

# Traffic jam & your last resort!

By M. R. Rousseau

Ever been caught up in a nasty traffic jam, especially when you are on your way to your place of work? In all probability, the answer is likely to be in the positive, if you happen to be a resident of one of the most densely populated cities of the world. Not just any other 'densely populated' cities of our one and the only globe.

Things are just not the same with all the metropolises, for, they do not have identical modes of transports and equally narrow roads. Nor are the men managing the traffic are of equal 'efficiency' throughout the world. It requires a special aptitude to be able to control and uncontrollable traffic, comprising various kinds of transports ranging from shining motor cars of the latest model to those three-wheeler rickshaws called 'rickshaws'.

And one's experience depends on many more factors. You are likely to have one kind

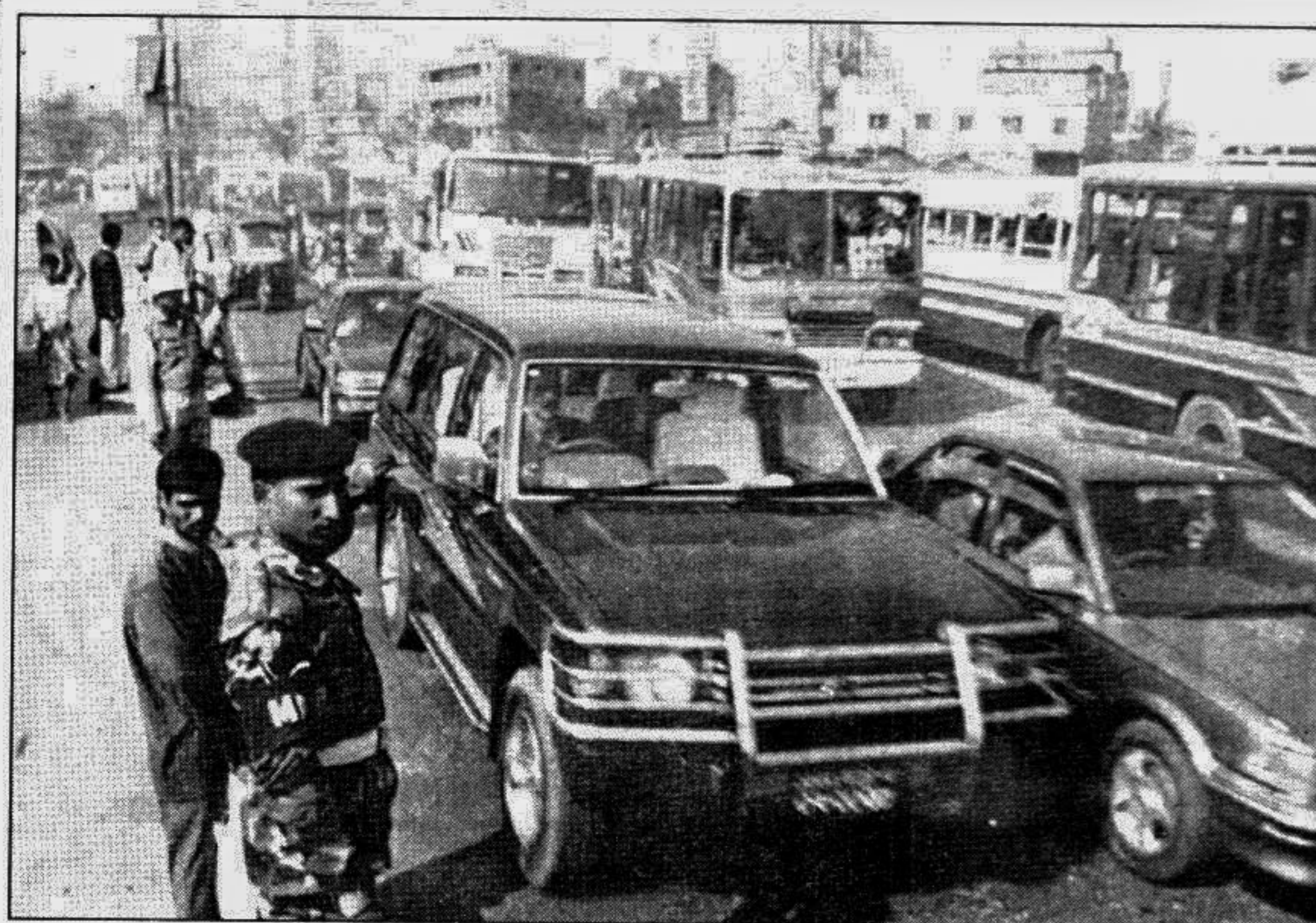
of feeling, when caught up in a traffic jam in, say, Rome or London. The experience is bound to be different, if the location happens to be Delhi, Calcutta and, god forbid, Dhaka—the Bangladesh capital! Things are different at Dhaka, as contrasted with all other capital cities of the world. For, this, perhaps is the lone capital city along whose network of roads and streets all kinds of transports carry passengers, according to their socio-economic standing. The rich obviously can afford to move in luxury, air-conditioned cars. A little less fortunate ones travel in what they call auto-rickshaws. Those travelling by buses and auto-tri-wheeler called 'tempos' or tricycle rickshaws can be grouped under the lower middle class and the poorer sections of the citizenry.

