

Govt working on BTV autonomy

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The caretaker government is working on how to make the state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) an effective autonomous body by bringing necessary amendments and adding new provisions to the existing law instead of making a new law.

The council of advisers at a meeting yesterday directed the information ministry to re-examine the existing law -- Bangladesh Television Authority Act (BTA) 2001 -- to reduce government control over BTV as much as possible, meeting sources said.

In the name of giving autonomy to BTV, the law paved the way for more government control over it. But it was not put into effect in the last over six years as the immediate

past BNP-led government ignored it. The party's electoral pledge contained autonomy to BTV.

Now, the caretaker government has initiated steps to enforce this law with necessary amendments in line with the recommendations of the commission formed by the Awami League (AL) government in 1996, the sources said.

The much-talked-about commission had recommended measures to make both the state-run Bangladesh Betar and BTV autonomous bodies.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain said the government has decided to amend the existing law to make BTV an autonomous body and asked the information ministry to review the law.

"The law was made over six years ago. Some changes will be made in the law to make it up to date and to ensure autonomy to BTV," he said.

Earlier, the information adviser had said credibility of BTV and Betar lies in their freedom and autonomy similar to that of BBC.

The council of advisers is yet to decide about autonomy for Betar. Since the restoration of democratic rule through the mass upsurge in 1990, the three successive governments of BNP and AL in their election manifestos pledged to give autonomy to BTV but did not materialise it. Even during the movement against autocratic Ershad regime, all political alliances and parties had promised autonomy to the state-run electronic media.

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Office timing for Ramadan announced

UNB, Dhaka

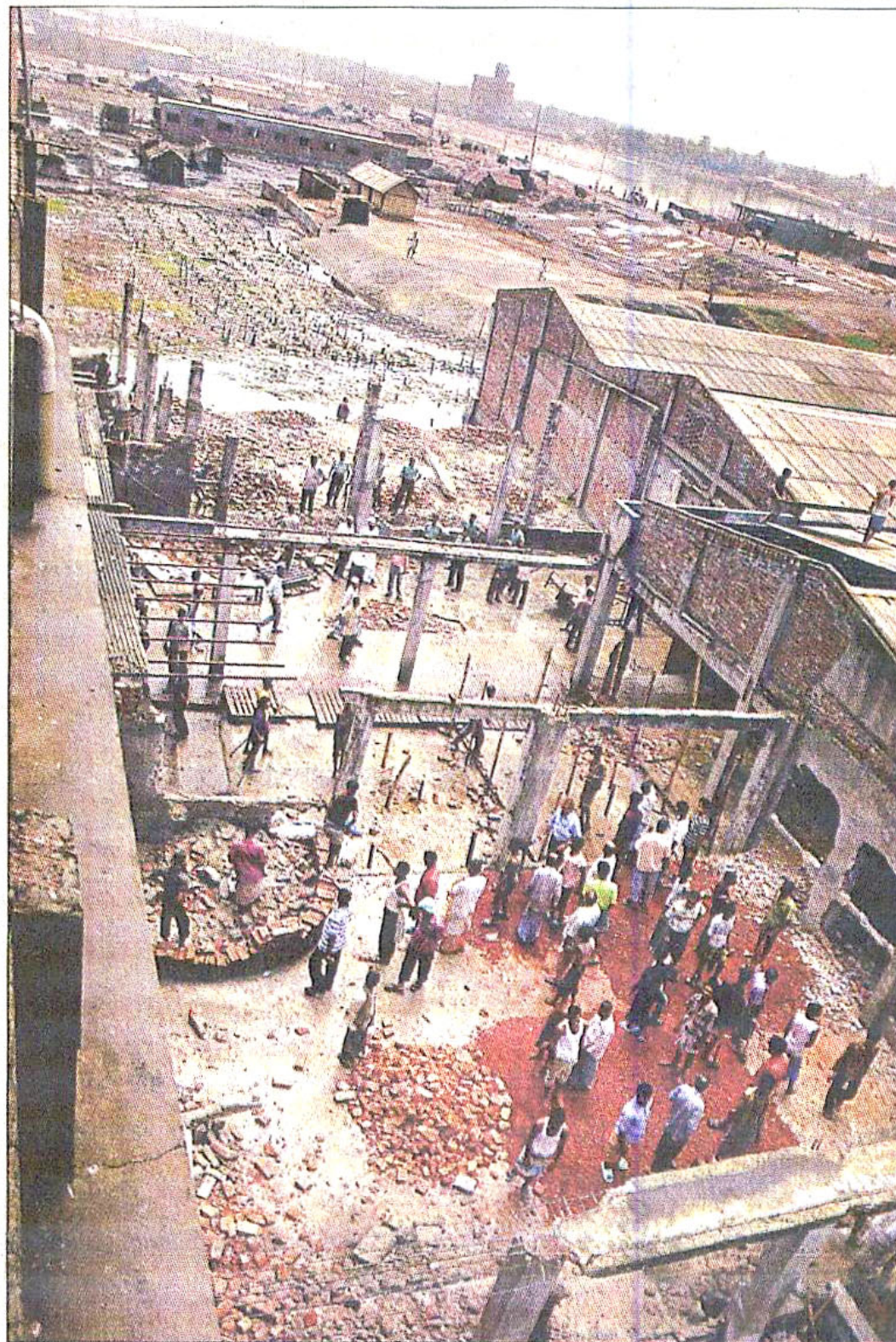
The Council of Advisers in its weekly meeting yesterday fixed office timing from 9:00am to 3:30pm, with a 15-minute break for Zohr prayers from 1:15pm to 1:30pm, for all government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies during the month of Ramadan.

