

NIKASH
Accounting Package
Designed & Developed by a
Chartered Accountant
Since 1983
দি কম্পিউটার লিমিটেড
THE COMPUTERS LIMITED
54 Inver Capuar Road, Purnea Patten Lane,
Dhaka-1000. Tel: 836091, 837057. Fax: 836090,
833616. Email: angd.dnq.agt.com

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 805967, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VII NO. 249 REGD. NO. DA 781 ASHWIN 18 1404 BS. DHAKA FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1997 JAMADIUL AWAL 29 1418 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE TAKA 9.00

\$110m ADB loan for BR project

MANILA, Oct 2: The Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of 110 million dollars to partly finance a 269-million-dollar railway project in Bangladesh, the bank said today, reports AFP.

A bank statement said the project will connect Bangladesh's less developed north-western region to its more developed eastern side by railway.

It includes the building of a 99-kilometer (61-mile) railway line that will cross the Jamuna river, allowing for faster and more efficient transport of people and goods, the Manila-based ADB said.

The loan is from the ADB's concessional loan window, which charges no interest and See Page 8 Col 5

DSE Council to be separated from management

Star Business Report

An extraordinary general meeting of the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday approved amendments to the Articles of Association to separate the management from the policy-making Council.

The unanimously adopted amendments also increased the number of seats in the DSE Council to 18 from the current 12.

See Page 8 Col 4

The Daily Star
on the internet
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today Article

In Lieu of Hartal: Options for Opposition
by Ahmed Ziauddin
Page 4

Supplements

Today's 16-page issue of *The Daily Star* contains a 4-page supplement on the 'National Day of the Republic of Korea' on Pages 9, 10, 11 & 12 and a 2-page supplement on the 'Day of German Unity' on Pages 13 & 14

BATEXPO '97 opens in city

PM seeks Opposition's cooperation to ensure economic growth

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation of the opposition parties to create political stability for economic development and expansion of export, reports UNB.

"Government alone cannot take the lead in overall development activities," she said, calling for a concerted effort of all political parties, public and private organisations, entrepreneurs and the people in this regard.

Opening the Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition 1997 at Hotel Sonargaon in the city, Hasina said her government has been sincerely working for establishing political stability in the country.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Mostafa Golam Qudus, commerce secretary Syed Alamgir Faruque Chowdhury and BGMEA Vice President Mahub Ali.

The Prime Minister said that after a long arduous struggle, a mechanism was developed to set up caretaker government after the completion of five-year term of a government to ensure the people's right to franchise.

In future, general elections would be held under the caretaker administration at the end of a government's term, the PM said.

