

ETV files two writs, hearing likely today

BSS, Dhaka

Ekushey Television Limited yesterday filed two separate writ petitions with the High Court, one challenging Section 5 of the Telegraph Act 1885 and the other challenging notifications dated August 29, "which curtailed various facilities awarded to ETV Ltd."

The petitions were moved before the vacation bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana.

But Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana was embarrassed to hear the matters as she was one of the judges in the High Court Division which declared the licensing agreement between the government and ETV illegal.

Thereafter, the matters were sent to the Chief Justice to constitute another bench to hear and the Chief Justice referred the matters to another vacation bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin and Justice SK Sinha.

The matters would come in the cause list today, court sources said yesterday.

Ekushey Television Ltd, the first private terrestrial television channel of the country, was shutdown on August 29 after the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court dismissed review petitions filed by

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Change of guards in Titas trade union office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a dramatic development, two Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed unions of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited took control of the union office, chasing out another union, also affiliated with the ruling party.

According to sources, the Titas Gas Employees Union (TGEU) and the Titas Gas Sramik Karmachari Union (TGSKU) held a joint meeting yesterday morning.

The joint meeting agitated leaders and supporters of the Titas Gas Jatiyotabadi Sramik Karmachari Union (TGJSKU), who were in control of the union office.

However, as supporters of two other unions were greater in number, the TGJSKU men fled the office fearing attack, letting the TGEU and TGSKU leaders take control.

President of the TGEU Fazlul Huq Mollah said leaders of the TGJSKU had escaped fearing attack by general workers and staff of Titas.

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WHEATGATE SCAM

OSD takes his office computer home!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the six officers on special duty (OSDs) took his office computer home yesterday much to the surprise of the food directorate officials.

Additional Director General of the directorate Entajul Huque was made OSD on Monday for his involvement in wheat scam.

Sources in the food directorate said Entajul worked in private yesterday before he took the computer home.

The incident came as a surprise to many, more so because many important wheat procurement documents are stored in the computer.

Entajul was not available for comments, when The Daily Star phoned his home.

Meanwhile, an Awami League-formed probe committee visited warehouses in Pabna, the office of the district controller of food in

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Irregularities in loans sanctioned to Agarwal, Modi BB showcauses MDs of 4 private banks

SHAHRIAR KARIM

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has issued showcause notices on the managing directors of four private commercial banks in connection with irregularities in sanctioning loans to three business groups.

The BB action came after it found out that the banks had flouted rules and not properly monitored the loans sanctioned to Giridhari Lal Modi and his Uttara Group, Om Prakash Agarwal and the Doel Group.

The BB issued the notices on Monday, asking managing directors of the banks to explain within 15 days why they should not be held responsible for the irregularities, according to central bank sources.

The managing directors, who received the notices, are Mirza Ejaj Ahmed

of One Bank Limited, Anwar Ahmed of National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited (NCCBL), Moklesur Rahman of Dhaka Bank Limited and Rafiqul Islam Khan of National Bank Limited (NBL).

They could not be contacted despite repeated attempts over telephone till filing of this report at 9.45pm.

After press reports on the financial scam, the BB started investigation into the bank transactions of Giridhari Lal Modi and Uttara Group, Om Prakash Agarwal and the Doel Group on August 10.

Now that the probe has unearthed dubious transactions through different bank accounts, suggesting links with illegal hundi business, the anti-money laundering department of the BB will ask the Bureau of Anti

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Shamsunnahar Hall raid Judicial body submits probe report, at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Judicial Commission probing police atrocities on students of Shamsunnahar Hall of the Dhaka University (DU) finally submitted its report to the home ministry yesterday.

On behalf of the commission, Primary and Mass Education Secretary Dr Tahmina Hossain handed over the 500-page report to Home Secretary Omar Faruk at about 4:00 pm. Tahmina had arranged logistic support to the

commission.

The one-member commission headed by Justice M Tafazzul Islam was formed on July 27 and asked to submit its report within seven days. But the deadline was extended repeatedly on various grounds.

The probe body started work on August 2 by recording statements of the victim students. It sought two more weeks to prepare the report but failed to submit it within the stipulated period mainly due to recording of statements of a cross section of people.

The report was almost completed and was scheduled to be submitted on August 26. But a computer glitch caused further delay. The glitch damaged a major portion of the report, sources said.

The commission then tried to submit it on August 28, but could not do so.

The long delay and repeated extension of deadline for submission of the report created confusion in public mind.

Sources said the commission in

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PHOTO: STAR

Fruit vendors extended their shops onto the railroad tracks on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route. The Bangladesh Railway seems oblivious of the encroachment, which may lead to fatal accident any day.

Death of a DU student BSMMUH ransacked, doctor assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 200 rampaging students of Dhaka University ransacked the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) yesterday afternoon, assaulting a senior doctor and two guards and damaging property following the death of a fellow student.

