

## Bashundhara files defamation case against Prothom Alo editor, 4 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan yesterday filed a Tk 1000 crore defamation case against Editor and Publisher of the Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Mediastar Ltd. and Transcom Group Latifur Rahman and three others for publishing what he claims to be defamatory news items on multiple occasions.

Three other defendants are Prothom Alo's Associate Editor Mizanur Rahman Khan, cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya and the Transcraft Limited.

Barrister Mizan Saheed filed the case on behalf of the Bashundhara Group.

**SUIT AGAINST BASHUNDHARA GROUP**  
Earlier on November 22 last year, Matiur Rahman and Latifur Rahman filed a civil defamation suit with the 4th Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka against Bashundhara Group, seeking Tk 200 crore in damages.

On behalf of Matiur Rahman and Latifur Rahman, Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates filed the defamation suit against the Group on charges of publishing highly libellous and insulting advertisements and posters, and for other malicious activities.

On January 27, the defendants had appeared before the court to contest the suit and sought time to submit written statements against the suit on March 11.

The defendants in the case are Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Senior Deputy Managing Director Md Belayet Hossain, its Chairman's Technical Adviser Latifur Abedin Hossain, Bashundhara Steel and Engineering Ltd Executive Director Maj (ret'd) Zahidur Rahman, and the Group's 11 companies listed with the Joint Stock Exchange.

## Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Md Enamul Haque, former establishment secretary, will be held at the Officers Club at Bailey Road at 3:30pm tomorrow, said a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

## Fishermen's ID on the cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government mulls introducing identity cards for the fishermen across the country with a view to providing them with subsidy for their rehabilitation, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Bishwas yesterday.

"Economic deficiency is the root of all miseries of the fishermen. The subsidy will help them change their fate," he added.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a workshop on 'The Supply Chain and Prices of Hilsa Fish in Bangladesh' organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its auditorium in the city.

He also said the government plans to arrange capital for the ultra-poor fishermen through joint effort of government and non-government organisations to create alternative employment opportu-

nity for them.

"We have already undertaken a project of Tk 20 crore to provide them with food assistance and to create alternative job. It will be extended with more fund after negotiations with the commerce ministry and finance ministry," he added.

He also said that the government is providing 30kg of rice to the families of the fishermen in 10 districts since February.

The minister vowed to enforce the existing laws to resist smuggling of the Hilsa to the foreign market.

He also said the government would take necessary steps so that the fishermen get due price.

Presenting the keynote paper at the workshop, senior researcher of BIDS Dr SM Zulfikar Ali said at least 53 percent of the final market price of Hilsa goes for production and marketing cost.



The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh and Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai jointly organise an Ikebana exhibition at Banbeis Bhavan in the city yesterday.

## Increased support of donors sought for extreme poor

### 3.7cr suffer from malnourishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque yesterday sought increased support from the development partners to feed the extreme poor amid soaring food prices and to build a stronger agriculture research system to fight climate change impacts.

Poverty has increased from 50 percent in 1991 to 37 percent now, but still over 3.7 crore hard-core poor people are malnourished while the level of child nutrition and income inequalities are very high, he added.

The minister said this at a seminar on 'Impact of food security programmes in Bangladesh' organised by the LGRD and cooperatives ministry and USAID at a city hotel.

Speaking on the occasion, US Ambassador James F Moriarty said USAID would launch a \$210 million programme this year to address food insecurity among

the poorest in Bangladesh.

The seminar was organised as SHOUHARDO of CARE Bangladesh and Jibon O Jibika of Save the Children USA are completing a programme on food security by May this year. The Bangladesh government and USAID funded the five-year programme.

Food Minister Abdur Razzaque said soaring food prices and disasters forced the government to increase allocation for social safety net from 1.3 million tonnes in 2007 to 2.6 million tonnes in 2009-10.

"However, the coverage is only 13 percent household, which is only 52 percent of the extreme poor. So, we need to invest more to cover more poor people. For this the country needs increased support from the development partners," the minister said.

US Ambassador Moriarty said that the US last year committed \$1 billion to address global hunger.

"We will expand our investments in

agriculture and health to work hand in hand with Bangladesh... to solve this problem once and for all," he said.

The envoy, however, said food security would be an elusive goal if population growth continues to outpace productivity gains.

CARE USA's Chief of Staff Joseph J Iarocci said SHOUHARDO activities, which reached 4 lakh households in the north, char and southern coastal districts, had significant impacts.

Income of the beneficiaries increased to Tk3,390 from Tk1487, he said.

Through activities of Jibon O Jibika, chronic malnutrition of people in its programme areas reduced from 35.6 percent in 2005 to 31.5 percent in 2009, he added.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Save the Children USA Vice President Diana Myers and USAID Mission Director Denise Rollins also spoke.

## UK EDUCATION FAIR Bar on student visa may go soon Says British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner Stephan Evans yesterday said the bar to student visas for the aspirants from Bangladesh might be removed soon so that they could vie for the next September-October session.

The British envoysaid this at a press conference on the three-day 'UK Education Fair 2010' that began at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city.

The fair, organised by British Council, aims at helping the students with the admission information to different British colleges and universities. A total of 37 UK institutions are participating in the fair.

The UK had temporarily stopped accepting student visa applications from Bangladesh, Nepal and North India due to unexpectedly high numbers of

applications from these countries. The suspension took effect from February 1.

Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed said some Bangladeshi students faced difficulties as they chose some institutions which were black-listed.

The first two days of the fair will be held at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka and the third day will be held in Peninsula Hotel in Chittagong on March 7.

The participating institutions include Birmingham City University, Bradford College, Cardiff University, City of London College, Leeds Metropolitan University, Liverpool Hope University, London Metropolitan University, The University of Nottingham, University of Bedfordshire, London Academy of Management and Sciences and University of Greenwich.

## MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD POLLS Ministry asked to submit list of FFs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The election commission formed to hold the election of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendriya Command Council and the units of district and upazila levels will start preparing voter list after getting the list of freedom fighters.

Acting secretary of civil aviation and tourism ministry Shafiq Alam Mehdi, who is one of the election commissioners, said this at a press briefing at the PID conference room yesterday.

He said they have asked the liberation war ministry again to submit the list of the authentic freedom fighters by March 14 to the election commission.

Mehdi said after getting the list they will try their best to prepare the voter list as early as possible.

He said the election commission is going to get a budget

of Tk 2.50 crore to hold the election.

Mehdi said to ensure the transparency of the election, they have decided to suspend the activities of all the committees under different names at the grassroots.

They have also decided to bring the office or property of central, district and upazila command under liberation war ministry or district administration or the upazila nirbahi officer.

He said they have taken opinion of freedom fighters and will consider their suggestions.

The five-member election commission, which was formed by the government on December 29 last year, will conduct the election.

Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz will conduct the election as the chief election commissioner.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Naznin H Faruki Ava, wife of Mir Akhtaruddin Dulal, director of Hotel Star Pvt Ltd,

passed away at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 39, says a press release.

She left behind her father, mother, husband, two sons and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her family members have requested all to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Firoz Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Firoz Chowdhury, former assistant headmaster of Srimgongal Victoria

High School in Moulavibazar and an Islamic scholar, passed away in the city yesterday at the age of 95, says a press release.

He left behind two sons, seven daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Bharaura village in Srimgongal after the arrival of his three daughters from abroad tomorrow.

## Shamsul Huq

METRO DESK



Mohammad Shamsul Huq, father of Doulat Akter Mala, a senior reporter of the Financial Express, passed away due to a heart attack at his Mirpur residence on Sunday night at the age of 85, says a press release.

Shamsul Huq, a retired Upazila Nirbahi Officer, left behind his wife, one son and three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers today at his Mirpur residence.

## Killing by BSF condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in a statement yesterday condemned the recent killing of two Bangladeshi nationals in BSF firing at Haripurin Thakurgaon.

NHRC Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury in a statement expressed concern over the incident, saying that it is

a naked violation of human rights and urged the government to respond in no time and take immediate steps to stop recurrence of such incidents in future.

Quoting a newspaper report, the statement also mentioned that BSF killed 99 Bangladeshis and also an Indian in the last 13 months and 824 Bangladeshis from January 1, 2000 to March 2, 2010.

## ACC okays 7 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved filing of seven cases against 11 people and submission of 25 charge sheets against 34 people including former BNP lawmaker Mojibur Rahman Manju in the month of February.

The cases were approved to be filed on charges of amassing

wealth beyond known sources of income, misappropriation of money, concealing wealth information, bribery and cheating.

The charges brought in the charge sheets also include money laundering and forgery.

Besides, the anti-graft body also submitted the final report in 35 cases relieving 72 people from their charges.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Ali Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Peace Council, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his residence # 6/4 Humayun Road, 1st floor, block B, Mohammadpur in the city after Asar prayers.

The peace council has also chalked programmes, including placing of wreaths at his graveyard at the freedom fighters' grave in Mirpur and holding a meeting at the National Press Club on Saturday.

## Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chehlum of Syed Muzammel Hossain, former secretary of Bangladesh Film Censor Board, will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Chowdhurypara in the city.

## Revised HSC exam schedule on website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Education Board authorities yesterday posted the revised schedule of the upcoming Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations on its website ([www.dhakaeducationboard.gov.bd](http://www.dhakaeducationboard.gov.bd)).

According to the revised routine, the examination of logic 1st paper will be held on May 16 instead of March 19 and the examination of logic 2nd paper will be held on May 18 instead of March 20.

The examinations of civics 1st paper and Islamic history and culture 1st paper will be held on March 21 while civics 2nd Paper and Islamic history and culture 2nd paper will be held on March 22, according to the revised routine.

HSC examinees from different colleges had been demanding review of the exam schedule, saying that the students of humanities group will face problems as exams of five subjects will be held from April 18 to 22 without any break.

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**Invitation of Bids (IFB) for Beautification works of PKSF Bhaban & its Premises at Agargaon, Dhaka**

1. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is an apex microcredit funding and employment generation organization established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. PKSF now invites bids from reputed individuals/firms for the beautification works of PKSF Bhaban and its premises.
2. Interested individuals/firms are requested to collect the bid documents from the office of the Assistant General Manager (Construction & Maintenance) of PKSF and to visit the construction site.
3. Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 12:00 noon on March 21, 2010 and must be accompanied by earnest money of Taka 25,000/- (refundable) in the form of pay order or bank draft in favor of PKSF from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
4. PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the bids without showing any reason and may not award work order to the lowest bidder.

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**SEBA Education Services**  
House 52 (Level 1), Road 13C, Block E  
Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh  
T & F: 880-2-8850621, 8824370  
M: 01919065527, 01917733342  
E: [sebaedu@sebalimited.com](mailto:sebaedu@sebalimited.com)  
W: [www.sebalimited.com](http://www.sebalimited.com)

**UK contact details**  
International Office  
Birmingham City University  
City North Campus  
BIRMINGHAM B42 2SU  
UNITED KINGDOM  
T: +44 121 331 6714  
E: [bcjinternational@enquiries.uk.com](mailto:bcjinternational@enquiries.uk.com)

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