



Tk 26cr gobbled up by CBA men in BTTB

Workshop stopped production 8yrs back but money drawn against conveyance, maintenance

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL), former BTTB, stopped production in its workshop eight years' back but the authorities' failure to formally announce closure of the workshop has caused a loss of about Tk 26 crore to the state over these years.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) revealed that the money was misappropriated in the name of repair and maintenance of the workshop and conveyance expenses of officials since fiscal 2000-

Of the Tk 26 crore, about Tk 9 crore was shown as repair and maintenance expenditure and around Tk 17 crore as conveyance expenses.

The workshop under the Telegraph A special investigation team of the Store and Workshop Directorate of the then BTTB went out of production as telecommunication technology gradu-

ally developed into wireless system.

A BTCL official seeking anonymity told The Daily Star yesterday," The then BTTB authorities did not dare to officially announce closure of the workshop situated at Tejgaon in the capital due to 'political reasons' as employees and workers were involved in CBA (collective bargainingagent) politics."

The ACC probe detected that financial corruption and irregularities rose SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Hasina fears 'election engineering'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday feared election engineering in the upcoming national polls and asked all to remain vigi-

lant to foil such an attempt. "We launched the movement for holding a free and fair election, but despite that we do not know whether election engineering will take place or the election result will be changed. Doubts are yet to be removed completely," said Hasina.

The AL chief was addressing the newly-elected office SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A live pond heron is put in a cage and displayed on Dhaka University campus as an election symbol during the Dhaka University Karigari Karmachari Samity elections yesterday. Capturing and keeping this bird in a cage is prohibited under the Wildlife Act, 1974.

Suspending rights thru' emergency challenged

HCrule on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the provisions of the constitution empowering the president to suspend the fundamental rights of the people during the state emergency should not be declared void.

Upon a writ petition, the HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also asked the government to explain why the president's proclamation of emergency, suspending the fundamental rights on January 11, 2007, should not be declared unconstitutional.

The law secretary, president's secretary and home SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

mated cost of Tk 3,324 crore.

plan gets govt nod

The flats will be built at Mohakhali and Mirpur at an esti-

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council

(Ecnec) at a meeting yesterday approved eight projects involv-

ing Tk 4,281 crore, including the one for building flats. Chief

opers will sell the rest to private buyers at commercial rates. The

project is the first such joint venture with the government pro-

viding the land and developers bearing construction cost of the

Talking to reporters after the Ecnec meeting, Finance and

Government employees will buy 1,700 flats while the devel-

percent of those to its employees at a low price.

Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed chaired the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Young men wear T-shirts with the names of 50 war criminals. Gouraber Muktijuddha Sangathan launched the shirts at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

Tk 3,324cr housing Thai anti-govt protesters

paralyse Bangkok Surround PM's offices

The government is going to construct 4,256 flats in the capital under a joint venture with private developers and will give 40 AFP, Bangkok

> Thousands of Thai protesters forced parliament to close and surrounded the prime minister's makeshift offices at an old airport yesterday, upping the stakes in a six-month standoff with the government.

A sea of demonstrators wearing yellow to lence. symbolise their loyalty to the king spread out through the streets of Bangkok, with armed activists even hijacking four passenger buses to use as roadblocks against the police.

Wongsawat's cabinet offices at Government said. House -- which activists have occupied since

August -- and briefly blockaded parliament and several key state buildings.

Lawmakers postponed an important joint parliamentary session concerning legislation for a major regional summit being held in Thailand in December, as police carrying shields took a low-key approach to avoid vio-

About 2,000 members of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) later set up camp outside Somchai's new, temporary premises in a disused terminal at Bangkok's old Don Protesters streamed out of premier Somchai Mueang international airport, AFP reporters

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to be voter

Nomination paper collected on her behalf UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will become a voter today or tomorrow, her close aide told the news agency yesterday.

Khaleda had refused to be a voter while he was in a makeshift jail at parliament building complex.

Election officials said aspiring candidates for the upcoming parliamentary election can be enrolled as voter before filing of nomination papers under a special arrangement.

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KIBRIA MURDER Mufti Hannan, 3 other Huji men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday placed Huji leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and his three accomplices on a 7-day remand in connection with the Shah AMS Kibria murder case.

Habiganj Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Helal Uddin granted their 7-day remand after ASP of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Rafiqul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing November 25		
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	400
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Khaleda ready | Ctg Medical College shut as JCD, Shibir activists clash

25 hurt; 100 hostel rooms vandalised

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 students were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) campus.

