

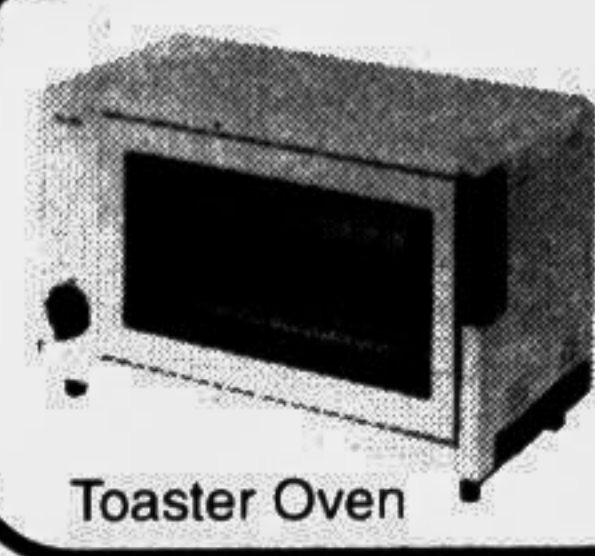


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Let's make things better



Tofael refutes Khaleda's claim
By Staff Correspondent

A senior minister yesterday brushed aside BNP chairperson's claim that the ruling party activists put up barricades near Kanchpur to the long march.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said, "if we had put up barricades on the highway, we would not have taken prompt initiatives to clear the barrier."

He alleged that the BNP activists had deflated truck tires and created obstacles in their failed bid to hire trucks for the long march by force.

Tofael Ahmed, also a presidential member of the ruling Awami League, denied allegations that ruling party activists were carrying arms near the barricades. He criticised the BNP leadership for issuing provocative statements urging partymen to carry licensed arms.

He suggested that if Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia is convinced that the CHT peace accord is contrary to the Constitution, she can make it an issue for the next elections or go to the court of law for legal redress."

Sylhet flood

About 300 dwelling houses damaged totally while 10 people sustained injuries.

Of the injured, Abdul Maleque, Aftabuddin and Fakharuddin were admitted to the Thana Health Complex.

Two children were killed in a landslide at village Laksh-impur during the storm. Local people said, however, the district officials could not confirm the deaths till this night.

The road communication with Gowainghat thana headquarters remained cut off for the second day today. Power supply and telecommunication remain cut off, local officials said.

The road communication of Companyganj thana with the district headquarters remained snapped from last night due to the inundation of the road at many points.

The thana headquarters was under 3 feet water this morning. The situation in this bordering thana worsened due to onrush of water from the Khashia hills.

In Jakiganj thana, villages in seven unions have been badly affected, local sources said. These are Barohal, Kajalshah, Biosri, Kaljuri, Manikpur, Sultanpur and Kashkanakpur.

In Balaganj thana, villages in Gouripur, Purba Pailanpur, Balaganj and Sadipur unions have been inundated with flood water, officials said this afternoon.

Flood waters also entered the dwelling houses of 7 unions under Beanibazar thana, local officials informed this afternoon. The unions are Sheola, Alinagar, Dubag, Charkhal, Kurabazar, Muria and Tilapara.

More than 30 per cent houses in Golapganj thana have been inundated while many roads have gone under water.

In Sunamganj district, flood has caused a large-scale damage during the last 24 hours. The thana headquarters of Chhatrak is now under one-foot water while road communication between the district headquarters and Chhatrak and Boarabazar thanas remained snapped.

Flood water has entered more than one thousand dwelling houses in Jagannathpur thana, an official said.

Govt version

saunted some passengers and snatched away their money and wrist watches.

Narayanganj-Demra-Meghna Sarak Paribahan Samik Committee president Taher Khan Babu filed a case with Siddhirganj thana in this connection, the handout said.

Long march obstructed for 10 hours

From Page 1

dadul Haq Bhuiyan and other local leaders of the party addressed a militant rally there at about 1 pm.

