

TIL's Avijit Mazumder dead

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, February 6

Avijit (Bobby) Mazumder, Chairman Emeritus of TIL Limited died this morning here. He was 83.

A quintessential 'Bengali Bhadrolok', Bobby Mazumder (as he was known) was a scion of the now-extinct Bengali breed of investors in large-scale manufacturing. Mazumder joined TIL as a management trainee and sales engineer in 1960 and rose to become the managing director in 1976.

In the mid-1980s, he acquired a controlling stake in the company, which was Caterpillar's sole distributor in eastern India and Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Myanmar.

As an entrepreneur, Mazumder was global in his outlook. In 1995, the infrastructure gear-

maker responded to then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Look East Policy, by setting up a manufacturing subsidiary in Myanmar, despite that country being ruled by a military junta.



Majumder served as a president of Assocham (1990-91), the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (1982-83) and the Kolkata-based Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta as also of the Court of Governors of the Administrative Staff College of India.

Mazumder was on the executive board of the International Chamber of Commerce and also served as the Chairman of the Paris-based World Chambers Federation (WCF).