

# Social challenges hold

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which means most women entrepreneurs are successfully running their businesses, said Syed Abdul Momen, head of SME banking, at the Brac Bank headquarter.

About the challenges women entrepreneurs face, he said paperwork becomes difficult for them since they are new to business.

"They often end up bribing government officials to get trade licences and tax identifications number," he said.

Appreciating the government initiatives to encourage female entrepreneurs, Nazneen Ahmed, a researcher at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said newcomers still face difficulties in transforming their ideas into reality.

They lack the know-how of making business plans and proposals, she added.

Besides, to get loans, they have to pass an evaluation by banks where they need to show records of an operational business for at least one year.

"But many of them need money to start a business. So, they cannot use these opportunities," Nazneen added.

The government can allocate a separate fund for new entrepreneurs -- to spend on training, logistical support, legal counselling and on disbursing loans -- without any guarantee of repayment, said Priti Chakraborty, director of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"More women would then start businesses. Even if they face initial hiccups, they would help generate employment," she added.

For overseas employment, the government signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia in 2015 to send women to work as housemaids. Until October this year, over 2.3 lakh women have gone to Saudi Arabia for work.

However, 7,000 of them returned after being tortured, injured, raped and at least five impregnated, said Brac's Head of Migration Programme, Shariful Islam.

Women jobseekers must go through screening and training so that they can go for skilled employment where they would get higher pay, respect and legal protection.

"The percentage of returnees may seem negligible but there is no survey on the wellbeing of female migrant workers there. Lack of remedy for those who return traumatised, with broken limbs, or impregnated is troubling," Shariful added.

Women have had opportunities to receive training but experts say those were not enough.

"She Power Project", launched by the government's ICT division in 2017, will continue until June next year to train 10,500 women on ICT. On completion, they will be given Tk 20,000 each to buy a laptop and be placed at local organisations to gather practical experience, before they start their own businesses.

The ICT division ran another project to train 14,460 women between March 2014 and June 2015 on ICT and freelancing.

All these efforts have not been successful in bringing more women out of their social and familial boundaries as economic indicators suggest.

Safety and other issues that limit women can be addressed by engaging and encouraging the private sector and by offering incentives like tax redemption for having a day-care on company premises, experts say.

A good example of income generation might be Joyeeta Foundation. Once its under-construction building is ready, it will cater to women entrepreneurs with facilities for a day-care and a place to display their products.

Founded in 2011 under the women and children affairs ministry, Joyeeta -- currently located on two rented floors at Rapa Plaza in Dhanmondi, Dhaka -- is working with 180 rural women's groups across the country. The entire operation is run by women.

As many as 17,000 women showcase their products, like garments, handicrafts and food through Joyeeta. The organisation bears 20 percent of the rent with the rest taken care of by the government, said Kamal Hossain, deputy director of Joyeeta Foundation.