If you happen to fall in the last category of the lesser mortals, you are sure know that your travelling cannot begin be-

fore a successful negotiation with the driver of the three wheeler of your choice. And there is a way of beginning the negotiations. As soon as you have been able to draw the attention of the driver of your chosen vehicle, you must ask the driver, 'going my way' or words to that effect. If and when the answer is in the positive, then would follow the question of fare. Nobody, however, would be able to give you any idea about the possible time of your reaching the destination. It all would depend on the hour of the day and the kind of vehicles that are out on the roads. If the trucks and push carts are out there, then you may be sure of adding another, extra half an hour's time to your expected time of arrival! And god only knows, where on earth will you have to wait and for how long, as you 'proceed' towards wherever you wish to proceed. What do you do when you are caught up in one of those unpredictable

traffic jams, especially in pre-Eid festival jams. All one can do is—wait. Wait, quite indefinitely. And while waiting, you can, to begin with, cast your eyes around and pity other 'stranded' ones like yourself (and, possibly your counterparts do the same at the same time). Then, if you still have time, you may ask your driver about the position of things towards the end of the jammed road. If that also does not cover your waiting time, then you could look on both sides of the road and read the signboards and hoardings—if they are visible, that is.

If none of these work and there is still no sign of things easing, all you could do, as the last resort, is get down from your vehicle and do some shopping, provided you have some cash on you. If not, you must make do with 'window shopping'. Don't forget to pay off the driver of your hired vehicle before you do so!



Bangladesh Army personnel have been deployed at important points of the city yesterday to control vehicular traffic movements. — Star photo

## Army deployed to control traffic situation

Army personnel were deployed yesterday at important points of the capital to ease traffic congestion, says a press release.

The army personnel deployed at different crossings of the city includes Jatrahari, Saidabad, Gulistan and Farmgate, an ISPR release said.

The deployment of army personnel prior to holy Eid-ul-Fitr is expected to relieve the city dwellers from the curse of traffic congestion, the release added.

## DU winter vacation begins today

Dhaka University goes on its last winter and Eid-ul-Fitr vacation of this century today, reports UNB.

Official sources said the university would reopen on January 15.

They said administrative activities of the university would remain closed only from January 4-14.

## Internet training programme at British Council

A training programme on the Internet & CD-ROM uses for local NGOs was held at the British Council, Cyber Centre of Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Representatives from ARBN, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, Dhaka Community Hospital and Nayan Action Foundation participated in the programme.

The main objective of the training was to promote the uses of Internet & CD-ROM in the field of development. Topics of the programme included uses of Internet & e-mail, searching information, connection with development agencies and health-related resources.

The training was conducted by the Cyber Centre Manager, Linda Gomes.

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Norbert Gomes of G. P. Ka 13/1A Nathda, Gulshan-2, Dhaka hereby solemnly affirm and declare by an affidavit before the Magistrate 1st Class that the actual and accurate name of my son is Robert Ranjan Gomes not Robert Gomes.

Let it be known and recorded in his all relevant papers and documents.

C-1055 Norbert Gomes

## Millennium Mela at Sheraton from today

A ten-day long grand Millennium Mela begins at the Sheraton Hotel today. Dhaka Sheraton in cooperation with Ruby's Ad will hold this colourful fair to welcome the new Millennium, says a press release.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Qader will inaugurate the grand fair at 12 noon.

The Mela will have more than 40 decorated stalls from where traditional handicraft, jewellery, leather goods, handloom products, Jamdani and Benarasi sarees, Mumpuri and other tribal goods, Panjabes and Kurta, boutiques and a large variety of attractive items of reputed organisations will be on display for sale.

