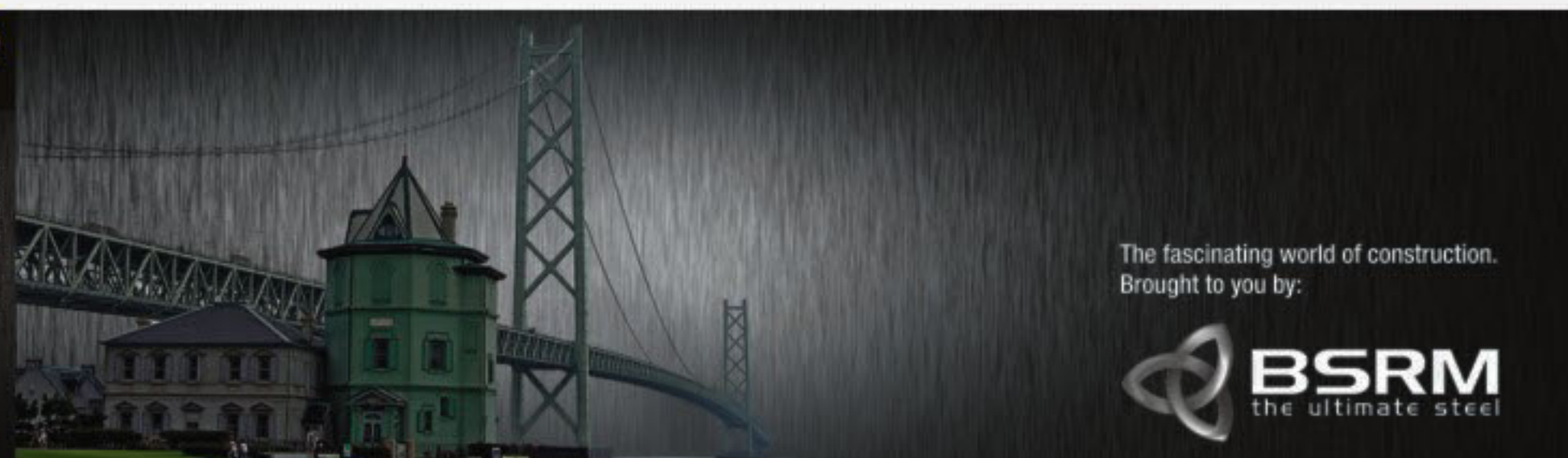


Did you know?

The Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, also known as the Pearl Bridge, has the longest central span of any suspension bridge, at 1,991 meters. It is located in Japan and was completed in 1998.



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40 Huji operatives still at large

Law enforcers searching for them

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Around 40 operatives of outlawed Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) including convicted and charge-sheeted accused of different bomb attack cases are still on the run, posing a threat to the country.

Some of the absconding militants are holding secret meetings and were even training up members at a secluded place in Mohammadpur in the capital a few months ago.

However, the militants cancelled the training and abandoned the area after different intelligence and law-enforcement agencies started a hunt for them months after the present government assumed power, intelligence and Huji sources say.

The absconding Huji leaders include some of the top brasses like Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Sheikh Farid, Maulana Abu Bakar, Abdul Hannan Sabbir, Maulana Liton, Abdul Hye, Abu Jehad, Abu Musa, Abdullah, Sagir Bin Emdad, Maulana Monir, Maulana Masum and Golam

Mostafa.

Most of them have training on sophisticated weapons and grenades.

Sources in the law-enforcement agencies believe the militants responsible for deadly bomb and grenade attacks and death of over 90 people since 1999 are still a threat.

However, top officials from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Detective Branch (DB) say since the absconding militants are on the run, possibility of any attack by them is very slim.

"There is little chance of any attack by Huji men since we are always after them," Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandkar told The Daily Star recently.

DB Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam also expressed similar view on the issue.

The Rab DG said they have lists of the members of not only Huji but also other militant outfits including banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and are always after them.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A kneeling Mahmudullah Riyad follows through on a front foot cover drive during his crucial knock of 69 on the third day of the first Test against India at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nipah virus claims 3 in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three members of a family under Bhangra upazila of the district died within a week after they contracted encephalitis caused by Nipah virus.

Faridpur Civil Surgeon Dr Bashirul Islam stating the report of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research and National Influenza Centre, Bangladesh (IEDCR) yesterday confirmed the death of the three from Nipah virus that spread from the swab of bats.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Turag banks abuzz with devotees

Biswa Ijtema begins Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Turag riverbank at Tongi has started to turn into a human sea as the three-day Biswa Ijtema begins Friday as two million devotees, including one lakh females, from home and across the world are expected to participate in the second largest congregation of Muslims.

The Tablig-e-Jamaat has been organising the largest gathering next to hajj since 1976.

Several thousand devotees are volunteering to prepare the 5-square-kilometre Ijtema ground to accommodate participants.

