

More satellite channels by April

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At least four private satellite channels and one FM (Frequency Modulation) radio station are likely to receive permission soon as the information ministry has started processing their papers in a bid to encourage competition and increase professionalism in the electronics media.

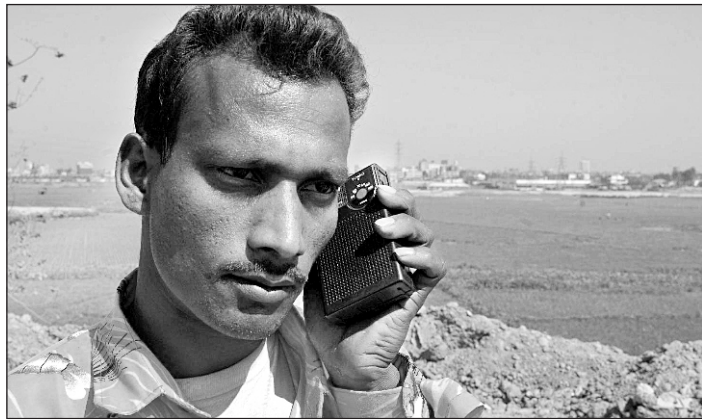
"The applications from the satellite channels and FM radio stations have remained under wraps for years. But the files have been reopened recently," said an official of the information ministry.

According to sources, satellite TV channels Boishakhi, A-One, Shamol Bangla and the suspended Ekushey TV (ETV) were likely to start telecasting by April this year.

A private FM radio station has also reportedly received the nod from the ministry and will operate under Shamol Bangla. Shamol Bangla is expected start broadcasting from March.

"We have been trying to get the permission from the government for a long time and now we are hopeful that we will get it soon. We had a plan to re-start transmitting on February 21 but now we are looking at *Pahela Baishakh* (the first day of the Bengali New Year)," said a high official of ETV.

The information ministry had given permission to seven channels - Channel i, ATN Bangla, International Television (NTV), Inquilab Television (ITV), Universal Television (UTV), Jamuna



Television (JTV), and Ekushey Television (ETV) before deciding against allowing more channels.

Among those which received the permission, Channel i, ATN Bangla and NTV are now in operation. ITV, UTV and JTV failed to start telecasting within 365 days of getting the permission while ETV's contract was terminated following a ruling from the Supreme Court.

The ministry had short-listed about 35 private satellite channels and 15 radio stations from the applications it received in 2003 but other than the seven mentioned above, no other channel could go on air.

Following the lengthy legal battle between the ETV and the government which became more complicated due to the lack of an electronics media regulation, the information ministry decided to work on the matter.

"The Private Broadcast Media

(Radio and Television) Bill 2004 had been sent back by the parliamentary

committee which wanted further improvement after comparing it with the regulations of other countries. It is now with the ministry," said Sirajul Islam, assistant secretary of the information ministry.

According to the draft regulation, private satellite channels would require license which was not needed previously.

The draft law calls for compulsory licensing, a system for scrutiny of applications, issuance of first time license for five years, renewal of licenses and fees for issuance and renewal. The draft also said that the channels already on air would require fresh licenses under the new law.

The government will invite applications from individuals and companies interested in setting up radio and TV channels and a

committee comprising a chairman nominated by the government and six members will issue the license.

The private satellite channels that are waiting permission include Media One, Liberty television, Dhaka TeleFilm, Telebangla, Bishal Multimedia, KTV, Bengal News, Janata Television, Daffodil Multimedia, Bishal Music, Bijoy Broadcasting Univision, Bangla Television, Mixel Multimedia, Development Media TV Channel, SAS World, TV Bangla, Bangladesh Channel USA, Nationwide Communication, Bangla TV London, Probashi Television Network, National Television, Gazi Satellite Network, Movie Tone Media Communication.

The status of applicants varied. There are former vice-chancellors of universities, newspaper editors, industrialists and expatriates among the applicants. Some of them do not have the sound financial capacity and technical know-how to launch a channel.

