

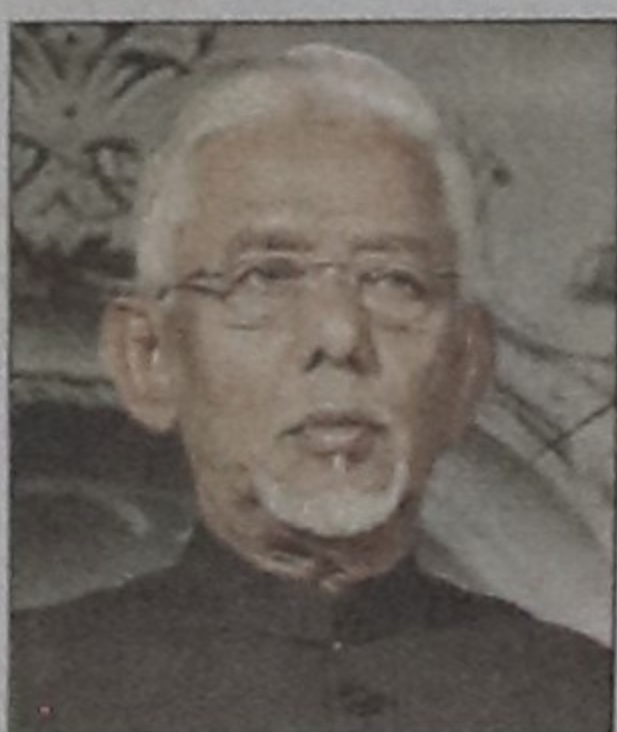


(From left) Malcolm Monteiro, senior vice-president of DHL, Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Bangladesh, Sabrina Islam, CEO of Reflections, Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chairman of BRAC Bank, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, Abdul Monem, chairman of Abdul Monem Group of Companies, Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of Meghna Group, and Sir David Bell, chairman of The Financial Times Group, pose for photograph at the award giving ceremony of The Daily Star-DHL Business Awards 2008 at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Winners of Bangladesh Business Awards '08

Business Person of the Year

Abdul Monem came to Dhaka in early 50s virtually empty-handed with a secondary school certificate being his only means to bet fortune on the city streets.



Abdul Monem, chairman of Abdul Monem Group, said initial days were hard before he signed up as a construction contractor in partnership. But it did not augur well for Monem and forced him to begin his own business in mid 60s.

Only Tk 20,000 was his initial capital.

That's the beginning of Monem who is now chairman and managing director of around Tk 800 crore turnover company, Abdul Monem Group of Companies.

Construction remains the cornerstone of the group's success with the corporate giant catering from beverages, foods, sugar refinery and consulting to energy and pharmaceuticals.

"You will get the touches of my hand on almost all the highways in Bangladesh," said Monem who received The Daily Star-DHL Best Business Person Award 2008 yesterday.

"Whatever I do, I believe in doing the best. From beginning to date, I maintain my philosophy of doing quality work with honesty," said the AML boss.

Monem is now at 74. But his influence on the company is still nothing short of profundity with his insights and faster decision-making, for which he has succeeded

in many difficult jobs, is still at play.

Outstanding Woman in Business

It is the unavailability of stained and etched glass in the local market that had brought her in the trade of art and creativity -- decorating glass products to feed the yearning of beauty.

"I conceived the idea of working with decorative art glasses when we were planning to build our residence. We planned the house do-ups with etched and stained glasses, but these were unavailable in the local market," said Sabrina Islam, chief executive officer of Reflections, manufacturer of decorative and architectural art glasses.

In 1998, Sabrina began her journey in the business of decorative beautification in a tiny studio with two workers. Some 20 percent of the capital she raised from her own. The rest she had borrowed from



Sabrina Islam, chief executive officer of Reflections, said her family business.

Primary works were etched and sandblasted glasses which were aesthetic enough to win the hearts of individuals as well as business houses.

And as demands rose, Sabrina forced to shift the studio in 2000 -- from 400 square feet room to 2200 square feet room -- to expand production capacity.

Reflections' endeavour to acquire excellence did not stop. In 2002, the company inked a deal with a California-

based customised decorative and architectural art glass company Stained Glass Overlay (SGO) to expand further into a full service studio specialising in a wide array of designer glass products.

Later years were the days of consolidation. In 2005, Reflections opened a showroom in Chittagong enabling the company to increase revenue.

The company now generates an annual turnover of Tk 65 lakh, employing 24 staffs.

Reflections, a brainchild of Sabrina, now makes seven types of glasses, including stained glass overlay, traditional stained glass, sandblasted glass, engraved and coloured glass and etched glass.

The company now enjoys about 40 percent share of the market thanks to her unflinching efforts, unflinching determination and enterprising spirit that allowed urban consumers to bring a touch of live in their houses with touches of art and beauty.

Enterprise of the Year

When late Abdul Khaleque Bhuiyan, a doctor by profession, started selling cycle parts in a shop at Old Dhaka in the late '60s, who could have thought that the trading store would grow as one of the business conglomerates in Bangladesh after some 40 years later.

Yes, this is Meghna Group, now run by Khaleque's son Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, which was recognised as Enterprise of the Year 2008 for its outstanding performance.

Employing 2,900 people, of which half are women, in more than a dozen of strategic business units spanning bicycle and bicycle parts production, knitting, automobile agents and packaging, amongst others, the sprawling Meghna Group had exports alone worth Tk 250 crore.

Meghna Group, which mostly exports its products, has a profit percentage on sales as high as nearly 30 percent.

The export markets include the UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Portugal, Canada, Italy, Greece, Denmark and Finland.