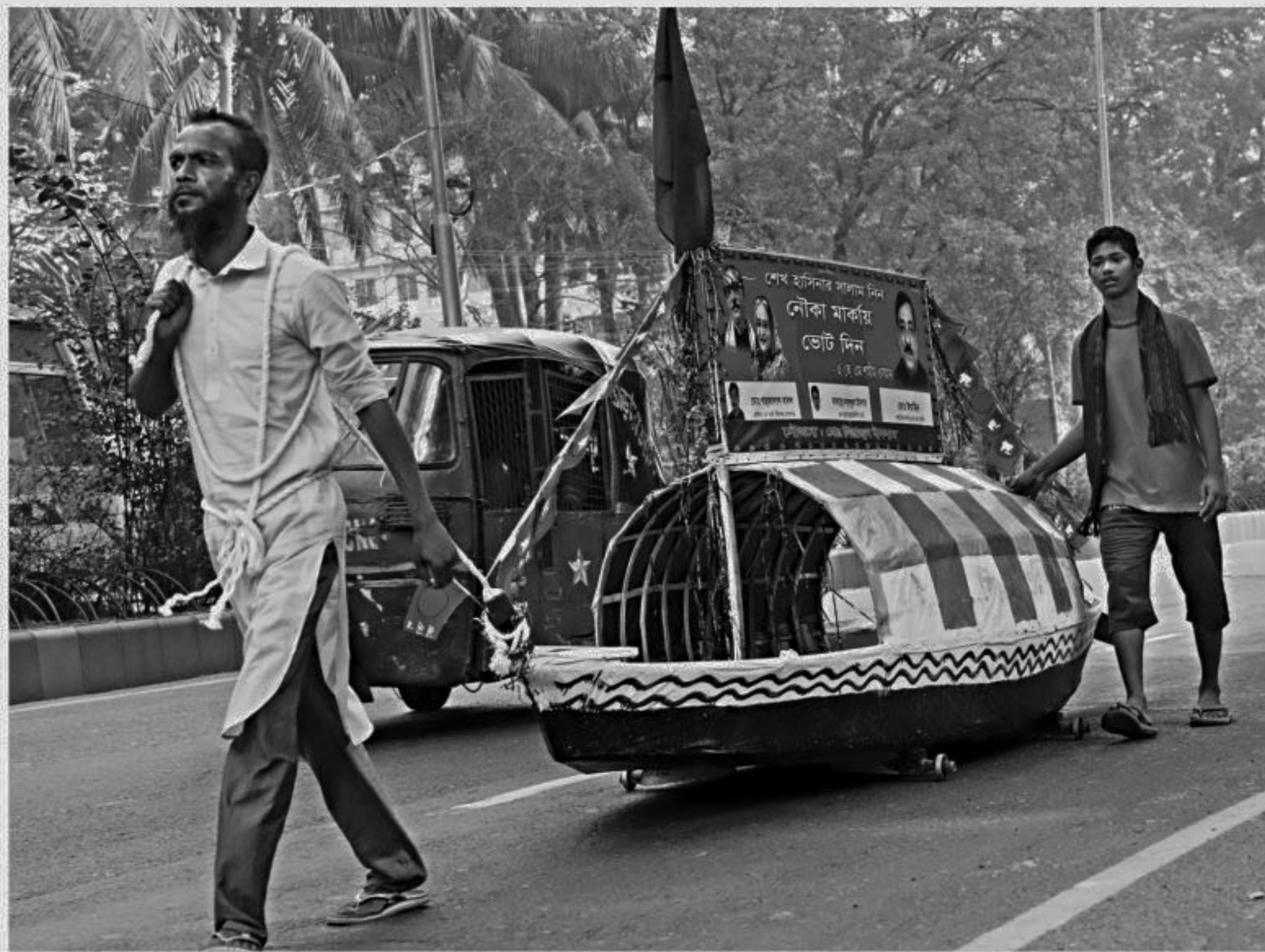


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**BOAT ON WHEELS...** A supporter, with the help of another, pulls a large replica of a boat, electoral symbol of Awami League, on a road in the High Court area in Dhaka yesterday.

## Race between uncle and nephew

FROM PAGE 5

will not support either of the two candidates from the Majibbandari clan due to ideological differences," Azim said, adding, "They told us that had there been a candidate from AL, they would have fully supported him."

"We'll sit with Hefajat leaders and request them to vote for the 'boat' symbol, overlooking who the candidate is," he said.

Najibul said, "Although Saifuddin is a member of our family, followers of Majibbandari ideology will vote for me. He may get some votes with the 'candle' symbol, but he is being discussed because he is my nephew, not the other way around."

He also claimed, "We have ideological differences with Hefajat but our personal relationship is good."

### VOTERS CONCERNED BY VIOLENCE

Meanwhile, many voters in the constituency are anxious about possible polls-day violence, considering the number of attacks and clashes in the last few days.

Visiting the upazila on Friday, this correspondent found locals reluctant to talk about the upcoming national election. "We don't know what will happen on election day, as a number of clashes took place in the upazila centring campaigns," said Md Idris, a trader of Bibirhat Bazar.

On December 11, supporters of AL-led alliance-

nominated candidate Najibul Bashar Majibbandari locked in clash with followers of AL rebel candidate ATM Payarul Islam at Nanupur Bazar. The clash left four people with bullet injuries.

