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TV channels asked to avoid live talk shows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The military-backed caretaker government asked the private television channels to avoid telecasting all kinds of live talk shows, sources said.

The officials, however, said they did not impose any ban on telecasting live shows but the channels might be advised to be careful in telecasting live programmes.

Earlier on Thursday night, Ekushey Television authorities received a fax message, without mentioning the name and signature of the sender, from the administration to cancel its scheduled live popular programme *Ekushey Somoy* and *Ekushey Raat*.

Some other private channels also received similar instructions.

Following the direction, Ekushey Television authorities cancelled broadcasting of its live

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Allahr Dal militants regrouping in 3 dists

AMANUR AMAN, from Meherpur

Activists of militant outfit Allahr Dal are regrouping in the south-western part of the country.

Members of the Islamist group are carrying out their activities secretly in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga, sources in law enforcement agencies said.

A number of militants who fled the country following the crack-down after August 17 serial bomb blasts in 2005 have returned to their areas and started regrouping.

Police arrested six members of Allahr Dal at a house at Govipur in Meherpur on January 17.

The law enforcers said they launched a drive after getting information that members of the outfit gathered there to hold a

meeting.

The arrestees are Mohammad Rana of Batkaira village in Pabna, Mahfuzur Rahman of Tegrakandi in Gaibandha, Omar Ali of Saharbag in Magura, Safiqul Islam of Baantapur, Mortuza of Chakraur and Arifur Rahman Baus of Meherpur.

Police seized some documents from them.

Of the arrestees, Omar Ali was an employee of LGED in Meherpur.

Police said arrested militant Mahfuzur Rahman was coordinating all activities of the outfit in Meherpur. He stayed at the house of Abul Kasem at Bedpara area in the town for seven months introducing him as a preacher of Islam.

Police said all the arrestees admitted to their involvement with

the outfit during interrogation mentioning Matin Mehedi as their leader.

Matin, a government high-up, who was arrested in 2005, is behind bars now.

Sources said about 250 activists of Allahr Dal are active in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga.

Most of them are teachers and students of Madrasa and Imams. Besides, a number of college and school teachers and government employees are also involved with the outfit.

Rab members arrested nine activists of the group in Kushtia on June 5, 2007. A court awarded them five years' imprisonment each in September.

Later, they were granted bail by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

DISCUSSION IN DAVOS 'Three things can help fight poverty and extremism'

UNB, Davos, Switzerland

Democracy, education and economic development can help fight poverty and extremism, South Asian and Arab leaders observed here Thursday.

The unanimous observations came at a panel discussion attended by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2008 on Quest for Peace and Stability.

Fakhruddin and Musharraf promised to hold general elections in their countries in a free and fair fashion and called for economic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



TOP... Locals have taken away bricks from the eastern wall of Pundra Nagar, an archaeological site in Bogra. BELOW... One of many houses built using the stolen bricks.



Locals loot bricks from ancient site

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Government officials allege that locals are stealing bricks from the remnants of the 2000-year old city of Pundra Nagar, a fenced reserved site in Bogra which could soon be listed as a world heritage site.

Geological department field officer Badrul Alam told The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Parents and HSC examinees under Bangladesh Open University clog the street in front of Eden Mohila College in the capital after an examination yesterday.

Bali anti-corruption meet opens Monday

REZAUL KARIM

Over 1,000 people including government officials, business leaders, journalists, crime-busters, entertainers and civil society representatives from more than 100 nations will gather in Bali of Indonesia for a United Nations (UN) anti-corruption conference beginning Monday.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will inaugurate the five-day meet where the States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) will review implementation of the convention and discuss ways to step up international efforts to prevent and fight corruption.

The conference, second of its kind after the inaugural session held in Jordan two years ago, will also include discussions about an asset recovery mechanism, an issue figuring prominently in anti-

India, France agree to boost military ties

AFP, New Delhi

India and France agreed yesterday to strengthen military cooperation and move beyond a "buyer-seller relationship," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said.

"I think it is very important that India and France should cooperate, share information and intelligence gathering for defence of the values which are dear to both our countries," the prime minister said in a joint news conference with visiting French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"We have agreed to go beyond a buyer-seller relationship. We will increasingly focus on joint research and development projects, transfer of technology and greater military exchanges," he added.

The two sides had earlier signed an agreement on protecting classified defence information.

"A global fight against terrorism

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Police take case against Nizami, Mojahid, 8 others

UNB, Dhaka

Pallabi police yesterday registered a case following Thursday's court order against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and eight others as they were accused of massacre during the Liberation War.

Amir Hossain Mullah, a war-wounded freedom fighter and resident of Duarpara of Pallabi, filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, accusing Nizami, Mojahid and eight others of the massacre.

After hearing, Magistrate Imran Hossain Chowdhury asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Pallabi Police Station to register the case and submit a report in this connection after investigation.

