

Bid winners for dead trees felling live ones

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Labourers of two bid winners for cutting down dead trees are allegedly felling live trees along Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Patgram and Hatibandha upazilas of the district.

Following an auction on April 13, the district council issued letters of permission to cut down 71 roadside dead trees along Lalmonirhat-Burimari

highway in Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas, said Yunus Ali, office assistant of Lalmonirhat district council.

Under the auction, Lavlu Miah bought 39 dead trees in Patgram upazila for Tk 45 thousand and Ashrafal Haque bought 32 others in Hatibandha upazila for Tk 27 thousand, he said.

Locals alleged that the bidders' men have continued cutting live trees for the

last one week while their hired goons always keep watch, threatening the people who question the illegal act. They also show 'auction papers' to justify their act.

"Lavlu Miah's labourers have already felled at least 100 roadside trees in Bawra area of Patgram upazila till Friday evening. Only 18 to 20 of the felled trees were dead and the others were live," said Abdul Wahed Ali,

42, a residence of Bawra village.

"If we ask why they are felling live trees, they show us auction papers and say that government officials look into the matter," he said.

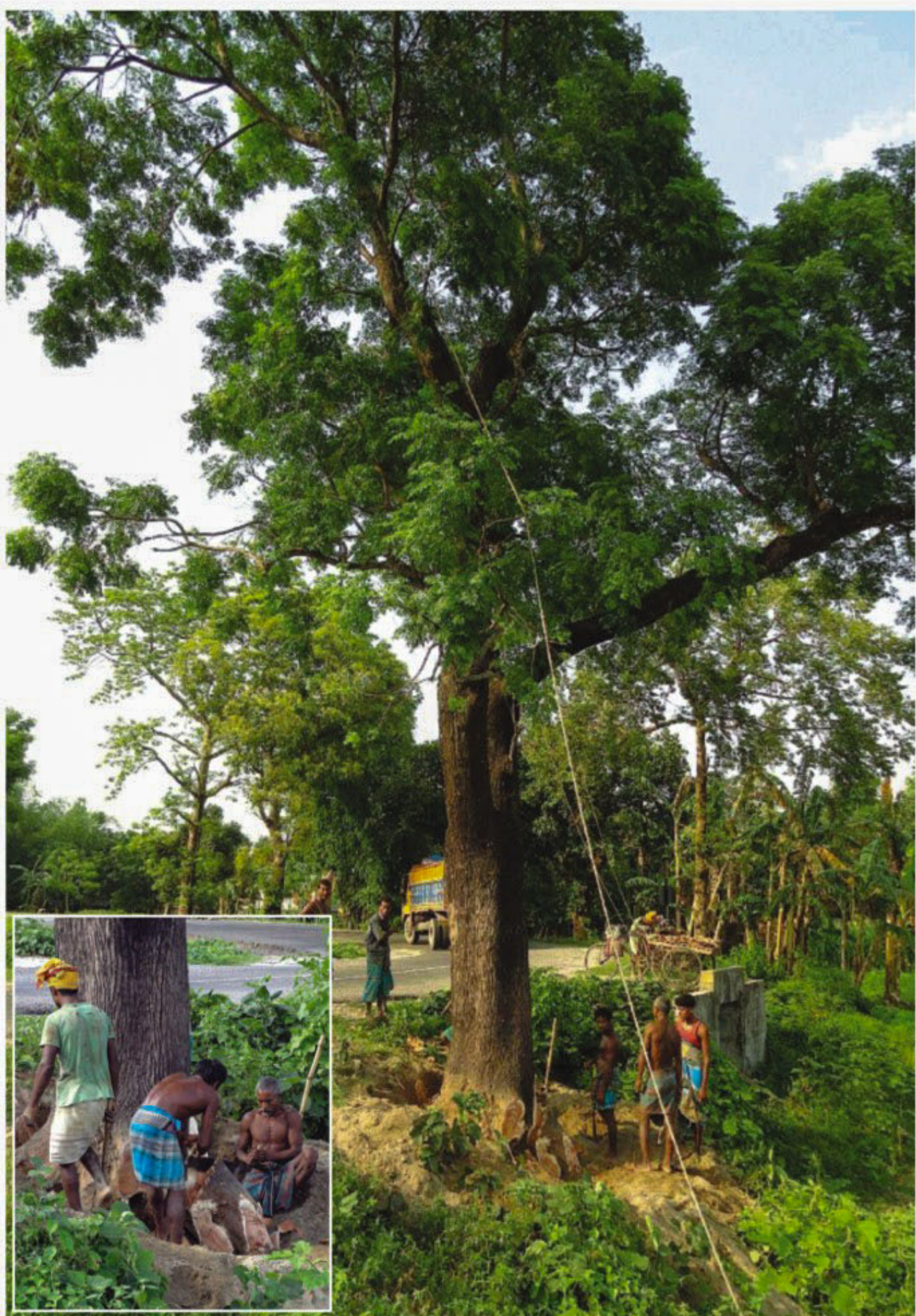
Sahidul Islam, 42, a resident of Barokhata village of Hatibandha upazila, said Ashrafal Haque got an auction to fell 32 roadside dead trees along Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway in Hatibandha upazila but his labourers felled at least 70 roadside trees, mostly live, in a week till Friday evening. It seems many more roadside live trees will be felled in the name of the auction."