As the core business of Meghna is bicycle manufacturing and exporting, its bicy-



Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of Meghna Group, said the company's product portfolio comprises mountain tracking bike, city bike, free style, trekking, folding and kids bike.

In 2008, it exported 4.03 lakh bicycles worth \$45 million while it was 3,27,896 bicycles the previous year.

Two of its concerns -- KIA Motors and the BMW dealership -- have been recognised internationally by their principals for their remarkable success.

Meghna Group has also expanded its operations to the white cement industry and electronic accessories.

Best Financial Institution

The BRAC Bank began its journey in the financial sector by exploring the unexplored



Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chairman of BRAC Bank

small and medium enterprises (SMEs), capital demand of which were largely untended by the then banks in the country.

The bank, with institutional shareholdings by Brac, International Finance Corporation and Shorecap International, commenced on its journey in July 2001.

With the courage of financing to SMEs, the newly established bank offered loans to them ranging from Tk 3 lakh to Tk 30 lakh.

For five consecutive years, BRAC Bank has been the fastest growing financial institution in the highly competitive banking sector.

So far, BRAC Bank has disbursed about Tk 8,000 crore collateral-free loans to 1.5 lakh SME customers.

However, the rate of non-performing loans is still below five percent for SMEs, according to the bank.

Currently, the bank has 56 branches, 30 SME service centres and 429 SME unit offices to render services.

It has also introduced recently a fully automated process within the organisation that includes e-attendance and e-learning.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE

CID fails to find out 3 ex-IOs accused of misdirecting probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) could neither arrest three former investigation officers (IOs) of the August 21 grenade attack case nor find out the witnesses of a case filed against the ex-IOs on charges of misdirecting the probe into the grenade attack case.

However, the three former IOs -- ASPs Abdur Rashid and Munshi Atiqur Rahman and special superintendent Ruhul Amin of CID -- appeared before the High Court on April 13, dodging the intelligence officials.

The court passed an order not to arrest or harass them in the next eight weeks. It also asked them to surrender to the lower court.

ASP Fazlul Kabir of CID, who is now the IO of the grenade attack case, filed the case on March 29 with the Paltan police against the former IOs on charges of misdirecting the case, destroying evidence and forcing people to make false statements in order to save the real culprits.

Meanwhile, two witnesses of the case -- Abul Hashem Rana and Shafiqul Islam -- have been on the run as they are accused in several other cases. The former IOs had forced them to give false statements before the magistrate during the investigations.

Assistant Police Super (ASP) Rowanul Huq Chowdhury of CID, the IO of

the grenade attack probe misdirection case, told The Daily Star: "I have sent letters to their home addresses in their villages and in Dhaka, asking them to appear at the CID headquarters on April 12. But they did not comply."

"Our forces have also visited those places but did not find out them as their addresses in Dhaka were fake and they did not maintain any contact with their families in their village homes," he said.

"If they do not appear at the CID headquarters, we will

report it to the court for taking legal action against them," he added.

Sources said Rana of Gopalganj Sadar and Shafiqul of Koshba in Brahmanbaria are accused in several cases, including murder cases.

On April 7, the CID recorded the statement of another witness, Joj Miah, who was also forced to give a confessional statement by the ex-CID officials in the grenade attack case.

The CID also recorded statements of Joj Miah's mother, brother and sister and


Saibal Saha Partho, another victim of the former investigation officers, as witnesses.

Now question has been raised about how the three former officials appeared before the HC, avoiding the constant vigilance by the intelligence agency.

According to the CID sources, Abdur Rashid, the first IO of the case, arrested 20 people and forced three of them to make false statements. After his retirement, Atiqur was appointed as the second IO, while Ruhul Amin was their supervisor.



Members of Kendriya Khelaghar Asar perform at a programme on the opening day of its national conference at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.



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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Managing Director

IDLC Finance Limited is the leading multi-product non-banking financial institution operating nationwide. It is a public listed company with a Board of Directors at the top.

The Company, which is located at Dhaka, seeks applications from qualified Bangladeshi professionals for the position of Managing Director. The incumbent will initially have a contract for a minimum of 3 years, but renewable after mutual discussions.

THE ROLE

- The position will report to the Board of Directors.
- Provide a vision, guidance and strategies with a leadership approach in guiding the organization to fulfill its mission
- Execute the responsibilities as delegated by the Board
- Provide leadership for the organization's total activities of a quality and nature that will result in growth, profitability and continuance of the enterprise
- Provide opportunities to the staff members employed in the enterprise to develop to their fullest potential
- Develop strategies and draw up action plans, both short and long term that establish objectives, implement strategies, and set out operational activities that will meet the corporate objectives
- Lead the organization in a result-driven and highly competitive environment
- Comply with all laws and regulations as applicable to the non-banking financial institutions
- Innovate and introduce new products and strategies to meet the demands of the market to remain competitive

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- Should have a good understanding of the products and the financial market
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- Should be able to liaise and negotiate with regulatory authorities, country's policy makers, and corporate executives at the highest levels
- Should have deep insight in anticipating problems and identifying the needs of the business
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- Ability to make sound judgments

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- Sound functional knowledge of the banking/non-banking financial institutions and their operations
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- Leadership quality to influence and manage change

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- Professional qualifications, preferably in Economics, Business Administration, or Finance from reputed universities at home or abroad
- At least 12 years hands on experience in the service driven financial sector

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A competitive remuneration package will be offered based on knowledge, experience and skills. Any salary increase will be performance-based.

APPLICATION

- All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence
- To apply, please forward a full Resume with a Cover Letter by **May 3, 2009**, either by post or by email, addressed to **The Chairman**:

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 Email: ceosearch@idlc.com

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

Committed to you

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