The officer-in-charge of Pallabi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

UDICHI BLAST CASE Charges pressed against alleged militant

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday pressed charges against Monirul Ahsan Madina in connection with an arms case. Madina is an accused in the Udichi blast case of 1999 and in the grenade attack case on an Awami League rally in August 21, 2004.

Police also pressed charges against him, an alleged militant, in connection with two other cases filed under Special Powers Act and foreign currency act.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on December 14 arrested Madina at a school in Narayanpur in possession of an Indian revolver, a magazine, a bullet and two SIM cards of cellphones. Rab had filed a case with Benapole Port Police Station following his arrest.

No headway yet in Kibria killing cases

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Trial of the two cases filed for the assassination of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria remains pending before the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal here for over one and a half years after a High Court stay.

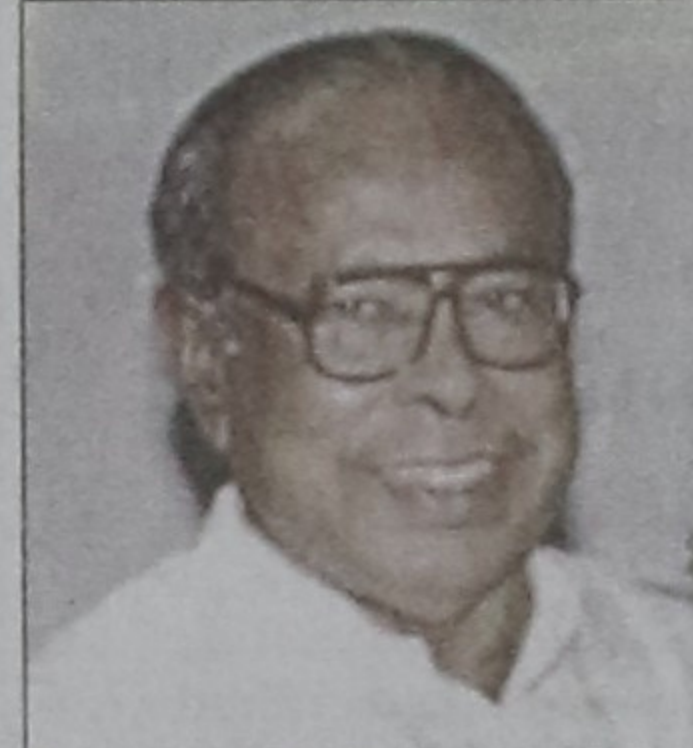
Only a day is left to go before the third anniversary of the Awami League (AL) leader's death with little progress in investigation of the gruesome killing.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has yet to complete supplementary probe in the sensational cases—one for murder and the other for explosion—even though 10 months have passed since resumption of further investigation.

The then senior additional superintendent of police (ASP) Munshi Atiqur Rahman of CID on March 7 last year notified the tribunal of the matter.

After Munshi's retirement, ASP Rafiqul Islam took over as the investigation officer (IO). He claimed they had gathered some significant leads from different sources. He however could not say

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Shah AMS Kibria

Vegetable prices increase as bad weather disrupts supply

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The ongoing foggy cold weather has disrupted supply of vegetables, causing increase in its prices in the capital and incurring loss to traders since a good quantity of vegetables are rotting every day.

Prices of other essentials like powdered milk, rice, flour, edible oil and chicken also went up during the last week, leaving people of the low-income group under immense pressure.

The prices of all vegetables went up by Tk 2-5 per kg in the last two days at different kitchen markets in the city.

Potato was sold at Tk 15-16 per kg yesterday, onion at Tk 18-20, papaya at Tk 10-12, tomato at Tk 15-24, radish at Tk 10-12, brinjal at Tk 15-25, bitter gourd at Tk 20-26, bean at Tk 12-20, pumpkin at Tk 25-35, and cauliflower and cabbage at Tk 12-16 per piece.

"Suppliers from the village markets usually send 40 tonnes of vegetables every day, but I got only around 20 tonnes on Thursday and 8 tonnes yesterday," said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Over 400 crows die in Dinajpur in 2 days

Bird flu suspected as more fowls culled in districts

STAR REPORT

Crows in Dinajpur town and its adjacent areas are dying in large numbers while at least 4,700 poultry birds were culled in the district as they were infected with bird flu.

Locals and district livestock officials said over 400 crows died in the last two days in the town and are rotting in the open, our Dinajpur correspondent reports.

Locals of Munshipara and Barabandar said crows were seen



A few of the dead crows at the garden of a house in Dinajpur town. The officials could not ascertain the reason for death.

India battles to stop spread of bird flu to Kolkata

AFP, Kolkata

Indian health authorities battled yesterday to stop the country's worst bird flu outbreak from spreading to the densely populated city of Kolkata as heavy rain hampered culling efforts.

The disease has spread to over half of West Bengal state, including areas just 20 kilometres from Kolkata since the presence of the deadly H5N1 strain in dead chickens was first confirmed over a week ago.

"The government has banned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing

January 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents.

Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students.

Star Campus helps link young minds together.