

THE DAILY **Star** ON FRIDAY

SECOND EDITION

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. D.A. 781 • VOL. XVII NO. 13 • DHAKA FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 2007 • MAGH 13, 1413 BS • MOHARRAM 6, 1428 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: Tk 12.00 •

Plus 48-page Star Weekend Magazine

ORIENTAL BANK SCAM

Criminal case filed against Obaidul Karim, Koyes Sami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Oriental Bank yesterday filed a criminal case against Orion Group chief Obaidul Karim, former managing director Chowdhury Koyes Sami, and 22 other present and former officials of the bank for embezzling Tk 596.44 crore.

Karim was made the chief accused in the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station at the directions of Bangladesh Bank (BB) that acted upon instructions from the government high-ups.

Meantime, the authorities yesterday stand-released Tejgaon PS Officer-in-Charge (OC) M Abul Kashem for not recording a case of Oriental Bank officials on Wednesday night.

The police said they launched an operation to arrest the accused immediately after filing of the case yesterday morning. But the law enforcers could not arrest anyone as of yesterday evening.

Referring to recent investigations that found involvement of 24 officials of the bank and Obaidul Karim, its biggest shareholder, the BB sent a letter to the Oriental Bank chief executive officer (CEO) on Tuesday, asking him to file criminal cases against the guilty people.

After consulting with their law

yers, the bank's Senior Assistant Vice President and head of its Human Resources Department Kazi Monjur Hossain filed the case on SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

6-month moratorium on Oriental functions

Depositors can now withdraw maximum Tk 10,000 a month

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday imposed a moratorium for six months on all activities of Oriental Bank except seven kinds of transactions, including limited level deposit withdrawal.

The total deposit of Oriental SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prime accused Obaidul Karim



People gather at the Mirpur branch of Janata Bank yesterday to get television licences following a rumour in the capital that the authorities were seizing unlicensed TV sets.



PHOTO: STAR

TV LICENCE

Govt warns against blackmailing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of television licence seekers were seen standing in long queues in front of different branches of Janata Bank yesterday, amid rumours that police and Rapid Action Battalion were seizing unlicensed television sets in the capital.

However, the government advised all to inform the police immediately if anyone attempts to blackmail them in the name of checking TV licences.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner denied conducting any such drive while Bangladesh Television (BTV) authorities said such moves should not take place as the last date for renewal of television licences has already been extended till February 28.

Many residents of Badda, Shyampur and Malibagh areas left home on Wednesday fearing arrest by the law enforcers for not having television licence.

Some people in the guise of law enforcers might have conducted the fraudulent drives, BTV officials said.

Khaleda hopes people's govt will govern state soon

UNB, Dhaka

CPD's 12-POINT AGENDA

- Strengthening Money Laundering Act
- Disclosure of names of those who whitened black money
- Redefining loan defaulters
- CIB reports for election candidates
- Disclosure provisions under RPO 1972
- Enactment of the Right to Information Act
- Operationalisation of Public Procurement Act
- Enactment of Promotion of Political Participation Act
- Fiscal Responsibility Act
- Restructuring of NCBS
- Revitalising the power sector
- Reviewing the FDI proposals

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5 more VoIP trade centres busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized a large number of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment raiding five unscrupulous phone service centres at Mirpur in Dhaka and also in Chittagong.

However, Rab could not arrest anyone during the raids as the corrupt businessmen fled away sensing the presence of the elite force members.

Finding unusual gatherings, Rab 4 members raided Ahmednagar, Palpara and Badda areas and found three offices operating such illegal business, Rab officials said.

Rab 7 members in Chittagong busted two VoIP business centres—one on the fifth floor of Nazir Ahmed Complex at Riazuddin Bazar and another at Nalpara in Kotwali.

Yesterday's raids in Chittagong were conducted after a tip-off that

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MANPOWER TRADE

Baira chief's monopoly takes toll on workers

PORIMOL PALMA

Former BNP lawmaker and Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) President MAH Salim is monopolising the business of exporting manpower to Malaysia and extorting the emigrating workers, said an intelligence agency report.

Although the governments of both countries fixed the fee for migration at \$1200 or Tk 84,000, the intelligence agency reported that

Salim is charging an extra of Tk 40,000 or more from each emigrating worker hiking up the cost to Tk 1.25 lakh.

The workers however said they are paying Tk 1.50 lakh to Tk 2 lakh for going to the South East Asian country which withdrew restrictions on importing manpower from Bangladesh in July last year.

The report prepared by the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) said Salim set up an office named 'Baira KL SDN BHD' in Kuala Lumpur illegally and is charging Tk 2000 or 100 Malaysian Ringgit from each worker in the name of service charge without giving any receipt.

"Salim and his men who run the Kuala Lumpur office never cares for the regulations of Baira and the interest of the country," said the report that was submitted to the ministries of home affairs, and expatriates' welfare and overseas employment in October last year.

The intelligence report mentioned that the Baira president

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A mobile court led by Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula, left, confiscates a dirty water-filler at Midnight Sun Fast Food & Chinese Restaurant in Bashundhara City shopping mall in Dhaka yesterday. The court fined the shop Tk 50,000.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC should be made free of 'clowns'

Says adviser Matin; ACC chief Sultan says he'd quit, if necessary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the Caretaker Government Major General (retd) Abdul Matin yesterday said the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) should be made "free of clowns" since most officials of the ACC are corrupt people as they were in the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

Meanwhile, responding to Matin's comments, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said if required, he would resign in the interest of the nation.

Matin said, "All these corrupt officials must be removed." Matin, who was the director general (DG) of Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC), was talking to journalists at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

The adviser, in charge of the Ministry of Communications, said the ACC officials are withdrawing salaries but they are failing to contribute to the nation, which is why he should resign.

The previous government intentionally handicapped the

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