See Page 8 Col 1

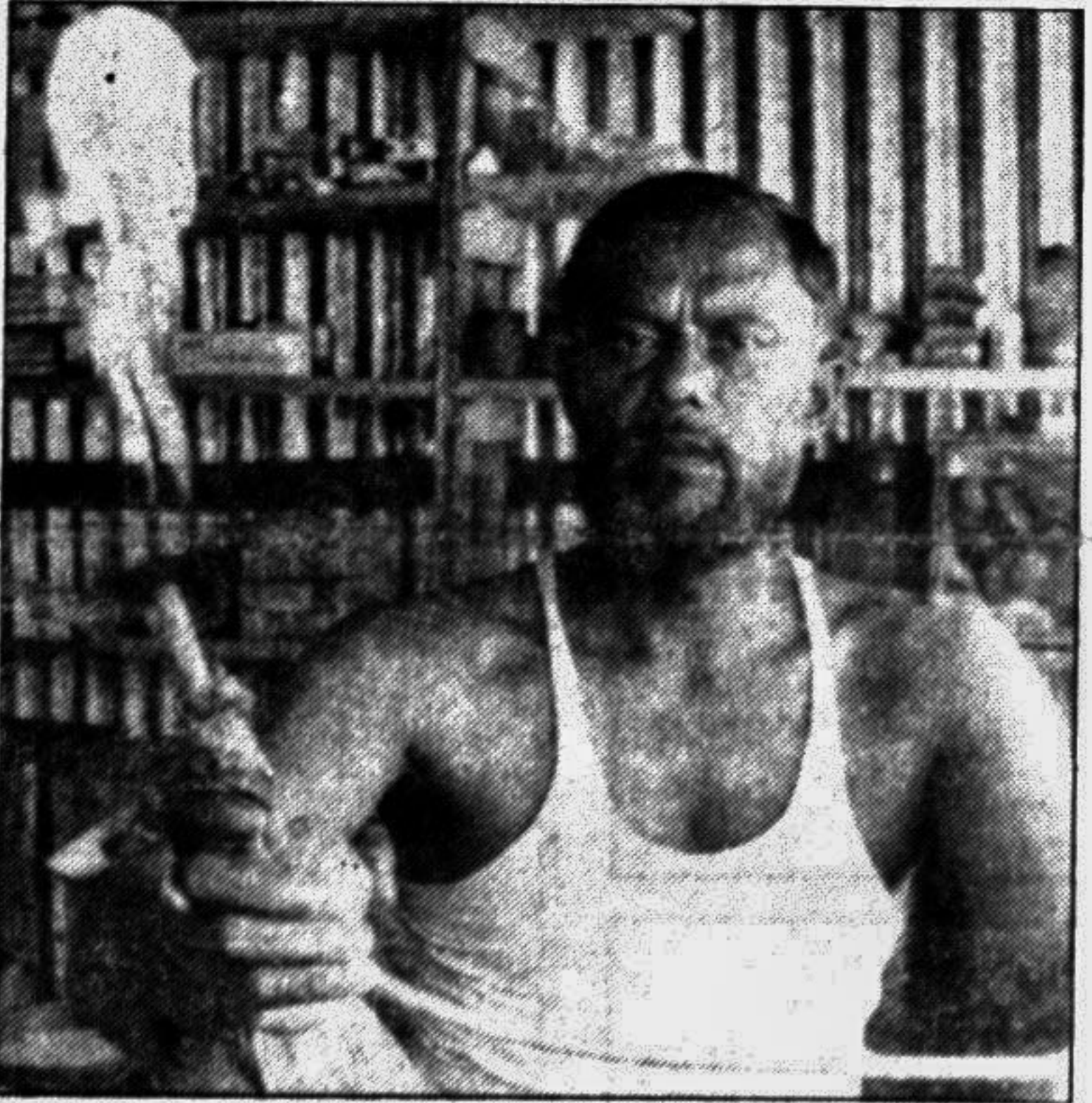
Related story on page 15

They extract cooking gas using deep tubewells, supply thru' hosepipes!

Morshed Ali Khan back from Bhola

Households, restaurants and tea stalls in five unions under Borhanuddin thana, near Shahbazpur gasfield of the district, are burning natural gas for cooking purpose extracted through deep tubewells.

Almost every household and roadside stalls in Togbi, Kachia, Pakhi, Udaypur and Hasan Nagar have set up improvised gas connection bro-



A tea stall owner in Udaypur holding a hosepipe with gas flame. —Star photo

ught in from nearby tubewells through ordinary hosepipes.

The first house that started exploiting the gas from a new tubewell more than 20 years ago has been named Deputi House at Udaypur union, meaning 'deep tubewell house'.

For years these tubewells emitted water and gas simultaneously. Water with a good percentage of gas in it poured out of them round the clock. Villagers made simple modifications to these sources and inserted several hosepipes and connected them directly to simple stoves or other handmade cookers. The flame looked reddish with little pressure in it.

Every tubewell could provide up to 10 cookers with natural gas. At Udaypur Uttar Togbi Primary School when a naked flame was held near the water, flowing ceaselessly from the tap, it immediately lit up. But the fire died down within few seconds. Udaypur is two and half miles away from the Shahbazpur gasfield.

Local people said engineers from the gasfield have visited the spot several times over the years. "They told us that the gas was coming from a small subterranean pocket and that it was not dangerous at all," said a shopkeeper near the primary school who converted a kerosene stove into a gas cooker.

UN reform won't succeed without financial support, says Dhaka

Bangladesh has extended support to the United Nations Secretary General's reform proposals for making the world body more efficient and effective, reports UNB.

Addressing the general debate in the 52nd Session of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad welcomed the initiative taken by the UN Secretary General, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Samad described the move as timely and supported the proposals for improving the administration and management of the UN.

He hoped that the reform process would preserve and promote the centrality and sanctity of the principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

Samad Azad, however, said that no reform of the United Nations would succeed without the necessary financial resources.

"Bangladesh is of the view See Page 8 Col 7

BCL faction captures 2 DU halls ousting rival group

By DU Correspondent

At least 20 shots were fired as a faction of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) captured two residential halls of Dhaka University ousting its rival faction last night.

The 'Gopalganj' group of BCL took hold of Fazlul Haq and Sahidullah halls ousting 'Faridpur-Madaripur' group' at about 8:30 pm, halls sources said.

No clash, however, took place between the two groups. But the incident created panic on the campus.

