

GATCO GRAFT CASE

Bhuiyan, Shamsul sent to prison; Nizami held; Anwar absconding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night arrested Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami at his Moghbazar residence hours after BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and M Shamsul Islam were sent to jail on surrender to a Dhaka court.

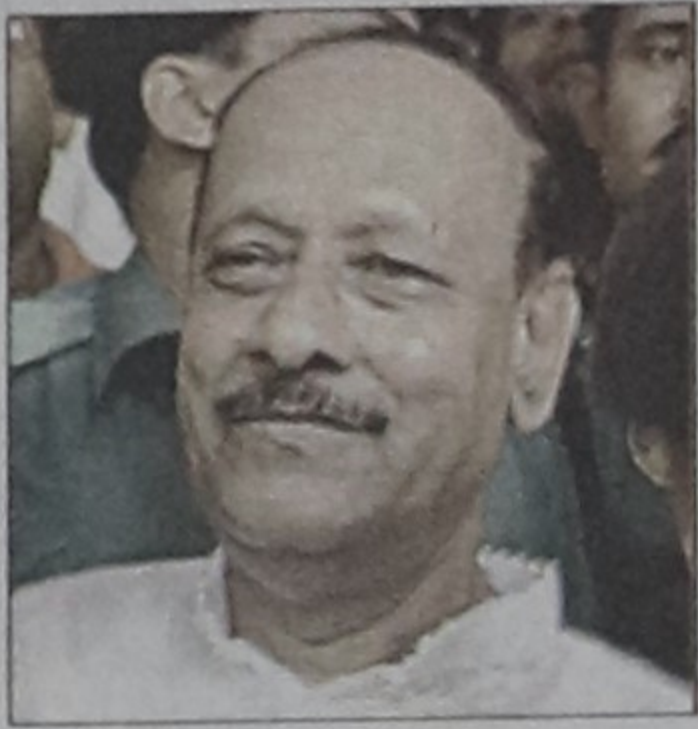
Police also raided the Elephant Road residence of former minister and BNP leader MK Anwar at about 10:00pm but did not find him there.

Gulshan police said they went to the residences of former ministers M Saifur Rahman and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury just to maintain formalities since they knew the two are now in abroad.

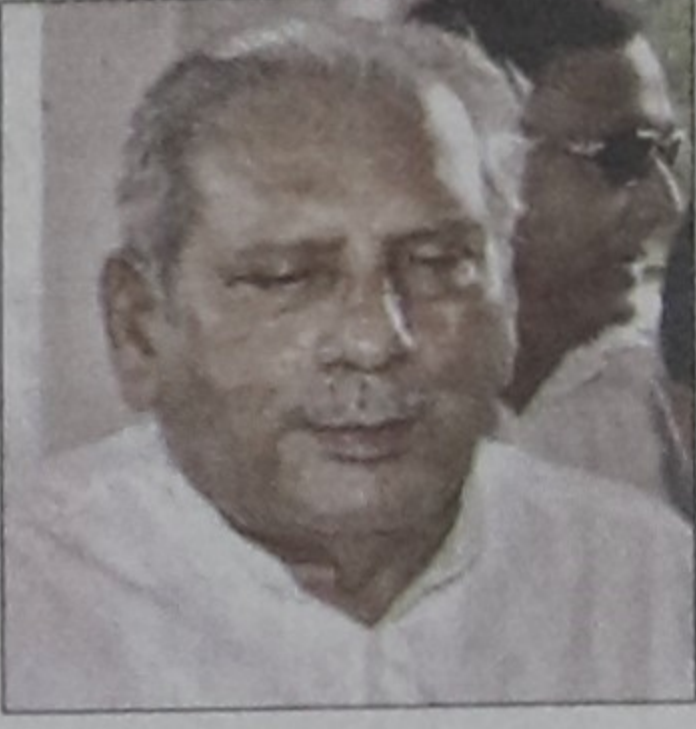
Earlier on Thursday, the court issued warrants for their arrest in the Gatco graft case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Atiqul Islam went to Nizami's Green Valley apartment at around 9:45pm and arrested him after about one and a half hours.

