

End of fresh TV outlook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court verdict on Ekushey Television (ETV) saw the end of refreshing changes in the electronic media in pace with the twenty-first century.

Soon after its inception in 2000, ETV garnered extensive popularity and critical acclaim. The novelty of presentation supported by necessary technology to yield quality programmes, ETV earned its place in the hearts of its audience.

Especially, the news-based programmes immediately drew attention of the audience that for long has been waiting for an end to the monopoly of the state-run BTB.

Since the promised autonomy was never allowed to Bangladesh Television, it remained as a propaganda machine. ETV stood out a memorable exception. The terrestrial transmission allowed E T V

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Tougher law afoot for devious developers

JULHAS RIPON

Private real estate builders have to comply with strict environmental laws and regulations in developing housing projects.

Rajuk has already sent a draft titled "Private Sector Housing Project Regulations, 2002" to the Housing and Public Works Ministry, said sources in Rajuk.

The move came after some recent bids by some biggest real estate companies to develop housing projects in violation of the law.

The government will finalise guidelines shortly after scrutinising legal and terminological aspects of the draft by the Ministry of Law, said sources in the ministry.

A secretarial committee is now working on the guidelines, said the sources. The housing and public works ministry has initiated formulation of the guidelines to discipline the mushrooming private real estate business.

Rajuk Chairman Engineer Iqbaluddin Chowdhury told The Daily Star that Rajuk as a town development authority has responsibilities to check any unplanned construction.

"We need to regulate private developers properly to save the city from unplanned concrete structures." On July 9, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza

Abbas sat with the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) to discuss the issue of guidelines and requested it to give recommendations, the chairman added.

The REHAB did not respond to the formulation of the guidelines, he said.

Meanwhile, the REHAB protested the proposed guidelines at a press conference yesterday, saying that if the guidelines are implemented, the private real estate business will be stifled.

Recently, the developers started indiscriminate filling-up of lowlands in and around the city, violating the wetland protection act, 2000.

They started expanding projects without any approval from Rajuk, ignoring the Bangladesh Environment Protection Act, 1997 and the Bangladesh National Building Code, 1993 and other Rajuk regulations.

The sources said the proposed guidelines made the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (1995-2015), the Environment Protection Act, 1997, Bangladesh National Building Code, 1993, the Building Construction Code, 1996 and existing land laws mandatory for the builders.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



A mother looks at her dengue-infected child on intravenous saline at the paying ward of the Shishu Hospital in the city yesterday.

DENGUE ALERT

107 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and seven more people were hospitalised with dengue in the last 24 hours in different city hospitals.

Thirty-one people were admitted to Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital, 14 to Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital, six to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, three to Dhaka Shishu Hospital and one each to BIRDEM, Barisal Medical College Hospital, Khulna Medical College Hospital and Jessore Sadar Hospital.

Thirty-six more people were admitted to different city hospitals. Most of them were suffering from classical dengue but a few were in critical condition suffering from DHF.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Relatives grieve the death of Narayanjanj Bandar thana unit Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal leader Ashrafal Huq Asha at their Narayanjanj house yesterday. (Story on front page)

DU reopens Sept 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities of Dhaka University (DU) will resume on September 12 after 46 days of closure.

The Syndicate, highest decision making body of the university, in a meeting yesterday also decided to re-open all the residential halls on September 8 for the convenience of the students.

Professor AFM Yusuf Haider, acting Vice Chancellor of the university, chaired the meeting. At the meeting it was unanimously agreed to withdraw the cases filed against the female students of the Shamsunnahar Hall terming them 'false'.

A fresh schedule of the postponed examinations will also be declared in a meeting of university academic council shortly after university activities resume. The academic council comprises of chairmen and directors of different departments and institute.

To ease session jam the DU authorities are considering scheduling the postponed examinations within a month and with minimum gaps in between examinations.

The DU had been declared closed by the immediate past Vice Chancellor Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury since July 28 following a volatile campus situation.

Thousands of students of the university demonstrated on the campus from July 24 protesting police atrocities in the Shamsunnahar Hall.

Later, on July 31 Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury was compelled to resign along with his Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam on the wake of huge student demonstrations.

ADB push for early decision on gas export

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has once again made a strong plea for an early decision regarding gas export for redeeming the US\$ 250-million western region pipeline project.

S Chandar, a top ADB official from its Manila headquarters, in a meeting with State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharrif Hossain yesterday said ADB is waiting for a decision in order to start processing the project.

