Obituary

METRO DESK

ANM Alamgir, managing director of Aloco Securities, a stockbroker, passed away at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday. He was 63.

He left behind his wife, two sons, and a daughter to mourn his death.

Dhaka Stock Exchange President Rakibur Rahman, Senior Vice President Ahmad Rashid, Vice President Md Shahjahan and Chief Executive Officer Musharraf M Hussain expressed deep condolence at his death.

Bottles on the conveyor belt ready to be inspected at the factory of Bengal Glass, which produces those from recycled glass.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Anti-communal confce tomorrow in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-communal national conference will be held at Mohanagar Natya Mancha at Gulistan in the capital tomorrow.

Fifteen eminent dignitaries including Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Prof Sarder Fazlul Karim, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, writer Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Dr Hamida Hossain, Prof Anisuzzaman, and Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal have convened conference.

Leaders of different political, socio-cultural and economic organisations, professional bodies, student organisations will take part in the day-long conference, said a press release.

The conference will begin at 10:00am and end at 6:00pm, it said.

The conference will be held against the backdrop of recent vandalising of houses and temples of Buddhist communities by religious fanatics; attack on Ahamadiya Muslims in different parts of the country; and countrywide anarchy against the ongoing process of war crimes trial.

On September 29 night and the next day, a mob destroyed pagodas and houses in Ramu.

The violence, which was apparently triggered by a Facebook posting of a photo derogatory to the holy Quran, sparked huge criticism in and outside the country.

Drug-store owners' 8hrs strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association has called upon all medicine store owners across the country to observe an eight-hour strike from 6:00am today to demand reducing drug licence fees and holding pharmacy registration examination immediately.

The government has increased biennial fees of drug licence from Tk 1,300 to 2,000 about one month ago, which has become a burden for pharmacy owners, the association deputy secretary AHM Monir Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

Besides, the government has not been holding pharmacy registration examination since the last 19 months, which is mandatory for running a drugstore, he said.

"We have no alternative to going on strike to fulfil our demands because the government did not pay any heed to us despite repeated requests."

The association will hold a rally at Babu Bazar intersection at 1:00pm today to chalk out the next course of action.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Sohel Sheikh, supervisor of the country's one of the largest medicine stores, Lazz Pharma Ltd, said they will stop selling medicines during the strike period at all of its outlets.

BCL agitation closes Barisal vet institute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Barisal Veterinary Institute was declared indefinitely closed yesterday after activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League took control of the campus and cordoned the institute's teachers and officials for three consecutive days.

Activists of the institute's BCL unit launched their agitation programme following alleged appointment of office staff and employees ignoring BCL recommendations for employment.

The activists assaulted and injured at least 20 people including journalists, police and staff in their bid to seize the campus.

Shahidul Huq, officer-in-charge of Barisal Airport Police Station, said BCL activists clashed with police on Monday and Tuesday when the law enforcers tried to control the situation.

The clash left six policemen injured, he added.

Abul Bashar, sub-inspector of the police station, lodged a case in this connection accusing 40 BCL men including its president for assaulting police.

Mahmudul Hasan, a BCL leader, said they only protested the employment of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir activists and illegal entrance of outsiders, including journalists and police, into the campus.

HSBC -Star CLIMATE AWARDEE 2011

Bengal Glass for 'People, Planet, Profit'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star speaks to the winner of the HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Awards 2011, Bengal Glass Works Ltd, about its "People, Planet, Profit" model.

"Recycling your waste and being energy efficient can provide real cost-savings," says Amyn Saleh, director of Bengal Glass Works Ltd. "Sadly, it is a concept which many businesses in this country do not fully appreciate yet."

Established in 1967, Bengal Glass is the country's only fully-automatic glass plant producing amber glass bottles for pharmaceutical products and glass lamp shells.

Saleh and his colleagues at Bengal Glass have adopted a number of "green" measures to secure the future of the firm, and in the process have reduced carbon emission and decreased the consumption of scarce natural resources.

"Green business has a triple bottom impact -- economic, environmental and social. Through recycling and adopting energy efficient measures, we have managed to reduce energy consumption, decrease landfill wastes and provide employment to those who collect recyclable materials," explains Saleh. "We also call this the 'People, Planet, Profit model'."

Ordinarily, the process of creating glass requires phenomenal energy consumption resulting in greenhouse gas emissions. However, Bengal Glass replaces virgin raw materials with broken glass or "cullet", collected from municipal waste channels to reproduce glass. Since cullet melts at a lower temperature, it requires considerably less energy, says Saleh. In addition, one tonne of cullet reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 314 kg.

The recycling process also ensures that glass does not add to the municipal landfills of the country.

Bengal Glass saves energy in other ways too. Modern furnaces designed with regenerators utilise waste heat contained in the bricks to reduce the energy requirement, resulting in energy savings of nearly 35 percent. Meanwhile, the firm has invested in insulating the furnace walls to retain the heat within the furnace, reducing another 2.5 percent of energy consumption.

"Bengal Glass is always looking for options to recycle," says Saleh. "For instance, used water is cooled down and recycled for cooling of equipment operating at high temperatures, waste lubricating oil is reused for lowering glass melting temperatures and cartons for packing are designed so that customers can reuse them."

He also says glass bottles are a safer and more environment-friendly than its alternative -- bottles made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

Unlike glass, PET can and often do interact chemically with the medicine, especially at very high or very low temperatures, thus altering the chemical structure of the medicine, he says. "This can have particularly dangerous repercussions for patients on life-saving drugs."

Saleh says the main component in polycarbonate plastic, called Bisphenol A, can cause neural and behavioural effects in foetuses, infants and children, resulting in early puberty, altered prostrate and urinary developments in infant males and a variety of cancers.

Apart from health hazards, plastic also poses a great threat to the environment. Unlike glass, which can be and is recycled endlessly in Bangladesh, only a small percentage of plastic is recycled back into new bottles, he adds.

PET is non-biodegradable, taking as much as 1,000 years to erode, he says.

Saleh highlights the fact that competition from plastic bottle manufacturers is threatening the survival of the glass industry. "People need to understand that plastic causes irreparable damage to their health and the environment."

Bengal Glass continues its research and invests in newer technologies that are more energy efficient.

Saleh says, "We have benefited and will continue to benefit from an operational standpoint, but at the same time, strengthen its environmental responsibility by reducing its carbon footprint as well as save vital resources."

ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
কার্ড ডিপার্টমেন্ট, আইসিটি উইং
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড-এর ATM Booth ও ATM Card ব্যবহারকারী সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, উন্নততর ATM সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে নতুন Software প্রতিস্থাপনের জন্য আগামী ১৪ হতে ১৬ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১২ পর্যন্ত দেশব্যাপী ATM সেবা প্রদান সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ থাকবে। গ্রাহকদের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

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