

Ex-home secy Omar Farooq made BTRC boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq yesterday took over as chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The government took two months to fill up the five vital posts including that of chairman of the BTRC after they had fallen vacant on January 30 on expiry of their tenure.

Omar Farooq gained experience in telecoms sector during his service as secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MoPT). He retired from the home ministry

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# Police idle to follow militant chief's clues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Although Shahadat-e Al Hiqma chief Sayed Kawsar Hussain Siddiki Raja revealed important information during interrogations by the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka, police here have not taken a single move to trace the underground patrons and sponsors of the banned fanatical group.

They have not even tried to arrest or conduct investigations against any accomplices and advisors of Kawsar, who once claimed his patron to be the Dubai-based Mafia

don Daud Ibrahim.

His local patrons, he says, include several lawyers, doctors and businessmen of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj areas.

Top Rajshahi Metropolitan Police officials pointed to jurisdictional limitations and the costs of investigation to explain the delay in their activities.

"We have done nothing but process the papers of the arrested Hiqma men as JIC was interrogating them. Besides, we have to work in a limited area almost spending money from our own pockets," said a police official.

Although the JIC could not ascertain any major information from Kawsar, sources said they exposed new names and clues that have raised suspicions of the possibility of an international link with the group.

After Kawsar's arrest in November, police searched for Hussain Bin Abdul Latif who, police said, spent many years in the United States and Japan and was also with the Hiqma group when it stormed the Boalia police station in the city.

"He fled with a large bag," police said at the time.

Kawsar launched the so-called

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Aspiring subscribers of Teletalk scramble at the entrance to BTTB one-stop sales and service centre at Ramna in the city on the launch of the state-owned mobile phone service yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## BTTB CELLPHONE LAUNCHING

# Mobile crazy crowd damages sales centre

## 12 injured, subscription forms 'inadequate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence marred the commercial launch of the state-owned Teletalk mobile phone yesterday, as aspiring subscribers damaged Ramna one-stop sales and service centre and the BASIC Bank counter, leaving at least 12 wounded.

At least a dozen people were hurt in two incidents of violence at Ramna and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

one-point service centres. Teletalk started distributing subscription forms at 10 centres in the city yesterday.

Riot police and Armed Police Battalion were called in to tame the marauding crowd.

At least two persons were hurt when riot police clubbed restive form collectors who broke queue and stormed the Rahman Service

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# Giant billboards for CCC polls campaign

## Bid to keep city clean

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has taken a unique initiative to set up giant billboards in all its wards to stick up posters in the campaign for the May 9 polls by the mayoral and commissioner candidates.

Sources said the corporation has taken the step to keep the city clean as the candidates have already started putting up posters on the walls of public and private buildings in the city ignoring the rules of the CCC.

The CCC will erect 246 billboards -- six in each of the 41 wards of which one will be kept reserved for mayoral

candidates and five for commissioner candidates. Each billboard will be 100 feet long and 10 feet wide.

The billboards will be installed near the commissioner office of each ward or at a busy place of the locality. The corporation will not charge any fee for using the billboards the construction of which will begin shortly, said a CCC official yesterday.

The CCC will remove the posters already fixed on walls if the candidates concerned don't follow the restriction, the official said seeking anonymity.

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# Buet violates law to build structure

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), one of the region's most prestigious technical universities, is building various structures within its campus defying the Town Improvement Act 1953 and the Building Construction Act 1952 (BC Act).

In addition to the BUET, Dhaka University authorities, the Dhaka City Corporation, Public Works Department and several other state-run and semi-autonomous institutions also defy the BC Act openly under the pretext that "traditionally" they had never sought any clearance from anybody.

According to Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) Chairman, Mohammad Shahid Alam, it is mandatory for every one to obtain

Rajuk's approval for building plans which is given on the basis of the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan or the Master Plan. Clearances have also to be obtained from the fire service and the Department of Environment prior to launching construction. Otherwise the structure is deemed unauthorised and it is lawfully subject to demolition.

"We ensure that nothing is built in violation to the Master Plan as it was made on the basis of a thorough research," said Alam. "For instance, thanks to the master plan we know exactly what the consequences are on Dhaka and its periphery if we allow Ashulia and the flood plains to be filled up, and that is exactly why the Master Plan plays the most vital role in city development," he said.

The Bangladesh Railway and the Armed Forces are however the only two organisations, which enjoy

immunity by law from obtaining any clearance or approval for constructing a structure in the city or elsewhere.

The BUET has recently launched constructions of a large dormitory in Palassy area and a four-storey extension of the BUET School inside its campus. The extension work of the school is near completion with its walls less than 'few inches' from the boundary wall, which is a clear violation of the BC Act.

Vice Chancellor of the BUET, Alee Murtuza expressed his 'annoyance' when asked for his comment on the unauthorised construction. "There are so many other things including the Rajuk corruption to write about, why ask whether the BUET sought any clearance or not," Murtuza said.

He however said by tradition the

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## China sees Jiabao's visit crucial for cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

China attaches great importance to the visit of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to Bangladesh on April 7 in expanding the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

Chinese Ambassador to Dhaka Chai Xi yesterday expressed the view when he called on Prime Minister

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Prayer Timing		
April 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# Lame duck land commission

## CHT land disputes remain unresolved, JS body observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday lashed out at the Land Commission,

formed to settle land-related disputes in the three hill districts, for failing to get down to business in the

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