The AL lawmakers criticised the BNP for opposing the CHT accord.

At that time, as some of the marchers approached towards the AL gathering, several gunshots were fired injuring the three persons.

Stranded by the barricade, Begum Khaleda Zia told our correspondent Ehsanul Haq sitting in her jeep: We shall wait indefinitely to reach our destination. All our workers will stay here until the barricade is removed.

Speaking with a hand mike prior to resumption of the long march, Begum Zia alleged that armed activists of the ruling party had blocked the road.

The government has proved its intention to hand over the CHT to others by halting our long march. It wants to snatch people's right to move freely... Before it succeeds, we'll have to oust this government."

The opposition leader also condemned the authorities for not removing the barricade earlier.

Talking to The Daily Star, local MP Shamim Osman of ruling AL said that they did not occupy the highway but were holding rally. He blamed the local BNP for the barricade which, he said, was a result of forcing the truckers to join the long march. A case was also lodged by the truckers against the BNP leaders, he said.

Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman, when contacted, told The Daily Star that the barricade was raised when local BNP leader Noor Hossain assaulted some truck drivers and ransacked few trucks and deflated their tyres Monday night.

A Rahim Khan, Additional IGP, when contacted, echoed the home secretary. "Process is underway to file cases with specific charges against those responsible for the barricade," he said.

To cheer up the stranded long marchers, songs were rendered from a make-shift dais on a truck. Besides, food was cooked there for marchers.

Earlier, addressing the marchers at Paltan Maidan Begum Khaleda Zia warned that the government would have to

bear the responsibility if the long march was obstructed.

BNP leaders and workers in their thousands started thronging the Paltan Maidan since early morning yesterday. The opposition leader reached the venue at 8:40 am amid tight security by party workers and plainclothes police.

As she drove to the Paltan Maidan, thousands of people who converged there from different parts of the country, greeted her. The venue was also guarded by uniformed police.

