



TAX FAIR ENDS

NBR logs Tk 1,117cr from the weeklong show

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DOCU FEST 2013

Kathmandu hosts "Film Southasia" with films on issues from all walks of life

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BO XILAI GETS LIFE

The disgraced politician of China has been found guilty of graft

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Large pit coal deposit detected

MINTU DESHOWARA, Moulvibazar

A massive pit coal deposit has been found at Chatla Beel in Hakaluki Haor of Moulvibazar, according to officials of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh.

The deposit could be as big as the country's largest pit coal reserve of 150 million tonnes at Baggie Chanda in Gopalganj, they said referring to an on-going survey of Chatla Beel.

"Chatla Beel has a

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Grameen Bank to be controlled directly

Muhith tells of new act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is finally bringing the Grameen Bank under direct control of the central bank, to give the authorities more powers over the microcredit organisation.

The decision is in line with the proposals of the government-sponsored Grameen Bank Commission, which recommended bringing the bank under the regulatory control of either the Bangladesh Bank or the Microcredit Regulatory Authority to better monitor its activities.

"It [Grameen Bank] will come under the jurisdiction of the Bangladesh Bank,"



Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

The minister said the central bank would see how it could regulate the bank under the Banking Companies Act.

The microcredit bank is being run by Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983 since its inception three decades ago and it does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the Banking Companies Act.

Still, the central bank enjoys some jurisdiction over the bank.

Under the existing rules, Grameen Bank has to take approval from the central bank

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PM OFF TO NEW YORK Takes along biggest ever entourage

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday left for the US to attend the 68th UN General Assembly with a 134-member delegation, the biggest entourage since her taking office in January 2009.

During her six-day visit, Hasina will participate in a variety of UN related meetings and side events, significantly a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for 30 minutes, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for 15 minutes and with Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al

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Meeting or mission?

Curiosity mounts as Hasina is to meet Manmohan in New York

HASAN JAHID TUSHAR

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the UN has assumed a new significance, as she will meet Indian Premier Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and brief him about her government's stance on holding the polls without a caretaker government.

The half-an-hour meeting on September 28 is likely to focus on how the AL-led government wants to hold the election and

resolve the current political crisis, said sources in the government and the ruling Awami League.

The two leaders would also discuss bilateral issues such as Teesta water sharing and land boundary, they said.

Hasina hopes to use the Indian influence on the US with which her government's relations are now fraught with tensions, said ruling party insiders.

She wants to convince the US that the AL

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ALIM'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Verdict any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) will deliver its verdict any day in the case against BNP leader Abdul Alim as the trial proceedings concluded yesterday.

According to the charges brought against him, Alim was chairman of Joypurhat Peace Committee and Razakar commander during the 1971 Liberation War and had involvement in the killing of at least 585 people, looting, arson and forced deportation of civilians from Joypurhat to India.

The three-member ICT-2 led by Justice Obaidul Hassan kept the case waiting for verdict after the prosecution completed their closing arguments. It also sent the 83-year-old accused to jail, cancelling his bail.

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RMG SECTOR Businesses worried at violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businesses have expressed concern over production suspension at garment factories due to labour unrest.

As workers yesterday continued agitations for a rise in minimum monthly salary to Tk 8,114 from Tk 3,000 and vandalised

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দেখে নিন, পৃষ্ঠা ৩ ...

Who Will Feed Our Children ?



প্রথম পাতা

The Daily Star

20 June, 2013

1 July, 2013

Panel gives all-clear to Tesco supplier Liberty Fashions -BUET

The Daily Star
5 September, 2013

Labour Secretary Shipar said the government will not allow anybody to inspect factories if they do not follow the common guideline.



