Subscribers to lose ownership if SIM unused for 2 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone users will lose the ownership of their SIMs if their connections are left unused for two consecutive years, paving the way for the operators to resell the numbers, according to the telecom regulator.

A SIM connection may be automatically de-activated if it is not used for 90 consecutive days, said Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in a directive on Thursday.

The subscribers can re-activate it by recharging the minimum admissible amount anytime within 365 consecutively unused days.

If not, they can re-activate the connection by paying a fee of not more than Tk 100 within 730 consecutively unused

The connection will continue to remain the right of its registered consumer up to 730 consecutively unused days, even if it is de-activated.

Thereafter, mobile phone operators are allowed to reuse (re-sell/rent/reregister) the connection provided it is not placed under any particular restriction either by the BTRC or any other competent authority.

Mobile operators will maintain, in its own website, customer care centres and in the website of the BTRC the list of the connections that are to be reused.

In addition, mobile operators will have to preserve all information relevant to the registration and usage of all such connections.

Before reselling the phone numbers, operators will have to give three months' prior notice (after 730 consecutively unused days) in at least three renowned national newspapers (Bangla/English).

A connection can be resold only at a regular price.

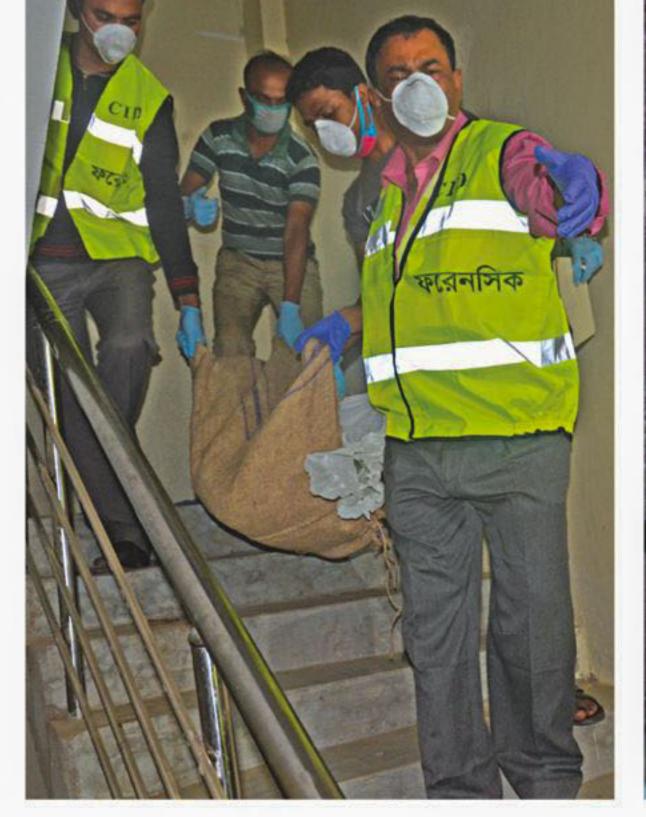
The BTRC also fixed the validity and usability of periods of recharges. For example, a recharge of Tk 10 to Tk 30 will remain valid for 10 days, Tk 31-50 for 15 days, Tk 51-150 for 30 days, Tk 151-300 for 45 days, Tk 301-500 for 100 days, Tk 501- 999 for 180 days and Tk 1,000 and above for 360 days.

In another directive, the BTRC said if the consumer uses less volume of internet data than is admissible in one charging, the unconsumed amount of data-volume shall be carried forward and added to the admissible data-volume of the next charging. And the carried forward data shall be consumed first.

Another BTRC directive said after each outgoing voice or video call made by a pre-paid consumer, the user has to be notified, through unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) or through SMS, about talk-time used and charge deducted for that call, and the credit balance remaining thereafter.

In case of a data-volume based service, the consumer has to be notified about the usage through the USSD each time s/he disables the data connectivity.

There are six mobile operators in the country, with the number of mobile subscribers standing at 12.186 crore as of January this year. The number of internet users stood at 4.27 crore, according to the BTRC.





A forensic team of police bring down the body of nine-year-old Abu Sayeed from the attic of a police constable's home in Jherjheripara of Sylhet yesterday. Family members of Sayeed crying in their home after they learnt the fourth grader was abducted and killed by the policeman. PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet numbed

FROM PAGE 1

Police also arrested two other sus-Mia, a source of law enforcers, and N Islam Talukder alias Rakib, general secretary of Sylhet district Ulama League.