The government is also extending all-out support and providing facilities for the smooth holding of Biswa Ijtema.

The local administration and law enforcement agencies have jointly taken up steps regarding security measures and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jamaat plans movement against deals with India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday declared that they would launch a movement against the deals signed with India, the attempt to cancel Fifth Amendment of the constitution and proposed education policy.

During a press conference at the party's headquarters Jamaat leaders said, "The Bangladesh-India joint communiqué is against the interest of people. It is a solid

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Escap to make plan for Asian connectivity

Rail, road networks, energy cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) has been requested by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to prepare necessary programme for establishing road and railway connectivity among the Asian countries.

Escap Executive Secretary Noleen Heyzer apprised President Zillur Rahman of this latest initiative when she paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

About socioeconomic impacts of inter-regional connectivity, Heyzer said "The connectivity would facilitate the transporting of

goods and services in this region."

The UN agency is also working to build energy-cooperation network in this region, she said.

Heyzer hoped that after formulating the programme, the Escap would be able to find the development partners for providing financial assistance to the programme.

The executive secretary also assured increased cooperation and financial assistance for the socioeconomic development in Bangladesh.

Appreciating the disaster-management capacity of Bangladesh, Heyzer observed that other Asian countries could gather knowledge

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Mother, son burnt alive

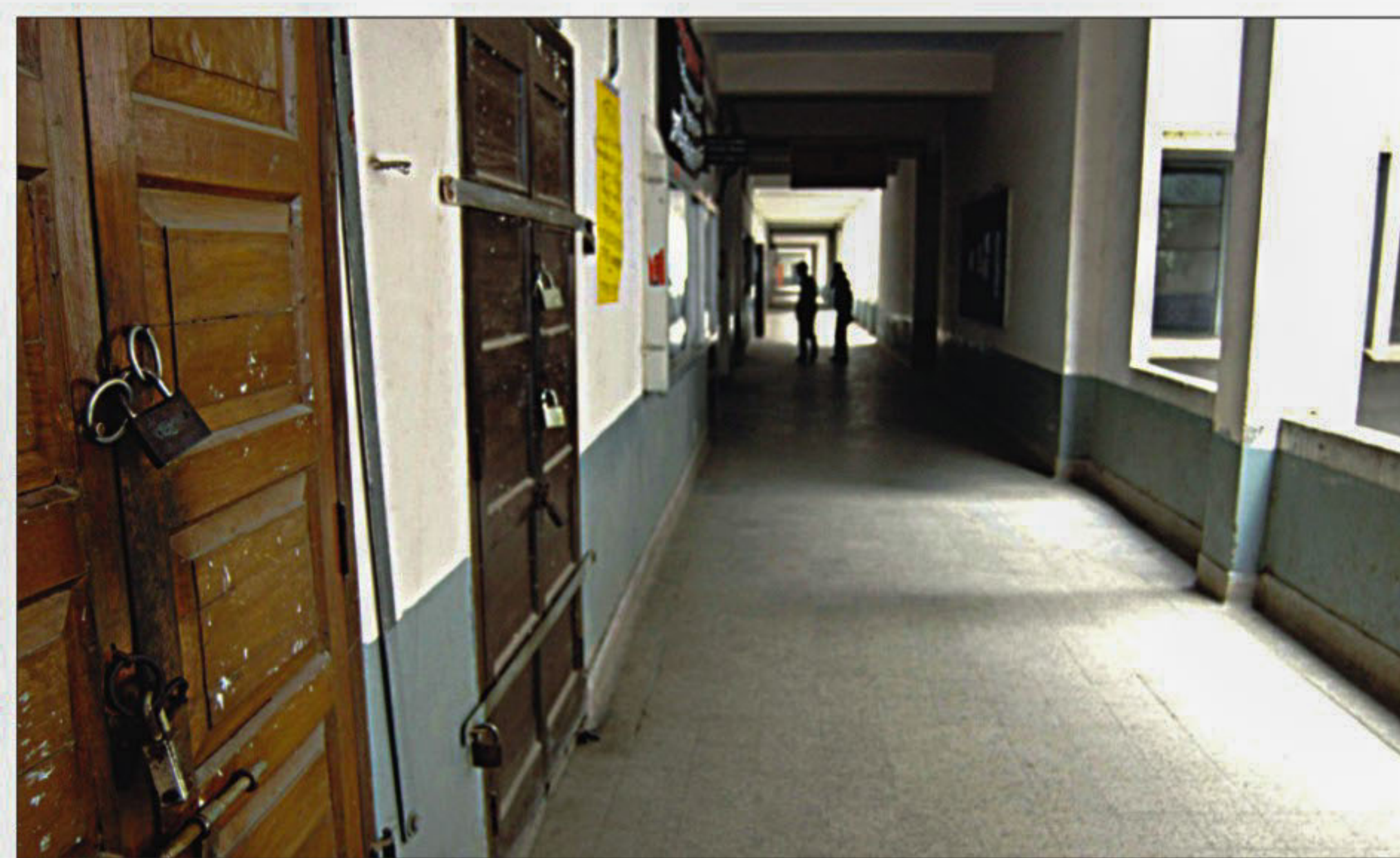
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman and her three-year-old son were burned alive and another son and a daughter were injured in a fire that left their house to ashes at Mazidpur village in Pabna Sadar upazila on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Sahida Khatun, 32, wife of day labourer Monir Hossain and his son Saiful. Severely injured Manira, 12, and Saidul, 10, were admitted to Pabna General Hospital in a critical condition.

