Cost of internet use set to go down

BTTB announces tariff rate for submarine cable, satellite, internet services; ISPs hail the move

of the Bangladesh ISPAssociation.

backup system to complement the

submarine cable. That is why the

ISPs will have to continue to depend

on foreign internet services," he

said. "But the BTTB has taken up an

initiative to install a backup Vsat

(Very small aperture satellite) and,

hopefully, this will start operating

internet users at present. With the

arrival of the submarine cable, this

number is expected to shoot up

dramatically. "We really can not

predict how fast the consumer base

will grow. But this is going to grow in

Meanwhile, many ISPs in Dhaka

significant pace," observed Ershad.

have already started using the

submarine cable even though an

appropriate cable infrastructure is

yet in place. They are providing

speed up to 2 megabyte per second

The ISPs are expecting the

The country has about 5 lakh

within 3-4 months."

(MBps)

"The BTTB does not have a

SHARIER KHAN

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) yesterday offered an interesting tariff rate for the newly launched submarine cable, satellite and internet services, which will help the internet service providers (ISPs) to slash internet use costs significantly.

The latest BTTB tariff rate is one fourth of that the ISPs now pay to foreign internet exchange providers. But despite such a cost relief, the ISPs will not be able to reduce more than 10 percent of the charges for internet users. This is because the ISPs will continue to maintain the services of foreign internet exchange providers for the next few

months, according to the ISPs. "The customers will enjoy the full benefit of the submarine cable within 3-4 months. The cost of internet use will then go down at least by 50 percent," said Ershad Shafi Chowdhury, secretary general

Commerce minister also smells conspiracy STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BTTB to reduce its tariff structure

further, said Ershad. "The BTTB has

just launched the operation of

submarine cable and it is still not

sure about the market response.

We believe the market response will

be great, which will encourage the

connection below 2 MBps through

the SMW4 submarine cable is as

follows: registration fee- Tk 20,000,

installation and testing fee- Tk

75,000, modem charge for 128

Kbps- Tk 84,000 (lifetime &

optional) and yearly rental charge

Tk 21,000 (if modem provided by

the BTTB). For 192 KBps to 1 MBps

the lifetime charge is Tk 126,000

and annual rental fee Tk 31,500,

and above 1 MBps lifetime charge is

Tk 231,000 with annual rental fee of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Tk 57,750.

The BTTB tariff rate for internet

BTTB to lower the tariff rate further."

Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed yesterday said it was not the workers of the garment industry but a group of organised miscreants who ransacked garment factories and created anarchy to jeopardise

the industry in the country "There is a deep rooted conspiracy to destroy the country's garment industry," he said while speaking at the official launching ceremony of Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CBCCI) at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the capital

The factories attacked and ransacked by unknown people had no wages due to the workers and are models in the sector and absolutely compliant, claimed Hafizuddin who was chief guest at the occasion.

"I am at a loss of words to express what happened in the garment sector in the last two days, he lamented, adding that the government has taken stern actions against the perpetrators bringing the total situation under control.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Karmajibi Nari, an NGO, takes out a procession at Muktangan in the capital yesterday in support of garment workers' demands to resolve the ongoing unrest in the sector.

used to curb prices

JS body blasts commerce ministry,

CUSTODIAL DEATH EXORBITANT ESSENTIALS 3 cops held Tk 100cr fund not UNB, Gaibandha

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and two constables of Sadar Police Station were yesterday arrested on charges of murder of a young man in custody

The arrest was made after a medical board reported that physical torture led to the death of Sajidur Rahman Sajid, 26, on Sunday. The arrestees are ASI Abu Yusut

and constables Dulal Chandra and Mizanur Rahman.

Sajid, a resident of the town, was arrested on May 18 at Katpatti in the town for drug addiction and taken on a seven-day remand the following day. ASI Abu Yusuf interrogated him before his death. Police said Sajid committed suicide by hanging from the window rod in custody.

Refuting the police claim, his family said inhuman physical torture caused the death of Sajid. Residents of the town yesterday took out a procession demanding punishment to the policemen.

Committee members from both the ruling and opposition sides expressed concern over the price situation. One member accused the TCB of helping the syndicate 're-

TCB over 'inactivity'

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

A parliamentary body yesterday

blasted the commerce ministry and

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

for its (TCB) 'inactivity' in checking

the price hike of essentials despite

committee on public undertakings at

a meeting expressed its surprise at

having a huge fund.

ineffectiveness' of the TCB despite

The parliamentary standing

having a Tk 100-crore fund for this.

Saifur blames 'outside group' for rampage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said a motivated outside group, not the workers, was involved in last two days' rampage in the garment industry.

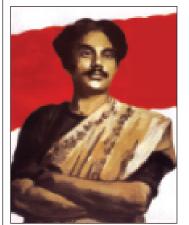
The government should find out the culprits and take stern action against them," he said replying to reporters' queries after a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase. "I don't believe that the workers

can destroy the factory from where thev earn their bread. There must have been some outside force behind all these," Saifur observed.

Saifur said what has happened is very unfortunate and very bad for the economy. "Garment is not only the backbone of the economy, but also a big source of employment."

"A conspiracy is on to destroy the sector "he said

The minister said there can be bargaining agents to represent the garment workers, but that should not be like the regular trade union as that will spoil the work environment. There are both good and bad garment factories. The good ones pay regularly and pay well like SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



At the meting, he asked the commerce ministry officials, "Why Nazrul's birth don't you destroy the syndicate by anniversary The officials explained that prices of essentials are not an issue today Other ministries like home affairs

BSS, Dhaka

"The price situation cannot go on like this. It must be reasonable. TCB The 107th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will did not import anything in the last three years. We cannot accept this Alim told reporters. A meeting source said, "When the TCB chairman told the meeting it has Tk 100 crore in its fund, members of the committee asked him why he did not take appropriate steps to activate it." The House body discussed audit objections concerning the TCB. The university will begin its There are 1.692 such objections about irregularities involving Tk 330 crore.

ineffective. It should be activated as

a mechanism to control market."

activating of TCB," sources said.

are also linked to it.

of the commerce ministry alone.