Earlier the ADB had asked the government to let it know its decision by August for processing the project by November and its approval by December 2002 and making budgetary commitment by January next year.

The government, after submission of reports of two expert committees, is now under a process of discussion with various quarters concerned to finalise a decision whether or not to export gas.

ADB proposes export of 300mmcf of gas to India every day and supply of 200mmcf within the western region for making the 30-inch, 500-kilometre pipeline project viable both financially and technically.

After the meeting with the ADB official, Mosharrif Hossain also told

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

'Police reforms won't work unless political interference ends'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reform in the police administration will not make the force serve the people unless political interference stops, speakers said at a daylong seminar in the city yesterday.

The seminar on "Reforms in Police Sector and Concern of Citizens" was organised by the Center for Strategic and Peace Studies (CSPS), a think tank, in collaboration with Friedrich Naumann Foundation, an international human and civil rights body. It was held at the CIRDA auditorium.

Home Minister Air Vice-marshal (Rtd) Altaf Hossain Choudhury, Justice Habibur Rahman Khan,

former minister Maj. Gen (Rtd) Nuruddin Khan, Lt. Col. (Rtd) Faruq Khan MP, Dr Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher MP, Dr Abdur Razzak MP, former lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad, former BDR DG Maj. Gen (Rtd) Azizur Rahman, Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain Choudhry, former IGP Ismail Hossain, Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sahidullah Khan, Chairman of Islami Bank and former secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, Principal of Police Academy Anwar Hossain, Jahangirnagar University teacher Prof Abdul Latif Masum, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Amin and business-

man Abdul Haq, among others, spoke at the seminar.

Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Syed Mohammad moderated the seminar.

The home minister refuted claims that the law and order worsened since takeover by the present government. "There were rape incidents in the past also. It is not possible to stop this fully unless a social resistance is created."

The government will involve all sections of the society in its effort to improve the law and order, he said.

The home minister lauded the role of policemen in maintaining

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bappi murder case Attachment of Sharif's property ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday ordered attachment of movable property of Shariful Islam, an absconding accused in the Bappi abduction and murder case.

Judge (in-charge) M Shah Alam Miah passed the order.

Earlier on August 24, the same court issued warrant of arrest against Sharif.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted the chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka, on August 21 against five people. They are Shipon, Ripon, Sanjit, Sankar and Sharif. Of them, Sharif has been absconding since the incident.

Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, a student of class III of Armanitola Government High School, was abducted on August 5 for a ransom of Tk 20 lakh.

The abductors strangled Bappi the same day and dumped the body

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Evicted slum-dwellers rally for rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of evicted slum dwellers at a rally at the city's Paltan Maidan yesterday demanded of the government to take immediate steps for their rehabilitation.

They strongly protested that the government is removing the city slums without making any alternative arrangements for rehabilitating the affected people.

The rally organised by the Council for Slum Rehabilitation Unity was attended by evicted slum dwellers from Mirpur, Pallabi, Tejgoan, Gulshan, Kuril, Rupnagar

and other areas of the city. Addressing the rally, Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said eviction of the city's slum dwellers without rehabilitating them is a violation of the Constitution. "They are part of our society. It is their constitutional right to live in the city and the government is violating the Constitution by evicting them forcefully, without rehabilitating them," he said.

Kamal Hossain said slum dwellers are not muggers, extortionists or hoodlums and 99 per cent of them are honest and hard working peo-

ple. "About 40 per cent of the city's population of one crore are slum dwellers and they are making productive contribution to city life in many ways - as garments workers, drivers, small traders and our helping hands in different fields." He cautioned that their ouster from the city would create serious problems.

The Gano Forum leader said a vested quarter is behind the eviction of slum dwellers and it is being done in their interest. He advised the police not to be used as their lathials.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Correction

In the report headlined, "Vacant posts slow down administration", carried in our Thursday edition, our information on the positions of home secretary and press information officer (PIO) was outdated due to computer glitch.

In fact, we carried news about new appointments in the administration earlier.

We sincerely regret the inadvertent mistakes.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 30		6-19 pm
Aug 31	5-39 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 30		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-00
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	4-44	5-59
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Govt probe report says Mahfuza not raped

BSS, Dhaka

The government in a probe report yesterday said Mahfuza Khatun, a mother of two children of Hijaldi village under Kolaroa upazila in Satkhira was not raped.

