

'Formulate policy for private TV channels'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Television programme producers yesterday demanded a policy for private satellite channels having provisions of payment for programmes.

They placed the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the city.

The producers said they have dues of around Tk 5 crore to the recently closed Channel 1 and around Tk 25 crore to other private channels and demanded immediate payments of the bills.

They also threatened to launch a tough movement if the demands are not met.

Tarik Anam Khan, general secretary of the Television Programme Producers Association of Bangladesh (TPPAB), said the producers suffer the most due to absence of the policy.

"We face difficulties to realise our dues from the channels. They delay up to 120 days to pay the bills that they are bound to pay within 60 days after the supply of a programme according to deals between the two parties," he said.

Mamunur Rashid, president of the TPPAB, said this is a matter of the security of the artists in the industry. The government should formulate the policy to ensure their security, he added.

They also demanded that the government take steps to ensure the airing of Bangladeshi channels in neighbouring India.

The government should make the channels available in India, as Bangladeshi television programmes are popular to the people in that country.

Obituary

METRO DESK

MA Baten, a noted businessman, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He was the younger brother of MA Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd.

Baten left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

His body is being kept at the mortuary of BIRDEM. He will be buried at Satkhamair at Sripur in Gazipur once his family members return from the USA.

Rafiqul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafiqul Islam, former deputy director of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), passed away yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, who is working as an assistant director in BPDB, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

National Power Workers League President Md Jahirul Islam Chowdhury and General Secretary Md Alauddin Mia consoled his death.



South Korean Environment Minister Maanee Lee calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in Seoul yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM seeks 'comprehensive partnership' with S Korea

UNB, Seoul

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought 'Comprehensive Partnership' with South Korea to further expand economic cooperation between Dhaka and Seoul.

"Given the rapid growth and expansion of our trade, investment, and people-to-people contact, we would like to elevate our relations to the level of 'Comprehensive Partnership'," she said at a dinner hosted by Park Jin, chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification, at National Assembly yesterday evening.

Hasina said both the countries have made painful sacrifices for freedom and democracy. "But, in one generation your great country has also achieved economic emancipation."

She said Bangladesh achieved independence after a bloody struggle in 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman.

The prime minister recounted that before the father of the nation could entrench democracy and emancipate the people from economic deprivation, he was assassinated with 18 members of their family on August 15, 1975.

"My younger sister, Rehana, and I were saved as we were abroad at the time. It was on 17 May, 1981 when I could come home with the popular support of the people."

Hasina said her life was a bitter struggle against military takeover in pursuit of democracy. "I escaped 19 attempts on my life, including a grenade attack on 21st August in 2004 that left 22 dead and nearly 500 people injured."

The prime minister said, "My struggle continued, and for a time I again was exiled abroad. Again it was people's support that enabled me to return home."

Hasina said that to strengthen democracy, her government for the first time

established all 44 parliamentary standing committees, offering chairmanship of seven to other parties.

"I have reintroduced the prime minister's weekly question hour, so long shelved by the past government."

She said establishment of Korea Bangladesh Parliamentarian's Friendship Association has also added to the strength of Bangladesh's democracy.

She thanked Kim Choong-Whan for his visit to Bangladesh early this year.

Hasina said she has requested Bangladesh's Speaker to establish a similar association in Bangladesh to interact with the Korean counterpart.

She sought Korean committee's support in deepening the friendship in the coming days. "Let us be partners in promoting democracy globally," she said.

Prime Minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana and Commerce Minister Faruk Khan were, among others, present on the occasion.

INDEPENDENT ACC TIB launches campaign today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) will form a human chain and launch a signature campaign today to drum up support for the demand of making Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) independent, impartial and effective.

The human chain will be formed in front of the National Press Club at 10:30am while a signature campaign will also be going on at the same place.

Chairman of TIB Trustee Board M Hafizuddin Khan will lead the program, says a TIB press release.

Sachetan Nagorik Committee and Youth Engagement and Support have formed human chains and collecting signatures in 36 areas across the country to mobilise support for the demand. The month-long programme will continue till May 31.

People who want to support the demand of TIB can also participate by logging onto <http://www.petitiononline.com/acc2010.petition.html> or sending SMS to 6625 by writing DUDAK.

Chemically tainted mangoes destroyed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court consisting Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel destroyed 9.4 tons of chemically tainted mangoes worth Tk 7.5 lakh from five fruit-selling shops in the city's Karwan Bazar wholesale market yesterday.

Major Ershadul Haque of Rab-2 said the mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Al-Amin seized mangoes mixed with calcium carbide.

The shops were Shahi Bhandar, Amena Traders, Tejgaon Farm, Desh Bidesh Farm and Dhaka Banijja.

Bangladesh navy begins operation in Lebanon

BSS, Dhaka

Two Bangladesh Navy ships -- BNS OSMAN and BNS MADHUMATI -- have reached Lebanon to take part in the UN Peacekeeping Mission under UNIFIL.

Already, BNS MADHUMATI and BNS OSMAN have started their operation in the Mediterranean Sea on May 15 and 17 respectively as part of the peacekeeping mission, said an ISPR release in the city yesterday.

BNS OSMAN and MADHUMATI left Chittagong port on April 12 and reached Beirut Port in Lebanon on May 7. Two ships were included in UN mission from that day.

These ships have taken stopover in Colombo, Oman and Jeddah port during their

voyage towards Lebanon.

Members of both the ships performed "OMRAH HAJJ" during their stopover at Jeddah port. This is for the first time in South Asia, from where Bangladesh Navy Ships joined the UN Mission at UNIFIL.