Witnesses said a group of armed men belonging to the Gopalganj group fired about 20 blank shots and entered the two See Page 8 Col 2

Jamaat activist shot dead at Khilgaon

By Staff Correspondent

An activist of Jamaat-e-Islami was gunned down in Khilgaon area of Shahabujah thana in the city yesterday.

Police said the victim, Abul Kashem, 42, a resident of Khilgaon, was hit in his head as a gang of unidentified assailants fired on him at about 9:30 am. They fled the spot exploding a number of cocktails.

See Page 8 Col 2

Greenidge conferred honorary citizenship



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over the honorary citizenship certificate to Gordon Greenidge, Coach of the National Cricket team, at her office yesterday. —PID photo

Gordon Greenidge, the West Indian coach who helped elevate Bangladesh cricket to world status, was conferred honorary citizenship of Bangladesh, report agencies.

Greenidge is the second recipient of such honorary citizenship after heavyweight boxing legend Mohammad Ali while National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was given regular citizenship of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over the citizenship certificate and passport to the Caribbean cricketer at a simple ceremony at her office yesterday.

"It's a prestige and great honour for me," said Greenidge while receiving the certificate.

He was all praise for such noble gesture from the government in recognition to his contribution. "I will display this green passport throughout the world wherever I go," he said.

Hasina declared honouring Greenidge with the citizenship helped Bangladesh National Cricket team lift the ICC Cup and qualify for the 1999 Eng-

See Page 8 Col 8

Focus on CBA in BTTB

4 TUs work as pressure groups, with poor role in staff welfare

By Reaz Ahmad

Trade unions in Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board (BTTB) work more as organised pressure groups than playing their due role for staff welfare.

As a dilemma over current status of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) persists, the situation has worsened as far as healthy growth of trade union activities in BTTB are concerned.

These are the general impressions that The Daily Star got looking into the happenings in BTTB and having talks with union leaders and official as well as highly-placed sources in the Directorate of Labour.

Trade union leaders do not discharge their official duties on the excuse of their engagement in union activities, many general employees and officials of BTTB pointed out.

Though law permits a maximum of three trade union bodies in one establishment, there are four unions in BTTB. These are — pro-BNP Telejogajog Sramik Karmachari Union, AL-backed Telejogajog Sramik Karmachari Federal Union, left-leaning Telejogajog Sramik Karmachari Parishad and JP-backed Telejogajog Sramik Karmachari Adarsha Federal Union.

All the four unions are registered with the Directorate of Labour. Officials and union leaders say, unless one challenges it in the Labour Court, it does not matter how many unions operate in one establishment.

The long overdue election of BTTB's CBA was stalled once again immediately after allotment of symbols to different contending unions early this year. The unions had chosen symbols of their mentors in national elections, such as 'boat' and 'sheaf of paddy'. But a city unit leader of Awami League, filed a case with a consequent court ruling that trade unions could not contest their See Page 8 Col 3

All border guards moved to capital, says Khaleda

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the country's frontiers remained unprotected as the government moved all the border securitymen to the capital and district headquarters to suppress the opposition movement, reports UNB.

"Now there is no security in borders. All securitymen have been posted on the streets for attacks, repression and thwarting the movement of BNP," said the BNP chairperson.

Addressing two jointing functions at her 29 Minto Road official residence, she said due to withdrawal of the border guards smuggling was going on unhindered.

Several hundred leaders and See Page 8 Col 7

শনিবারে অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের যে সমস্ত শাখা খোলা থাকবে

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক আগামী ৪ঠা অক্টোবর '৯৭ইং শনিবার হতে পরবর্তী প্রতি শনিবারে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার্থে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শাখাগুলি সকাল ৯টা হতে বেলা ১২-০০টা পর্যন্ত শুধুমাত্র টাকা জমা ও উত্তোলনের জন্য খোলা থাকবে।

শাখা সমূহ হলো

০১) প্রধান শাখা, ঢাকা	১২) কমার্শিয়াল এরিয়া শাখা, অ্যাডাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম
০২) রমনা শাখা, ঢাকা	১৩) আসাদগঞ্জ শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
০৩) মৌলভী বাজার শাখা, ঢাকা	১৪) স্যার ইকবাল রোড শাখা, খুলনা
০৪) ইসলামপুর শাখা, ঢাকা	১৫) সাহেব বাজার শাখা, রাজশাহী
০৫) সদরঘাট শাখা, ঢাকা	১৬) লালদিঘীর পাড় শাখা, সিলেট
০৬) নিউমার্কেট শাখা, ঢাকা	১৭) চকবাজার শাখা, বরিশাল
০৭) কার্ফোর্ট শাখা, ঢাকা	১৮) মনোহরপুর শাখা, কুমিল্লা
০৮) মিরপুর শাখা, ঢাকা	১৯) ছোট বাজার শাখা, ময়মনসিংহ
০৯) কোর্ট রোড শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ	২০) থানা রোড শাখা, বগুড়া
১০) বিবি রোড শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ	২১) চৌমুহনী শাখা, নোয়াখালী
১১) লালদিঘী পূর্ব শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম	২২) রংপুর শাখা, রংপুর

