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Govt goes for TV galore

13 more channels to join existing 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government "two to three days ago" had approved licence for 13 television channels, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told The Daily Star last night.

He said the approval had been given in line with a past decision and as a routine work.

This comes just a few days after the government gave licences to 14 new FM radio stations that are now awaiting spectrum allocation.

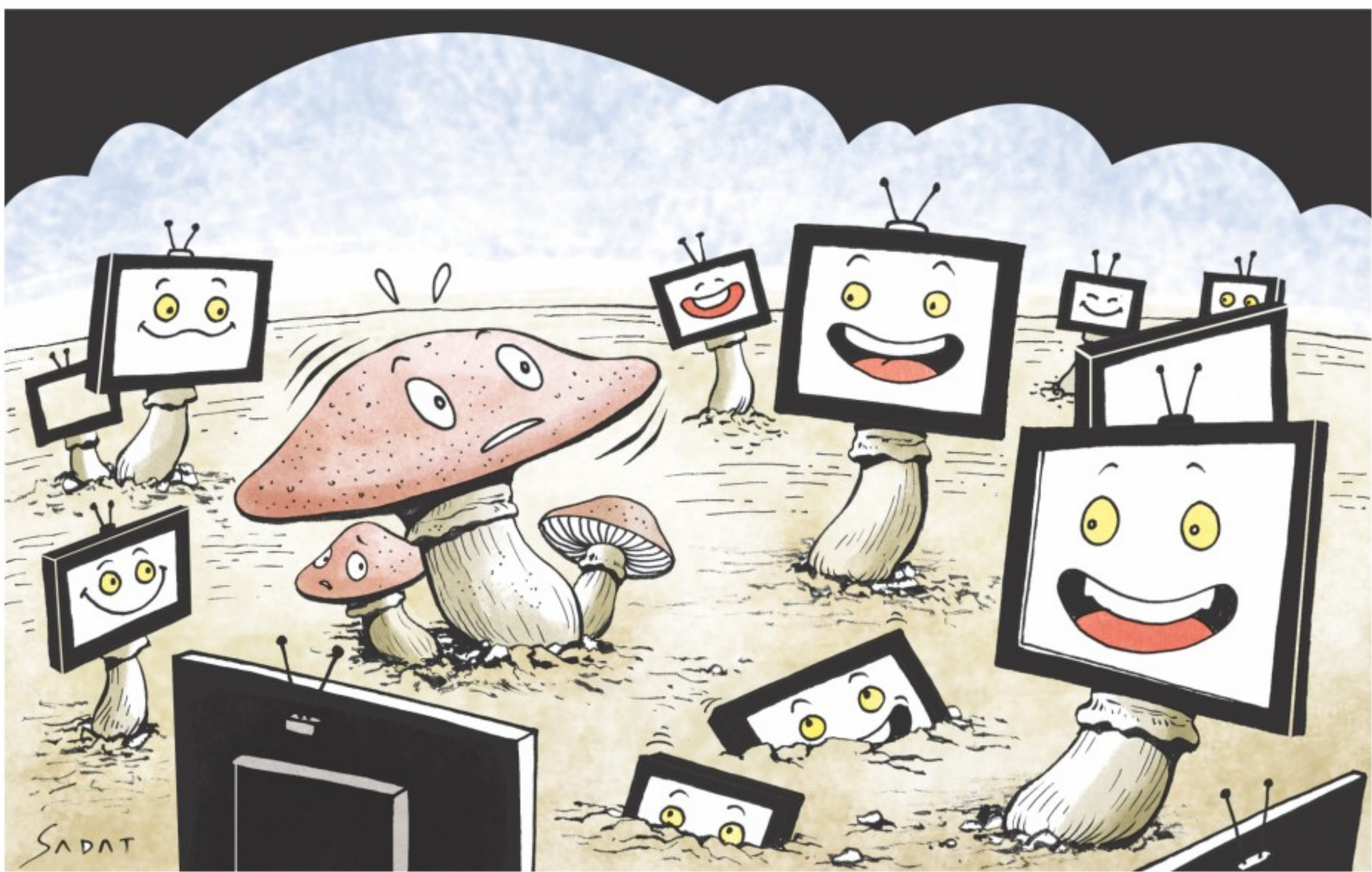
A minister, an adviser to the prime minister and some lawmakers are

among the owners and promoters of the new satellite TV channels, said sources in the information ministry.

The country now has 27 private TV stations, of which the Awami League-led grand alliance government has approved 12 during its tenure from 2009.