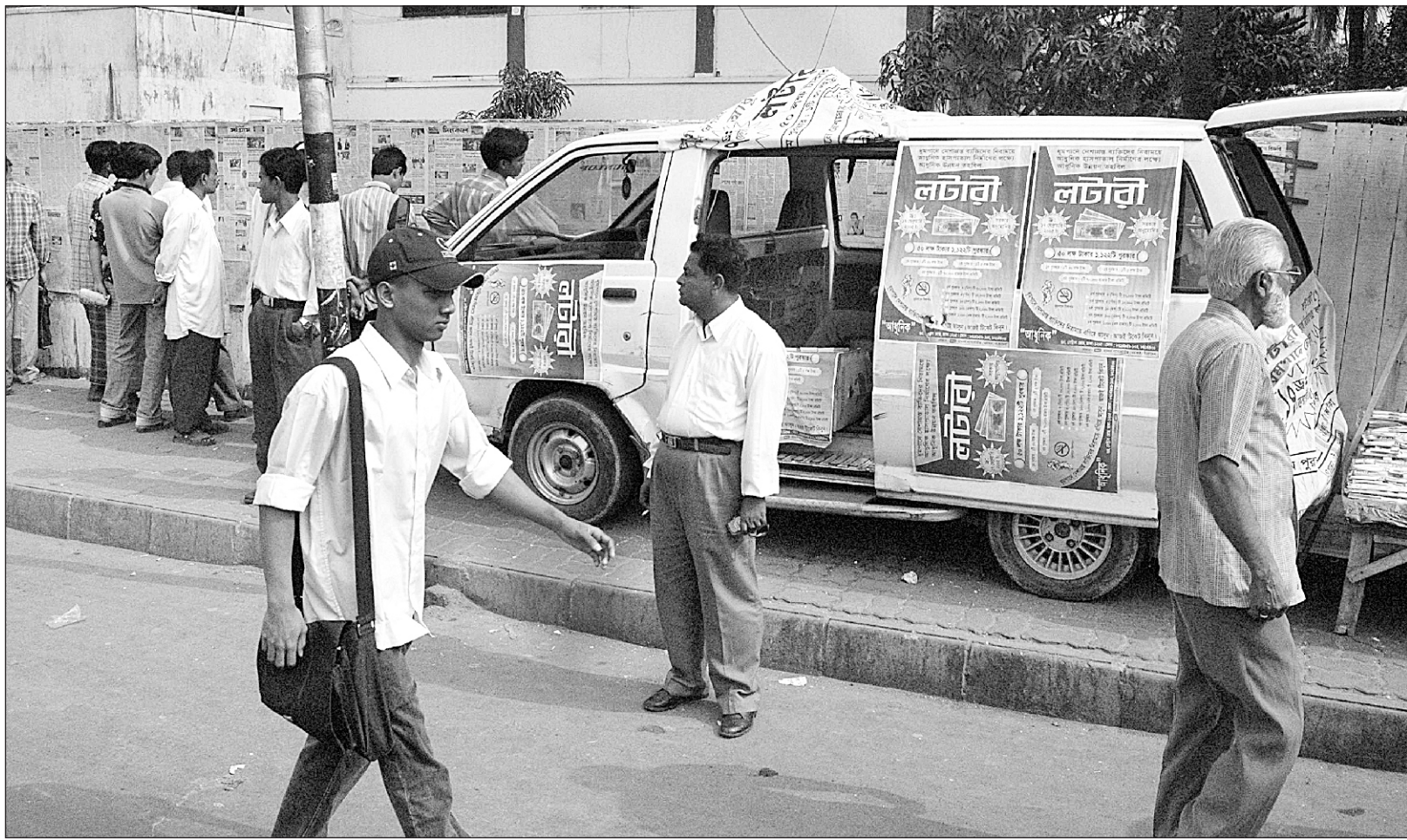
"To establish a satellite television channel, about Tk 60 crore is needed," said a marketing manager of a satellite channel.

There are allegations that those close to ministers and the ruling coalition were getting priority in receiving permission to start satellite channels. But officials of the existing satellite channels think that more channels may actually prove harmful unless the market itself got bigger.



STAR PHOTO

FOOTPATH ENCROACHERS?



STAR PHOTO

A vehicle selling lottery tickets at a footpath at Farmgate as pedestrians walk along the main roads.

Car requisitioning continues

No allowance, place to sleep for drivers of requisitioned vehicles

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Police continue requisitioning private vehicles ignoring a High Court order that asked the law-enforcers not to requisition any privately owned vehicle. But the police officers say they are requisitioning vehicles as per the law.

The requisitioning increases during hartals as the police department needs additional vehicles for the use of policemen patrolling the city.

The government brings a huge number of policemen to the capital from districts for emergency duty to avert any violence or untoward incident during the strikes and political programmes. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has to arrange vehicles for them for patrolling purposes.

The police has recently requisitioned the microbus used by the security officials of former president Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, alleged his son and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh

leader, Mahi B Chowdhury.

It is also alleged that most of the traffic police officers do not have a clear idea on the court order. "We know that private minibuses cannot be requisitioned but all other private vehicles can be taken," said a police sergeant at Karwan Bazar while requisitioning a vehicle on February 5.

"The vehicles are requisitioned by the traffic department. Once a car is taken, it is not requisitioned in the next one month," the sergeant added.

An inspector of the traffic department however gave a totally different story. He said there is no order or law against car requisitioning. "We can take a private car anytime we want. There is no legal bar."

He said the existing law permits the police to take private vehicles for a maximum period of seven days. But owners of the requisitioned vehicles allege that the police often keep the vehicles for 10 days or more.

Habibul Ahmed, a Gulshan resident said: "Police just stopped my microbus all of a sudden while my family was travelling in it near Ramna. They took the papers and gave a slip saying that the vehicle was requisitioned for four days."

"After nine days the microbus was returned to me. And I was shocked to see the condition of my car. It needed servicing which cost a lot of money. Moreover, my driver was treated badly," he alleged.

Another driver, Jamal of Swamibagh, said: "My car was taken three days ago. The police never give us food or allowance which a driver on special duties are supposed to receive. And more importantly, I have to sleep inside the car."

A source at the traffic department said there is a shortage of patrol vans during hartal days. That is why they requisition private vehicles. They require 220 to 250 vehicles every day but can arrange hardly one-fourth of them.

healthouting,taxicab&traintiming

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD),
- 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914,
8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University-8612550-4,
861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital
(BIRDEM)- 9661551-5,
8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119,
8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health
Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794,
9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202,
8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)
Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital-
8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital-
8317819
Holy Family Hospital-
83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib
Medical University Hospital-
8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College &
Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,
Shamaria Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital - 9130800,

9122560-69

Salimullah Medical Collage
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital
(ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,
7310061,7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-
8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-
8614040

Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail
9336611, Gandaria 7319808,
7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday

Elephant Road-Friday

Bishal Center-Friday

Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday

Polwell Market-Friday

BCS Computer City-Friday

Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.

Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday

Stadium Market-Friday

Bangabazar Market-Friday

National Museum-Thursday

Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhathi
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Apakul Express
Agni Beena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

LIBRARY & INFO

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The
American Center - 8813440-4,
9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7
Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6
Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh
(PIB) 9330081-4