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## LICENCE RENEWAL FEES Telcos puzzled by regulator's new letter

ABDULLAH MAMUN

Four mobile telephone operators are confused over a letter from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission that asked them to pay a due amount and late fees for licence renewal.

The BTRC on Wednesday asked Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi and Citycell to deposit a combined amount of Tk 857.46 crore within 10 days to renew their licences.

The BTRC sent the letter when two cases regarding licence renewal fees are pending with a court.

The deadline to renew the licences was November 10, 2011, but the operators went to the court due to disputes.

The BTRC letter also asked the operators to pay an additional 15 percent interest on the renewal charges. Also, the 15 percent Value Added Tax deducted at source since 2010 and paid to the National Board of Revenue must be returned to the BTRC by the operators, the letter said.

Officials of the mobile operators said the confusion arises as the cases filed by two operators, Banglalink and Robi, are still pending with a court.

Even though the High Court delivered a verdict Monday last on the issue of Grameenphone, one of the four operators, its officials are yet to get the certified copy of the verdict.

The four mobile operators, Grameenphone, Banglalink, Robi and Citycell, will seek clarification from the regulator, the officials said.

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Authorities are yet to inaugurate a museum set up in Dhaka University area three years ago to showcase memorabilia of Language Movement martyr Abul Barkat, let alone opening it for visitors.

PHOTO:  
PALASH KHAN

## Martyr Barkat museum still waiting for opening

PALASH RAHMAN

A museum set up on the Dhaka University campus three years ago to honour 1952 Language Movement martyr Abul Barkat could not be opened for public until date due to negligence of the DU authorities.

Dhaka District Council had constructed the Abul Barkat Memorial Museum at Sergeant Zohurul Haque Hall near the city's Palashi intersection at a cost of Tk 61 lakh, according to district council sources.

The construction work ended in February 2009 and it was handed over to the DU authorities.

Seven months later the authorities had appointed six staff for the museum. Since then they have been drawing salaries without performing any duty, said one of the employees seeking not to be named.

The museum is now fully organised with

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## LOAN SCANDAL German president resigns

AFP, Berlin

Germany's president resigned yesterday after a string of scandals, handing Chancellor Angela Merkel a political headache at home as she battles to lead Europe from its debt crisis.

"I am ... today stepping down from the office of federal president to free up the way quickly for a successor," Christian Wulff said in a dramatic three-and-a-half-minute televised statement from

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## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE Dhaka joins 6-nation move

AFP, Washington

Faulting the world for not doing enough to curb climate change, the United States on Thursday announced the formation of a six-nation coalition including Bangladesh to cut short-lived pollutants that speed up warming and harm health.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the coalition of the US, Bangladesh, Canada, Mexico, Sweden and Ghana will launch a global drive to curb black carbon (soot), methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Clinton announced an initial \$15 million to launch the coalition -- \$12 million from the US and \$3 million from Canada. Contributions from the other countries are not known.

The chief US diplomat said such pollutants survive only a short time in the atmosphere -- unlike long-lasting carbon dioxide, the main climate change culprit -- but account for more than a third of global warming.

"We know that in the principal effort necessary to reduce the effects of carbon dioxide, the world has not yet done enough," Clinton told an audience at the State Department that included envoys from the coalition countries.

"So when we discover effective and affordable ways to reduce global warming -- not just a little, but by a lot -- it is a call to action for all of us," she said.

The UN Environment Program, which will serve as the

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## SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Cops get no clue from fingerprints

Media asked not to  
spread rumours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The CID could not find a lead from the fingerprints and footprints collected from the crime scene as the impressions provided to them were not clear,

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## Padma bridge work to start in 11 months Says Quader

UNB, Tangail

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the construction works on Padma bridge will commence in 11 months.

"The construction works of Padma bridge

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## UN calls for end to Syria violence

Bombardment of Homs city 'intensifies'

BBC ONLINE

Syrian troops were shelling intensively parts of the city of Homs yesterday, a day after the UN General Assembly called for an end to violence.

One opposition group said the bombardment was the heaviest since troops launched attacks on anti-government strongholds 13 days ago.

A senior Chinese envoy is meanwhile due to meet President Bashar al-Assad.

China and Russia voted against the UN resolution, which also called on Assad to hand over power to his deputy.

The two countries also vetoed what would have been a legally binding UN Security Council resolution two weeks ago.

'EXTREME VIOLENCE'

Parts of Homs have been battered by mortars and rockets fired by Syrian government troops for nearly two weeks, as they try to dislodge hundreds of rebels from the Free Syrian Army.

Shells were hitting the districts of Baba Amr, Inshaat, Bayada and Khaldiya yes-

terday, opposition and human rights activist said.

"The shelling is continuous. They are using rockets and mortars, which are falling on people's houses," Homs resident Abu Abdah told the BBC. "The damage is so huge, and the city has been isolated."

"We have no support. We have a lack of medical supplies and food. The Assad forces have prevented people leaving the city."

Hadi Abdullah of the Syrian Revolution General Commission told the AFP news agency: "It's unbelievable - extreme violence the like of which we have never seen before, with an average of four rockets every minute."

"There are thousands of people isolated in Homs. There are neighbourhoods that we know nothing about. I myself do not know if my parents are OK. I have had no news from them for 14 days," he added.

Government forces on the outskirts of Homs have yet to make a big push on the ground to wipe out all resistance, as they have promised to do.

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Crowds gather at Fisherhat in Chittagong Thursday night to see this gigantic 1.5-tonne whale shark, locally known as "Bagha Hangor", entangled in fishing net earlier in the day.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Congratulations

We the China National Electric Engineering Co. Ltd and First Northeast Electric Power Engineering Co. Ltd are very happy to know that Summit Meghnaghat Power Company Limited had a contract signing ceremony with acclaimed American multinational company General Electric (GE) on 16th February 2012. We believe this signing will create a new horizon in power sector.

We congratulate Summit Group and GE and look forward to implementing this project as EPC contractors on top priority.



Mr. Faisal Karim Khan, director of operations, Summit Group and Mr. Vishal Wanchoo, Vice President, GE, India signed the contract. (From top left to right) Mr. John L. Flannery (President & CEO, GE India), Brig. Gen (Retd.) Muhammad Enamul Huq, MP (Honorable State Minister of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources), Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury (Energy Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister), Mr. Muhammed Aziz Khan (Chairman, Summit Group), Mr. Robert O. Blake, Jr. (US Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asian Affairs), H.E. Mr. Dan W. Mozena (US Ambassador to Bangladesh) and Mr. Zhao Ruolin (President, CNEEC) were present to make the ceremony auspicious.



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