Of the 13 new channels, ruling party lawmaker Gazi Golam Dastagir is the chairman of "Green TV" of Green Multimedia Ltd. Forests and Environment Minister Hasan Mahmud made recommendation for the channel, sources said.

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Work to ensure big turnout in JS polls

PM asks ministers

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed her cabinet colleagues to work for maximum voter turnout in the 10th parliamentary election scheduled for January 5 in case the BNP boycotted it.

She, however, said maximum effort will be given to bring BNP to the election race, and asked her party's general secretary to continue dialogue with the BNP, several cabinet members said after a meeting held at the Secretariat.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, said BNP would be given the ministries it demands. She, however,

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PURBACHAL PROJECT SC asks Rajuk to maintain status quo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed Rajuk to maintain the status quo on the construction work of Purbachal housing project at Borokau and Parabarth moujas in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur.

The status quo will remain active until the High Court delivers a verdict on a writ petition filed by some rights groups,

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BORDER ALLOWANCE UP BY 30PC

BGB's turn this time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In keeping with recent moves to make government employees happy ahead of the elections, the government has increased an allowance for Border Guard Bangladesh personnel.

Now, BGB personnel between jawan and subedar major ranks would get 30 percent of their basic salary as border allowance, which is Tk 1,230-2,400 depending on rank.

Before, they used to get Tk 338 flat.

Apart from BGB officers, almost the entire force of 46,000 would be eligible for the allowance.

"This allowance will be a moral boost for our

members," BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday.

Civil servants too have had the pleasure of receiving extra perks from the government ahead of the polls.

The government made a hike in the risk allowances for around 1.4 lakh policemen, which is very similar to what the BGB men received.

It has increased the service age limit for civil servants to 59 from 57 and for servicemen to 50 from 48.

It has also upgraded the posts of seven secretaries to senior secretaries and promoted government officials in large numbers.

The government is also planning to upgrade the

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Razakars killed 7 villagers on Yusuf's order

Witness tells tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified that Razakars had killed at least seven people near Chulkathi Bazar in Bagerhat during the Liberation War and Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf ordered and oversaw the killings.

Sheikh Afzal Hossain, a war-wounded freedom fighter from Batiaghata of Khulna, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that following the directive of Yusuf, Razakars

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Schoolgirl burned with acid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A schoolgirl was badly injured in an acid attack on Sunday night allegedly by her cousin in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj as the girl refused to enter into a relationship with him.

The girl, Hasina Khatun, 13, of Laxmipur village, is now undergoing treatment at Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in the capital.

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The scaffolding of this under-construction footbridge on the Chittagong court building premises collapsed dropping chunks of concrete on the people underneath. Several people were injured.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ACC WINGS CLIPPED

HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in four weeks why the controversial provision of curtailing the ACC's authority to file graft charges against government officials on its own should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain came up with the rule in response to a writ petition filed by a non-government organisation challenging the legality of the provision.

The Speaker of the House, secretaries to the president, prime minister, Jatiya Sangsad, law ministry and cabinet division have been made respondents to the rule.

The government's move to bring in this provision through the bill placed at parliament in February 2011 sparked a storm of criticism.

Different non-government organisations, civil society members, donor agencies and the country's development

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CO₂ could warm Earth for centuries

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Carbon dioxide which is already in our atmosphere could continue warming the planet for centuries

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



দোয়া মাহফিল

ন্যাশনাল হার্ট ফাউন্ডেশন অব বাংলাদেশ-এর প্রেসিডেন্ট, সাবেক প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনার এবং সূপ্রীম কোর্টের আপীল বিভাগের সাবেক বিচারপতি ও সমাজসেবক **বিচারপতি চৌধুরী এ.টি.এম.মসুউদ**, বয়স-৮৯ বছর, গত ২২ নভেম্বর ২০১৩ইং রোজ শুক্রবার বিকাল ৫:৪১ ঘটিকায় শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেছেন (ইম্মা লিল্লাহে..... রাজেউন)। আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা ও তাঁর শোক সন্তও পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

আগামী ২৯ নভেম্বর-২০১৩ইং রোজ শুক্রবার, বিকাল ৪:০০ (চার) ঘটিকায় ওল্ড ডিওএইচএস, লেন-২ এর কমিউনিটি সেন্টার (কাকলীর সন্নিহিতে) এ মরহমের দোয়া মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে মরহমের আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও শুভাকাঙ্খীদের উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

ন্যাশনাল হার্ট ফাউন্ডেশন অব বাংলাদেশ-এর কর্তৃপক্ষ ও সকল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীবৃন্দ

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