Police, fire fighters and the locals said the fire originated from an earthen stove inside

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Classrooms in Kala Bhaban of Dhaka University remain locked yesterday because of a strike called by Chhatra Dal. Very few classes were held although the exams were held as scheduled.

PHOTO: STAR

Amar Desh sued for defamation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Energy adviser to the prime minister filed a defamation case yesterday against acting Editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman and two others with Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rokhsana Begum Happy took the case into cognisance and issued a summons asking the accused to appear in the court on February 9.

Apart from the editor, the other accused are publisher of the daily Alhaj Mohammad Hasmat Ali and reporter M Abdullah.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

2 Pak nationals held with fake Indian notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested three persons including two Pakistani nationals and seized fake Indian currencies worth about 10 lakh Indian rupees from their possession at a Mouchak hotel in the capital on Monday.

A team of detective police led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad Golam Azad Khan arrested Pakistani nationals Mohammad Danish, 32, of Anarkoli in Lahore, Sabbir Ali, 55, of Karachi in Pakistan and Bangladeshi national Fatema Akter Opi, 23, wife of Danish, from Mouban hotel.

Danish lives at West Rampura with his wife Opi. The criminals were rounded up as they were waiting to handover 10 lakh forged Indian currencies to their clients.

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday held a press briefing at its Minto Road DB office in the capital where Dhaka

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Militants plan to attack major Pak cities

ANI, Lahore

Major cities in Pakistan's Punjab province could be targeted by terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), police officials have said.

According to sources, the security agencies have received intelligence inputs that eight well-trained 'young' terrorists could strike major cities like Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan in the near future.

"These terrorists can target government buildings, police offices and media offices in the province," The Daily Times

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaldea Zia that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India visit is a failure and harmful for nation?

Yes (33.8%)
No (64.9%)
No Comments (1.3%)

Total votes: 1453

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think police played their due role during the clashes between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Dhaka University?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Chaos hampers aid delivery to Haiti

BBC ONLINE, AP, Port-Au-Prince

The US military has begun airdropping food and water supplies into earthquake-hit Haiti. Some 14,000 ready-to-eat meals and 15,000 litres of water were dropped north-east of the capital Port-au-Prince, the US said.

It had earlier said airdrops were too risky but congestion at the airport has hampered aid distribution. The US is now considering airdrops across Haiti.

More than 2,000 US Marines are set to join 1,000 US troops in Haiti.

Relief workers say pockets of violence in Haiti's devastated capital are hindering a slow increase in much-needed aid delivery, and some residents have banded together to protect the few possessions they have left.

As thousands of others head to the countryside, people in one hillside Port-au-Prince district blocked off access to their street with cars and asked local young men to patrol for looters.

"We never count on the government here," said Tatony Vieux, 29. "Never."

But the scope of catastrophe had widened dramatically. The latest casualty report, from the European Commission citing Haitian government figures, doubled previous estimates of the dead to approximately 200,000, with some 70,000 bodies recovered and trucked off to mass graves.

The port remains blocked. Distribution of food, water and supplies from the city's lone airport to the needy are increasing but still remained a work in progress, frustrating many survivors who sleep in the streets and outdoor camps of tens of thousands. European Commission analysts estimate 250,000 were injured and 1.5 million were made homeless.

US troops are equipped with heavy-lifting and earth-moving equipment, a dozen helicopters and medical support facilities.

Their arrival comes amid widespread violence and looting.

However, UN humanitarian chief John Holmes played down worries over security, saying that despite incidents of violence, the overall situation was calm.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

আজিনন্দন

সি.আই.পি নির্বাচিত

এ জে আই গ্রুপের সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব এম: এ: জলিল অনন্ত শিল্পপতি হিসাবে দেশের অর্থনীতিতে ভাষার বিশাল অবদানের জন্য গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ২০০৯ইং সালের পারফরমেন্সের জন্য সি আই পি নির্বাচিত হওয়ার আমরা নাকিসা এন্টারপ্রাইজ-এর সকল কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ ভাকে জানাই প্রাণঢালা শুভেচ্ছা ও আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন। আমরা সকলে ভাষার এই সাফল্যে গণিত এবং অনুপ্রাণিত।

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