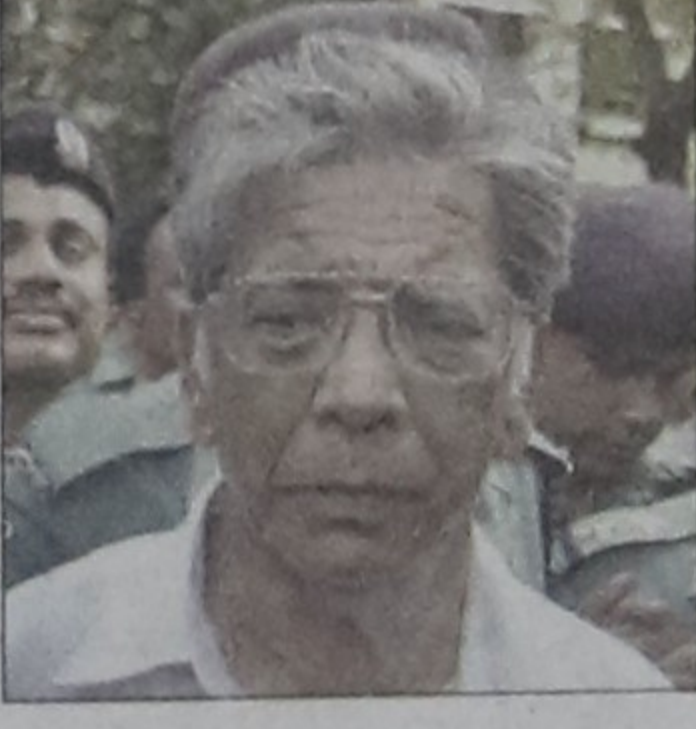
Earlier, former LGRD minister



Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan



MK Anwar



M Shamsul Islam

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and former land minister M Shamsul Islam were sent to jail shortly after they surrendered to a Dhaka court yesterday afternoon.

MK Anwar and Motiur Rahman Nizami—whose names are also in the charge sheet of the case, were desparately trying to avoid arrest by getting bail from the higher court.

Mannan Bhuiyan and Shamsul Islam, who belong to the BNP faction led by Khandaker Delwar Hossain, arrived at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in about an hour's interval, four days after the arrest warrants against them had been issued.

Bhuiyan, who was the longest serving secretary general of the BNP but was expelled by party chief

Khaleda Zia on grounds of his "controversial" role, was the first to be put behind bars.

His lawyers advocates Golam Mostafa Khan and Iqbal Hossain appeared before the court at about 3:25pm after Bhuiyan along with party followers and admirers went to the court from his Gulshan residence.

Drama at Nizami's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami was finally arrested last night on graft charges.

As police went to make the arrest, several hundred Jamaat leaders and workers gathered around his Maghbazar residence and staged fierce demonstrations amid heavy downpour.

When the former industries minister was brought out of his flat at about 11:15pm, they blocked the way.

Police managed to have Nizami

Stranded Biharis now Bangladesh citizens

HC declares

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ruled that around three lakh Biharis living in different parts of the country are citizens of Bangladesh.

Responding to a writ petition filed by 11 Urdu-speaking people, an HC bench comprising Justices Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Ashfaqul Islam also directed the Election Commission (EC) to include the petitioners' names in the voter list.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, who moved for the petitioners, said the judgment would put an end to the Bangladesh-born Urdu-speaking people being deprived of citizens' rights.

On November 26 last year, 11 members of the Stranded Pakistanis Youth Rehabilitation Movement including its president Sadakat Khan filed the writ petition seeking HC orders to register as voters the three lakh Urdu-speaking people living in 116 camps across the capital and elsewhere.

In response, the HC issued a rule asking the EC and the government officials to explain within two weeks why the Urdu-speaking people should not be registered as voters.

Yesterday's ruling came after three days' of hearing on the HC rule.

Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Manzur Hossain appeared for the government.

According to a publication of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of Dhaka University, these Biharis first moved to Pakistan from India in 1947. Then 74,000 of them migrated to the former East Pakistan and the migration continued up to 1952.

Around 4.26 lakh Biharis left Bangladesh during and after the Liberation War in 1971 while around 4 lakh opted to stay on. Following an agreement in 1974, Pakistan took back over 1 lakh of them. The number of Biharis repatriated so far stands at 1.61 lakh.

Later, Pakistan stopped accepting applications from those willing to return and terminated the repatriation process.

Anti-terror ordinance okayed

Death penalty provision for offenders, patrons

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance 2008 which provides death sentence as the maximum penalty or life imprisonment for an offender and their patron and shelter provider.

