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**Transmission of VOA programmes thru' Betar begins**

UNB, Dhaka

Transmission of the programmes of Voice of America (VOA) through Bangladesh Betar's FM band started yesterday with the inauguration of a five-kilowatt transmitter.

VOA Director Robert Reilly inaugurated the transmitter at the Kalyanpur station of Bangladesh Betar yesterday morning.

VOA will broadcast its Bengali and English programmes through a new transmitter for nine-and-a-half hour everyday while Bangladesh Betar will use the transmitter for transmitting its own programmes during the rest of the period.

On the occasion, a programme was arranged at a city hotel yesterday where Information Minister Tariqul Islam was present.

Addressing the function, the Information Minister said Bangladesh Betar and its all relay stations should undertake pragmatic steps to revive the popularity of radio despite rapid expansion of TV channels and internet.

Chief of the VOA Bengali Service Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, US Ambassador in Dhaka Marry Ann Peters, VOA Director Robert Reilly, Information Secretary Mirza Tassadduk Hossain Beg and DG of the Bangladesh Betar SM Shafiqul Amin Ferdousi addressed the function.



Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing the newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong Bar Association at Bangabandhu Avenue party office in the city yesterday.

**Complete ban on liquor not possible, JS told**

UNB, Dhaka

A complete ban on liquor is not possible because of the present socio-economic perspective, the Home Minister told parliament yesterday.

"Liquor is restricted for Muslims, not for other religious faiths. So it cannot be banned completely," Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said replying to a question from Mufi Fazlul Huq Amini (IOJ).

At present there are 226 local liquor shops, 39 foreign liquor shops, 32 bars, 13 clubs and 16 diplomatic bonded warehouses in the country.

The Home Minister, however, said that production, preservation, display and sale of phensydid, heroine, opium, marijuana, cocaine etc are banned under the Drugs Control Act, 1990.

He said some drugs are permitted since they are used for treatment and research.

**DESA snaps 3940 illegal lines**

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) has disconnected 3,940 illegal electric lines, arrested 41 persons, lodged 1945 cases and realised Tk 24 lakh during its special drive.

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**Chinese NDU team leaves for home**

The President of the Chinese National Defence University (NDU) General Xing Shizhong left Dhaka yesterday afternoon along with the members of his entourage after a six-day visit to Bangladesh, says an ISPR press release.

Chief of General Staff, Bangladesh army, Major General Ahsan Nazmul Amin saw off General Xing and his entourage at the Zia International Airport. Commandant of Bangladesh National Defence College, Major General Jiban Kanai Das, senior army officers and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hu Qianwen were present on the occasion.

**'Withdraw case against 2 lawyers'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed Mehidi and Advocate SM Nazrul Islam, former General Secretary and Office Secretary respectively of Dhaka Bar Association yesterday at a press conference demanded of the government to withdraw the case filed against them at Motijheel thana under Public Safety Act on March 21.

Terming the case 'false,' 'fabricated' and politically motivated they said the case was filed against them in a bid to harass them.

It has tarnished their image and social reputation, they added.

Both the lawyers are central committee members of Awami Ainjibi Parishad.

The case was filed implicating 10 lawyers including themselves on charge of leading a procession and creating panic by exploding bomb at Bangabandhu avenue area on March 21, they said.

However, they said they did not go to Bangabandhu area before or on the day or after the day.

Mehidi said on that day he was busy at his law chamber till 9 pm and his colleague Advocate Nazrul went to his village home in Barisal the same day.

Advocate Shahara Kathun, Law Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, Advocate SM Altaf Hossain, President Dhaka Bar Association and M Sajawar Hossain, former Senior Vice President of Dhaka Bar Association were present at the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

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