The council also decided that emergency service providers like banks, post offices, hospitals, railway, telephone and state-owned mills and factories would fix their working hours during the month in accordance with their own rules considering public interest.

Ramadan office timing for the Supreme Court and all other courts under it will be fixed by the Supreme Court.

Besides rescheduling the office timing, the council thoroughly reviewed a proposal for enforcement of Bangladesh Television

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Dhaka Wasa demolishes part of the structure that Mitali Tannery Ltd built illegally on a dried up canal at Hazaribagh in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

Khaleda couldn't attend party anniversary programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP observed its 29th founding anniversary yesterday on a limited scale but its Chairperson Khaleda Zia could not visit the grave of party founder late president Ziaur Rahman due to government restrictions on security grounds.

Amid tight security, senior party leaders visited Ziaur Rahman's grave at Chandrima Udyan at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital to place floral wreaths and offer فاتحہ at about 11:30am. They prayed for salvation of the departed soul of the slain president.

Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who is working for reforms in the party and Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, loyal to the party chairperson, shook hands before placing floral wreaths.

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EC hopeful of lifting ban on indoor politics

Brig Gen Shakhawat says
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Shakhawat Hossain yesterday expressed hope that the government will lift the ban on indoor politics so that the Election Commission (EC) can sit with the political parties for talks.

He was talking with the journalists at a press briefing in Rajshahi as he visited Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area yesterday to see the progress of the ongoing task of preparing the digital voter list with photograph and national identity cards.

He was accompanied by British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury and Chris Austin, chief of UK government's

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DU VIOLENCE

Probe body finds no instigative elements in day 1 incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The one-member judicial probe committee of Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, formed to investigate the recent violence at Dhaka University, as of yesterday found no instigative element in the first day's incident.

"In the incidents of the first day, the commission so far found nothing that can be termed instigative," Justice Rahman said while talking to reporters at his Circuit House office yesterday adding that he would visit the spots today.

Rahman said no steps were

taken so far to take the statements of the two detained DU professors - Harun or Rashid and Anwar Hossain.

"Tomorrow [today] I will talk to the vice-chancellor and decide on the steps that can be taken," he added.

Rahman said the commission would also talk to the army men, who were in the camp that was garrisoned at the university's gymnasium. "But this will take time as the procedure to produce them before the court is different," he added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

VCs to meet education adviser for university reopening

UNB, Dhaka

The vice-chancellors of public universities will meet Education Adviser Ayub Quadri tomorrow to discuss the reopening of the varsities.

