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9 days to the  
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**Political standoff****Holzman seeks President's initiative for consensus**

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman has sought the President's initiative to bring about a consensus among the government and the opposition, reports UNB.

"Any initiative taken by the President for bringing about a consensus among the political parties will help bring political stability which is necessary for economic development of the country," said Holzman when he called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban to express his concern at the "confrontational politics" between the Government and the Opposition.

He, however, expressed his

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**Inside Today****Article**

From BMW to Mattoo Case

**Gaping Holes in the Justice System**

Praful Bidwai writes from New Delhi

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**Sehri, Iftar timings**

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
13	22	-	5:20
14	23	5:13	5:21
15	24	5:13	5:21

**Prayer Timings****December 22**

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:12	5:22
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:42	4:00
Maghrib	6:24	5:28
Tarabi	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 'Mysterious' notes to free 2 held at Nagar Bhaban

**Police threaten to withdraw**

By Staff Correspondent

A police officer in charge of checking vehicles at the Nagar Bhaban gate yesterday threatened to withdraw his force when 'mysterious notes and requests started reaching him' for release of two persons he had detained for defying police order.

According to police, two persons — Dr Nasiruddin and contractor Abul Hossain — refused to be checked at the entrance of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) office and drove their cars inside, defying orders. The two persons went inside the office. Police later held their drivers.

"I will withdraw my men if they keep asking me to release these people who defied our police requests and tried to show their influence," said Sub-Inspector Ziaul Haque.

Police have been deployed at the Nagar Bhaban gate following the Mayor's request for containing terrorism at his office.

A tense situation is prevailing there since December 12 when armed cadres of Chhatra League factions fought gun battles over tender bids. The Nagar Bhaban were a deserted look yesterday as a result of the clashes and presence of terrorists on Monday.

However, the armed cadres were not seen at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday. When contacted, Mayor Mohammad Hanif said he had no knowledge about yesterday's incident at the Nagar Bhaban gate. He said his office will not interfere in police action to nab terrorists and has asked his security guards to find out the persons who tried to get the two drivers released.

But at about 3 pm, this correspondent found that the contractor's driver was freed but the doctor's car and his driver were held at the main entrance of the DCC.

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## Shibir enforces hartal in Ctg: 51 rounded up

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: A day-long hartal, enforced in greater Chittagong by Islami Chhatra Shibir today, passed off almost peacefully, police and witnesses said.

Shibir called the hartal protesting killing of its two activists at Chittagong university on Sunday.

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: Islamic Chhatra Shibir has withdrawn tomorrow's hartal in greater Chittagong following police assurance of releasing its activists, reports UNB.

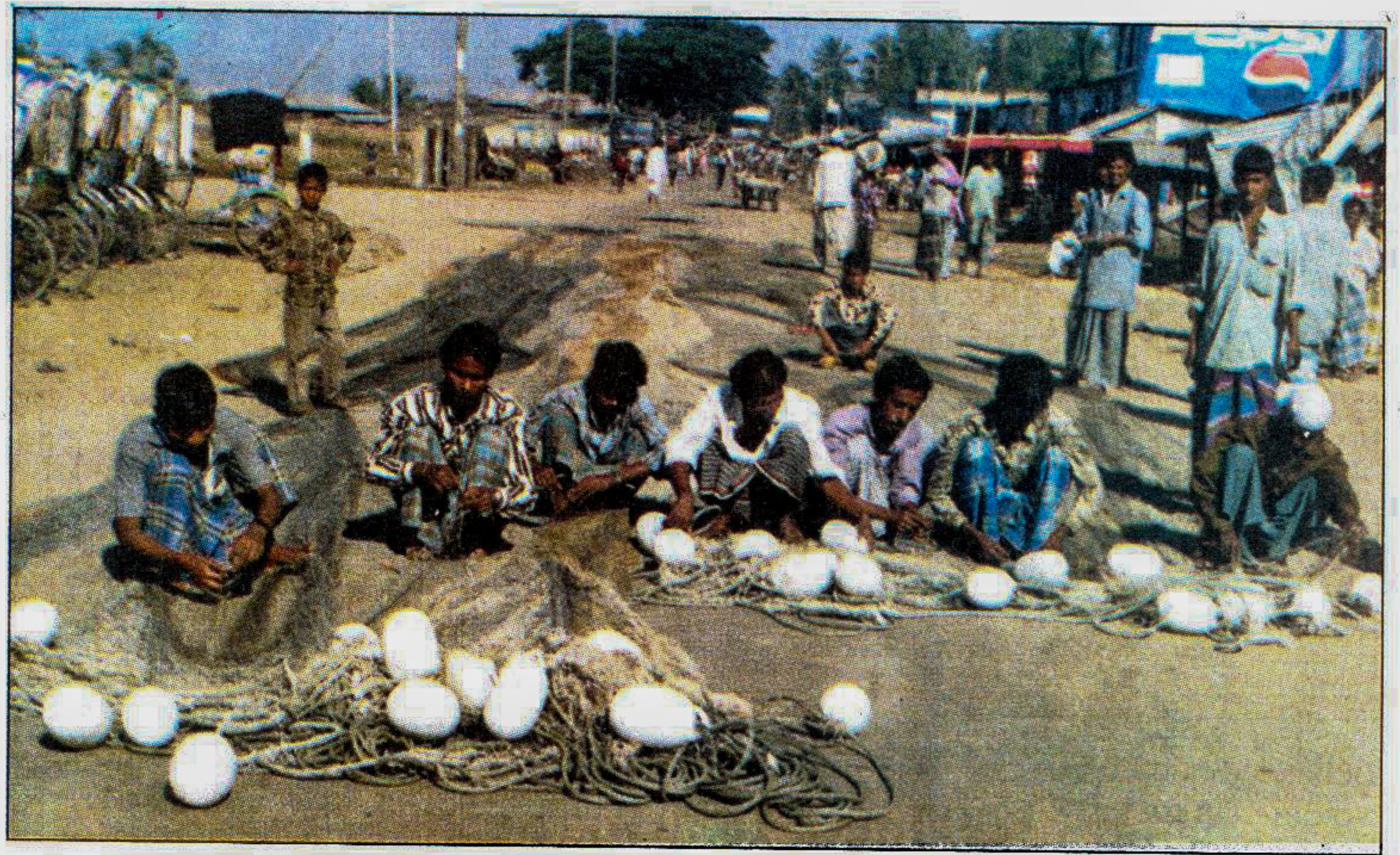
Police arrested 51 Shibir activists from different places of the city for picketing during the hartal.

It has given a call for another dawn-to-dusk hartal in greater Chittagong tomorrow protesting arrest of its activists during today's hartal and demanding their release.

Pickets damaged a large number of rickshaws at different places of the city, witnesses said.

Pickets were seen at Alankar crossing, Dewanhat crossing, Chawk Bazar, Chandanpura, Sirajuddallah road, Anderkilla and Momin road.

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These fishermen fix fishing net right on the middle of the Airport Road at Cox's Bazar taking advantage of the hartal yesterday.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Intra-party feud BCL activist shot dead in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: A BCL activist was shot dead as a sequel to intra-party conflict at West Madanbari in Double Mooring thana last night, police and witnesses said.

The victim, Alauddin Babar, 25, reportedly an activist of BCL Azim group came under attack by the activists of BCL Kader group while he was taking meal at a hotel at Plassey Market in West Madanbari area at around 10 pm.

The assailants numbering about six opened fire on Alauddin, leaving him critically injured.

Alauddin died on way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

## Reply to Speaker's note drafted BNP explains why it won't be JS-bound

By Nazmul Ashraf and Rezaul Karim

BNP has drafted a formal response to the Speaker's letter explaining why party MPs would not attend "millennium session" of parliament starting Jan. 1, 2000.

The draft, discussed and "almost" finalised by senior party leaders yesterday, says it would be meaningless for the MPs to join the session because the party has lost confidence in the government for the latter's failure to honour previous deals.

It lists the areas in which the treasury bench or the government has 'faulked'. The party

also expresses its continued dissatisfaction over the role of Speaker and the way he has conducted business in the House.

The draft letter alleges the government has continued to use the state-run electronic media to its advantage while publicising the parliament proceedings.

It also complains about the government failure to withdraw "false charges" against party MPs for which both sides had signed an agreement.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed

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**Zia murder****JS body asks govt to submit report on 4 army officers involved**

A parliamentary body yesterday examined pending petitions and asked the government to submit reports within 30 days on four army officers who were involved in the killing of President Ziaur Rahman in 1981, reports UNB.

The sub-committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence had earlier given two months to the government for submitting necessary documents on the trial of Col Rashid, Col Delwar, Maj Bazlul Huq and Maj Rezaul Karim.

Among them, Rashid and Delwar were hanged after the Chittagong revolt. Maj Bazlul Huq and Maj Rezaul Karim were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for their alleged involvement in the killing of Ziaur Rahman at Chittagong by a martial law court.

Noorjahan Delwar, wife of Col Delwar Hossain, Anwar Rashid, wife of Col Rashid, and two other officers claimed that their husbands and themselves were innocent and sentenced illegally by the martial law court, and that they were not allowed to defend themselves.

## Sharif accuses army of erasing recordings from black box

KARACHI, Dec 21: Deposed premier Nawaz Sharif accused the military today of destroying evidence in a case of treason and suspected hijacking, which the army has lodged against him and six of his former colleagues, reports AP.

The anti-terrorist court adjourned the case until January 12 without laying formal charges against Sharif and six others, including the younger brother Shahbaz.

The army has alleged that Sharif and his coaccused refused to allow an aircraft returning army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan to land in southern Karachi on October 12 — the same day the military threw out the elected government in a bloodless coup.

On Monday the prosecution told the anti-terrorist court,

which is to hear the case, that there was no incriminating evidence on any of the black boxes aboard the aircraft and that the recordings would not be used as evidence in the case.

Sharif in an interview with

The Associated Press before going to court today accused the army of erasing the recordings, which he said would have vindicated him.

The military destroyed the

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## Rescued ten brought back from India

By Staff Correspondent

Ten Bangladeshi girls trafficked to India in the last four to eight years were brought back on Monday at the initiative of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity.

Indian immigration authorities handed them over to the Samity leaders at the Benapole check post.

The girls are Tanjila, 14, Nasima, 18, Aleya, 17, Rina, 18, Swapna, 16, Laila, 18, Rashida, 16, Sohagi, 19, Bharati, 24 and Lipika, 16. Some of them were sold in India.

Salma Ali, Executive Director of the Samity told The Daily Star yesterday that it took eight months to bring the girls back because of bureaucratic tangles involving the ministries of home and foreign affairs and other problems.

After they were rescued, the girls were kept at the 'shelter

home' of the Indian Juvenile Board. To release the girls, the Board demanded that their traffickers be produced, which is impossible, she added. This created legal problems and delayed their release, she added.

Talking to this correspondent, Nasima, one of the victims, said she was taken to India through Kolaroa in Satkhira by an organised gang of traffickers six years ago. She demanded that the government take measures to stop trafficking of women and children.

Aleya, who hails from Khulna, said she was taken to Mumbai. She said she was deceived by her 'lover'. A lot of Bangladeshi girls are being trafficked to India and they are leading a inhuman life there, she added.

Sawpna said she worked at a

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**Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha**  
Dhaka

## Notice Inviting Tender For Commercial Plots

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from intending bonafide Bangladeshi nationals having reputation in hotel business for leasing out two most suitable plots measuring more or less 18.64 (eighteen point six four) khata having road facilities on two sides by Gulshan Avenue Road (Comprising Plot No-57, 57/A) in Gulshan (South), Dhaka on 99 years lease basis for constructing a hotel of international standard.

Interested bidders may collect tender schedule from Sonali Bank/Agrani Bank, RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka on payment of Taka 5,000/= (Taka five thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) from 26-12-99 to 30-12-99 during office hours and will be received in the office of the Member (Finance)/(Planning)/(Dev) Admn. & Land/(Estate), Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Chief Engineer, RAJUK and Director (Estate) RAJUK from intending persons upto 2-00 PM on 04/01/2000. Tenders will be opened at 2-30 PM on the same day in presence of the bidders, present (if any).

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Chairman

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha  
RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka

GD-1222



**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**“বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” ১৯৯৯ এর**  
**জন্য আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণের সময়সীমা**  
**বর্ধিতকরণ প্রসঙ্গে**

অর্থনৈতিক বিষয়ে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদানের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের নিকট থেকে “বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” ১৯৯৯ এর জন্য আবেদন/মনোনয়নপত্র গ্রহণের সময়সীমা ৩১শে জানুয়ারী ২০০০ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল। পুরস্কারের জন্য অর্থনীতির যে কোন শাখার গবেষণা কর্ম বিবেচনা করা হবে। তবে বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি বিষয়ক গবেষণাকে এবং বাংলাদেশে কর্মরত গবেষকদের গবেষণাকে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেয়া হইবে। সম্প্রতিকালে প্রকাশিত একটি নির্দিষ্ট গবেষণা কর্ম বা একক কোন বিষয়ে একাধিক গবেষণা কর্মের উৎকর্ষের মানদণ্ডে প্রার্থী নির্বাচন করা হবে। বিশেষ ক্ষেত্রে জীবনব্যাপী গবেষণামূলক আবদানও বিবেচনায় নেওয়া হবে। গবেষণা কর্ম জানালের প্রবন্ধ, পুস্তক বা পুস্তকের অধ্যায় আকারে হতে পারে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র/মনোনয়নপত্র এর ছকে প্রার্থী ব্যক্তিগতভাবে সরাসরি আবেদন করতে পারবেন কিংবা কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান কোন প্রার্থীকে মনোনয়ন দিতে পারবেন। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে প্রার্থীর জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (Curriculum Vitae) এবং যে বিশেষ অবদানের জন্য প্রার্থী বা তার মনোনয়ন দাতা ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান “বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক পুরস্কার” এর উপযুক্ত বলে মনে করেন তার উপর একটি সংশ্লেষের পাঁচ কপি আবেদনের সাথে পাঠাতে হবে।

এই পুরস্কারের আর্থিক মূল্য হবে নগদ দুই লক্ষ টাকা। সেই সাথে বাইশ ক্যারেট মানের দুই তোলা ওজনের একটি স্বর্ণ পদক এবং বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের একটি চেক।

আবেদন/মনোনয়নপত্র ৩১শে জানুয়ারী ২০০০ তারিখে বা তার আগে নির্বাহী পরিচালক, প্রশাসন বিভাগ-এর নিকট পৌছাতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র এবং উক্ত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদনপত্র পাওয়া গেলে তা বিবেচনা করা হবে না। আবেদনপত্র ও প্রাসংগিক অন্যান্য তথ্যের জন্য অফিস সময়ে নির্বাহী পরিচালক, প্রশাসন বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়ের সারথে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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