To facilitate the visitors who are fasting, Dhaka Sheraton will have a stall where traditional Iftar will be available. The fair will continue till January 1.

## For Sale

BD issue: American Bicentennial (Mini/Sheets) imperf & perf, other mini/sheets, mint stamps, British mini/sheets, mint/used stamps, FDSCs, Definitive stamps etc. American mint/used stamps, FDSC and World-wide. Zaman Res: 9003837 C-1051

## Tender Notice

University of Dhaka: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from enlisted contractor's (Elec) of Dhaka University for the works of "Shifting of 300 KVA Sub-Station equipments to the newly constructed room at Salimullah Hall area, DU" and will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on 30th December 1999 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM by the undersigned, in presence of the tenderers who may remain present. Tenderers will have to deposit a sum of Tk 1700/- only as earnest money in the form of Demand Draft or Pay-Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of the undersigned. Tender schedule and other particulars i/c terms and conditions may be had from the office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender on payment of Tk 60/- (non-refundable) to the Janata Bank, Dhaka University Branch after obtaining permission from the undersigned.

The Dhaka University authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. The contractors are liable to abide by the decision of the authority. Contractors should write the name of the work & their firm's name on the envelop clearly.

Md Mujibullah  
Acting Executive Engineer (Elec)  
University of Dhaka.

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## Eating Out

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Gonoshyastha Khadda Biponi (Gonoshyastha Nagar Hospital) House 14-E, Road -6 Dhanmondi Dhaka.

## Five-member BNP team off to Bangkok

By Staff Correspondent

The five-member BNP delegation yesterday left for Bangkok en route home from Canton in China after 9-day visit at the invitation of Communist Party of China.

Top ranking leaders of CPC and senior government officials saw off the BNP delegation, which was led by party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, at the Canton Airport, said a press release.

The Chinese leaders hoped that the visit between the two countries and two parties will contribute a lot to further strengthen the existing relations.

They said the relations between the CPC and BNP which built over the years will continue in the days ahead and strengthen the bondages.

In reply, Bhuiyan expressed his deep satisfaction for warm hospitality and said China is the trusted friend of Bangladesh. He said the forward march of the two parties will continue in future.

Bhuiyan left for Singapore from Bangkok yesterday for medical check up and will return to Dhaka on Friday. While the other members of the delegation will return home today, the release added.

## ABC AGM Dec 25

The 22nd Annual General Meeting of the General Body of Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) will be held at 11:00 am on December 25 at ABC Head Office, 2/11, Tajmahal Road, Block-C, Mohammadpur, says a press release.

All members of the General Body of ABC are requested to attend the meeting on time.

## Review meet on progress of CHT dev projects

A review meeting on the progress of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribal and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation and also of different development projects being implemented by Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Development Board in CHT areas was held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma presided over the meeting held at his secretariat office.

Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribal and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Dipankar Talukdar MP, Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Bir Bahadur MP, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (CHTA) Md Sakhawat Hossain and Joint Secretaries of the Ministry of CHTA Md Abdul Awal Chowdhury and A Z M Shafiqul Islam attended the meeting.

Chairman of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban Hill District Parishads Ching

Best Aviation Ltd offers spl holiday package

The country's first helicopter tourist flight operator Best Aviation Limited has offered special holiday package to the country's main two tourist destinations, Kuakata and Cox's Bazar.

The Best Aviation will carry passengers from Dhaka by a twin engine, air-conditioned, luxurious helicopter, said a press release.

The company will provide accommodation, twin bedded air-conditioned room, breakfast, transport from and house by Hertz.

The cost for a two-night three days tour estimated at US dollar 700 or Taka 35,000 per person for the individuals. US dollar 600 or Tk 30,000 per person or a group of eight people and US dollar 500 or Tk 25,000 per person for a group of 16 people.

The BK-117 helicopter can accommodate eight passengers at a time.

The first flight left Dhaka for Cox's Bazar yesterday while second and third flight will leave on December 24 and 27 respectively.

## JCD warns of tough movement

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP, yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding release of its activists including its president and general secretary before Eid.

Later, JCD also held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla. Addressing the rally, the JCD leaders accused the ruling party of torturing the opposition workers. "The Awami League government is arresting and harassing the opposition activists in an undemocratic way to cling to the power", they said.

The leaders threatened to launch a tough movement across the country after Eid-ul-Fitr to topple the government if their demand was not met.

## Financial irregularities

Religious ministry asked to submit report

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts yesterday asked the Ministry of Religious Affairs to submit a detailed report about the persons involved in financial irregularities of the ministry, reports BSS.

This was stated in a meeting of the committee held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan with its chairman S M Akram in the chair.

The meeting discussed 18 audit objections and financial irregularities of the Religious Affairs Ministry from 1983 to 1987 raised by the Auditor and Comptroller General. The audit objections included the financial irregularities related to Hajj management.

Committee members Col. (Retd) Shaukat Ali, M K Anwar, Mohammad Mojib Rahman, Whip Vice Principal Mohammad Abbas Shaheed, Abul Kalam Azad, Mustafizur Rahman, Nurul Islam Naheed, Hafiz Uddin Bir Bikram and Abdul Mannan attended the meeting.

Auditor and Comptroller General Syed Yusul Hossain and concerned officials were also present.

## Shahabuddin felicitates Akihito

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed greeted Japanese Emperor Akihito yesterday on the occasion of his birthday to be observed today, reports UNB.

In a message to Akihito, he said, "I am confident that the existing bond of friendship, co-operation and mutual understanding between Bangladesh and Japan will grow in depth and dimension in the next millennium."

## Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting and annual meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held today at 4:00 pm at Dhaka Club Upstairs Family Lounge. All members are requested to attend on time, says a press release.

## JSD-backed BCL observes Solidarity Day

By DU Correspondent

JSD backed-Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday observed Student-Workers Solidarity Day marking the 15th death anniversary of Shahjahan Siraj, a student leader.

Shahjahan Siraj, the student leader was gunned down by BDR at the Rajshahi University campus in 1984.

Marking the day, the BCL hoisted the party flag half mast, placed wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning and brought out procession on the Dhaka University campus at noon.

Following the procession, BCL held a rally in front of the DUCSU building on the campus.

Presided over by Obaidur Rahman Chunnun, the rally was addressed, among others, by Karim Sikder, Mirza Mohammad Anwarul Haq, Amran Al Amin, Munir Ahmed Lenin, Shamim Ahmed and Ajarul Islam Liton.

## BNP expels its Sirajganj dist unit leader

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP has cancelled the primary membership of its Sirajganj district unit leader Alamgir Alamir Kajol for his anti-party activities and creating inner-party conflict.

Subsequently, he was also relieved from all posts being held in committees of BNP and Juba Dal.

A press release of BNP yesterday said the expulsion order came at the instruction of BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia.

## French language course from Jan 16

New session of French Language course at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will begin on January 16, says a press release. For further information contact the Alliance Francaise, House 26, Road 3, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

ঈদ বাজারের ঝঙ্কি ঝামেলা  
সামাল দিতে এসে গেল  
২০০০ ঈদ বাজার পরিক্রমা  
আজ বাজারে  
২০০০ সাজিষ্  
সজীব সচল বাংলাদেশের ছিব্র প্রতিকৃতি  
৯৬/৯৭ নিউ ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন : পিএবিএক্স : ৯৩৫০৯৫১-৩

ঈদ সংখ্যা আনন্দধারা  
প্রায় আড়াইশ' পাতার  
বত্রিশ ভাঙা  
শেষ হবার আগেই সংগ্রহ করুন  
এখন বাজারে  
আনন্দধারা ৯৬/৯৭ নিউ ইস্টাটন, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন : পিএবিএক্স : ৯৩৫০৯৫১-৩

শাখা স্থানান্তর  
সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সুবিধার্থে শেরপুর জেলাস্থ সোনালী ব্যাংক শেরপুর শাখাটি আগামী ২৬ ডিসেম্বর, ৯৯' রবিবার বর্তমান অবস্থান থেকে নতুন অবস্থানে স্থানান্তর করা হবে এবং ঐ দিন থেকে নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করবে।

পুরাতন ভবনের ঠিকানা	নতুন ভবনের ঠিকানা
দাগ নং- ১৮৮, ১৮৯	সম্পদ প্রাজা - ২য় তলা
খতিয়ান নং- ১৬৭, ২২	দাগ নং- ১৮৭, ১৯৭
মোজা - নারায়ণপুর	খতিয়ান নং- ১৫২, ১৬১
ধানা - শেরপুর সদর	মোজা - নারায়ণপুর
জেলা - শেরপুর	ধানা - শেরপুর সদর
	জেলা - শেরপুর

আগামী ২৬ ডিসেম্বর, ৯৯' রবিবার থেকে বর্তমান ঠিকানার পরিবর্তে নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ ও ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের অনুমোদন জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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