The two bid winners 'managed' district council officials to fell roadside live trees from different spots in Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas, locals alleged, adding that 30 to 35 labourers recruited for the purpose can cut down at least 25 trees daily.

When contacted, Lavlu Miah said, "My labourers are felling roadside dead trees as per the auction in presence of district council officials. I will fell 39 dead trees that were auctioned to me, not a single more."

Another bid winner Ashrafal Haque said, "District council officials always remain present in the areas where roadside dead trees are being felled. So there is no scope to fell any additional or live trees."

When contacted, acting executive officer of Lalmonirhat district council Zakir Hossain said, "Two staffs of district council have been deployed to watch roadside tree felling and so, contractors or their labourers dare not felling additional or live trees. We will take action if anyone is found guilty."



Workers felling a big live tree at Bawra in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district. Inset, another live tree being cut down in the same area.

PHOTO: STAR

DEADLOCK AT BHASANI UNIVERSITY

Students thank ministry but vow to continue fast unto death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of food technology and nutritional science (FTNS) department at Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) continued their fast unto death programme for the tenth day yesterday to realise their two-point demand.

The demands are giving BSc (Engineering) degree instead of BSc (Honours) degree to FTNS students and removal of the vice-chancellor (VC) of the university.

Around 60 of the fasting students of the department fell sick in the last few days and were admitted to Tangail General Hospital. Three of them have been sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) as their condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, the education ministry in a handout, signed by its senior information officer Subodh Chandra, on Sunday expressed sympathy to the fasting FTNS students and urged them to withdraw their programme and return to classes.

The handout said no university has the authority to change any degree overriding the opinions of the experts concerned.

The ministry also sought cooperation of the guardians so that the students return to classes ending their fasting programme.

The students thanked the ministry for issuing the handout on the ninth day of their fast unto death programme. However, they rejected the 'so-called' experts' opinions submitted by the university

authorities to the ministry terming those 'false and fabricated'.

The agitating students claimed that the ministry is hesitating to accept their logical demand, as the university, especially the VC, are not extending cooperation.

They also expressed their determination to continue their programme until the demands are met.

Over 200 students of the department have been boycotting their classes since July 12 and holding a series of agitations on the campus and in the town demanding BSc (Engineering) degree instead of BSc (Honours) degree.

To realise the demand, they started the latest fast unto death programme at Saheed Smriti Pouro Udyan in Tangail town on May 14.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of food technology and nutritional science department of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology continue their fast unto death programme on the tenth day yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Illegal occupiers have erected walls to demarcate their 'plots' for shops on the bank of Shibbaria River near Kuakata in Patuakhali district.

Shibir men at SBMC beaten up, handed over to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Activists of Chhatra League (BCL), student front of ruling Awami League, severely beat up their rival activists of Chhatra Shibir, student front of Jamaat-e-Islami on the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) campus and handed them over to police yesterday.