At present, navy ships from Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Belgium and Turkey are included in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Meanwhile, Japanese and Indonesian navy have also expressed their interest to participate in that maritime task force.

It is a matter of great pride for Bangladesh Navy and the nation to participate with such developed and modern navy fleet in the said mission, the release said.

UK BNP leader tried to buy Hawa Bhaban for Khaleda

UNB, Bianibazar

The UK unit chief of BNP tried to buy controversial Hawa Bhaban in Dhaka city and present it as a 'gift' to the party chairperson, Khaleda Zia.

UK unit president of BNP who hails from Bianibazar of Sylhet tried to buy the controversial Hawa Bhaban in Dhaka City and present it as 'gift' to party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The quiet endeavour of Mohammad Kamaruddin, who hails from Bianibazar of Sylhet, was leaked to the media evoking sharp criticisms in the UK as well as in the country forcing him to back out, his close relatives here told the news agency.

Hawarun Ahmad, wife of Ahsak Ahmad Ashuk, who lives in the UK and also hails from Bianibazar, is the owner of Hawa Bhaban.

Critics say Tarique Rahman, the eldest son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, had turned the Hawa Bhaban a parallel powerhouse during the BNP-led four-party coalition government, earning bad name for the party.

After BNP came to power in 2001, Ali Asgar Loby, former MP from Khulna, took the building at Bonani on rent from Ahsak Ahmad for business purpose.

In no time it was taken over by Tarique, also the erstwhile senior joint secretary general of BNP and presently senior vice-chairman of the party, and turned into a 'parallel power centre'.

Hawa Bhaban was sealed after 1/11 when the army-backed caretaker government came to power and Tarique was taken into custody.

Pressed upon the government from London, Hawarun Ahmad has got back her house. An affluent person, she has arranged renovating the house to make it shining and attractive.

Her close relatives in Bianibazar said, "Kamaruddin Sahab wanted to purchase Hawa Bhaban and a deal with Ahsak was almost reached. But now he backed out in the wake of criticism."

## WEATHER TODAY

### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the region of Comilla in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Mild to moderate heat wave may continue over Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla, Cahdnpur, Majidee Court, Feni, Hatiya, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Mongla, Barisal, Patuakhali and Dhaka.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 38.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 20.0 degrees Celsius at Mymensingh.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.7	25.7	61	52
Chittagong	34.5	27.0	74	69
Rajshahi	34.7	26.9	73	70
Khulna	36.3	27.2	70	57
Barisal	36.3	27.0	64	55
Sylhet	33.0	22.5	78	55
Cox's Bazar	35.5	27.2	60	70

News in Brief

Selina gets Rabindra Puraskar

BSS, Kolkata

Noted litterateur Selina Hossain made Bangladesh proud when she received the Rabindra Smriti Puraskar in recognition of her literary works reflecting the poet's ideals and vision.

She was given the prestigious award along with celebrities like star actor Soumitra Chatterjee and singing maestro Suchitra Mitra at a glittering function attended by the cream of intellectuals of the city here last night.

The award was given by the Delhi-based famous The Indian Institute of Planning Management.

JNU female dormitory soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jagannath University authorities have taken a plan to build a 20-storied residential hall for female students soon, university officials said yesterday.

Besides, five more buses will be pressed into service for the university students within two months, Treasurer Prof Md Shawkat Jahangir said at the inaugural ceremony of a common room for female students and a teachers' lounge.

The common room will help female students of different departments create a bond of understanding among themselves to benefit each other, Vice Chancellor Dr Mesbah Uddin Ahmed said while inaugurating the common room, says a press release.

Later, the VC inaugurated the teachers' lounge on the ground floor of the seven-storied building of the university.

21 frauds held in airport area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested 21 people from Shahjalal International Airport area on charges of cheating and harassing the passengers.

Rab-1 officials said they detained those frauds as part of their continuous special drives launched on April 22 with a view to curbing the sufferings of the air passengers and their relatives.

According to Rab and police, over 150 cheats and frauds had been arrested since April 20.

DU geography evening course

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka has opened Evening Master of Science (MS) Course in Disaster Management, says a press release.

The course will begin on July 1, 2010.

The university syndicate took the decision in its recent meeting on recommendations of the Academic Council and the Earth and Environmental Sciences Faculty of the university.

BSMMU opens afternoon shift for imaging tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday launched an afternoon shift for X-ray, ultrasonogram and other imaging tests in its radiology and imaging department to reduce suffering of the patients.

More patients will now be able to have radiology and imaging tests at the university during the afternoon shift from 2:30pm to 8:00pm daily except Friday and public holidays, BSMMU officials said.

BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta inaugurated the new shift in the morning. Pro-VCs Prof Mohammad Sahidullah and Prof Ruhul Amin Miah, Treasurer Prof Moazzem Hossain, Director Brig Gen Abdul Majid Bhuiyan, and Radiology and Imaging department Chairman Dr Mohammad Salauddin Al Azad were present at the ceremony.

Stanchart to receive Wasa bills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subscribers of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) will now be able to pay their water and sewerage bills through any branch of Standard Chartered Bank, says a press release.

An agreement between Wasa and Standard Chartered Bank signed an agreement yesterday at Mirpur branch of the bank in this regard.

A one-stop service centre will remain open till 4:00pm to receive the bill at all branches of the bank.

The new billing system was inaugurated by receiving bill of a subscriber after signing the agreement.

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা কর্তৃক অনুমোদনপ্রাপ্ত  
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