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JS body finds flaws in MPO listing

Asks education ministry to complete the task, wonders why adviser should be involved

WASIM BIN HABIB and RASHIDUL HASAN

The new monthly pay order list of non-government secondary and higher secondary educational institutions has been marred by irregularities, alleged a parliamentary committee yesterday, asking the education ministry to finalise it after a probe.

subsidy for teachers' salaries through monthly pay orders.

"Members of the committee at today's meeting pointed out several anomalies in the list's preparation, and wanted to know what criteria the ministry had used to include the new institutions," said Rashed Khan Menon, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry.

The education minister also admitted that some irregularities took place, Menon, also the president of Workers Party, claimed.

He said in a parliamentary democracy, ministries concerned have the final say on all ministerial matters, preparing the MPO list is the task of the education ministry, not of the prime minister's adviser.

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HC RULING Jamuna TV shutdown order valid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a verdict justified the government decision to cancel the allocation of frequency to Jamuna Television (JTV) and stop its test transmission.

The court, however, directed the government to expeditiously dispose of the application submitted by the JTV authorities seeking a fresh no objection certificate (NOC) for a licence to run the channel.

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Thai troops hunt for protesters

15 dead; curfew extended

AFP, REUTERS, BBC ONLINE, Bangkok

Thai troops yesterday hunted for militant protesters who left parts of Bangkok in flames as the authorities extended a night curfew in the capital despite tentative signs of a return to normality.

Thai authorities restored order over most of Bangkok but the peace looked fragile, a day after rioting and fires that veered toward anarchy as troops took control of a camp occupied by anti-government protesters.

Modern Thailand has never seen such a protracted period of urban violence, deadly

riots, clashes and widespread destruction, and has never teetered so close to full civil conflict.

"Thailand has become a nation deeply divided, and although talk of a civil war may still be premature, there is a high risk that civil unrest and political violence will not be contained," said Danny Richards, analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Thai authorities have extended a curfew in Bangkok for three more nights, following Wednesday's deadly army assault on anti-government protesters.

The curfew will also be in place in 23

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BTV news bulletin irks JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry has expressed its dissatisfaction with the quality of news aired by state-run Bangladesh Television, and asked the ministry concerned and BTV authorities to change their mindset in this regard.

"It is not proper that a 30-minute news bulletin of BTV consists of speeches for 28 minutes," chief of the committee Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Talking to journalists after a meeting of the House body at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Quader said, "The committee has asked both the information minister and director general of BTV to change their mindset about news."

"Now there are about 10 private television channels in the country. So, BTV will not be able to conceal any news by not telecasting it."

If BTV wants to project only good news to people, it will not

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Wreckage of Munsil Automobile, one of the three garages burnt down in CNG cylinder explosion yesterday at the city's Uttara. Inset, remains of the burst out cylinder.

PHOTO: STAR

CNG cylinder blast blows up workshop

2 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three garages at the city's Uttara were burnt to ashes when a CNG cylinder of a private car exploded yesterday, also leaving two workers injured.

Jasim Uddin, 30, and another unidentified, were admitted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital with severe burn injuries. Both are employees of Lipi Automobile at Himel Market.

The cylinder blew up around 10:00am while the workers were spray-painting the car at the garage, said Sub-Inspector Mohammad Yusuf of Uttara Police Station, quoting Jasim.

The flame from the explosion soon spread to adjacent Khwaja Automobile and Munsil Automobile, witnesses said.

The fire burnt down machines and vehicles at all

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OnlinePoll ✓
Do you support BNP's decision to enforce a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 27?
 Yes (29.2%)
 No (70.1%)
 No Comments (0.7%)
Total votes: 1745
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you agree with BNP that the government is controlling news and talk shows?
 Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

May 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Easy escape from molestation charge

Only Tk 500 fine, 50 shoe-slaps for child molestation; one arbitrator held

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A child molester was fined Tk 500 only and handed down a punishment of 50 shoe-slaps at a local arbitration in the city's Mirpur area on Tuesday.

The offender, Mohammad Liton, 14, has been absconding since the arbitration. The victim's family rejected the settlement calling it a drama to hide the crime.

The father of the abused five-year-old girl, said, "The arbitration was one sided, as we did not accepted its decisions. This can't be appropriate for such a heinous crime."

Liton, an employee of a local laundry, violated the girl calling her in his room in absence of her parents on Monday afternoon, police said.

Later, the mother took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Both the victim and the accused were neighbours and residents of adjacent tin-shed houses in Muktiyoddha Complex area. The father is a day labourer and his wife works as a domestic help.

The following day, Abul Kashem, 58, a brother of Ali Ahmed, owner of the houses, arranged a drama of arbitration.

The father filed a case with Shah Ali Police Station on Wednesday accusing Liton of abusing the child and Kashem of attempting to deprive the family of justice.

In the case statement, the father said, in a bid to hide the crime, Kashem had arranged the arbitration and forced him to accept it.

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Reinstatement of 85 election officers stayed for a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for a month the Election Commission's (EC) action reinstating 85 persons as upazila election officers.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and the EC to explain within two weeks why their reinstatement without completing the legal process should not be declared illegal.

An HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain passed the order upon a public interest writ petition filed by Matiyar Rahman Hawlader of Barisal.

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Karachi political violence kills 25

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Karachi

The paramilitary Pakistan Rangers were called in after political-ethnic violence in this southern port city claimed 25 lives, a media report yesterday said.

The violence -- which began late Tuesday, continued through the day Wednesday and spilled over to Thursday morning -- targeted activists of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) the Awami National Party (ANP), the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), The News reported.

Ironically, the MQM is a junior partner in the Sindh and federal coalition governments, both of which are headed by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). The ANP is also part of the federal coalition.

Despite this, the MQM and the ANP have constantly been at loggerheads as they push the interests of their respective communities - the Mohajirs who migrated from India when the sub-continent was partitioned and the Pushtoon-origin residents of Karachi.

The violence prompted the authorities to hand over the task of maintaining law-and-order to the Pakistan Rangers under the

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Last batch of seamen back from Benin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The last batch of Bangladeshi seamen, who were stranded in ships offshore Benin, finally returned home yesterday.

"The 21 seamen landed at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday around 8:00pm by a flight of Emirates Airlines," an official of welfare desk, the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, said last night.

With their return, the repatriation of the marooned seamen concluded.

As of 10:00pm last night, the immigration police was interrogating the seamen, airport sources said.

In last December and January this year, some 60

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ড. রিচার্ড জে. মার্কি, রোমানিয়া ফুড এন্ড বেভারেজ লিমিটেডের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোর্শেদ আলমের হাতে সনদ তুলে দিচ্ছেন।

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