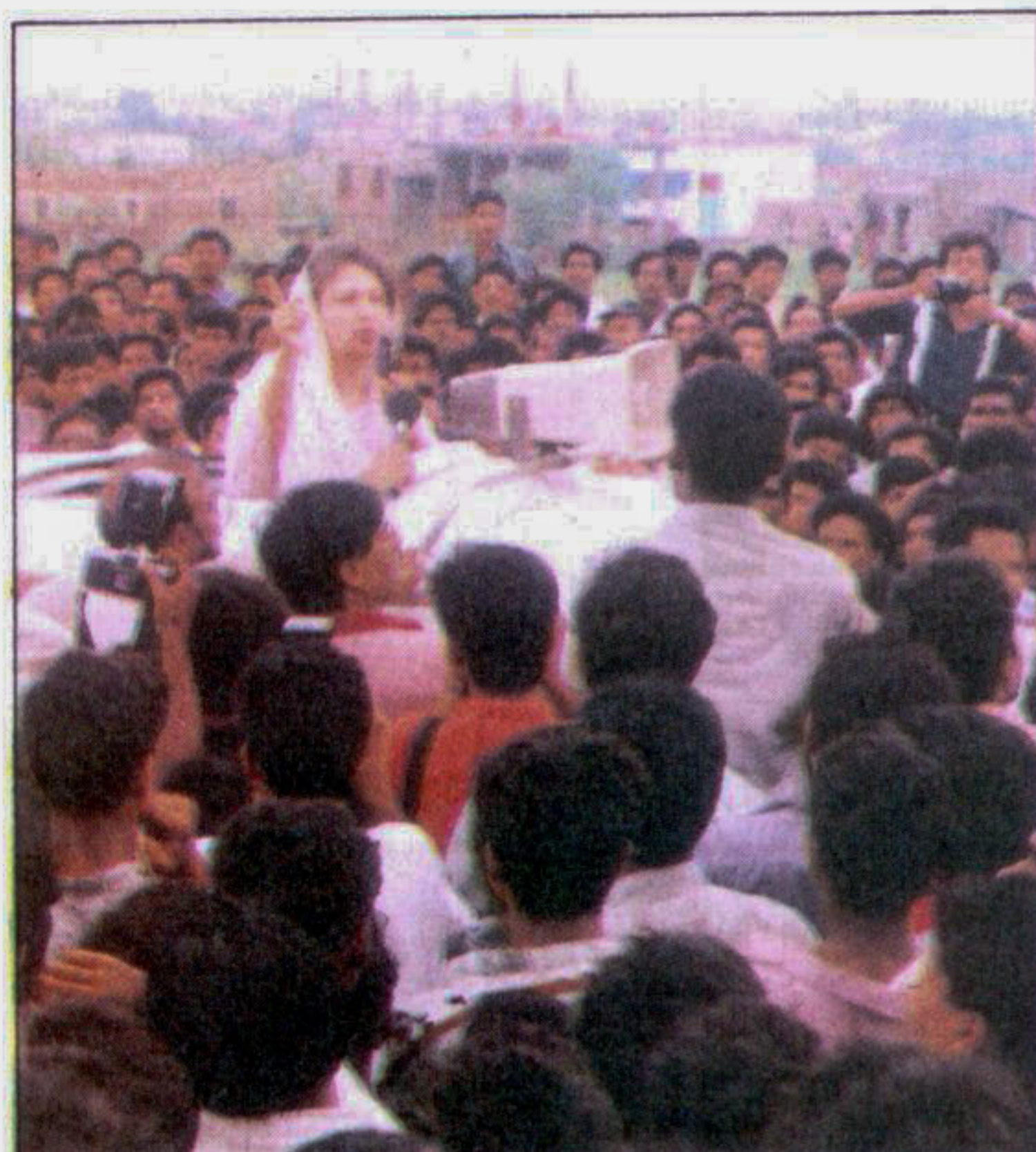
Speaking from her jeep, the former prime minister charged the government that it had left the CHT to the terrorists through signing an unconstitutional accord with them. "Now they are obstructing people's agitation against its blueprint to hand over the region to India."

"Allah is with us... Seek His blessings," she told the marchers.

The BNP chief also accused the government of obstructing her partymen from coming to Dhaka from across the country to join the long march.

"Constitution guarantees the freedom of movement all over the world," she said.

Vehicles carrying marchers of Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jatiya Party (Z-M) followed those of BNP's.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the marchers near Kanchpur bridge before resumption of the long march. — Star photo



A group of youths went on rampage at Raghunathpur near Kanchpur bridge during the long march yesterday. — Star photo

Gold worth Tk 5.8 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs officials at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold chains worth about Tk 5.8 lakh from a passenger of Thai Airways flight from Singapore yesterday noon.

Airport sources said the gold ornaments weigh about 1249 grams were recovered from inside the underwear of the passenger.

On suspicion customs officials challenged the passenger while he was crossing the green channel without any declaration, sources added.

Clash at Ctg

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activists launched a bomb attack on the procession brought out to protest the obstruction to long-marchers at Kanchpur.

In another incident, a group of people attacked and ransacked some shops at Momin Road.

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed in Chittagong today as the news of obstruction to the long-marchers reached here.

Local BNP leaders urged their workers and activists to keep calm and not to go for agitation. However, several processions paraded the city streets in protest against the Kanchpur incident. BNP also held a protest rally at the Outer Stadium this afternoon.

Awami League also held a rally opposing the long march at Patharghata. The Awami supporters brought out processions at different places of the city in the evening protesting against the long march.

On the other hand, some agitators, damaged some passing vehicles at Station Road and Enayetbazar, police said.

BNP leaders said that the long march would start from Chittagong towards the hill districts tomorrow morning.

Supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami also held rallies and brought out processions in the city today.

