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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XX No. 69

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2010

www.thedailystar.net

CHAITRA 10, 1416 BS

RABIUS SANI 7, 1431 HJRI

32 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

**Farroque sued over remarks about Joy**  
Arrest warrant issued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque hours after a case was filed against him for making "derogatory remarks" about prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hassan Talukder passed the order after advocate Moshir Malek, president of Bangabandhu Foundation, filed the case.

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## New info highway to link neighbours

**Ecneec okays project to connect India, Nepal, Bhutan; rural e-centres to generate new jobs**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's vision of a "digital Bangladesh" came a step nearer yesterday when the Executive Committee on National Economic Council approved a Tk 29 crore project to establish an information highway with India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Fifty-five kilometres of fibre optic cables will be installed between Panchgarh and Banglabandha and a landing station will be built in Panchgarh, which will provide a rural wireless broadband network and portal service.

Five or six community e-centres will also be established, which are expected to stimulate job growth and income in rural

areas.

The project is titled "Establishment of South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Information Highway (Bangladesh Part)" and it is scheduled to begin in July and to be completed by December 2011.

India, Nepal and Bhutan will also

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## ACC explains its view on freedom

**Urges law minister to protect it**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday requested the law minister to consider its opinion before any decision is taken on the proposed amendments to the ACC Act.

"We have appraised the law minister of our views and opinions regarding amendments to the ACC Act 2004. We requested the minister to discuss our views at the cabinet meeting while reviewing the amendments proposed by the government-formed committee," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told The Daily Star.

Ghulam Rahman along with two ACC commissioners-- Abul Hasan Manjur Masud and Habibur Rahman-- made the request at a meeting with Law Minister Shafique Ahmed at his office.

They met him as the government-formed committee to review the ACC Act finalised its report ignoring the anti-graft body's reservations on some of the amendment proposals.

Earlier, the ACC had expressed its reservations on six of the 23 amendments proposed by the committee formed in March last year.

The commission explained to the law minister that these amendments would diminish its independence, sources said.

The minister however assured the ACC that the government would amend the Act only to ensure that the anti-graft body functions neutrally and independently.

"The commission will now function for eradication of corruption. The cabinet will decide on amendments to the ACC Act after considering the views and opinions of the commission, and recommendations made by the government-constituted committee to update the Act," Shafique told journalists after the meeting.

"But the commission has to work within a legal framework

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**Nat'l Telecom shut down for illegal VoIP**  
RanksTel, Dhaka Phone resume operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission yesterday shut down National Telecom Ltd for its involvement in illegal VoIP business.

It also opened the switch rooms of previously closed RanksTel and Dhaka Phone for resuming operations.

The two big private land-line operators started the process to restore customers' connections but restoring the whole network will take some time, they said.

"We are back in operation...The network is expected to restore fully by tomorrow," said AKM Shamsuddin, chief operating officer of RanksTel.

About shutting down National Telecom, BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed said the operator handled 2.4 lakh minutes' call a day until last week, but it came down to only 75,000 minutes a day. This huge mismatch of call

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



**Acute power failure in the city compels many offices and organisations to stock fuel for generators. This photo was taken at a gas station in Mohakhali yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 3 of a family acid burnt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Three of a family suffered burn injuries as criminals hurled acid on them centring love affairs at Bathuli village under Dhamrai Police Station of Dhaka Monday night.

The victims were identified as Tania Akhter, 18, daughter of Tomij Uddin of the village, her mother Komola Begum, 45, and cousin Tanvir, 11.

Police arrested Mohidur, 25, son of Hazrat Ali in this connection. Sub Inspector Imdadul Haque said Mohidur and Alamgir

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## TRANSFORMER FIRE

All 7 units of Ashuganj power station shut

UNB, Brahmanbaria

All the seven power generation units at Ashuganj Power Station were shut down following fire at a transformer last night.

The generation capacity of the seven units is about 730MW.

The managing director of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## DOUBLE MURDER AT BUS COUNTER

It's all for a few bottles of water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A row over some stolen bottles of drinking water led to the double murder at the counter of Soudia S Alam Paribahan in the city's Arambagh on March 16, said two arrestees yesterday.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-3) arrested two employees of Soudia S Alam Paribahan-- peon Mohammad Ahsan Ullah Robin, 18, and bus helper Mohammad Sohel, 25, on Monday from in front of Rajdhani Supermarket and Janapath intersection respectively.

The victims were Abu Sufian, 40, a mobile phone accessories trader at Sundarban Square Market in the city's Fulbaria, and Ilias Kanchan Payel, 18, an employee of Soudia S Alam Paribahan.

Al-amin, another killer who is still at large, brought bottles of drinking water from Chittagong. He was to distribute them to different counters of Soudia S Alam Paribahan, Sohel and Robin told reporters at the Rab-3 headquarters.

Ilias stole some of them. Al-amin asked Ilias to return the bottles. As Ilias refused to return them Al-amin got enraged, they said.

At one stage Al-amin sought our help, Sohel told The Daily Star, adding: "We three then went to the counter at about 1:00 am where Ilias and Sufian along with five to six other passengers were inside the counter."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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