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# The Daily Star

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RANGS GROUP

## Four constables suspended for stripping off woman's clothe

By Staff Correspondent

Three police personnel of Riot Control Division (RCD) and a lady constable posted at the police headquarters were suspended yesterday in connection with the stripping of a female BNP activist during opposition called hartal on May 11.

The suspended police personnel are Nayak Helal, constables Fazlul Huq, Mizanur Rahman and Shahinur Begum. The action was taken following a Home Ministry direction in this regard yesterday.

Sources said the inquiry committee yesterday submitted its preliminary report recommending immediate measures to check recurrence of such incident.

"More police officials may be suspended after the final report," AYBI Siddiqui, Inspector General of Police, told UNB last night.

## BNP pays the toll

By Staff Correspondent

BNP yesterday paid Tk 1,33,900 as toll for 314 vehicles that crossed the Bangabandhu Bridge carrying road marchers of the party Sunday.

The vehicles included those of the Opposition leader and MPs of the party. The payment was made after a senior party leader called Khaleda Zia to point out the importance of the issue, sources said.

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said he was "embarrassed" by the delay in paying the toll because he had negotiated the deal with government leaders Tofail Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim and promised to pay the toll.

The former finance minister called The Daily Star last night. See Page 12 Col 8

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## Prayer Timings

May 18

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-20
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	4-55
Maghrib	6-40	6-43
Esha	7-55	8-10

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Sonia quits as Cong president

NEW DELHI, May 17: Sonia Gandhi has resigned as president of India's Congress party, Star Television reported today, reports Reuters.

The resignation of the Italian-born widow of assassinated former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was reported as the party's elite Congress Working Committee (CWC) held an emergency meeting to consider a demand from three senior leaders who said she must not join a prime ministerial race because of her foreign roots.

Star Television said there were still some doubts on whether Sonia could take back her resignation, but added that she had definitely offered a letter. "We have it from sources that she has put it in writing before the working committee," a reporter for the satellite channel said.

Former defense minister

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Sonia Gandhi

## Prepare for UZ polls, Hasina asks partymen

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged leaders and workers of Awami League to strengthen party activities and earn people's confidence through rendering services, reports BSS.

Hasina also asked them to prepare for the forthcoming upazila elections and called for working with dedication to serve the vast rural population.

She was addressing leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations, who came to Ganobhaban yesterday to greet the Prime Minister on the occasion of her returning home after ending a six-year exile.

Sheikh Hasina, who was compelled to stay abroad after the assassination of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members, returned home to a tumultuous reception this day 18 years back.

Party general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman presented her a bouquet on behalf of the party while city Awami League general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP, Juba League chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Sramik League president Abdus

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## Get ready for march towards Dhaka, Khaleda tells rallies

From Rezaul Karim

DINAJPUR, May 17: On the second leg of her three-day road march, BNP chief Khaleda Zia today travelled 161 kilometres from Bogra to reach this northern town, touching 10 points on the way where she asked thousands of people to prepare for a march towards Dhaka.

"Get prepared for marching towards Dhaka and besiege the autocrat," was the call she made while speaking at huge public rallies at the 10 places. "The Dhaka march programme would be announced soon."

Reiterating her demand for an early general election, the Opposition leader said: The AL government and the Chief Election Commissioner must quit immediately to clear the way for the election under a caretaker administration.

"The Jatiya Sangsad polls must be held first, other elections may come later," the BNP chief said without specifying the 'other elections'.

According to her, the ruling Awami League was not going for the 'Sangsad' election now,

fearing a "sure defeat".

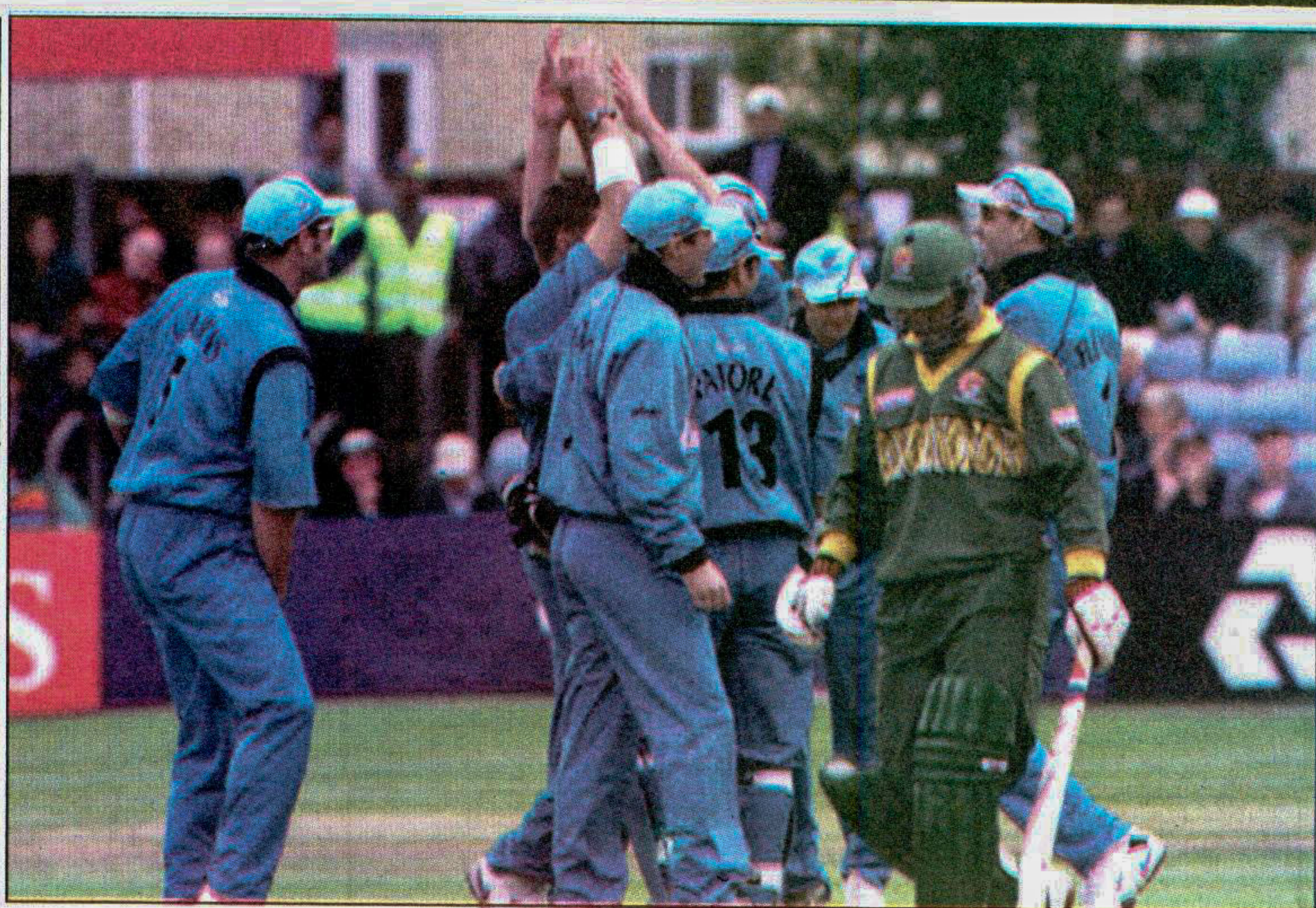
"Quit power and let elections be held to test your popularity. I can challenge that you will suffer a defeat."

She also repeated her statements about the government "failures" in protecting people's lives and property, interests of all social forces. She accused the government of harassing political opponents, resorting to large-scale corruption and terrorism, politicising the administration, ruining the na-

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BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at the bus stand crossing at Bogra town yesterday. — Star photo



The New Zealanders are jubilant after sending back Bangladesh opener Mehrab Hossain yesterday. —AFP photo

## Not a cheerful debut

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

CHELMSFORD, Essex, May 17: There was sunshine at Chelmsford yesterday and it was cloudy too. The 4000-strong Bangladesh crowd was a right cheerful lot, but the cricketers were a damp, disappointing lot.

The debutants lost to the Test elite New Zealanders by six wickets in a one-sided match, which saw their top and middle order collapse to a penetrating Kiwi seam attack.

Bangladesh were 116 for all out in 37.4 overs. New Zealand cruised to victory in 33 overs scoring 117 for four.

On a windy late morning, with threatening clouds looming overhead that could have curtailed to bring in the likes of Duckworth and Lewis, New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming put Bangladesh in after winning the toss.

Bangladesh could not have dreamed of a more inauspicious start to the World Cup when they lost Shahriar Hossain for naught in the very third ball of the game, a nasty one from left-arm Geoff Allott that had the opener trapped leg before.

The next couple had not fended off the venomous Kiwi attack for long before the other opener, Mehrab Hossain, was also given out leg-before to another piercer that Allott unleashed after his 30-yard run-up.

Bangladesh found themselves in an incubator, struggling for breath, as well as prestige, with only seven runs on the rudimentary Essex County scoreboard.

Akram Khan, tipped always to lift lost buckets from the bottom of the well, did raise hopes with the first boundary of the Bangladesh innings in the second over, a meteor through mid-wicket off Dion Nash. But, sadly for the thousands of Bengalees, who thronged the small

Chelmsford cricket stadium from all over England as well as Bangladesh, there would be only another big swipe that the burly number three would connect to deceiving deliveries on

an easy-paced wicket. Aminul, sooner than Akram's second boundary also of Nash, emulated his predecessor and pulled the most expensive

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For Long Lasting Fresh Breath and Sparkling White Teeth

## Beyond the boundary

### Come Back, Confucius

By Shakil Kasem

Welcome to the World Cup! Bangladesh's first foray into this competition gave the team an indication of what life in the big bad world is likely to be. It is best to be philosophical about it, part stoic, part Hegelian. Life in the middle promises to be nasty, brutish and short. Come to terms with it, or leave it.

One is left to wonder exactly what sort of motivation that the skipper had kept on insisting that Gordon Greenidge was providing them. To go by the many interviews the captain has been giving lately, Gordon Greenidge is the closest thing to Confucius our cricketers are likely to encounter. What happened at Chelmsford, the home

ground for Bangladesh for the last month or so, seriously questions the team's intentions in this competition, if the coach is ready to answer, that is.

Granted, the team was never meant to be the new David on the block, taking on every Goliath that crossed its path. What was expected from them was some sort of commitment to the game of cricket. Sadly, the world was perforce made to witness a spectacle that, should it be repeated, must definitely put a question mark over the team's ability to survive in the big pond. Where was the positive approach the coach is so fond of spouting every so often?

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we score...  
while others watch



## A view from the Gully

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

It was big chaos at Bristol on Sunday. West Indies had long monopolised inconsistency and unpredictability until Pakistan appeared on the scene. The Caribbeans have now has a cousin who can beat them in their own trade. Pakistanis, frustrated by the lack of warm-up matches because of rains, had cold feet and butter fingers. Acclimatisation in English weather is a prerequisite for any overseas cricketer before he takes his stance or starts his run-up. This process of getting used to the atmosphere can not be over-emphasised and it is not only true for the Pakistanis only but all the participating team that includes England too.

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## Today's match

England vs Kenya  
Venue: Canterbury  
Live Coverage: BTV and Star Sports (3:45 pm)

## Tomorrow's matches

Sri Lanka vs South Africa  
Venue: Northampton  
Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

India vs Zimbabwe  
Venue: Leicester  
Live Coverage: Star Sports (3:45 pm)

## Riot police retreat as terrorists, their spouses fire at them in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 17: Three platoons of riot police led by an Additional Police Commissioner retreated in the face of an armed attack by a gang of terrorists led by a local Awami League leader at Skid Ghat here last night, witnesses said.

AL leader and Ward Commissioner Ershad Shikdar and his gang made the attack with firearms and hand bombs when police raided the area after one person was killed and three were seriously injured by the terrorists earlier in the evening.

The witnesses said over 200 women whose husbands sup-

port the ward commissioner also traded shots with police and put up barricades during the raid.

The dead has been identified as Khalid Hossain 30, Manager of Rajapur Salt Industry. The injured are Monir Hossain, Managing Director of Rajapur Salt Industry, his younger brother Chayan 28, and Mostafa Kamal, all activists of Rupsha thana unit of Awami League, police and party sources said.

The three injured were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with their legs and hands fractured, tendons cut off and

backbones broken due to torture in a closed room at the office of the Ward Commissioner. Ershad Shikdar had joined BNP from Jatiya Party in 1992 and then to AL in 1997. He is absconding after the incident.

Police said the attack was sequel to a previous enmity with the ward commissioner who is on bail in four murder cases and 19 other criminal cases.

Twelve people were arrested early this morning. But no case was filed till filing of the report. Police said the Ward Commissioner belongs to the Whip Group of Awami League.

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GAVIN LARSEN  
Man of the Match  
Bangladesh vs New Zealand

## Grand rally at Osmany Udyan today

1609 trees, not 11000, says DCC protesting reports

A grand citizens' rally will be held at Osmany Udyan at 5 pm today, protesting the government move to set up an international conference centre in the Udyan by felling green trees, reports UNB.

Political leaders, teachers and intellectuals will address the rally to be chaired by Prof Dr Sirajul Islam Chowdhury.

"The Movement to Protect 11000 Trees of Osmany Udyan," a committee formed by 'conscious citizens' of the city, will

organise the rally. The Forum of Environment Journalist of Bangladesh (FEJB) yesterday expressed its concern at the decision to cut trees.

In a statement, the FEJB urged the authorities to save the open space and greenery between the old and new parts of the capital and reconsider the decision by shifting the site for building the NAM Conference Centre to any other suitable place.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and General Secretary Bakhtiar Rana in their statement questioned the justification of choosing this full-grown wooded park, the only source of oxygen for the citizens in the crowded and traffic-congested inter-section of Gulsitan.

"This is a wrongly conceived plan," said the statement. Construction of such a huge conference centre near Gulsitan will further aggravate the al-

ready chaotic traffic situation in the area, it was observed.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday protested recent reports in some newspapers that 11,000 trees would be felled to construct the Bangabandhu Memorial Centre at Osmany Udyan.

In a statement, the DCC said currently the total number of trees in the 23 acre 10 decimal park is 1,609 and hence the reports of felling 11,000 trees

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ঢাকা

### বিষয়ঃ বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্সের আওতায় পণ্য আমদানি প্রসঙ্গে

কতিপয় অসাধু গার্মেন্টস শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্সে লিখিত ঠিকানার পরিবর্তে আমদানি সংক্রান্ত এলসি-তে অন্য ঠিকানা ব্যবহার করছে। রপ্তানির নামে আমদানিকৃত কাপড় বিনা শুল্কে আমদানি করে তারা খেলা বাজারে বিক্রয় করছে। এ সকল অসাধু প্রতিষ্ঠান ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্স সুবিধার অপব্যবহার করছে বিধায় এবং বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউসসমূহের সুলভ তদারকির সুবিধার্থে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এ মর্মে আদেশ জারি করেছে যে, বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্সের আওতায় আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে শুদ্ধ কর্তৃপক্ষ কেবলমাত্র বন্ড লাইসেন্সধারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা সহজিত আমদানি দলিলাদি/এলসি গ্রহণ করবে। ভিন্ন ঠিকানা দেয়া হলে তা গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। সকল গার্মেন্টস শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকদের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, ১৫ই মে, ১৯৯৯ এর পর বন্ডেড ওয়ারহাউস লাইসেন্সে উল্লিখিত নাম, ঠিকানার সাথে মিল নেই এমন কোন আমদানি এলসি/দলিলাদি শুদ্ধ কর্তৃপক্ষ গ্রহণ করবে না।

ডিএফ-১০৭৮-১৬/৫

জি-৯১১

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, ঢাকা।