

## 3G from middle

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Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) official, for the four private mobile operators.

At the meeting, the mobile operators requested the ministry to reduce the starting price for the auction from the proposed \$30 million for per megahertz (MHz) of the spectrum. Bose said the ministry is consulting with the finance ministry on this regard. He also said the price will be finalised upon taking into consideration the neighbouring countries' experience and Bangladesh's socio-economic situation. Grameenphone's Chief Corporate Officer Mahmud Hossain, who was present at the meeting along with CEO Tore Johnsen, said if the price is lowered and the government lays out a well-sketched plan of action for the sector, the operators will be persuaded to invest in the service. Another issue the operators have is with the size of the spectrum they are obliged to purchase via the auction. The draft guidelines say it is 10 MHz spectrum from the 2100 MHz frequency band,

but the operators would like to purchase 5MHz of the spectrum -- to save costs. Given the exponential rise in demand for internet data and the fact that Bangladesh is a highly populated country, 5MHz spectrum bands would yield poor quality of service, according to Bose. "The ministry is considering the matter, though. We shall sit with the operators again after compiling their suggestions and the requirements of the government," he said. The operators also requested for extension of the tenure of the 3G licence to 20 years from the 15 years put in the draft. The BTRC forwarded the draft guideline for the 3G spectrum auction to the telecom ministry in March. A total of five 3G licences are available, of which three have been assigned for the current private operators, one for the state-owned Teletalk, and one for a new entrant. 3G, short for 3rd generation, is a term used to represent the 3rd generation of mobile telecommunications technology, which allows video telephony and broadband-speed internet access.

## Charges against Mueen, Ashraf within 45 days

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Investigation agency's probe reports on the alleged war crimes committed by the two men, particularly the killing of intellectuals on the eve of liberation in December 1971.

Earlier yesterday, Aatur Rahman and Shahjahan Kabir, members of the investigation agency of international crimes tribunal, submitted the probe reports to the prosecution at its office in the old High Court building in the capital. Prosecutor AKM Saiful Islam told reporters that his team would scrutinise the reports as part of its preparation for formal charges. He said the prosecution would take at least one month time to scrutinise the reports and hoped to submit formal charges within one or one and a half months. The investigation agency finished its probe Tuesday and claimed that it had found evidence linking the two with torture and the killing of at least 18 intellectuals between December 10 and 15, 1971. Nine of the killed were

Dhaka University teachers, six were journalists and three were doctors. Mueen-Uddin, of Feni, has been living in London for decades while Ashrafuzzaman, of Gopalganj, is now in New York, USA, the agency officials had said. As per the last amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, the war crimes trial against the two could begin in their absence, Saiful said yesterday. Mueen's lawyer Toby Cadman yesterday told the BBC Bangla Service that they would respond accordingly if prosecutors of the tribunal urged the British government to hand Mueen over to Bangladesh to face trial. He said Britain could not send any person to a country where there was death penalty. Cadman claimed that the government and prosecution were trying to politicise the matter instead of letting the law take its own course. The probe agency officials on Tuesday said Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing

of the Jamaat, had turned into Al-Badr and leaders of the Chhatra Sangha took part in the planned murders "to make the nation bereft of merit". "Operation in charge of Al-Badr" Mueen-Uddin and "chief executor" Ashrafuzzaman Khan led the force and also "directly took part" in the killing of intellectuals in Dhaka, they added on Tuesday. Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed October 21 to hold the hearings on charge framing in the war crimes case against absconding suspect Abul Kalam Azad. The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir fixed the date after Sahidur Rahman, a prosecutor in the case, informed the court that it had delivered the charges and other documents for Azad's state-appointed defence. Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, went into hiding around seven hours before Tribunal-2 issued an arrest warrant against him on April 3. On October 7, the tribunal

decided to hold the trial of the expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member in absentia as he did not appear before it even after publication of newspaper advertisements asking him to do so. Yesterday, Tribunal-2 completed recording the testimonies of three prosecution witnesses behind closed doors in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman. It also completed recording the cross-examination of one of the three female witnesses in the case. On Tuesday, the tribunal allowed four out of eight additional witnesses to give their testimonies behind closed doors. In line with the court's directives, accused Kamaruzzaman and three lawyers from the prosecution and three from the defence were present in the courtroom during the proceedings, Prosecutor Nurjahan Begum Mukta told The Daily Star. Cross-examination of two witnesses will be held on October 14, she added.