PHOTO: STAR

BDR personnel, *left*, stand guard at the entrance to Dhaka Export Processing Zone in Savar yesterday to ward off any untoward incident; a garment factor Tongi-Ashulia Highway, right, remains closed after it came under attack on Tuesday.

CNG SCAM More time given to JS probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two parliamentary probe bodies tasked with investigating alleged corruption in import of CNG autoricksaws and allocation of land to set up CNG refuelling stations are yet to submit their report more than two years after their formation.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications Ministry that formed the subcommittees on January 7 and February 14 in 2004 yesterday once again extended the time for submitting their reports.

Both the sub-committees were

COURT CORRESPONDENT asked to submit their probe report in

a month, but convenors of the probe bodies were provided time extensions on several occasions.

that formed the probe bodies to investigate alleged corruption against the communications minister and the state minister for communications does not hold meeting

regularly The parliamentary body yesterday held meeting after long six months while the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad says that SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 10 to death, including top listed criminals Kala Jahangir and Abbas Besides, the parliamentary body alias 'killer' Abbas, and six others to 31 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Saidur Rahman Newton in May 2002. Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 handed down the verdict in presence of

killer' Abbas and seven others at a packed courtroom. The other convicts with death are Mohammad Khorshed. Shahadat

NEWTON MURDER

Kala Jahangir, 'Killer'

Abbas, 8 others to die

Hossain alias Shahadat, Moni Hossain alias Kiran, Ibrahim Khalil, Kazi Mohammad Ismail, Towfiq Alam Khan alias Pial, Sadequl Islam alias Sagor and Zakir Hossain.

The people who got life in jail are Mohammad Ayub, Sheikh Russell alias Baltu Russell, Rubel Hossain Howlader, Shakhawat Hossain, Nazmul Hossain alias 'Benga' Babu and Kamal Hossain. Of them, only Kamal was tried in absentia.

This is for the first time that a court delivered a judgement in one SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

DEEP-SEA PORT Japanese firm gets nod for feasibility study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved the appointment of a Japanese consulting firm for conducting study on technical and economic viability of setting up a deep-sea port in the Bay of Bengal.

The company, Pacific Consultant International, has been asked to submit a report elaborating what needs to be done for establishing the port. The company will be paid Tk 14 crore for conducting the survey. Sources at the shipping ministry

said the deep-sea port could be used for import and export of Nepal, Myanmar and the seven northeastern states of India, enabling Bangladesh to earn a handsome amount of fees.

The ministry sources also said the same Japanese company had conducted survey for establishing a deep-sea port in Bangladesh earlier. SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2AK47 rifles, ammo seized

UNB, Bandarban

Army personnel recovered two AK47 assault rifles and ammunition from a den of terrorists at Monjoy Para in Sadar upazila of the hill district on Tuesday night.

They also recovered a foreignmade single barrel SBBL gun, 32 bullets of AK47 and 9mm pistol from the den.

Acting on a tip-off, the army men raided the den at about 11:00pm, but could not arrest any of the gang members as they managed to flee sensing the presence of the security personnel

sponsible' for the price spiral. "TCB was a profitable organisation. In fiscal 2001-02, its profit was about Tk 102 crore but in 2002-03 it incurred losses of about Tk 9 crore. In 2003-04 and 2004-05, it made profits of only Tk 2 crore and Tk 3 crore respectively," the TCB said in a report placed at the meeting.

Talking to journalists after the meeting, Committee Chairman Abdul Alim, said, "TCB is totally

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

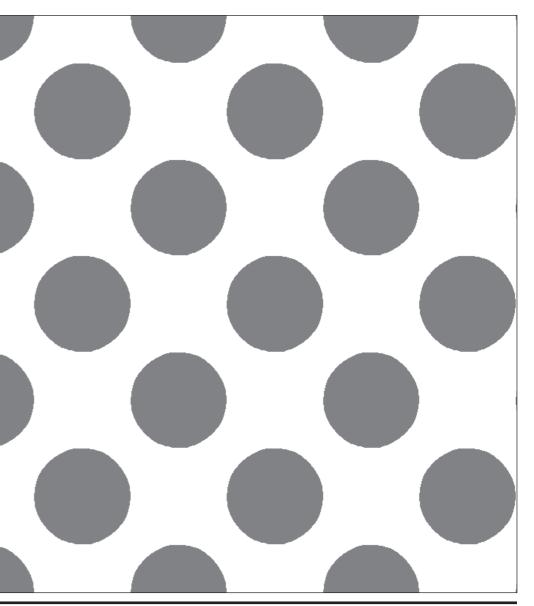
PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

be celebrated across the country today with daylong national programme at Trishal in Mymensingh.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to open the programme at Nazrul Academy ground at 4:00pm. The prime minister will also inaugurate Kabi Nazrul University at Namapara under Trishal upazila in the afternoon.

academic session from the current year, a university source said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



BSF kills 2 cattle traders **UNB**, Satkhira

Two Bangladeshi cattle traders were shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Kakdanga border Tuesday night.

The dead were identified as Kabir Hossain, 35, of Dakkidari village and Ruhul Amin, 18, of Padya Shakhra village under Satkhira Sadar upazila.

The Indian border guards SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



A pit on Gulshan Link Road remains uncared for, posing risk to moving vehicles. Several accidents occurred at this place during load-shedding at night but the authorities pay no heed to it.

PHOTO: STAR