

Warrant against 42 Unipay2U officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday ordered the arrest of 42 officials of Unipay2U, including its Malaysian founder and owner Magandam Gam Gam James, by July 26 on charges of misappropriating funds.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman passed the order after 6 plaintiffs filed 6 cases in the court against its 54 staff.

Twelve officials, including James, Chairman Sahiduzzaman Sahin, Managing Director (MD) Muntasir Hossain were accused in all cases.

The plaintiffs alleged that the officials had misappropriated their amount Tk. 6.44 crore by assuring them to pay back double the amount within 10 months.

Among the plaintiffs, Shafiqul Islam accused 23 officials, including James while Halima Begum seven, Sirazur Nur Begum four, Md Alamgir eight, Rasheda Begum four and Md Morshed accused eight of its officials.

They said the officials embezzled their money in 2010 and 2011 at the Unipay2U office at Muradpur in the port city.

The court on Sunday also issued arrest warrants to 10 officials of Unipay2U including its chairman and MD in two cases on charge of misappropriating around Tk 7.5 crore.

'Women must play better role in media'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women should be allowed to play a larger role in mass media and their representation should be dignified and respected, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

In the discussion styled 'Representation of Women in the Mass Media in the eyes of Young Women' speakers said that women are commercialised in mass media, which is morally degrading for them.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised the programme at its office in the capital where its President Ayesha Khanam also spoke.

BNP unveils

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opposition BNP is set to place its own budget proposal today focusing on "the government's failure in economic sector" and remedies to overcome the situation.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia will unveil the proposals through a press conference at a city hotel in the afternoon, said the party insiders. Diplomats, leaders of different political parties, eminent citizen, and civil society personalities have been invited at the function.

Opposition lawmakers, however, are unlikely to join the budget session.

Asked about the proposals, former commerce minister and chairperson's Adviser Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said she would basically reveal the party's thoughts on the national budget.

"Besides evaluating the government's performance in implementing last year's budget, we will deliver our thoughts describing which sectors should get priority in the budget and how the budget can be made more helpful for the countrymen," he told The Daily Star.



An official tests a fish for the presence of formalin at Kazir Dewri kitchen market in Chittagong city yesterday while, *inset*, a handful of seized formalin-injected fishes.

PHOTO: STAR

SCBA president irked by remarks of Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Zainul Abedin yesterday protested the remarks of the Speaker concerning the Supreme Court's directive on its land handover from Roads and Highways Department (RHD) to it.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Abdul Hamid on May 29 reportedly told the House that the court is neutral and independent but it does not look good when the court takes quick decisions to solve its problems while the people have to wait years for justice.

The Speaker made the remark without adequate information about the issue, Zainul Abedin told reporters at a briefing at south hall of SCBA.

SCBA Secretary Momtajuddin Ahmed Mehedi said the remarks about the court's verdict over its land is 'unexpected and unwarranted'.

"Though records show that the land in question belongs to the Supreme Court, nothing was recorded under its name," the SCBA president said.

On February 16 this year, the HC directed government officials concerned to handover 7.9 acres of Supreme Court land, which was occupied by (RHD), to it in a week.

Dhaka, Moscow ink Nuke power deals

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Russia yesterday signed two key deals for further collaboration between the two countries to develop the nuclear power sector in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman and Director General of Russian State Energy Corporation (Rosatom) Sergey Kirienko signed the two MoUs in Moscow.

A foreign ministry release here said the first MoU confirms Russian support in developing entire range of human resources in the nuclear power sector in Bangladesh.

It will cover different tiers of managerial, technical and operational personnel, and develop broad-based academic and training capabilities in Bangladesh.

The second MoU will pave way for establishing information centre(s) in Bangladesh to generate awareness among people on various aspects of nuclear energy and nuclear power plants.

After signing the deals, Yeafesh Osman said the Information Centre(s), first to be set up in Dhaka shortly this year, will help address perceptions or apprehensions, whatsoever, about nuclear energy.

The government will set up two nuclear power plants at Rooppur with Russian assistance.

The state minister said that following the MoUs, a high-level Russian delegation will visit Dhaka next week to undertake a detailed assessment syllabus and facilities available in the universities and other academic institutions in Bangladesh.

PM stress

FROM PAGE 3

The cabinet yesterday upgraded the rank of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) chairman from secretary to cabinet secretary. The positions of PSC members were upgraded from joint secretary to the rank of secretary.

The cabinet finalised the decisions by approving the draft of the Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions for Service) (Amendment) Act, 2012.

The PSC chairman and members will enjoy the facilities of cabinet secretary and secretary, said Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan while briefing journalists after the meeting.

A cabinet secretary gets Tk 45,000 while a secretary Tk 40,000 per month, he added.

The cabinet also endorsed the proposals to declare 2nd October as "National Productivity Day" and 2nd January as "National Social Service Day".

It also approved a proposal to ratify the agreement on visa waiver signed by Bangladesh and Indonesia. Under the agreement signed in August 2010, people with diplomatic and official passports will no longer require visas to visit each other's country.

Promote biodiversity

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the country depleted alarmingly because of excessive use of water, while fish varieties are being destroyed due to chemical fertilisers and pesticides, he said.

"Water is our main asset. If we lose it our biodiversity will be at stake," the economist said, adding that rice production in the country multiplied in four decades, but food vulnerability of peoples also increased.

It is because previously the poor could collect fish and vegetables from the public properties, but today they have to buy everything, he said. "They, however, do not have enough money to buy nutritious food."

Dr Khairul Bashar, former director of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), said some companies import hybrid rice varieties from abroad, but those are not properly tested before starting cultivation. Therefore, in many cases their yield was poor despite use of huge fertilisers and pesticides, he noted.

"What is important is providing our scientists incentives to develop better varieties suitable in our

biodiversity," he said.

SM Morshed, executive director of Shishuk, urged the government to take measures so that the farmers do not become dependent on the multinational companies that promote seeds and pesticides for their profits.

Bapa leader Moazzem Hossain, rice scientists Sheikh Abdus Sattar and Rezaul Karim also spoke.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa, a Ibrahim, wife of late

Justice Mohammed Ibrahim. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held in the morning at her residence. Food will also be distributed among the destitute and floral wreaths will be placed at her Banani graveyard, said a press release.



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IUB fair on environment

METRO DESK

A two-day fair began on Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) permanent campus at Bashundhara in the capital yesterday marking World Environment Day.

The Environment Club of IUB organised the fair, said a press release.

Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of IUB, inaugurated the fair with the slogan-- "Green Economy: Does it Include you?"--to create awareness among youths about the concepts of reuse, reduce and recycle.

Earlier, an essay and quiz competition on the same topic were held.

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