TESCO Chairman

An Appeal to Sir Richard Broadbent, Hon'ble Chairman of TESCO, United Kingdom

Liberty Fashion Wears Limited is a 100 percent export oriented composite readymade garment (RMG) factory with other related facilities like Wet Process, Dry Process, Printing, Embroidery and Yarn Dyeing situated at Zirani Bazar, Ashulia, Dhaka, Bangladesh is in apparel garment business for the last 30-years. Liberty has been working with the Tesco over the last 14 (fourteen) years with good reputation. In the beginning, Liberty was a small factory with annual turn over worth BDT400.00 million to BDT500.00 million employing less than 1000 workers.

Gradually Liberty's turnover stood more than BDT 3.00 billion in 2012 and for the current year the target has been set for more than BDT 3.50 billion while the number of workers of Liberty is near 5,000.

Liberty has been doing business maintaining a warm and cordial relationship with the workers as there is no record of unrest in the company. Also, there was no record any kind of accident in the factory since the beginning of operations over the last 30 (thirty) years. The factory is situated on 6.26 acres of land covering 290,000 sft working floors at Zirani Bazar, Ashulia which is about 20 kilometer North from Dhaka.

We hope the current trend and McKinsey's report that our company will be able to employ 10,000 workers and turnover will reach between BDT 8.00 billion to BDT 10.00 billion soon. The company will be able to contribute a lot to the country's job market and economy where unemployment is a major problem.

But, all on a sudden Medway Consultancy Services (MCS) of 26 Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 8LE, UK, Dhaka office : 3rd Floor, House-23, Road-121, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh, an engineering firm nominated by TESCO, visited the factory of Liberty in May-2013 to check the structural design of the building and prepared a report based on visual inspection and marked 'Amber' which indicates the factory can continue production except building # 2 which MCS reported as 'Red' vide their Report No. T1305-04 & T1305-04 D.

The MCS inspectors forced the Management of the Liberty to close the three and half storied (3.5) building having 41,000 square feet each floor. MCS also told the President and Vice President of BGMEA that building will collapse within 60 hours. However, the building stood there for 8 years and still stand with no little symptom of vibration, no crack in columns or beams. We invite all national and international engineering firms to visit our factory buildings to ascertain the structural health condition of our factory. It may be mentioned here that lifetime of this building is only 8 years.

To establish MCS visual report Liberty was under pressure to close all activities of factory building no -02. MCS persuaded with ILO, BGMEA, Labor Ministry, Fire Service, RAJUK and other government agencies of Bangladesh to influence them, so we were compelled to close all activities of our factory building no- 2. All of them inspected our factory building # 2 and none of them advised us to close the activities of building # 2.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the garment makers' platform and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), the highest authorities of the building designs, Engineering Cell of BGMEA and BUET also certified for continuation of production in the building # 2 (BGMEA reference no. BGA/C&M/4031/Fcy/cert/2013/143 dated 10/06/2013 and BUET Report No. CEB/3034/9117 dated 29/06/2013).

Due to the stoppage of work, panic unduly created by MCS and other buyers are also not placing orders to our factory. Such a decision has forced all our international retailers, buyers and brands to stop business with us, although Liberty is a 100 percent Export oriented Company and working with all brands for last decade with good reputation and understanding.

As a result, our whole business including investment worth BDT3.00 billion, goodwill, employment of 5,000 workers along with 20,000 of their family members, bank loan have been destroyed which we have established by last 30 years hard and dedicated works.

At present we are running with acute financial shortfall and failed to pay worker and staff dues. We have paid only half wages for the month of August' 2013 of workers. Half wages of August' 2013 is still due with staff salary for the month of July and August' 2013.

Regarding these matters we have informed your local office several time vide our 17 letters from 08 June 2013 till date. But they have not replied any of our letters.

In connection of the issues stated above we appeal to Honorable Chairman of TESCO to compensate us BDT. 3.00 billion which we lost by this time in our business due to closing all operations in building # 2 in connection with misleading report by MCS.

Yours Sincerely
Mozammel Huq, Managing Director, Liberty Fashion Wears Limited

Friendship