২৩) মালদহপল্লী শাখা, দিনাজপুর

Police seriously abused SPA, says Zillur

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said the Special Powers Act, enacted to check subversive acts of anti-liberation forces, was seriously abused by police, reports UNB.

He said the law was made when the enemies of independence began looting the banks, setting fire to lawns, downing, killing political leaders and created an anarchic situation in the post-independence period.

A stringent law became essential to deal with those involved in subversive and anti-state activities, he added.

Speaking at the publication ceremony of a book on 'Human Rights Investigation' at Caritas auditorium in the city, the LGRD Minister said the SPA was not aimed to repress or suppress the opposition.

Presided over by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRCC) president Kazi Abdur Razaque, the function was addressed by Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, UNB chairman Amanullah Khan, HR activist Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Advocate Nasrin Ahmed and writer of the book Md Saiful Islam Dildar.

There was no opposition in Bangladesh when the Act came into being, Zillur said, adding that the opposition were born after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

"But, unfortunately, our police force seriously abused the SPA as they used it whenever or wherever they wish. Police used the Act even against cattle and chicken lifters," he observed.

The Deputy Leader of the See Page 8 Col 1

'71 killing of intellectuals A witness narrates story of torture by Al-Badr

A then guard of Mohamadpur Physical Training Institute made some important disclosures about the kidnapping and killing of intellectuals in 1971, reports UNB.

Raham Ali elaborately described to the CID investigators an inhuman torture on freedom fighters and the intellectuals that he witnessed during the Liberation War.

The Physical Training Institute was a training camp of the Al-Badr, where the anti-liberation forces had perpetrated torture on freedom fighters and supporters of independence.

Raham Ali said he saw the Al-Badr bringing both males and females to the camp, unleashing torture and later sending them alive or dead to the Rayerbazar mass graveyard.

The witness further told the Criminal Investigation Department officials that he also saw the intellectuals being taken there and later being killed.

Raham Ali, in this regard, mentioned a number of names, mainly of current mid-level leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh for conducting such act.

The CID investigators in their bid to dig the massacre of intellectuals at the fag-end of Liberation War also talked to Nuru, a peon of Daily Ittefaq, who was at the house of martyr Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury when the Al-Badr forces went there to pick the journalist.

Nuru told the investigators that the Al-Badr personnel later took him blindfolded to identify his possession as Chowdhury was not at home at that time.

Meanwhile, the CID team yesterday visited Dhaka Uni-

See Page 8 Col 8

গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকার খেলাপি আবাসিক গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৫ই অক্টোবর '৯৭ইং হইতে পুনরায় শুরু হচ্ছে। সেই সাথে অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন কার্যক্রম যথারীতি চলবে।

গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ দলের সদস্যগণের নিকট কোম্পানীর পরিচয়পত্র ও সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ আদেশ থাকবে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থান বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত কোন গ্রাহক সকাল ৯.০০ হইতে ৫.০০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সর্বশ্রী জোন/অফিসে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের পূর্বে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃ সংযোগ পদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত ও (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃ সংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্বায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ সহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অবৈধ ব্যবহার বা অণয় রোধ করে সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।

তিতাস গ্যাস টানমিসন এন্ড ডিভিভিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
ফোন : ৯৫৬০৬৬৭, ৯৫৬০৬৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা-রাত)
পিএবিএক্স : ৮১২১০৫-৪২

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-২৮/৯৭-৯৮
জিডি-২১৭

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের বীমা-সেবা প্রদানের জন্য আগামী শনিবার ৪ঠা অক্টোবর '৯৭ ও পরবর্তী শনিবারগুলোতেও 'সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন'-এর সাক্ষ্যকালীন অফিস, সাধারণ বীমা সদন (২য় তলা), ২৪-২৫, দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০ সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৫টা পর্যন্ত খোলা থাকবে।

রাষ্ট্রীয় খাতে সাধারণ বীমার একমাত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান
সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন
(অর্থনৈতিক নিরাপত্তার প্রতীক)

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক