

BROADCAST POLICY

It is to block airing of BNP's anti-govt protests

Claim party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday said the government had formulated the national broadcast policy to control the media so that they could not broadcast the news of the party's anti-government protests.

"In 1975, the then Awami League introduced BKSAL (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League) to institute a one-party rule in the country. This time, they have changed strategies and passed new laws and policies to hold on to power forever," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Through this policy, the government is planning to kill the power of media, he told a reunion of local BNP men in Sonargaon of

Narayanganj.

The cabinet approved the National Broadcast Policy-2014 on Tuesday, keeping much scope for the government to misuse the policy in the name of maintaining standard of news, programmes and advertisements in the electronic media. It came into effect on Thursday.

Fakhrul said it was unacceptable that the ruling party men had looted public money, committed corruptions and killed people, but the media and others could not speak out against these. They want to hide their corruption by using these policies and laws, he added.

The BNP spokesperson urged the people to be more conscious against this kind of

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State becoming fascist

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury tells discussion on Taqi's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is gradually taking on the features of a fascist state, veteran educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said yesterday, speaking on the killing of Naryanganj teenager Tanwir Muhammed Taqi, trial of which has not began in more than one year.

"An absence of the trial of killings, state's directly taking the side of the guilty, and passing of a broadcast policy to stifle the media are no isolated incidents. They all are tied to each other, in the establishment of fascism," he said.

There have already been arrangements to gag the voice of people, and the broadcast policy has proved that no protest would be tolerated, he said.

The emeritus professor of Dhaka University was addressing a roundtable, "Killing of Taqi: State's role in trial procedure is the very obstacle to good governance and democracy", at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, organised by Santras Nirmul Taqi Mancha.

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Local artistes performing Gambhira, a popular sub-genre of folk music of Chapainawabganj, in the prize giving ceremony of Rajshahi divisional round of English in Schools, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and Robi, in Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium of Rajshahi University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWSIN brief

Mild tremor jolts Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A mild tremor measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale jolted Sylhet region at 11:55pm on Thursday.

However, no casualty or major damage has been reported yet. The epicentre of the earthquake was located 98 kilometres north of Sylhet city, informed the regional Met officer in charge, Sayeed Ahmed Chowdhury.

One human trafficker detained, two victims rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police rescued two young girls from being trafficked to India, and arrested a trafficker in Balunda border area of Benapole yesterday.

The victims are Milthila Khatun, 16, and Fatima khatun, 17. The arrestee is Raju Khan, 20, of Chuadanga district. Benapole Port Police said acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a drive and made the arrest. A case was filed.

35 Jamaat-Shibir men held in Rangpur, 3 in Ctg

CITY DESK

Police arrested 38 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir in Rangpur and Chittagong districts in the last two days.

The 35 arrested in Rangpur face several cases filed for attacking and killing police officers, obstructing police from discharging duties, torching polling centres and snatching away ballot boxes and papers during January 5 polls and the day before, said Rangpur police. They were sent to Rangpur Central Jail. The Shibir activists arrested in Chittagong's Satkania upazila face vandalism, arson, and murder cases, said police.

Ctg dockworker dies in workplace accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker was killed as he fell down the stairs of a ship while he was unloading goods at the berthing point of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory Ltd in the city yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Md Foysal, 26, son of Md Mizan of Pirojpur.

Farmer dies as train runs him over

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A farmer died after being run over by a train in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat on Thursday night.

The deceased was Akhil Chandra, 45, a cattle farmer, of the upazila. Witnesses said Akhil was herding cattle over the rail tracks when the train ran him over. He was rushed to a local hospital where he died from profuse bleeding, said police.

RU School wins divisional round

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University School and College won the divisional round of English in Schools, a joint programme of The Daily Star and Robi, yesterday.

Harimohon Government High School of Chapainawabganj and Natore Government Girls High School were the first and second runners-up of the English competition respectively.

The three winning schools received bronze trophies, certificates, and English books worth Tk 10,000 each at prize giving ceremony held in Kazi Nazrul Islam



Auditorium of Rajshahi University (RU). The winning students received a medal each.

Earlier, some 500 students from 25 high schools of Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainawabganj districts took part in two tests on general grammar questions, sentence structure, word composition, comprehension and listening tests in the competition.

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, managing editor of The Daily Star, Prof Dr Muhammad Mizanuddin, RU vice chancellor, and Mohiuddin Babar, consultant at Robi, among others, spoke.

Govt call for not using

FROM PAGE 3

The rights activist recalled the spirit of the liberation war, which was building a country liveable for all irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity and religion.

Referring to the government's stand on the existence of the indigenous people, she said, "From our bitter experience we've seen that once the state starts saying 'no', then it tries to establish it."

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International, Bangladesh, said, "As a citizen I apologise since we could not establish equal rights in the last 42 years."

The rights of indigenous people are denied through the constitution, he said, calling upon the government to amend it.

Eminent economist and researcher Dr Swapan Adnan said intruders were grabbing indigenous people's lands since the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord had not been implemented.

Intiaz Ahmed, professor of international relations at Dhaka University, stressed the need for grooming a group of people who would think differently and build an equality-based society.

INDIGENOUS DAY

A photo exhibition of MA Mohit, Onu

Tareq and Enam Ul Haque started at the capital's Drik Gallery-2 yesterday to mark the day.

The exhibition, "Bishwabhora Pran" (world of living spirits), showing 55 images of the vibrant lives of indigenous people, is organised by Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club. It will remain open to all till August 15 from 3:00pm to 8:00pm every day.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Adivasi Union urged all to get united for establishing the constitutional recognition and rights of the indigenous communities and fighting against repression and land grabbing.

In a joint statement, the union leaders blamed the absence of the constitutional recognition for the continuous oppression against them.

Manusher Jonno Foundation organises two days of programmes including a seminar, an indigenous fair, and a cultural event. The inaugural event will be held at Bangla Academy at 12:30pm today.

Bangladesh Indigenous People Forum will hold a seminar, a rally and a cultural programme at Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am.

Man suffers 70 days

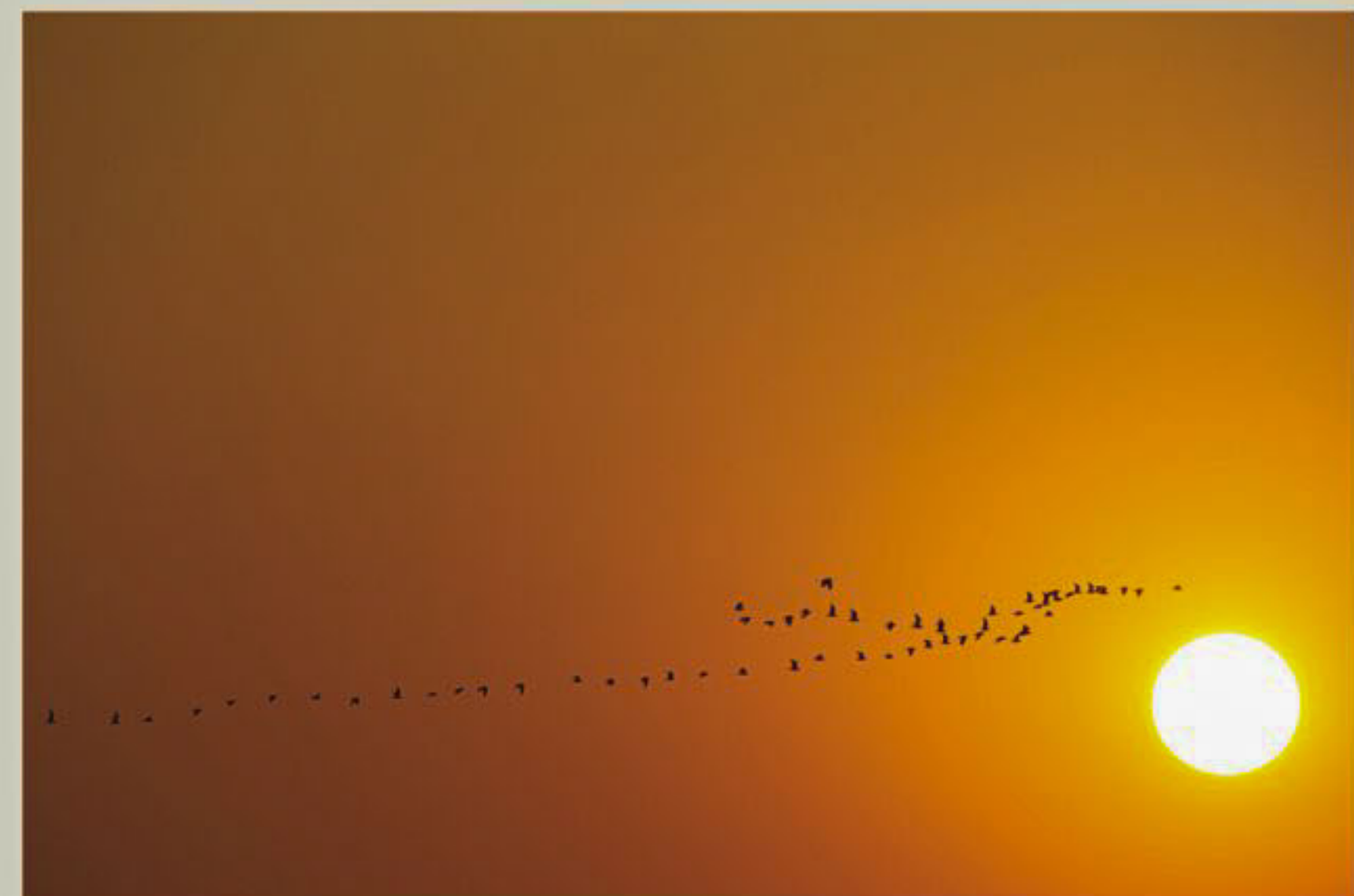
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staying in Panchagarh town, and sought the help of the Criminal Investigation Department in Gazipur.

Mofzul Goni, inspector (investigation) of Panchagarh Police Station, said they handed the arrested boy, Rana, over to Gazipur police yesterday.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Birds know their way.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Longitude

One day last winter I was watching a flock of ducks flying high overhead as they migrated a long distance. Nature had armed them with the means to navigate: knowing where they were and where they should head. They did this effortlessly.

Months later, I was on a long-haul flight and found myself following the airplane's trajectory on the flight-path display. Thanks to the wonder of Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS), the passengers, like those flying ducks, knew where we were and our heading.

But if this has been easy for birds, it was not always so for humans.

Centuries ago, when explorers travelled by ship across the oceans, navigation was challenging. The ocean has no landmark and looks the same day after day, mile after mile. To know their position, sailors needed the ship's latitude and longitude.

Latitudes and longitudes are imaginary lines that go around the earth. Latitudes are parallel and encircle the earth horizontally, starting with the equator. Longitudes encircle the earth vertically, going through the poles.

On a ship in the middle of the ocean, knowing the longitude told you the distance travelled eastward (or westward) from your start-point. Latitude told the northward (or southward) distance travelled.

Latitude is easier to measure because it has a starting point (Latitude 0) at the equator. From a ship, latitude could be derived from measuring the angle of the sun.

But calculating longitude turned out to be a much harder scientific problem. Dava Sobel's book *Longitude* tells the story of this puzzle. One reason was that there was no natural origin for counting longitudes. Greenwich in

England was chosen arbitrarily as zero longitude.

Because longitude could not be calculated, sailors could not know exactly how far east or west they had travelled. Obviously this was a major cause of unnecessary detours and shipwrecks. In 1701, a shipwreck of an English ship off the coast of Italy cost two thousand lives. This moved the British Parliament to announce a "Longitude Prize." Announced in 1714, the prize was worth GBP 20,000 (well over ten million pounds today) to be awarded to the person who solved this problem.

How was the conundrum solved? In an unexpected way that involved timekeeping.

It was well-known that there is a time difference between places east or west of each other. A change of fifteen degrees longitude results in a time difference of one hour. So, onboard a ship, if you knew the current time and the time at your start-point, you could calculate the ship's longitude.

The current time on the ship could be measured from the sun's angle. But a watch that showed the accurate time at the start-point did not exist. Pendulum-based timekeeping did not do well onboard a rocking ship.

The problem was solved by John Harrison, a relatively uneducated – but brilliant – watchmaker. He made four progressively improved clocks over several years; each was taken on long voyages and proved its worth.

A beneficiary of Harrison's clock was Captain Cooke, the first European to reach Australia, Hawaii and New Zealand.

Incidentally, the notion of using satellites for GPS was first predicted by science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke in 1956.

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Feni Jubo Dal leader dies

FROM PAGE 3

Hospital where he died around 1:00am, Didarul said.

Bibi Hazara, wife of the deceased, however, said Miadhan was not accused in any case with any police station.

After arrest, Assistant Sub-inspector Helal Uddin of Daganbhuiyan Police Station implicated Miadhan in the two cases as the latter refused to pay him

bribe, Hazara said.

Later, her husband was tortured in the police station that led to his death, she alleged.

Denying all the allegations, ASI Helal said they did not torture him.

Citing the autopsy report, Feni Sadar Hospital Residential Medical Officer Asim Kumar said Miadhan died from fever and vomiting, but not from any torture.

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