After the clash, the CMC authorities suspended all academic activities indefinitely and asked the male students to vacate hostels by 8:00pm yesterday and female students by 8:00am

Around 100 rooms at the college's main hostel on Chatteshwari Road were vandalised and five were set on fire during the clash.

Sources said the clash ensued on the campus after Shibir activist Nazmul got into a scuffle with JCD activists Sounam and Upal over talking an admission seeker into their student organisations at around 2:30pm.

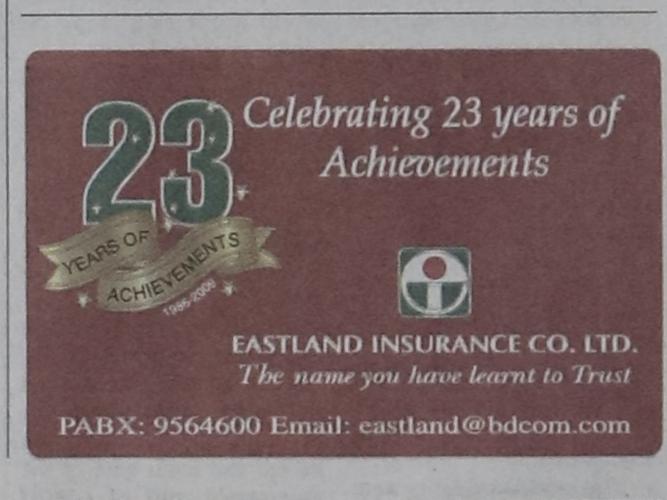
When the news spread, a group of Shibir activists with iron rods and hockey sticks attacked JCD activists leaving 25 activists of both the student organisations injured. Later, Shibir activists reportedly along with some outsiders

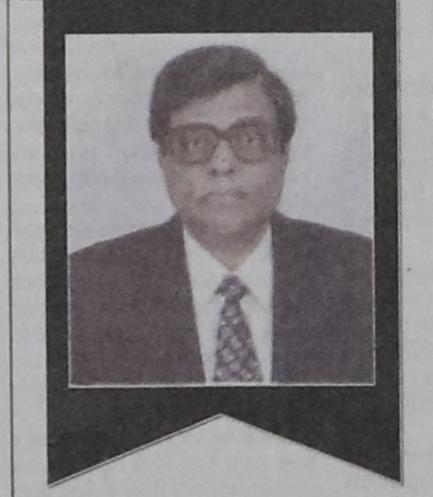
entered the CMC main hostel and vandalised the rooms of the When the Shibir activists left the hostel, JCD men entered the

hostel and ransacked the rooms of the Shibir activists. They also set fire to five rooms on the first floor of the fourstorey hostel.

There have been allegations that the policemen present there remained quiet during the clash.

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SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

লিমিটেড-এর সকল ব্যাংকের সাবেক ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব মোঃ শওকত আলী'র আকস্মিক মৃত্যুতে (ইন্না.....রাজেউন) গভীরভাবে শোকাহত, মৰ্মাহত ও ব্যথিত।

আমরা তাঁর শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি এবং পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহ্ তায়ালার নিকট তাঁর রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।



डान्-गश्ना गाश्क निप्तारेड আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

147 killed in fierce Lanka fighting

AFP, Colombo

said.

At least 27 soldiers and 120 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed as government forces battled their way to the outskirts of the rebels' political headquarters, the defence ministry said yester-

Heavy fighting raged along three fronts as troops closed in on the town of Kilinochchi, the ministry said. But it added that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

were putting up stiff resistance. "Twenty-seven soldiers have made their ultimate sacrifice for the motherland while 70 others suffered injuries during the

battle. A few other soldiers have not been able to join with their units so far," a ministry statement said. It said intercepted radio transmissions of the Tigers indicated

that they had also suffered heavy casualties. "Over 120 LTTE cadres have been killed and 80 others injured in the Kilinochchi area since Sunday morning," the ministry

The ministry statement came as the Tigers announced through the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website that 43 government troops had been killed and 70 more were wounded in a confrontation northwest of Kilinochchi.

Another 35 soldiers were killed in fighting on Friday and Saturday along the southern defences of Kilinochchi, Tamilnet

Sri Lanka's government, which pulled out of a Norwegianbrokered truce in January, has vowed to take the Tiger political capital and dismantle the LTTE's mini-state.

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