Ebadur, 35, of Airport Police Station, was known to Sayeed and his family as the cop was a tenant at their house until three months ago. The boy used to call him uncle.

When kidnappers demanded Tk 5 lakh in ransom by phone for Sayeed's release on Wednesday

Passport staff

roughed up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A deputy assistant director of

Magura office yesterday.

Department of Immigration and

general diary with Magura Sadar

Passports was beaten up allegedly by

some Chhatra League men inside his

Police Station, accusing Magura BCL

unit Joint Secretary Sohrab Hossain

and two activists of attacking him.

The victim, Sazzad Hossain, filed a

According to the GD, three to four

night, Ebadur encouraged the family to pay the money. He even cried with pects of the shocking crime -- Geda the family members, said Joynal Abedin, the victim's uncle.

The constable and his two accomplices later met the family and took Tk 2 lakh from them, saying they would hand the money over to the kidnappers.

This raised suspicion among the family members and the police.

As the Kotwali Police launched an investigation on Wednesday night, they tracked the mobile number used to demand the ransom.

of Constable Ebadur. During inter- man who stayed with my family rogation, he confessed his involve- commit such a crime? Where shall I ment in the abduction and the murder," said Sub-inspector Faiz Ahmad.

On information gleaned from Ebadur, law enforcers went to his house and recovered the kid's body.

"Evidence suggests the boy was strangled to death," said Shamimur Rahman, inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department in Sylhet.

Contacted, Saleha Begum, the

"That way, we found involvement boy's mother, said, "How could a seek justice?"

Sayeed was third among four siblings.

The family, originally from Sunamganj, moved to Sylhet for better education of the children. Most of their relatives live abroad.

Last night, police were preparing to file two cases against five, including the three already arrested, in connection with the abduction and the killing.

PRIMARY EXAMS

54,481 get scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 54,481 students have won the scholarships of Primary Terminal Examinations this year.

The scholarships were given in two categories -- talent pool and general -on the basis of results in the exams held in November last year.

Of the students, 21,983 have been selected for talent-pool category while 32,498 for the other category.

At a press conference yesterday, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman disclosed the list of the scholarships' recipients at his ministry's conference room.

Directorate of Primary Education website: www.dpe.gov.bd.

category will get Tk 200 while a general- scholarship winner Tk 150 every month for the next three years.

Monipur High School and College in Dhaka has the highest number of students, 185, who have got the schol-

Some 26,28,083 students passed

public exam for the class V students.

There are widespread allegations that law enforcers pick up people but show them arrested after several hours or even days.

Recently, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna was shown arrested allegedly around 20 hours after he was detained by detectives on February

The fate of BNP leaders Chowdhury Alam and Ilias Ali, who went missing in 2010 and 2012, still remains unknown.

On March 5 night, plainclothes

Salahuddin chose to work from hideouts. He changed locations to government movement since he had

Around 9:40pm on March 10, some 20-25 people in six microbuses went to the house on Road 13/B at Uttara Sector-3 where Salahuddin had been staying for four days, said Akhterul, caretaker of the building.

They parked two vehicles on both ends of the road and four in front of the house. Six to seven plainclothes men then entered the building at about 10:05pm, he told reporters yesterday.

"One of them slapped me when I asked them about the purpose of their visit. Some of them showed Salahuddin]. identity cards claiming they are DB police personnel." They then went to the first floor of the building, he

Around half-an-hour later, they came down escorting a man, who was blindfolded with hands tied behind his back. "I knew the man is a BNP leader. I saw him many times on TV. He came to this house four days ago," said Akhterul.

Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed said the detectives broke the door of the apartment where the BNP leader ing for him [Salahuddin] and it is

was staying.

Each recipient under the talent-pool

the Primary Terminal Examinations of 2014 with 2,24,411 achieving GPA-5.

the scholarship exams, introduced the

ence, Salahuddin called her. "He

called me around 10:10pm and tried

to say something but the phone was

switched off before he could finish,'

Hasina, also ex-BNP lawmaker from

She then started searching for

him. Meanwhile, the BNP leadership

learnt about the incident. But it

wasn't until the following afternoon

when the BNP informed the media

that "Salahuddin was detained by

unacceptable. She criticised the prime

Chairperson Khaleda Zia might have

Prominent rights activist Sultana

hid Salahuddin somewhere.

Talking to this correspondent last

detectives".

Cox's Bazar-1, told The Daily Star.

Know nothing

men identifying themselves as law enforcers picked up former JCD leader Anisur Rahman Talukder Khokon from his Adabor house. He still remains traceless.

Like many BNP leaders, Kamal said the point is not whether law enforcement or intelligence agencies have detained Salahuddin. avoid arrest and issued statements It is the duty of the state to find him on the party's ongoing antias his wife filed a writ petition with the High Court, she told The Daily become party spokesperson.

Former police boss Nurul Huda said police, the CID, the SB and the DB of police and Rab have the authority to arrest or detain a person on reasonable grounds.

Apart from those, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the forest department and customs can also detain people with the help of law enforcers, he told this correspondent.

In a statement yesterday, BNP Joint Secretary General Barkat Ullah Bulu said, "We don't have any words to condemn Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's unrealistic comment [on

"People expect a responsible statement from her ... The government cannot avoid its responsibility by making such a comment on an important issue." Addressing a programme in the

capital on Saturday, the PM said, "When I went to meet her [Khaleda], I knew Salahuddin was in the office and was issuing press releases from there. Everyone knew that ... My question is whether Khaleda had hid him somewhere else. We are searchtrue. If found, he will be arrested as Sensing the law enforcers' pres- he is accused in several cases."

He said the list is available on the

BCL men, led by Sohrab, came to Sazzad's office around 2:30pm and asked him to accept a passport form In 2009, the government, in place of

of one Asad Hossain of Dormathan village of Magura Sadar upazila.

When the official denied doing so as the applicant was not present there, the Chhatra League men got involved in an altercation with him.

"At one point, they attacked me as I continued to oppose their illegal demand," Sazzad told The Daily Star.

He said the BCL men also vandalised his office table and damaged some files those were on it.

The victim took first aid. After the incident, Sudarshan Kumar Roy, Magura Sadar circle assistant superintendent of police, and two magistrates of Magura district

administration visited the spot. Later, the ASP told this correspondent that police would take action against the BCL men if the allegation was proved.

night, Hasina Ahmed said the reports Mir Mehedy Hasan Rubel, Magura of the law enforcement agencies were Chhatra League general secretary, said he heard about the incident. minister's comment that BNP

"I am currently in Dhaka. I will take action against them [the BCL men] after returning to Magura," he said.

Ali Hossain Mukto, organising secretary of the same unit, said only an altercation broke out between Sazzad and the BCL men. But, he did

not say anything further. Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Magura, said legal action would be taken against those who beat up the deputy assistant director.

7 burnt in N'ganj fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Seven people were burnt and 30 others injured as a fire broke out at a fourstorey building in Fatullah upazila of Narayanganj yesterday evening.

Five of the injured were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 35 to 95 percent burns, said surgeon Partha Sankar Paul. At least thirty people, including

women and children, were hurt as they tried to rush out from the building, reports our correspondent, quoting witnesses. The fire might have originated from

an electric short circuit around 6:30pm, said Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station. Locals doused the flames.

All of the burn victims work at a non-government organisation, Society for Social Service, housed on the ground floor of the building.

62KG GOLD HAUL

Custom sues 6 Biman men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence last night sued six Biman Bangladesh Airlines employees for smuggling 62kg gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on February 2.

The accused were: aircraft mechanics Aktaruzzaman, Abu Saleh and Anwarul Ahsan; engineering and maintenance mechanics; Emranul Islam and Osman Gani; and janitor Nironjan Mali.

In the case statement, the customs mentioning names of nine other Biman employees, and some unnamed cabin crews, said they too might be involved in smuggling.

They nine named suspects

Amirul Islam, and Bashir Uddin; janitors Romel, Murad, Alamgir and Rony; cleaner Siraj; aircraft mechanic assistant Anis Uddin Bhuiyan; and technician Rouf. Abdul Matin, assistant revenue

officer of Custom Intelligence,

filed the case with Airport Police

Station following a probe report by a four-member investigation committee. The probe body was formed following the haul of the gold from the cargo hold of Biman aircraft Rangaprobhat on February 2, said

Customs Intelligence. The probe committee recommended police investigation to find

Moinul Khan, director general of

were: junior technical officers out if the nine suspects, other Biman officials, cabin crews, Biman staff, or people of any other agencies were involved in gold smuggling. It recommended having the

wealth of all officials and employees

working at the airport hangar checked by the Anti-Corruption Commission. It also suggested that internal security be strengthened by Biman as gold could damage aircraft wiring

system, threatening safety of planes and passengers. Pat down of all employees entering and exiting aircraft were also mentioned.