Following a petition of another war crimes accused, Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, the tribunal directed the jail authorities to make necessary arrangements for his medical treatment. **GHULAMAZAM** Defence counsel of former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam cross-examined the investigation officer of the war crimes case for about four hours at Tribunal-1. During the cross-examination investigation officer Additional Superintendent of Police Motiur Rahman said he did not know when martyr Shiru Miah joined the police force and what his designation at that time was. Motiur said he knew that the martyr was a sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station during the Liberation War. Witness of the case Mohsin Ali Khan was a relative of Shiru Miah's wife Anwara Begum, Motiur said replying to a defence question. Shiru Miah and his son Anwar Kamal were captured

and brutally tortured in a Pakistani army camp and in Brahmanbaria jail along with other abducted Bangladeshis. Shiru and his son were killed along with 36 others on November 21, 1971. The killing and torture of the 38 is among the five charges Ghulam Azam is facing. According to the prosecution, they were executed with Ghulam Azam's written order. Motiur yesterday said Ismail Hossain was the sub-divisional officer of Brahmanbaria on November 21, 1971. The proceedings of the case were adjourned until Sunday. **NIZAMI** Tribunal-1 yesterday allowed the prosecution to include six more prosecution witnesses against war crimes accused Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami. Earlier, the prosecution made a submission on a petition to the tribunal to add the six witnesses. The tribunal framed 16 charges of crimes against humanity against Nizami on May 28.

## PM blames it on Ramu MP, again

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blame others without knowing the fact, Hasina said she (opposition leader) had blamed the government on the very next day of the incident. Then, did she have the moral ground to say this? asked the premier. Hasina said it was the AL activists and supporters who stood by the minority people (Buddhists) on that fateful night. She alleged that the attack on the Buddhist community began after a demonstration by motorbike riders led by the local BNP lawmaker. And when police,

Border Guard Bangladesh and army personnel, and AL activists were busy to quell the violence, the lawmaker was "sleeping" at his house. Everything will be clear when investigation into the incident is completed, the PM said. "We want peaceful co-existence of all sections of people in the country," she added. Meanwhile, briefing resident diplomats in Dhaka about the Ramu incident, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni assured all the foreign friends aggrieved by the incident that the government would leave no stone unturned to

ensure justice and protection for the affected Buddhist community. The prime minister said that whenever in power in the past, BNP resorted to torture and repression on the minorities as well as on the AL workers. But the AL does not believe in revenge, she said, adding that BNP would have vanished had the AL been vindictive after coming to power in 2008. "We have set an example by not going for revenge against them [BNP men]. Instead, our government has been working relentlessly to

change the fate of the people and for overall socio-economic development of the country." Asking the AL men to work for welfare of the people, the party chief alerted them that conspiracy against the party is still on, and vested quarters are out to mislead people. **MOKTADIR, FARUK REMANDED** Meanwhile, a Cox's Bazar court yesterday placed Abdul Moktadir and Omar Faruk each on a four-day remand in a case filed for provoking the September 29 violence on the Buddhist community in

Ramu, reports our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong. The two friends played a key role in displaying and distributing some Facebook images insulting to Islam, Faruk had told The Daily Star on October 3. Faruk was detained on October 6 while Moktadir, also known as Alif, on Tuesday night in connection with a case filed on September 30 over the torching and damaging of Buddhist temples, said Basu Dutta Chakma, investigation officer of the case. The duo was not initially named in the case but was shown arrested yesterday, added Basu. Charges in the case include creating enmity between the Muslims and the Buddhists and displaying and distributing among locals some Facebook images derogatory to the Quran, he said. Detectives produced Faruk and Moktadir before the Senior Judicial Magistrate Towhidul Haque's court, seeking 10 days' remand for each. But the court granted four days' remand for each, court sources said. Moktadir is a sixth semester diploma student of computer engineering department of Shyamoli Ideal Polytechnic Institute in Chittagong. Faruk owns a mobile servicing shop at Fakirabazar in Ramu. It was from Faruk's shop that the two friends showed and distributed those Facebook photos among locals, Faruk told The Daily Star.



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## High Commission of India Dhaka

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