimma Parishad, criticised the state minister for bringing the charges against the Khatib and dismissed the allegations.

Earlier, on Sunday, the cabinet sub-committee on law and order noted the incident and reviewed what it said the activities of certain groups and elements hurled abuses and slogans.

The petition was filed by two shareholders of IFIC S A Azim and A K Azam, was moved by Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud in HC Division Company Bench, presided over by Justice Kazi A T M Monwar Uddin.

The bench will hear the petition today.

The petitioners alleged that Salman Rahman and Sohel

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AL protest
rally today

The Awami League will hold a rally in the city at 4 pm today to protest the attack on the holy Eid-e-Miladunabi function at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque by the anti-liberation fundamentalist forces, reports BSS.

Central and city Awami League leaders will address the meeting to be held in front of its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

The rally will also protest dishonouring of Hazrat Muhammad (SM) by the anti-liberation fundamentalist forces and their threat to destroy

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Train derails

GAZIPUR, July 21: A Dhaka bound train from Bahadurabad derailed near Dhirasram station here today leaving four passengers wounded, reports UNB.

Movement of trains through this route came to a halt soon after two bogies of the train went off the track at 8 in the morning. However, Padma Express reached Dhaka from Mymensingh through Bhairab.

Meanwhile, schedules of Dhaka-bound Balaka Express and Mymensingh-bound Jamuna Express were cancelled because of the accident.

We have sent a letter to the Home Ministry seeking permission to file a case under section 124 (A), a police official at Motijheel thana told UNB.

He said they did not get approval from the ministry till last night.

Police move to file
'sedition' case

Police are yet to get permission from the ministry to file a "sedition" case in connection with the "indecent" incident at the Eid-e-Miladunabi function.

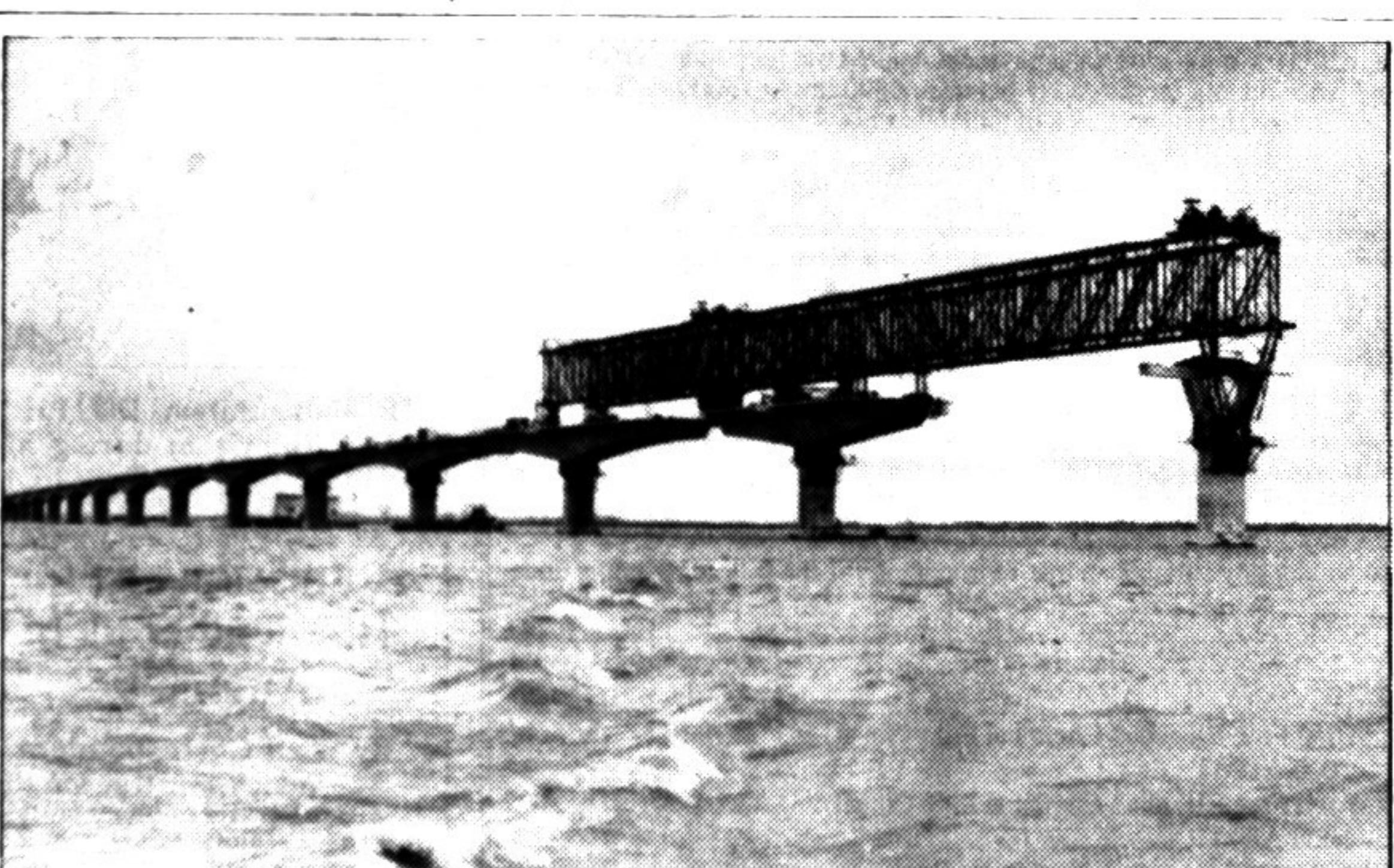
"We have sent a letter to the Home Ministry seeking permission to file a case under section 124 (A), a police official at Motijheel thana told UNB.

He said they did not get approval from the ministry till last night.

It decided to take stern measures to stop such activities.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the relia-

See Page 12 Col 8



A view of the under-construction Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

— Star photo

JMB may be ready for traffic from July next

By Nazmul Ashraf, back from JMB site

Eighty-eight per cent construction work of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) has been completed against the target of finishing the entire work by June, 1998.

The 800 million US dollar bridge, the country's biggest and 11th in the world, is expected to be ready for traffic on July 1 next year but unlikely to be so for operation of trains on the opening day, according to a report by the JMB Authority on the progress of construction work up to June 30.

"It will not be possible for trains to operate on the first day unless we get any instruction from the higher authorities on details of setting up rail track on the bridge," said Brig (retd) AHM Abdullah, Deputy Manager of the JMB project.

Talking to a group of journalists visiting the under-construction bridge on Sunday, Abdullah said gas transmission line can also be functional with the opening of the bridge provided they get the authorities' decision on the size of the gas pipeline shortly.

There will be a fence between the rail track and the four road lanes along with a footpath on the roadside. The power and telecommunication lines will be set up with poles on the side.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

চাকা

দেশের আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং
 দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আগন্তুর অবদান রাখুন

টেলিফোন গ্রাহকদের বাধাতামূলক আয়কর রিটার্ন
দাখিল করতে হবে না

মানবীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক বাজেটের সমাপনী বৃক্ষতার মাধ্যমে
টেলিফোন মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে বাধাতামূলকভাবে আয়কর রিটার্ন
দাখিলের বিধান প্রত্যাহার করা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু পক্ষতাত্ত্বিক অস্বিধার
জন্য অর্থ আইন, ১৯৯৭ হতে উচ্চ প্রত্যাহার হচ্ছে। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধানটি
সংশোধনের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হচ্ছে। জনগণের সংশয়
দূরীকরণের জন্য জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এই মর্মে স্পষ্টকরণ করছে যে শুধু
টেলিফোন গ্রাহকদের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের জন্য চাপ সৃষ্টি করা হচ্ছে।

আয়কর বাজেট স্থাপিত অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রে জনাব মুহাম্মদ তাহির
হোসাইন, পথম সচিব