Dr Afzal Hossain, a neurosurgeon, and two security guards of the hospital were seriously injured during the hour-long assault and ransacking in Block C of the hospital. Patients, attendants and visitors were trapped inside the hospital during the attack. The agitating students broke windowpanes and

damaged furniture as they went from one floor to another, terrorising the entire hospital.

Police from the nearby control room were immediately deployed at the hospital and they cordoned off the entire premises.

According to the doctors, nurses and ward boys, the incident occurred when Md. Khandaker Rashidul Islam alias Ranju, a 24-year old master's student of sociology of Dhaka University, died allegedly due to negligence of duty by the doctors at cabin 239, bed A at 1:30pm.

Ranju, assistant secretary of the suspended central committee of Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD),

was admitted to the hospital under neuromedicine department on August 24 with a brain tumour. As there was no bed available, State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman arranged a bed for him in ward 5A on the same day.

Ranju was shifted to the cabin a few days later when student leaders from the university requested the hospital authorities to allocate a cabin bed.

A few days ago, doctors at the neuro-medicine department referred the patient to the neurosurgery department under Dr Afzal. He advised an early surgery. Accordingly, he was scheduled to

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DENGUE ALERT

60 admitted to hospitals in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty dengue-infected individuals were hospitalised in the city and elsewhere in the country yesterday.

Of them, 28 were admitted to the Suhrawardy Hospital and eight to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Eighteen others were taken to different city clinics and six to the Dhaka Shishu Hospital, the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital and the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The latest cases put the official figure of dengue infection at 3,930. Forty-one people have so far died of dengue this year.

AL to join next JS session

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League will join the fourth session of the eighth Jatiya Sangsad, which begins on September 12.

According to party sources, the main opposition party will join the session to expose the government's failure to contain law and order and downsize, and unabated persecution of opposition leaders and activists.

The AL, which has 58 members in the parliament, went on boycott three days before the previous session was prorogued on July 15,

protesting the Chair's denial to give the floor to its lawmakers and entertain nearly 100 notices for discussion on law and order.

The main opposition also staged a walkout after the AL legislator from Shariatpur, Shawkat Ali, was arrested.

Emerging from an AL Parliamentary Party meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban, Sheikh Hasina told a press briefing the arrest while the House was in session impinged on Shawkat's privilege as an MP.

On the last day of the previous session, while Prime Minister Khaleida Zia delivered her conclud-

ing speech inside the House, the leader of the opposition opted for a news conference outside.

Earlier, the AL lawmakers made their first appearance in the Sangsad during the budget proceedings after skipping first two sessions.

Meanwhile, the AL lawmakers have already started submitting notices for discussion on law and order, a senior party leader told The Daily Star last night.

The opposition legislators would like to draw people's attention to such issues as police atrocities at a Dhaka University hall of residence

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Transport crunch eases up a bit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters' plight has not yet eased up, due to shortage of public transports.

However, the situation has slightly improved, as most of the 5,500 two-stroke three-wheelers plied yesterday despite an indefinite strike called by a faction of three-wheeler owners and employees against the ban on another 12,500.

The government has banned 12,500 two-stroke three-wheelers out of 18,000 from September 1, with the rest plying until December 31 on a special permission by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The government has failed to fill the vacuum left by the ban. Although the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) announced to add around 200 buses, including 50 double-deckers, to its fleet from September 1, it has

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Five made OSDs for misbehaviour with addl secy's driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Five senior officials including the regional director of health, Rajshahi and the civil surgeon of Natore have been made OSDs (officer on special duty) at the health ministry in connection with the recent incident of alleged misbehaviour with the driver of an additional secretary of the ministry, sources said.

The five officials are Dr Fazlur Rahman, director of health, Rajshahi region; Civil Surgeon of Natore Dr Mujibur Rahman, acting Civil Surgeon of Natore Dr Belal Hossain, child specialist and acting Superintendent of Natore Sadar Hospital Dr Istiaque Ahmed (who also headed the probe committee on the incident) and Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Natore Sadar Hospital Dr Abul Kalam Azad.

The official order in this regard was faxed to the Rajshahi regional office of health directorate, the sources said yesterday.

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SHAZNEEN MURDER CASE

Shahid fled house after murder, court told

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Principal accused in the Shazneen case Shahidul Islam alias Shahid fled her house following the killing of Shazneen and 'a kitchen knife was found missing.'

The second prosecution witness in the case and father of the victim, Latifur Rahman, said this yesterday in the Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka.

The witness was cross-examined by the lawyer for Shahid for about two and a half hours. Judge Kazi Rahmat Ullah then adjourned the hearing till September 7.

During the cross-examination, Latifur Rahman mentioned that Shahid was a domestic help at his house and he used to assist cook Abdul Mannan. Shahid fled his

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 4		6-14 pm
Sept 5	5-42 am	

Prayer Timings

Sept 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-19	6-24
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation