

# 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 days.

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/register) 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 Jherjeripara 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 suspects of the shocking crime -- Geda 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 kidnapers demanded Tk 5 lakh in ransom by phone for Sayeed's release on Wednesday

night, Ebadur encouraged the family to pay the money. He even cried with the family members, said Joyal 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 kidnapers.

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.

"That way, we found involvement of Constable Ebadur. During interrogation, he confessed his involvement 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

boy's mother, said, "How could a man who stayed with my family commit such a crime? Where shall I 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.

He said the list is available on the Directorate of Primary Education website: www.dpe.gov.bd.

Each recipient under the talent-pool 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 scholarships.

Some 26,28,083 students passed the Primary Terminal Examinations of 2014 with 2,24,411 achieving GPA-5.

In 2009, the government, in place of the scholarship exams, introduced the public exam for the class V students.

## Passport staff roughed up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A deputy assistant director of Department of Immigration and Passports was beaten up allegedly by some Chhatra League men inside his Magura office yesterday.

The victim, Sazzad Hossain, filed a general diary with Magura Sadar Police Station, accusing Magura BCL unit Joint Secretary Sohrab Hossain and two activists of attacking him.

According to the GD, three to four BCL men, led by Sohrab, came to Sazzad's office around 2:30pm and asked him to accept a passport form 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.

Mir Mehedy Hasan Rubel, Magura Chhatra League general secretary, said he heard about the incident.

"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 four-storey 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

were: junior technical officers 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 Customs 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 Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence.

The probe committee recommended police investigation to find

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 hangar or at the gates.

## Know nothing

FROM PAGE 1

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 23.

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 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, Salahuddin chose to work from hideouts. He changed locations to avoid arrest and issued statements on the party's ongoing anti-government movement since he had become party spokesperson.

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 identity cards claiming they are DB police personnel." They then went to the first floor of the building, he said.

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 was staying.

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

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 detectives".

Talking to this correspondent last night, Hasina Ahmed said the reports of the law enforcement agencies were unacceptable. She criticised the prime minister's comment that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia might have hid Salahuddin somewhere.

Prominent rights activist Sultana Kamal said the point is not whether law enforcement or intelligence agencies have detained Salahuddin. It is the duty of the state to find him as his wife filed a writ petition with the High Court, she told The Daily Star.

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 Salahuddin]."

"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 searching for him [Salahuddin] and it is true. If found, he will be arrested as he is accused in several cases."