

LACK OF INTERCONNECTIVITY
Teletalk users face isolation
STAR REPORT

Teletalk subscribers are suddenly facing a virtual call restriction by all private mobile operators due to a lack of adequate interconnectivity. About 10,000 customers of the state-owned Teletalk now cannot make calls to or receive calls from subscribers of the four private cellular operators. The private operators have over five million subscribers across the country. Teletalk has no interconnectivity agreement with them, private operators said. They allowed Teletalk access to their network for about a month, hoping it would come forward to make such deals. Teletalk started commercial operation on March 31.

Govt eyes \$1b a year from Tata projects

Site selection to be finalised on assurance of gas, coal supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could earn \$1 billion a year from Tata's proposed fertiliser, steel and power projects, according to the state minister for energy and mineral resources. AKM Mosharrif Hossain, the state minister, said this to journalists after a meeting with Tata Group officials yesterday. On the terms and conditions for

providing gas, coal and other mineral resources to Tata Group, he said, "We may follow the policy that we have pursued in previous investment contacts with some other overseas companies, including AES and Lafarge Surma Cement." Foreign investors presently buy gas at a rate of \$ 2.4 per thousand cubic feet, sources said. In the case of petroleum, they get tariff exemptions while coal is not exported now,

they added. Alan Roselong, executive director of Tata Holdings, Sukran Singh, executive assistant to Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata, and Manzer Hossain, Tata Bangladesh project head, met the minister yesterday at his office to discuss the technical sides of the proposal. The government has formed a two-member team with



Abdul Majid, 50, of Faridpur -- once a sweeper of the collapsed garment factory -- was rescued with a broken hand. With two months pay in arrears and a whole family to feed, he is now often seen sitting beside the damaged factory.

SAVAR COLLAPSE VICTIMS

Rallies, human chains for just compensation

BGMEA in touch with factory owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A chorus of workers rights organisations staged a series of protests yesterday, condemning the owners of Spectrum Sweaters Industries Ltd., and demanding proper compensation for the victims who died in the garment factory collapse on April 11. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), Jatiya Bastohara Jot, and Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal all voiced their demands yesterday

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2 outlaws killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two cadres of the outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) were killed in separate incidents of "crossfire" between police and their accomplices in the district early yesterday. With this, the death tolls in crossfire with the police and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) stood at 59 in the district alone since June last year. The dead were identified as Jahid Hossain alias Jahid Master (42) of Swastipur village in sadar upazila, most wanted by the Kushtia police and accused in criminal cases including two for murders,

and Amjad Hossain (35) of Chitholia village in Mirpur upazila accused in 11 cases including four for murders. On Thursday morning a Kushtia detective team with the help of Comilla police arrested Jahid Master from a village of Daudkandi upazila in Comilla where the outlaw was hiding, sadar police said. The Detective Branch (DB) of Comilla police quizzed Jahid to find that he was the treasurer of the outfit, and about the firearms hidden at different locations in Kushtia. The DB reached Kushtia with

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5 nabbed with dead chickens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Friday arrested five people including a woman with 80 dead chickens from Sutrapur in Old Dhaka. The arrest and seizure of dead fowls definitely proves the sale of dead birds to restaurants is still on despite consumers' concern, the police said. On information, a team of Sutrapur Police Station nabbed the five with the chickens from an abandoned house in Kaplanbazar at around 11:00am. Police yesterday took the arrestees -- Lalon, 35, Sattar, 29, his wife Aleya Begum, 37, Selim, 29, and Helal, 38, -- to the Court of Chief

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Rab to go hi-tech to tackle crime

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Anti-crime agency Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) is getting equipped with a hi-tech communication network and other digital facilities to crack down on the hard-core criminals who nowadays also use various digital devices to carry out their crimes. Officials said that the Rab will bring its headquarters and all of its seven battalions under microwave link by this month and wide area network (WAN) connectivity through digital communication by June. As the first government organisation having full e-governing mecha-

nism, the Rab has also launched a special training programme to detect crimes and criminals through information technology (IT). By June 2006, the elite force is expected to develop customised software, have inter-operability with other law enforcement agencies, establish administrative and maintenance backbone, and build-up a forensic lab. The customised software would help maintain a database of criminals, administration and security codes, a website and motor transport management while the forensic lab

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Tarique Rahman cleared of graft charge

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cleared Tarique Rahman, ruling BNP's senior joint secretary general and managing director of M/s Unitek Apparel Ltd, and five others of charges in yet another graft case. Earlier, the same court discharged Tarique and four others in a graft case. Judge Rezaul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division issued the order at a jam-packed courtroom in the presence of Tarique and the other accused. The court in its order said the accused were discharged, as charges brought against them were not proved. Other discharged are Major

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KASHMIR ROW India reaffirms peace pledge

AFP, Jakarta

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reaffirmed India's commitment yesterday to finding a peaceful solution to a decades-old dispute with Pakistan over the divided territory of Kashmir. Both countries would continue trying to foster closer ties and could overlook past problems and push for "new cooperative mechanisms and regional partnerships," Singh told an Asia-Africa summit in Jakarta. "In this spirit, in cooperation with Pakistan, we have embarked on a

journey towards peace and good neighbourly ties." Singh told Asian

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Prayer Timing		
April 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