UNB adds: Unruly BNP activists this evening attacked the car of Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and damaged the CCC Bhaban.

The Mayor came under attack in front of the city Awami League office at Darul Fazal Market at about 7 pm.

Witnesses said BNP activists threw stones on Mohiuddin when he was in his car. He was unhurt.

Tk 46cr KFAED loan for rural electrification

Bangladesh yesterday signed a loan agreement of about Tk 46 crore with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for rural electrification in the country, reports BSS.

The agreement, signed at the Economic Relation Department (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, will provide fund for electrification in different

City AL brings out peace procession

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka city unit of Awami League and other front organisations of the party held a rally and brought out a peace procession in the city yesterday.

The rally, held at Osmany Uddyan, was chaired by AL city unit general secretary and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Addressing at the rally, a number of central leaders of the party criticised the Opposition BNP for, what they said, attempts to destabilise the peace process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Later, they brought out a 'peace procession' holding white flags on their hands. The procession ended at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue after parading in front of the Jatiya Press Club area at around noon.

Dhanmondi Lake dev project to be completed by March '99

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said work of the Dhanmondi Lake development project would be completed two months ahead of the schedule, reports BSS.

He said 45 per cent of the work have already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by March next.

The minister said this at a review meeting held at the LGRD Ministry.

"Under the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the work of the project involving Tk 9.69 crore is being implemented speedily," the minister said.

The construction of Bangabandhu Smriti Angan' has already been completed and it will be opened before August 15, the meeting was told.

The minister directed the authorities concerned to complete the construction work of two bridges over the lake on an emergency basis.

LGRD Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka City Corporation Rashidul Alam, former secretary M Mahabubzaman attended the meeting.



A youth is seen with a gun at Raghunathpur. — Star photo

One get 22-yr RI for keeping illegal arms

CHITTAGONG, June 9: A court here sentenced one person to 22 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal arms yesterday, reports UNB.

The court sentenced Habibur Rahman, son of Hamidul Huq, of Kazirhat in Fatikchhari thana to 12 years RI under Section 19 (Ka) and another 10 years RI under Section 19 (Cha). Another accused was acquitted of the charge.

According to the prosecution, Kotwali police arrested Habib along with 24 foreign and home made firearms from Hamzarbagh area in Panchlailsh thana on September 5, 1991.

37 shops, houses gutted in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 9: Some 37 shops and houses were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Sener Bazar under Bakerganj thana of the district in the early hours of today.

Local people said an electrical short circuit at a grocery shop sparked off the fire at about 3:30 am.

The blaze soon engulfed the whole area.

The loss in the fire was extensive as there is no fire service unit at Bakerganj thana headquarters.

Clashes in Comilla, Feni: 60 injured

Fifty people were injured as sporadic clashes, gun shots, uprooting of rail tracks and damaging trains and buses marked the day-long activities at Comilla town yesterday, reports UNB.

At least 15 people were injured as the Awami League and BNP processionists clashed near the Tolplaza at Daudkandi on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 11 am. Several gun shots were fired.

Comilla (North) district AL general secretary Jahangir Alam Sarkar and another nine people were injured when a 'peace rally' of the ruling party came under attack, allegedly by armed processionists of BNP, at Chandina bus stand at 1 pm. Some 25 buses and trucks were damaged.

A bus procession of Kishoreganj district BNP came under attack on the Comilla-Sylhet highway at Mainamati Saheb Bazar in Burichang thana.

Ten people, including Bhairab thana BNP president Giasuddin and Kishoreganj district Chhatra Dal acting president Nazmul Alam, were injured in the attack. Two buses

Budget session

From Page 1

unlikely to join the opening session.

Besides adopting the budget, some legislative business, including the Upazila Bill, will be taken up during the lengthy session.

It is likely to be a stormy session of Parliament in view of the political and economic situation prevailing in the country.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of Jatiya Sangsad has decided that the opposition members will be allowed to speak on any subject after completion of the day's business as per orders of the day.

Any member of the opposition, whoever can draw the attention of the Speaker, will be allowed to speak for 15 minutes, the committee decided in a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Presided over by the Committee Chairman Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting said: "This will be in addition to usual discussion on calling attention to matters under rule 71."

It also decided that the members of the treasury bench, as mentioned by the Leader of the House, will reply to the points raised by the opposition members for another 15 minutes.

The meeting also discussed the allotment of time for discussion on various subjects during the parliament session.

It also considered other issues which will be coming up for discussion other than the supplementary budget for 1997-98 and the budget for 1998-99.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah and M Rahmat Ali MP were present.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kubria and Whip Abdus Shahid attended the meeting on special invitation while Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party attended the meeting on behalf of HM Ershad.

French apathy!

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan
Paris, Jun 9: The Bangladesh delegation to the FIFA Congress was totally dismayed at the lack of enthusiasm and awareness among the French regarding the World Cup football beginning tomorrow.

"We show more jubilation for an international kabaddi competition in our country," observed Harun-ur Rashid MP, general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), who led the three-member delegation to the 51st FIFA Congress.

BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy could not agree more. Vice-president Anjan Chowdhury added: "We are not only disheartened, we are aggrieved also."

The chance rendezvous with this correspondent happened at the city centre this morning.

Cyclone kills 73 in India

GANDHINAGAR, Jun 9: At least 73 people were killed and over 50 injured when a cyclone, packing wind speed up to 120-km per hour, lashed coastal areas of Gujarat and Jalore district of neighbouring Rajasthan today, reports PTI.

The cyclone was caused by a deep depression in the Arabian Sea.

"The death toll has touched 73. While 19 people have died in Kutch region, the remaining casualties are all in Saurashtra region which is the worst-affected," an official in the state's main city of Ahmedabad told Reuters.

Storm kills one at Fatikchhari

CHITTAGONG, Jun 9: A storm lashed two villages of Fatikchhari thana here early this morning. One person died and about 150 houses were damaged, reports UNB.

The storm, with a wind speed of about 112 km per hour, struck Gahira and Azadi villages at 6 am and lasted for seven minutes.

Road communications between Khagrachhari and Chittagong remained cut off as the road was blocked by uprooted trees.

PDB's fear

From Page 1

supply of electricity during telecast of the World Cup matches.

People have been requested over microphones in the town and in other places to maintain austerity in consumption of electricity. Shopkeepers, owners of welding workshops, mills and industries have been urged to keep their shutters down during the matches, he said.

He said the 21 districts under the Khulna division need 324 MW of power daily but only 140 MW is supplied now.

Meanwhile, about one hundred people brought out a procession in the town demanding interrupted power supply during the World Cup.

Autorickshaws

From Page 1

refused by the board on February 10 because of the fact that the Federation had failed to repay a bank loan of Tk 31.2 crore and that the three wheelers are potential threat to the environment. But it was finally cleared at a meeting on May 5 "as a mark of respect" to the minister who requested for it.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি ও পয়ঃ অভিকরের বিল পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বিশেষ অভিযান চলছে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের অনুরোধক্রমে হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃঅভিকরসহ সমুদয় বকেয়া কর সারচার্জ ব্যতীত পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ২৫-৬-৯৮ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো।

বকেয়া অনাদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের কোর্টে মামলা এড়ানোর নিমিত্তে অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ অভিকর পরিশোধ করার জন্য গ্রাহকগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে রাজস্ব অঞ্চলসমূহের রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগ করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

বিল সংক্রান্ত কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিস বা প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (ফোনঃ ৯১৩১৫৬৯) অথবা বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৯১২০৫৫৭) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ওয়াসা-জঃতঃ ১৮৪/৯৮
জিডি-৪৪৮

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত !!ঢাকা ওয়াসা!!

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