

CASE AGAINST ESKANDAR Court asks IO to submit probe report by May 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officer (IO) to submit by May 30 the probe report of a case filed against Major (Retd) Sayeed Eskandar, brother of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing wealth information to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Metropolitan Magistrate SK Tofael Hassan set the date after General Recording Officer (GRO) Abdur Rashid of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court placed the case before the court for taking next step.

ACC Deputy Director Benajir Ahmed on Wednesday filed the case against Eskandar, a member of BNP standing committee, with Ramna Model Police Station for committing the offences.

'Fix Tk 5,000 as minimum wage'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra and Textiles Garments Workers Unions Federation yesterday called upon the government to set a minimum wage of Tk 5,000 by reorganising the wage board.

Speaking at a meeting at Muktangan in the city, leaders of the Textiles Garments Workers Unions Federation said although salaries of ministers and lawmakers have increased, workers' wages have remained the same, says a press release.

They urged the government to fix Tk 5,000 as the minimum wage and demanded formation of factory trade unions in tune with the ILO Convention 98 and 87, implementation of the labour law, safe working environment as well as rationing system for the workers.

Haidar Akbar Khan Rono, presidium member of Communist Party of Bangladesh, was present as the chief guest at the meeting.

In a written statement, Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra Adviser Advocate Montu Ghosh, President Idris Ali and General Secretary KM Ruhul Amin said many workers and their families are suffering from malnutrition and even starving to death.

They said setting a minimum wage was one of the government's election promises, and demanded a minimum wage of Tk 5,000 to be fixed by May 1 instead of waiting for another 3 months, the statement added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other Saarc leaders stand in front of Grand Assembly Hall in Thimphu during the hoisting of traditional Lha-Dhar flag of Bhutan on the concluding day of the 16th Saarc summit yesterday.



Journalists and employees of Channel 1 stage a demonstration covering their faces with black cloth in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the sudden closure of the satellite TV station.

World Book, Copyright Day observed

METRO DESK

The University Press Limited (UPL) observed World Book and Copyright Day on April 24 in solidarity with one of Unesco's mission "to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright," says a press release.

A discussion was held marking the day. Prof Anisuzzaman, Fazle Rabbi and Md Manzurur Rahman spoke at the discussion.

They shared their experiences and views on copyright infringement and the role of copyright in protecting intellectual property. They also expressed grave concern regarding current practices in the country in terms of copyright violation, lack of protection of authors' rights and royalty and harm caused in creating a knowledge-based moral society.

Copyright Registrar Manzurur Rahman said Bangladesh Copyright Board has the authority to process permission for translation of world literature and the board will be happy to assist authors in this regard.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, managing director of UPL, urged the authors to form an association and put pressure on publishers to give them their due share of royalty and provide proper accounts for books sold.

Prominent scholars, literary personalities and book lovers were present at the discussion.

On the occasion, UPL has opened a new showroom at Pragati Sarani near Baridhara and Gulshan in the city.

Take steps to protect embankments Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the water resources ministry to take stern action against officials for their failure to protect embankments in haor (water body) areas where a huge amount of crops were damaged as flood water washed away parts of some embankments.

The parliamentary committee on estimate also asked the ministry and the water development board to take all-out measures to protect embankments in haor areas.

The committee expressed concern over the loss of crops. It asked the authorities concerned to identify the officials who did not take precautionary measures to protect the embankments, meeting source said.

AL lawmaker HN Ashequr Rahman, chairman of the parliamentary committee, presided over the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The committee also asked the water resources ministry to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of development projects.

Govt fails to resolve power crisis: BNP

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said the prime minister has failed to resolve the power crisis but is now trying to pass the buck to the previous four-party alliance government.

"Her [Sheikh Hasina] government has failed to resolve the power crisis and now she is blaming the four-party alliance government for it to hide her failure," the BNP leader said at a discussion in the city.

However, the people of the country have understood the government's tricks and are now staging protests against the government at different places in the country, he added.

He also said that the government wants to give permission to power generating companies without floating tenders so that its "own people" can amass huge money.

The government is also not taking any effective steps to tap into other sources such as natural gas to generate electricity, he added.

Due to lack of adequate supply of electricity and gas, the production in local industries has fallen to 50 percent, and investment is also declining, the BNP leader said.

Engineer Kazi Shakhawat Hossain, Dr AZM Zahid Hossain and lawmaker Nilufar Chowdhury Moni also spoke at the discussion organised by the Jatiyatabadi Diploma Engineers' Association.

ASK protests Jamaat leader's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, yesterday strongly protested and condemned Jamaat-Islami assistant secretary general Md Kamaruzzaman's remark that "women themselves are the cause of stalking".

Kamaruzzaman made the remark while delivering a speech at a roundtable on 'Security of women: The role of the government' on April 28, ASK said in a statement.

The constitution of Bangladesh has guaranteed to every citizen freedom and dignity and the right to move freely. But such unconstitutional remark of the Jamaat's central leader is tantamount to violating the rights and dignity of women, the ASK said.

"Such remarks would pose a serious threat to the right of women to move freely," it added and called on the Jamaat leader to refrain from making such statements.

'Arrest war criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday demanded immediate arrest of identified war criminals.