An official handout quoting a statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs said five doctors of Satkhira Sadar Hospital conducted a medical test upon Mahfuza on August 27. "They have clearly mentioned in their report that there is no mark of rape or even a proof of sexual intercourse in the recent past," the handout said.

The doctors who conducted the medical test are Dr Md Ishaque Ali, Dr M A Habibur Rahman, Dr Prashanta Kumar Bishwas, Dr M A Fazal and Dr Anwara Naznin. The medical test was conducted after the government ordered the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the Police Super (SP) of Satkhira for a probe into the incident.

According to the government statement, those who had rescued

Mahfuza told the SP that she had not disclosed to them anything about her being raped.

The Deputy Commissioner in his probe report said Mahfuza Khatun filed a case with Kalaroa thana in less than 12 hours of the alleged rape incident. "In her allegation, she mentioned about a feud between her husband and the accused," the DC said.

Mahfuza's husband Atiar Rahman, who has already deserted a good number of wives, is now an expatriate in India with his youngest wife. The district BNP general secretary, Sayed Iftikhar Ali, said the accused were neither involved in BNP politics, nor were BNP members.

According to the statement, Mahfuza's neighbours Abdus Salam, Azgar Ali, Jahan Ali, teacher of Kadpur Primary School Ali Hossain, head master of Hijaldi Primary School Amirul Islam, Imam of Hijaldi Majhpara mosque Moulvi

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

EARTH SUMMIT 2002

US beats EU to draw Billion-dollar plan for poverty alleviation, protection of natural resources in poor countries unveiled

AFP, Johannesburg

The United States yesterday announced plans to spend more than a billion dollars on easing poverty and protecting natural resources in poor countries as it jostled with the European Union for the limelight at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg.

The European Union countered by announcing it would shortly unveil two "major" partnerships, one on helping the world's two billion poorest gain access to electricity, the other on providing them with clean water and sanitation.

"The United States is the world's leader in sustainable development," declared Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky.

She defended President George W Bush - the big absentee at next week's meeting of heads of state and government here - against charges of unilateralism.

And she suggested that too much focus had been placed on US isolation in negotiations to craft the summit's blueprint for action, an arena for fierce political battles over whether goals and deadlines should be set

influence of an MP elected from Bagerhat, Hasina said while talking to newsmen after visiting Rani at the KMCH at noon yesterday.

During her 30-minute stay at the KMCH, Hasina did not talk to any member of the five-member medical team about Rani's treatment.

Hasina instructed her partymen to make arrangements to have Rani transferred to Dhaka or sent abroad for better treatment if necessary, and assured her of bearing all medical expenses.

Chhabi Rani Mondal, an AL leader of Rampal upazila, was allegedly abducted by BNP cadres who

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

for encouraging sustainable development.

The initiatives are so-called partnerships, in which government funds combine with private capital, technology and know-how. Dobriansky said that government cash, if used wisely, could leverage several times that amount in other sources.

They include expanding access to clean water in poor countries, providing millions of people with access to electricity and making energy use more efficient and less polluting.

One scheme is aimed at helping cut hunger in Africa, largely through technology and education for farmers and traders, and the United States will support sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin.

Claude Allen, US deputy secretary for the US health and human services department, defended genetically modified food aid for drought-stricken southern Africa.

The World Bank meanwhile set up a global panel to assess the risks of GM and other scientific methods used to boost agricultural productivity.

"Nearly 800 million people go to bed hungry every

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

JCD men attack police station in Rangamati: 7 cops hurt

BSS, Rangamati

JCD activists yesterday attacked Rajshahi police station protesting the arrest of their leader.

Seven policemen, including a sub-inspector, were injured in the attack.

Police arrested Hassan, thana unit vice-president of the JCD, on the basis of a complaint filed by one Marium Begum.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Rangamati, told the news agency that about 100 JCD activists attacked the thana protesting the arrest of Hassan.

They damaged furniture, doors and windows of the building, he said, adding that they also disconnected the telephone of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Police arrested two JCD activists - Jafar and Amin - from the spot.

Ali Murtuza new BUET VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Dr Mohammad Ali Murtuza of the Department of Civil Engineering was appointed the new vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday.

He succeeded Professor Nooruddin Ahmed of the Department of Chemical Engineering, a governmental handout said without giving out any reason for the change.

Prof. Nooruddin Ahmed could not be contacted for his immediate reaction to the decision.