It said the Customs Intelligence should be informed of any unexpected delays in any aircraft being taken to the hanger or at the gates.

Footwear by fabric

FROM PAGE 1

officer of Fortuna Bangladesh, a fast growing footwear and leather products manufacturing company.

He is a serial entrepreneur, investor, mentor and a start-up and community advocate.

"I used to sell our fast-food items at my school and take orders, much to the chagrin of the people who ran the cafeteria," Fayaz told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

To hone his entrepreneurial skills further, Fayaz went to the US in 2003 to pursue an undergraduate degree in entrepreneurship at Babson College.

During the course of his stay in the US, he and 60 of his classmates were split into two groups at freshman year, where they had to run a business. By dint of his leadership qualities, he was elected the chief executive of his group.

Fayaz at the same time worked with a number of start-ups, one of which helped international students coming to the university with information about both academic activities and life in general at the new place.

the next venture.

With the help of his computer programmer brother Fazle Taher and some friends, he developed an online game on T20 cricket in 2008 H&M. under the banner of their company -competition administered by Facebook and got a grant from the social networking site to develop more games. Meanwhile, after completing

masters in International Development and Social Change at Clark University in Massachusetts, Fayaz returned to Bangladesh in 2009. And it was at that time when Fortuna sold off its garment division, set up in 1984, as it experienced a downtrend in business, and invested in the shoe and

bag making venture.

Gulshan in 2010. And in just around five years, it now has 16 stores across the country and has plans to take the number to 100 in future.

"In the first three years, the response we received was good but inconsistent. However, we are doing well now." Fayaz is well aware of the oppor-

tunities that e-commerce is offering nowadays. "Most sales will take place online as people are increasingly becoming busier and want convenience in shopping," he said, adding that Fortuna is already faring quite well in online business.

Currently, Fortuna makes more than 10,000 pairs of shoes a day, with a vision to take the production to 40,000 pairs in a year or two. The compliant factory has about 1,200 employees.

The company exports 2 lakh to 2.5 lakh pairs of fabric footwear every month to various countries.

On his family's decision to move to the leather industry, he said the footwear business has to come to Bangladesh and will become a key export item in the coming days.

He believes this will quickly The start-up failed, said Fayaz, but become a \$20 billion industry, from it laid the foundation for success in a little over a \$1 billion now, once all the tanneries shift to Savar.

> Fortuna was the first Bangladeshi company to supply footwear to Swedish retail-clothing giant

Infrablue Technology Ltd. It won a Fortuna is that it did not hire workers from other factories making leather products; rather it recruited garment workers and trained them. More than 85 percent of its workers came from the garment sector. Despite having already achieved

eye-popping success, Fayaz is hardly satiated. The young entrepreneur now aspires to move up the value chain and make his brand a global one.

"And it is possible. Time has come to take Bangladeshi products outside the country. We have the capacity to exceed our expectations," he Fortuna opened its first outlet in said, urging the government to provide he observed.

policy support. His company has investments in IT, insurance, financial leasing, digital marketing, market research and start-ups. He is the co-founder of Startup Dhaka, which creates contents for start-ups, entrepreneurs and businesses in Bangladesh and connects them with their audience at home and

Fayaz says he learnt leadership from his father, M Abu Taher, a leading entrepreneur in the garment and leather industry and chairman of Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods Manufacturers and Exporters

Association. The father of two said he is now trying to set up an investment fund to help budding entrepreneurs, so that their ideas are not nipped in the bud by a lack of funds.

Fayaz has founded several communities including BDtech Social, a community for start-up enthusiasts. He has co-founded digital marketing media Magnito Digital Ltd, and invested in market research firm Lightcastle Partners Ltd. He is also an advisor at BongoBD.com, an entertainment site.

To support entrepreneurs, Fayaz has helped establish The Wave on Kemal Ataturk Avenue in Dhaka. It's a space where entrepreneurs can flexibly work on their start-ups.

He believes technology is the key to moving the nation forward and Another unique thing about empowering the youth by using the power of the internet.

> "Given the population demographic of Bangladesh, I believe the youth are the future of this country as they are innovative and hard working. The best way to power their imagination is to help them become successful through networking, mentorship, access to educational tools and connecting them to the local investor community.

> "The growth of this country depends on how well the community integrates the youth demographic into the economic system,"