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SEC fines Doel Group directors Tk 40 lakh

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday fined six directors of Doel Group Tk 40 lakh for defaulting on the payment of dividends and debentures of four companies listed in the stock markets.

A special audit will be carried out on the four companies to check profit and loss accounts, valuation of fixed and current assets and other financial statements.

The SEC officials said the group failed to pay Tk 8.55 crore to institutional investors, general shareholders and debenture owners until July this year.

The directors have been asked to pay the outstanding amounts in 15 days or, in default, Tk 10,000 each in fines a day.

The companies are Bangladesh Luggage Industries Limited, Bangladesh Zipper Industries Limited, Bangladesh Dyeing and Finishing

Industries Limited and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Limited.

Managing Director of the Doel Group Ashok Kejriwal has been fined Tk 15 lakh; and directors -- DN Kejriwal, Uttam Kejriwal, Kanchan Kejriwal, Kanchan Devi and Bhagwati Devi Kejriwal -- were fined Tk 5 lakh each.

Talking to The Daily Star, the managing director admitted to receipt of the SEC orders.

Kejriwal told the SEC that his companies would pay Tk 3 crore by September-end and have already disbursed Tk 2 crore.

Asked about the reason for default, he said Doel Group, the largest knitwear exporter in the country, faced a cash crunch after the September 11 incident last year, which led to the default.

"This is temporary, I sought time from the SEC, I could repay the amount if granted sometime," Kejriwal said.

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No headway in talks on Magurchhara compensation

STAR REPORT

The meeting between Petrobangla and Unocal on the Magurchhara compensation standoff ended yesterday without any headway.

The two sides decided to sit again for talks later but the date for the next meeting was not fixed, sources said.

At the meeting, Petrobangla

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Judge for Bangabandhu Murder Case CJ asks president for ad hoc appointment

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury in a letter has urged the president to appoint a judge to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on ad hoc basis to start hearing on the leave-to-appeal petition regarding the Bangabandhu Murder

Case verdict.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed told the news agency that he has received a copy of the letter.

The minister said the president could appoint only one judge of the High Court Division to the Supreme Court on ad hoc basis under Article

98 of the Constitution.

As per rule of the Supreme Court, a bench of three judges is required in the Appellate Division to hear the petition of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

The hearing is not possible in absence of a full bench even if the

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Bangladesh blown away by Aussies

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia crushed Bangladesh by nine wickets at the Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club ground yesterday to qualify for the semi-finals of the ICC Champions Trophy from the three-team group, also involving New Zealand.

Openers Matthew Hayden and Adam Gilchrist clobbered blistering half-centuries as the one-day world champions surpassed Bangladesh's petty 129 in 20.4 overs.

Hayden finished 67 not out from 70 deliveries, including a trademark hooked six off opening bowler Tapash Baisya. Gilchrist was adjudged lbw for 54 while attempting a sweep against slow left-arter Mohammad Rafique.

Ricky Ponting's men now head off to the paradise destination of Maldives islands for a short break ahead of their semi-final against Sri Lanka on September 27.

Bangladesh could not have made a worse start after skipper Khaled Mashud won the toss and opted to bat.

Fast bowler Jason Gillespie exposed the batting limitations of the rookies, striking twice in his opening over to leave them on nought for two.

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud (C) sweeps a Shane Warne (L) delivery for four as Adam Gilchrist looks on during yesterday's ICC Champions Trophy match in Colombo.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The traffic on the city's Shantinagar Road looks thin yesterday, as rickshaws went on a daylong strike, protesting the ongoing clampdown on unlicensed rickshaws.

Cell for HPSP coordination dismantled

NAIMUL HAQ

The government has dismantled the project coordination cell (PCC), which was working on the US\$2.2 billion health programme since June 2000.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded PCC was created to coordinate all activities of the health and population sector programme (HPSP) and as a bridge between development partners and the health ministry.

Over the last two weeks, high officials of the health ministry have held several meetings with the development partners to review the decision.

The PCC was officially abolished

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EC to update voter list for UP polls by Nov 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparations for elections to 4,298 union parishads across the country, scheduled for January and February next year, started yesterday with the Election Commission (EC) reviewing relevant issues and taking some decisions.

According to official sources, updated voter list for the polls to the lowest tier of local government would be made ready by November 25 and polls schedule may be announced in early December.

Election to 4,298 union parishads would be held in a staggered manner tentatively from January 10 to February 2, the sources hinted.

Deputy commissioners of all the 64 districts have already been asked to inform the EC their preferred dates for elections in unions

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Police gun down alleged mugger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police gunned down a suspected mugger near Old Airport in the city's Kaful area in the early hours of yesterday.

The identity of the mugger aged about 23 could not be known immediately.

The incident took place when a gang of four was mugging some rickshaw passengers in front of the Weather Office at Agargaon at 12:00am yesterday. One of the rickshaw passengers managed to escape but they snatched Tk 200 from the rickshaw-puller.

The rickshaw passenger, Mohammad Salim, found an on-duty police team and informed them about the incident. When the team went to the spot and challenged the muggers, they threw crackers towards the police. Naik Rashid fired from his shotgun once, hitting the left chest of one mugger.

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Rickshaw strike heightens commuters' plight

Defiant 3-wheelers damaged, pullers roughed up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rickshaws kept off the city roads yesterday, creating great difficulties to the people.

People were seen crowding intersections for transport during rush hours and scrambling to get into already-packed buses. Women and schoolchildren were the worst sufferers.

People had to walk long distances to reach workplaces. Many

women office-goers stayed at home, failing to manage any transport.

The Bangladesh Rickshaw and Van Malik and Sramik Sangram Parishad called the daylong strike in protest at a government crackdown on unlicensed rickshaws. They staged a rally at Mukhtangan in the morning demanding deferment of the crackdown till September 24. Later, they brought out a procession.

Since morning, groups of

rickshawpullers were seen on streets, vandalising and damaging the few rickshaws that defied the strike. At places, they beat up defiant rickshawpullers.

Rickshaw, the main public transport in the city, is blamed for traffic jam. According to an unofficial estimate, about 500,000 rickshaws ply the city roads, but only 87,000 are

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