Later, Prof Dr Abu Taher, principal of SBMC lodged a case against eight Shibir activists with Barisal Kotwali police station accusing them of creating chaos on the campus and assaulting other students.

Zahangir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali PS, said the principal called police and asked them to arrest five Shibir activists on charge of creating disturbances on campus and attacking BCL activists during filling of examination forms yesterday noon.

Kazi Saiful Islam, masters examinee of B M College and Shibir's city unit president, Md Fahim, 4th year student and Shibir unit president of SBMC, Masum, Sanaullah Sa n i , S h e i k h Muhammadullah of 5th year, Faizullah, Mazharul Huq Sajib, Nazimuddin of 4th year at SBMC were accused in the case while the last five were handed over to police.

Md Fahim alleged that in recent days, Maruf, Harun, Soikat, Suchak, Ripon, Mridul, Sajib, Rafi, Plabon and other BCL cadres at SBMC often assaulted Shibir activists. They are also engaged in illegal toll collection, he said.

Contacted, Saikot, VP of SBMC Chhatra League unit, refuted the allegation of assault on Shibir activists and extortion.

Suspected Huji man arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a suspected operative of banned Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) and seized a few books on jihad (Islamist uprising) in Sadar upazila Sunday night.

The arrestee was identified as Md Obaidullah, 40, son of Zobayer Rahman, hailing from Lama upazila of Bandarban district.

Commanding Officer of Rab-12 SM Nadim Arefin said, the elite force members intercepted Obaidullah near Tebunia check post in the town at about 9:30pm following his suspicious movement.

The Rab men searched his body and found four books on jihad.

The elite force members handed Obaidullah over to police yesterday morning.

Later, Pabna Sadar police produced him before the court.

8 sued, others on list for Patuakhali river grabbing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Eight people have been sued for constructing structures, encroaching upon the Shibbaria River in Kalapara upazila of the district.

Upazila AC (Land) office filed eviction cases against the eight with the revenue court on May 18. The accused are Abdul Jabbar Howlader, Sohag Mridha, Sayed Howlader, Abul Kalam, Raja Mia, Abul Kashem, Mujibur Rahman and Subhas Chandra. They all are fish traders of Mohipur area.

Assistant Commissioner (AC-Land) Abdul Awal said they served notices on the grabbers on May 2 to remove structures by May 9, but they did not remove those within the deadline.

"Initially, we have filed cases against the eight. We will sue the other grabbers in phases," the AC land said.

He said he has already sent a letter to the deputy commissioners, seeking lawful steps to demolish the illegal structures from both sides of the river.

Shahajada Mia, surveyor of Kalapara upazila land office, told this correspondent that they leased 23 plots, each 16 feet in length and 14 feet in wide, to 23 fish traders and freedom fighter to build temporary structures on the riverside for a year.

Before handing over the plots to the lessees, they have started constructing concrete structures, violating the terms and conditions of DCR (duplicate carbon receipt) and at least 100 such structures have already been constructed, occupying 30 to 40 feet inside the river in Mohipur and Alipur areas, he added.

Siddik Mollah, president of Mohipur Fish Traders Association', said local

administration demolished all illegal structures on both sides of the Shibbaria River in 2007. Later, land office gave DCRs to local fish traders to build temporary structures to do their business.

Two fish market-- Mohipur and Alipur--are situated on both sides of the Shibbaria River. The markets are famous for hilsa trading as fishing trawlers get easy access to the markets through both estuaries of the river from the Bay after fishing.

The river is also a safe place for the fishermen as they can easily enter the river during cyclone and any other disasters to save themselves and their trawlers.

"We have already taken up a project involving Tk 65 crore to set up a harbour here, said Abdul Wadud, deputy divisional engineer of Water Development Board for Kalapara circle.

সবাই মিলে দিব কর দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) পরিশোধকারী ব্যবসায়ীগণ লজ্জা

মুসক পরিশোধকারী ব্যবসায়ীগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত তিনটি পদ্ধতিতে ব্যবসায়ী পর্যায়ের মুসক পরিশোধের বিধান রয়েছেঃ

(১) প্রকৃত মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে ব্যবসায়ী কর্তৃক মুসক প্রদানঃ

- এই পদ্ধতিতে আমদানিকৃত বা ক্রয়কৃত পণ্যের ওপর প্রকৃত পরিমাণ মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তার নিকট থেকে মূল্য অনুমোদন নিতে হবে।
- পণ্য বিক্রয়ের সময় সর্বমোট মূল্যের ওপর ১৫% হারে মুসক পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
- উক্ত পণ্য আমদানি বা ক্রয়ের সময় পরিশোধিত মুসক রেয়াত নেয়া যাবে।
- এই পদ্ধতির ব্যবসায়ীকে ক্রয় হিসাব “মুসক-১৬” চালানপত্র “মুসক-১১”/“মুসক-১১ক”, বিক্রয় হিসাব “মুসক-১৭”, চলতি হিসাব “মুসক-১৮” এবং দাখিলপত্র “মুসক-১৯” সহ সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য দলিল সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।

(২) ১৩.৩৩% মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে ২% মুসক প্রদানঃ

- ব্যবসায়ী পর্যায়ে প্রকৃত মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে মুসক প্রদানের বিকল্প পদ্ধতি হিসাবে ১৩.৩৩% মূল্য সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে ২% মুসক প্রদানের বিধান রয়েছে।
- এই পদ্ধতির ব্যবসায়ীকে ৩১ জুলাই তারিখের মধ্যে প্রতি অর্থ বছরের জন্য বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তার নিকট নির্দিষ্ট ফরমে ঘোষণা দাখিল করতে হবে।
- আমদানিকৃত বা ক্রয়কৃত পণ্যের ওপর ১৩.৩৩% মূল্য সংযোজন করে সর্বমোট মূল্যের ওপর ২% হারে মুসক প্রদান করতে হবে।
- কোন মাসের প্রদেয় মুসক পরবর্তী মাসের ১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করে উহা দাখিলপত্রের সাথে মুসক সার্কেল অফিসে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- এ ধরনের ব্যবসায়ী রেয়াত নিতে পারবেন না।
- এই পদ্ধতিতে ব্যবসায়ীকে প্রতিটি ক্রয়, বিক্রয়, সরবরাহের হিসাব, নিজস্ব বাণিজ্যিক দলিলাদি, চালানপত্র, চলতি হিসাব “মুসক-১৮” এবং দাখিলপত্র “মুসক-১৯” সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।

(৩) জুড়ে খুচরা ব্যবসায়ী বা দোকানদারের ক্ষেত্রে মুসক প্রদানঃ

- এই ধরনের ব্যবসায়ী বার্ষিক সংযোজনের ভিত্তিতে নির্ধারিত ন্যূনতম মুসকের পরিমাণ নিম্নরূপঃ
- ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকাঃ বার্ষিক ৬,০০০/- টাকা (সর্বোচ্চ মূল্য সংযোজনের পরিমাণ ৪০,০০০ টাকা)।
- অন্যান্য সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকাঃ বার্ষিক ৪,৮০০/- টাকা (সর্বোচ্চ মূল্য সংযোজনের পরিমাণ ৩২,০০০ টাকা)।
- জেলা শহরের পৌর এলাকাঃ বার্ষিক ৩,৬০০/- টাকা (সর্বোচ্চ মূল্য সংযোজনের পরিমাণ ২৪,০০০ টাকা)।
- দেশের অন্যান্য এলাকাঃ বার্ষিক ১,৮০০/- টাকা (সর্বোচ্চ মূল্য সংযোজনের পরিমাণ ১২,০০০ টাকা)।
- এই পরিমাণ মুসক বার্ষিক এককালীন বা মাসিক কিস্তিতে পরিশোধ করা যাবে।
- এ ধরনের ব্যবসায়ীগণ কর্তৃক পণ্য ক্রয়ের দলিলাদিসহ কাশমেমো ও বিক্রয় পুস্তক সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে।

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