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz apprised reporters of their move at his office yesterday.

"All want to bring a congenial atmosphere back on the campuses as soon as possible. The vice-chancellors will meet the education adviser at 3:00pm on Monday to find a way of resolving the current campus crisis," said Dr Faiz, who was in the United States during the incidents.

Asked what the DU authorities are thinking about the reopening of

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GSP forgery in RMG export to Europe

Probe body found Chinese, Indian firms involved

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

A government investigation committee has found several Chinese and Indian companies responsible for exporting products to European countries using fake Bangladeshi GSP (generalised system of preference) certificates.

Formed to identify the people involved in GSP forgery, the committee in its primary investigation

found that those companies in connivance with some local businessmen and government officials issue fake GSP certificates.

The committee headed by a deputy secretary of commerce ministry was formed following repeated requests from the European Union to send a list of those who have been involved with the forgery and introduce a system

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Plain-clothes men beat up DU hall staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Plainclothes men claiming themselves from security forces beat up five employees of Dhaka University yesterday for their alleged non-cooperation with them.

Sources said a group of five people went to the office of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall at about 12:30pm and asked the hall officials to give documents of five students, who they claimed are attached to the hall. They claimed that they were army personnel and led by a major.

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REFORM TALKS WITH EC

Hasina says AL working body to decide; Amu thinks it's possible now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the party's Central Working Committee is to decide whether the party would hold dialogues with the Election Commission (EC).

Zillur Rahman, acting president of AL, meanwhile, reiterated his

stand on the issue yesterday and said his party would not hold any dialogue with the EC until the ban on indoor politics is lifted, neither will his party participate in any election unless the party chief is released.

On the contrary, senior AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, who is set to leave Dhaka

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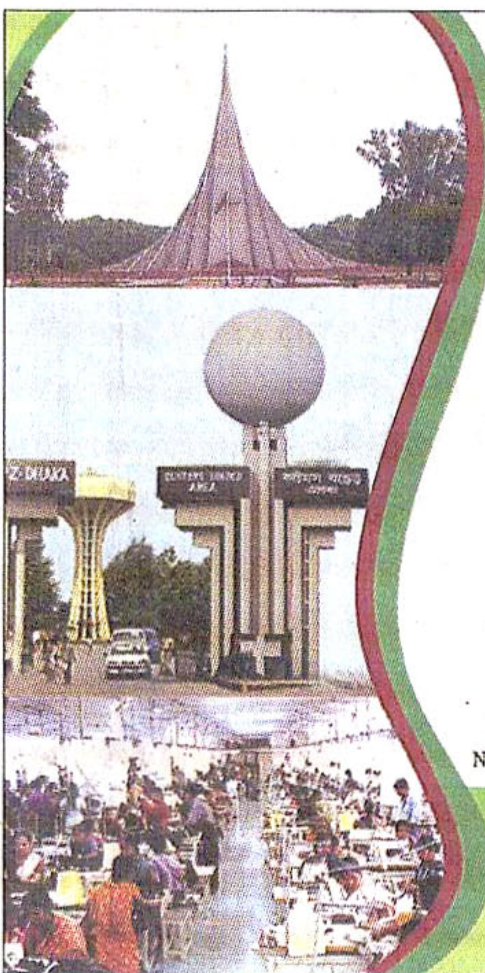


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Notice inviting Architectural and Engineering Consulting firms to submit proposals for pre-qualification for appointment as a Consultant for the design and supervision of a multi-storied Corporate Head Office Building for Bank Asia at Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Further to our notification on the above subject published in **The Daily Star** and **The Prothom Alo** on **22nd August, 2007** the time for availability of Letter of Invitation (LOI) and the deadline for submission of "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" have been extended as follows:

Availability of LOI : At the office of the undersigned during office hours upto 9th September, 2007.
Terminal date for submission of proposals : 2:00 PM sharp on 30th September, 2007.

All other terms and conditions mentioned in the aforesaid notification shall remain unchanged.

Dated: 2nd September, 2007

(Aminul Islam)
Deputy Managing Director

Bank Asia
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