"Usually, criminals are arrested first for committing any offences, then they stand trial. So, the identified war criminals should be arrested before beginning of the trial," he said.

The CPB chief made the remarks while addressing a seminar titled 'Trial of war criminals and struggle for peace' organised by Bangladesh Shanti Parishad at the National Press Club in the city.

Calling upon all the pro-liberation forces to remain united, he said the anti-liberation forces might create a chaotic situation in the country to foil the trial of the war criminals. "We'll have to launch vigorous movement to resist any conspiracy."

Web-based US visa form soon

UNB, Dhaka

The US Embassy in Dhaka will soon introduce a completely web-based Non-Immigrant Visa (NIV) application form.

The new DS-160 NIV application takes advantage of new technology to serve visa applicants better, said a US Embassy press release yesterday.

The new DS-160 replaces all existing NIV application forms with a single interactive online form.

Available now, applicants will be required to submit NIV applications using the DS-160 with effect from May 15.

Applicants will continue to complete visa application forms online, as they did with the Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF). The new DS-160 is available at: <http://ceac.state.gov/genniv>.

With the new form, each applicant will be required to upload a visa photograph, and submit the form via the internet.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, and Kushtia in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.0 degrees Celsius at Madaripur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.3	23.6	82	62
Chittagong	32.5	26.6	73	72
Rajshahi	35.4	23.8	78	50
Khulna	36.8	22.8	92	41
Barisal	34.5	24.0	78	65
Sylhet	27.8	24.0	95	70
Cox's Bazar	35.0	26.8	69	69

AB BANK LIMITED

BCIC Bhaban, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Board of Directors of AB Bank Limited in its 457th Meeting held on April 29, 2010 at 4.30 p.m. approved the Audited Financial Statements and has taken the following decisions:

A. Audited Financial Statements information (for the year 2009)	AB Bank Ltd.	AB Bank Ltd. Consolidated
	Taka	Taka
Profit before Tax & Provision	5,802,396,257	5,869,625,615
Profit after Tax (PAT)	3,362,556,000	3,417,185,111
Net Asset Value (NAV)	10,086,522,932	10,220,783,720
Net Asset Value Per Share	393.35	398.59
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	131.13	133.26
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	282.13	275.02

B. 28th Annual General Meeting

- Date & Time: July 15, 2010 (Thursday) at 11.00 a.m. Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
- Venue: Stock Dividend @ 25% Cash Dividend @ 20%

C. Recommended Dividend

D. Record Date

May 20, 2010 (Thursday)

E. Dividend Entitlement

Shareholders' names appearing in the Share Register of the Company or in the Depository as on the 'Record Date' will be eligible to attend the AGM and will qualify for the Dividend.

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Company Secretary

Dhaka, the 29th April, 2010.

News in Brief

5 sustain burn injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Five people sustained burn injuries in a fire that also gutted a private car, four shops and other equipment, including car engines, at Panchaboti in the district's Fatulla area yesterday morning.

The fire originated from a motor garage when a gas cylinder exploded. Two units of fire fighters doused the fire after half an hour. The injured were rushed to Narayanganj 200-bed Hospital.

Closure of Channel 1 protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Broadcast Reporters of Bangladesh (BRB) yesterday expressed grave concern over the sudden closure of private satellite station Channel 1.

In a statement, BRB leaders said such incidents will create uncertainty and instability in the journalist community.

They urged the government to allow Channel 1 telecast programmes again and remove the uncertainty over the jobs of its journalists and employees.

Four held on Benapole blast

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police early yesterday arrested four people from Bhaberber village in connection with the bomb attack at a Baishakhi Mela in a playground at Benapole on Wednesday night that left one dead. The arrestees were identified as Sohag, 26, Firoz, 40, Liton, 26, and Israfil, 32.

1200kg polythene seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined 15 shop owners at Karwan Bazar chicken market in the city Tk 62,000 for selling and storing polythene illegally.

The mobile court led by Sukumar Biswas, acting director of the Department of Environment, also seized 1200 kilograms of polythene, says a press release.

The court also handed Yusuf, owner of Janapriyo Packets Store, seven days' imprisonment and Abdur Razzak, owner of Sajib Enterprise, three days' imprisonment.

Architects Wanted

Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd, a steadily growing organization specializing in building high quality homes, requires professional Architects for its Design & Design Coordination Department. Attractive & commensurate remuneration & other benefits are offered to deserving candidate.

Qualifications:

- (1) B Arch from reputed Institution.
- (2) Member or Candidate Member of IAB and 3 to 6 years experience.
- (3) Good creative and interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications along with a recent passport size photograph within 7 days of this Advertisement to the following address:

The Chairman & President
Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd
Office Of Corporate & Management Services
91 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

ANNOUNCEMENT

Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited announces the appointment of Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited as Distributor and responsible for the distribution operation of Novartis products effective 1st May 2010.

This appointment permits Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited to supply and distribute all Novartis and Sandoz products and collection of sales proceeds throughout Bangladesh.

Our valued Partners will continue enjoying facility and services regarding supply and distribution of Novartis products as per current business agreement with Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited.

We solicit kind cooperation of our valued Partners to strengthen our efforts to provide you with our best possible services through Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited.

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