On December 14, supporters of BNP candidate Azim Ullah Bahar were attacked while conducting campaign at the upazila's Heyanko Bazar. On December 23, Bahar and other BNP leaders and activists were attacked at Takirhat Bazar; 20 of them, including Bahar, were injured.

Contacted, Azim Ullah Bahar said, "Ruling party goons are repeatedly attacking our activists... They even attacked and injured me. Police is not taking any action against the attackers. Instead, they are harassing our men by conducting drives at their homes and arresting them without warrant."

"Under these circumstance, I'm worried about the fairness of the polls. If a fair election is held, I will win by a huge margin," he added.

Najibul denied the allegations. "We are not attacking anyone... They [Bahar and Saifuddin] are spreading lies about Bangabandhu and AL. So the locals got angry and chased them... Some of them were injured in the chase and counter-chase."

Asked, Babul Akter, officer-in-charge of Fatikchhari Police Station, denied the allegation of wholesale arrest. "We arrest only those who are accused in specific cases," he said.

## Bridge on the river

FROM PAGE 5

Sufian could be found in the upazila.

Other than the demand for a new bridge, many locals were apprehensive about the election, fearing violence on polls day.

Ismael Haque of Fultoli Bazar area said, "If the situation remains peaceful, I will exercise my franchise."

Rafiq Munshi, a resident of Jaistapur union, said, "I fear if we would be able to go to polling stations. If other parties take a stand on election day, violence might break out."

Meanwhile, BNP's Abu Sufian alleged that police were raiding home of party leaders and activists at night and arresting them.

Sufian, also vice president of the city unit BNP, said, "We were not allowed to set up election camps... the ruling party men continue to harass us. Even if our four to five activists are seen together somewhere, they are being harassed by police," he alleged.

He also alleged that Awami League activists were tearing off their posters and threatening their leaders and activists.

Sufian filed two complaints with the Election Commission on December 23, demanding withdrawal of "false cases" against them. He also filed a general diary (GD) with Chandgaon Police Station on December 22, seeking security.

Brushing aside the allegations, Chattogram district Awami League (South) president Moslem Uddin said, "They [BNP] raise such allegations as they have become isolated from people."

Contacted, Sairul Islam, officer-in-charge of Boalkhali Police Station, said, "BNP candidate's claims are false. We are not working for any party, but rather under the Election Commission, with an aim to make sure that the election is held peacefully."

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## NEWSIN brief

### Bullet-riddled body of man found in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A man was found dead with his body riddled with bullets on the bank of the river Gumti in Cumilla yesterday.

Locals found the body of the man, who was shot in the head and hand, at Char Viralla in Debidwar upazila, said police.

Police recovered the body after being informed by the locals, said Jahirul Anwar, officer-in-charge of Debidwar Police Station.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately, said the OC.

Police sent the body to Cumilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Haroon Al-Rashid passes away

CITY DESK

Md Haroon Al-Rashid, a retired country manager of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, died on Sunday, says a press release.

He is survived by his two sons -- Dr Mamun Al-Rashid and Amin Al-Rashid.

Haroon Al-Rashid's funeral prayers will be held at 1:00pm today at Baitul Aman Masjid on Road 7 in the capital's Dhanmondi. A milad mahfil will be held at their residences on Friday after the evening prayers.



## Ershad's campaign yet

FROM PAGE 5

voters of Rangpur-3 and found that although the elderly are still supporting JP, the young and first-time voters are refusing to support and vote for Ershad.

Rakibul Islam, 21, a student of Rangpur Polytechnic Institute, said that he does not want to waste his vote by helping elect someone who never works for the constituency.

"We want someone new, who will consider our interests and work for the development of the constituency," he said.

Two students of Begum Rokeya University also echoed the sentiments.

A total of 4,41,671 candidates would cast their votes in the constituency at 175 vote centres, though electronic voting machines.

Abdul Alim, commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, said all necessary steps have been taken to ensure a fair election. "There are no threats but we are ready to face any situation," he added.

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Head Office: Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone: 9568190, 9564830, 9590548, 9590549, Fax: 88-02-9564829  
Email: basicho@basicbanklimited.com, Web: www.basicbanklimited.com

**TENDER NOTICE**

**For Purchase of Hardware for Collaboration Suite**

01. Sealed tenders are invited from bona-fide suppliers for supplying following items:

Group-1

- Server
- Server Rack
- External Storage
- SAN Switch
- Tape Library

Group-2

- Scanner

02. The participating company must have at least 3 (three) years proven experience in supplying software/computers in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh/Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying software/computers to BASIC Bank Limited. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here.

03. The participating company must have successful implementation experience in similar kind of project (as offered in tender) in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh/Bangladesh Bank or in BASIC Bank Limited. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here.

04. The participating company must have at least three OEM Certified Engineers on the proposed Server and three Certified Engineers on the proposed Storage System. The participating company must submit the CV and relevant certificates of the Certified Engineers with the tender documents.

05. The participating company has to submit BDT 5,00,000/- (Five Lac) only with the tender through PO/DD in the name of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka as earnest money. The earnest money of the successful company will be returned at the time of making the 1st payment. Earnest money can be forfeited for reasons mentioned in the tender schedule.

06. The tender schedule may be obtained from ICT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban - 5th Floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. and 02:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk 5,000/- only in cash (non refundable). No schedule will be sold after 02:00 P.M. of January 22, 2019.

07. Sealed offers/tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at the ICT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban - 5th Floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited on or before January 23, 2019 by 03:00 P.M., and the tenders will be opened at 03:15 P.M. on the same day in presence of bidders, if any.

08. Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule

General Manager  
ICT Division

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-I, Chattogram  
Phone: 031-723125

Memo No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 24-12-2018

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
1	265239	Installation of connecting cable at different ward and OT of 150 KVA Auto Diesel Generator for Ancillary Building and Commissioning of that Generator as well as yearly fuel supply.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00
2	265238	Replacement of old burnt-out underground Feeder Cable & Feeder Box for ICU & SCANU from 300 KVA Generator to AC Plant of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00
3	265237	Renovation of Worn-out Air conditioning system at 5 OTs including Gynae OT at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00
4	265236	Replacement of old burnt-out Feeder Cable & Feeder Box from 2000 KVA Sub Station to A-Block of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00
5	265235	Replacement of old pump motor set with a new 15 HP centrifugal pump motor set as well as installation of control starter & breaker; and installation of new fire extinguishers at different points as well as refilling of expired ones.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00
6	265234	Special repair work of old burnt-out MDB & FDB at ground floor of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.	27 Dec 2018 23:00:00	13 Jan 2019 12:00:00

These are online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Sarifuzzaman**  
Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-I, Chattogram

GD-2903

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM)**  
Secondary and Higher Education Division  
Ministry of Education  
NAEM Road, Dhanmondi Dhaka-1205  
[www.naem.gov.bd](http://www.naem.gov.bd)

No. 37.04.2663.401.22.022.15-2553

Dated: 24 / 12 / 2018

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

Sl. No.	Package No & Tender ID	Description of goods	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)
1	NAEM/e-GP-02/Classroom Automation/2018-19 ID No. 265719	Classroom Automation, Interior goods & Installation	08-Jan-2019 13:01	08-Jan-2019 14:01	08-Jan-2019 14:01

This is an online Tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The tender security for this tender need to be submitted/deposited through any registered Bank branches until the dates as mentioned in tender notice in e-GP portal.

Further, information and guide lines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

*Kamal*  
**(Prof. Dr. Md. Mustafa kamal)**  
Director (Admn. & Fin)  
Phone: 55167408  
e-mail: [info@naem.gov.bd](mailto:info@naem.gov.bd)

GD- 2902

**সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন**  
ভাড়া আদায় ও প্রদান সেল (৫ম তলা)  
৩৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

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মোঃ শাহিনুজ্জামান  
ম্যানেজার,  
আইন ও ভাড়া (৫ম তলা)  
ফোন : ৯৫৬৯৩৪৬

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দাবী, আইন ও ভাড়া (৫ম তলা)  
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