A weekly meeting of the council

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Manju gets 7yrs for taking bribe

Fined Tk 1cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court dealing with graft cases yesterday sentenced Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju to seven years' imprisonment in a bribery case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge AKM Arifur Rahman of Special Court-10 set up at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex also

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Unite under Khaleda's leadership

Bhuiyan asks BNP workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former secretary general of BNP yesterday urged the party workers to strengthen the party by uniting under the leadership of Khaleda Zia, forgetting all the past confusion and disputes.

"I hope the unification process would be completed any time as there is no alternative to unity," he told journalists at his Gulshan

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Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami is being taken out of his residence after police arrested him last night in connection with the Gatco graft case.

Talks will not be fruitful without AL, BNP participation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-talked-about dialogue between the government and political parties would not be fruitful without participation of the two major political parties—Awami League (AL) and BNP, an adviser of the caretaker government said yesterday.

"The situation will become serious if the two parties do not join the dialogue. What outcome the

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POWER PLANT GRAFT CHARGE

Hasina indicted, trial starts May 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday framed charges indicting detained former premier Sheikh Hasina and seven others in the Tk 3 crore graft case in connection with setting up 100MW barge-mounted power plant in Khulna.

Judge Firoz Alam of the Special Court-1 set up on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises also fixed May 21 for starting deposition of witnesses in the case.

Rejecting the petition filed by Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina for discharging proceedings of this case against them, the court passed the order yesterday morning.

Lawyers said if the charges against Hasina were proved, she might be handed down maximum

12 years' imprisonment and be disqualified from taking part in elections.

Hasina told the court she was not at all involved in any sort of corruption and the charges brought against her were false, baseless and fabricated.

"I am completely innocent. I have never committed any corruption or nepotism. What I have done was for the public interest. The case was filed against me from political motive in order to harass me so that I cannot take part in the elections," she said.

Questioning neutrality of the judge of the court, she said if the court was really independent, the court would have exempted her from the charges.

The Prime Minister's Office

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Commonwealth award for 'A Golden Age'

Tahmima Anam wins Best First Book 2008 prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tahmima Anam's *A Golden Age* won the Overall Best First Book Award 2008 at the Franschhoek Literary Festival

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star carries a four-page special supplement on Bangladesh Business Awards 2007 today. Ask your hawker for your copy.

Desa clerk owns Tk 40cr property



Kafil Uddin Patwari, a third-class employee of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) owns this six-storey building in city's Madartek-Basabo area.

KAILASH SARKAR

A clerk of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) allegedly owns property worth around a staggering Tk 40 crore including a six-storey building, a flat, over 50 bighas of land, savings certificates and businesses.

An intelligence agency investigating corruption allegations against Desa officials and employees has recently unearthed the ill-gained fortune of Mohammad Kafil Uddin Patwari, an employee of Desa's Kamrangirchar office.

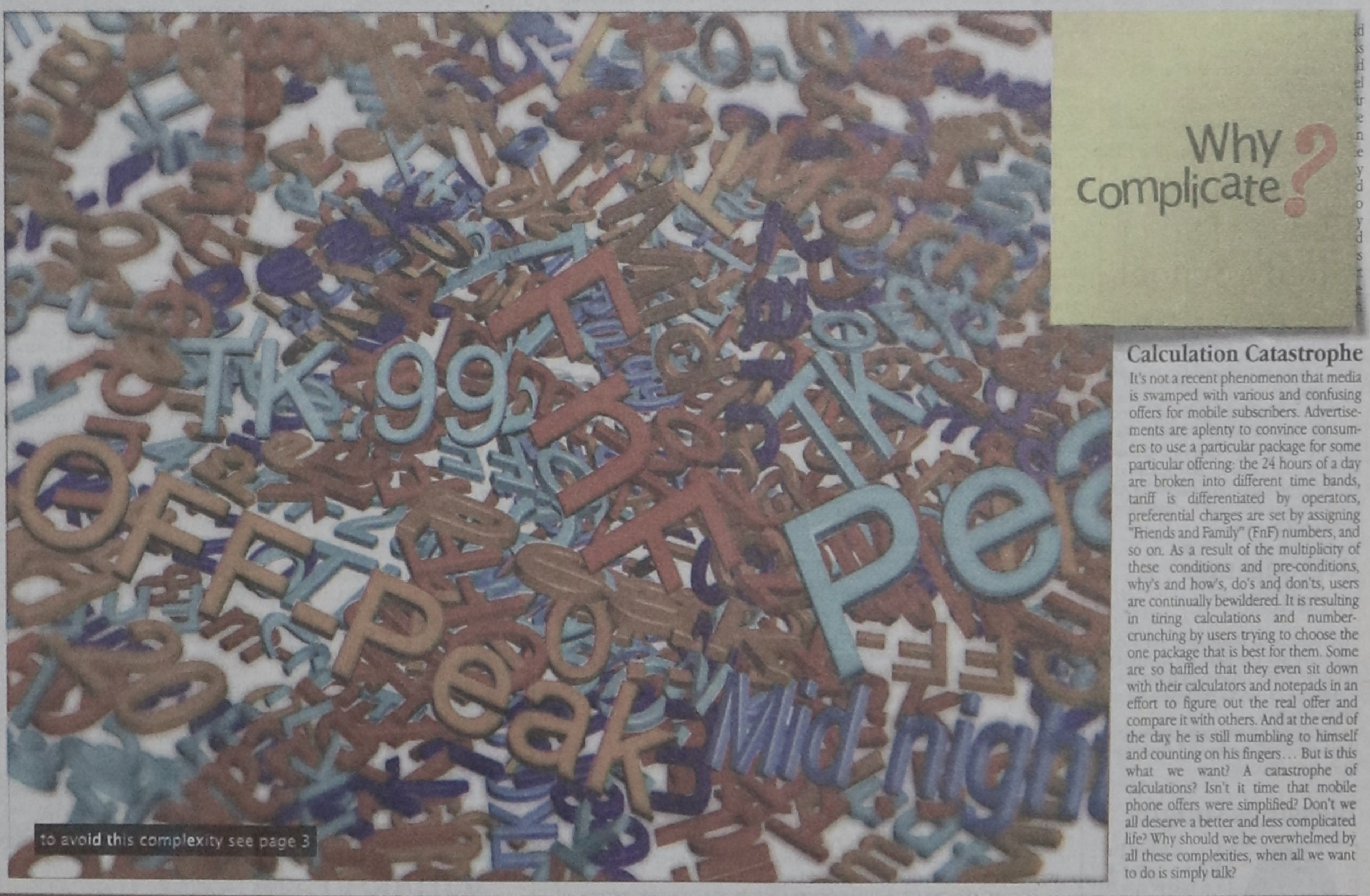
Patwari, who hails from Chouddogram upazila of Comilla, however, disagrees with the probe findings. He said the assets do not belong to him alone.

According to intelligence sources, he owns a six-storey building and an adjoining five-katha plot at the city's Madartek-Basabo, another five-katha land at Shanir Akhra, a 10-katha plot each at Khilkhet and Kanchpur and over 50 bighas of land at Chouddagram.

The intelligence sources said they have gathered that he owns a flat at Dhanmondi, two mobile phone shops at Basundhara City market, two more at Phulbaria city market, two variety stores at Ershad Market at Nandipara, two lungi shops at Khilgaon bazaar and possession of a shop at a new market near Mowchak.

Besides, Patwari has savings certificates worth around Tk 50 lakh with Bangladesh Bank, Tk 25 lakh with Islami Bank branch at Gulistan Dawn Plaza and Tk 45 lakh with the General Post Office (GPO).

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Why Complicate?

Calculation Catastrophe

It's not a recent phenomenon that media is swamped with various and confusing offers for mobile subscribers. Advertisements are plenty to convince consumers to use a particular package for some particular offering: the 24 hours of a day are broken into different time bands, tariff is differentiated by operators, preferential charges are set by assigning "Friends and Family" (FnF) numbers, and so on. As a result of the multiplicity of these conditions and pre-conditions, why's and how's, do's and don'ts, users are continually bewildered. It is resulting in tiring calculations and number-crunching by users trying to choose the one package that is best for them. Some are so baffled that they even sit down with their calculators and notepads in an effort to figure out the real offer and compare it with others. And at the end of the day he is still mumbling to himself and counting on his fingers... But is this what we want? A catastrophe of calculations? Isn't it time that mobile phone offers were simplified? Don't we all deserve a better and less complicated life? Why should we be overwhelmed by all these complexities, when all we want to do is simply talk?

to avoid this complexity see page 3

Celebrating 50 years of excellence

I congratulate Mirpur Ceramic Works Limited on the completion of their 50th anniversary, for providing quality and diversity with integrity and sincerity and I pray for their success in future.

Architect Mazharul Islam

We are the proud partners of Mirpur Ceramic's successful journey.

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