

Illegal int'l calls thrive on Teletalk

22 lakh unregistered Teletalk SIMs still not blocked

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

State-owned carrier Teletalk's failure to kill around 22 lakh unregistered connections is allowing a huge volume of illegal international calls to be made, depriving the government of revenue.

Citing security concerns, the government announced that subscribers would be disconnected after May 31 if they failed to biometrically re-register their SIMs. But its own carrier, Teletalk, continues to allow unauthorised connections making a farce of the re-registration move.

In May, Teletalk had 44.63 lakh subscribers but about 22 lakh of them reregistered their SIMs before the deadline. Industry sources said unregistered but active Teletalk SIMs are now being used for making and receiving illegal international calls.

In the first half of June, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) detected 27,464 SIMs being used for illegal international calls.

Of them, it was detected that 41 SIMs were from Banglalink, 36 from Robi, 19 from Grameenphone, 1 from Airtel and 260 from Rankstel.

The remaining 27,143 SIMs were from Teletalk and all of

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Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha leave after voting in the EU referendum at a polling station in central London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Stay or go?

Britain votes to decide whether to remain in EU after tight, divisive campaign

AFP, London

Millions of Britons were voting yesterday on whether to stay in the EU or quit, in a momentous referendum that has polarised the country and could change the face of Europe.

The evening wave of voters headed to cast their ballots after work before the polls close at 2100 GMT, after a close-fought and often vitriolic campaign focused on immigration, the economy and Britain's veridict.

A record 46.5 million people registered to vote in the once-in-a-generation referendum being nervously watched across Europe and the world.

European leaders fear a so-called Brexit would trigger the biggest crisis in the 60-year history of post-war integration on the continent.

The final opinion polls put the "Remain" camp narrowly ahead and financial markets duly bet on a

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Help govt fight militancy

PM in parliament urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on people to cooperate with the government in its fight against militancy and terrorism to maintain peace in the country.

"We are taking actions against terrorism and militancy so that peace can prevail in the country. We want people's cooperation to this end," she told parliament during an unscheduled discussion on the 67th founding anniversary of the Awami League.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu initiated the discussion.

The PM said some elements always resort to conspiracies. "But we will have to move forward to build *Sonar Bangla* as dreamt up by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by foiling those plots."

The AL established democracy in the country and led the nation towards achieving socio-economic development, she added.

About the party's glorious role in all previous movements for democracy and people's rights, she said people get benefits only during AL rule. "No other governments served the country, keeping people's welfare in mind."

The government has been working to make sure that not a single person remains homeless and without access to medical care, she added.

AL leader Amir Hossain Amu said the party has a glorious

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TONU MURDER Army giving full support in probe

Family's allegations baseless, says ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has been extending full and sincere cooperation to the authorities probing the murder of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) said yesterday.

In a press release, it said the patriotic Bangladesh Army, like the people, wants that the real killers are identified quickly and brought to book.

Tonu's family has made baseless and inconsistent allegations at different times, leaving room for tarnishing the image of Bangladesh Army, the ISPR said.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Safe haven for wanted MP

SHAKHAWAT LITON

He has not joined any of the 134 sittings of parliament in the last one and a half years. This says all about his failure to do parliamentary business as a lawmaker.

Yet, like other MPs, tax payers' money has been spent on his remuneration and other benefits. An MP gets more than Tk 1 lakh a month in remuneration and allowances.

Regardless of his failure to perform as a lawmaker, nobody bothered about it until his latest attempt to retain his MP status.

Fugitive in the eyes of law and wanted by the police in a murder case, Amanur Rahman Rana, Awami League MP from Tangail-3 constituency, entered the parliament building on Monday and signed an attendance book kept at the House lobby and left the area. And he had no difficulty in doing so.

Just a signature in the register book will allow him to dodge parliamentary business for one more year, as he will not need to show up in parliament for the next 90 consecutive sittings.

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Extorted, now in fear

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The two Buddhist traders, who recently bought freedom from confinement by a CID sub-inspector for Tk 20,000, now fear reprisal from policemen after a Buddhist federation leader raised the matter at a 14-party meeting.

"As the news was published in the media, we are apprehending that policemen might create further trouble for us," a close relative of the traders from Rampura Bazar told The Daily Star.

The traders -- Sabuj Barua and Sourav

Barua who are brothers -- were picked up by SI Israfil Shamim and three of his colleagues from their shop around 1:00pm on June 19.

They were then kept confined to the office of Israfil for three hours and threatened with implicating them in a case.

One of the policemen then demanded Tk 1 lakh for their release. The two were allowed to walk out of the Criminal Investigation Department at Malibagh only after they gave them Tk 20,000. This happened with the intervention of some Buddhist community leaders, said one of

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