

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 68 NGOs, yesterday urged the government to reformulate the National Broadcast Policy 2014 after formation of an independent broadcast commission.

The platform made the demand along with 25 other points at a conference in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday.

The committee said the demand policy should be reformulated based on the liberal democratic values and people's rights to free flow of information as guaranteed in the constitution of 1972.

Chairperson of the committee, Ayesha Khanam, also president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the constitution was being used for political and partisan purposes and the equality guaranteed in the constitution for people of all religious or ethnic communities had not been ensured even after 44 years of the independence of Bangladesh.

"If the state breaks the law then how can rule of law be established in the country?" she asked saying how perpetrators of violence often get shelter and support of political leaders.

Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF FUGITIVE EX-JP MP JABBAR
Properties of Hindus war
booty, belong to Muslims
He told a pro-Pakistan rally in 1971; ordered killing of 2 freedom
fighters, 23 Hindus; forcefully converted 150 to Islam; looted
360 houses; testifies prosecution witness

A prosecution witness yesterday said war crimes accused Abdul Jabbar, during the Liberation War, termed freedom fighters, supporters of the Awami League and the war, and Hindus enemies of Pakistan and vowed to destroy them.

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker Jabbar, a fugitive, gave instructions to kill two freedom fighters and 23 Hindus, forcefully converted more than 150 people of the Hindu community to Islam and looted about 360 houses in Phuljhuri village, said Shoebur Rahman Golder, 75, the first prosecution witness in the case against Jabbar.

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-1 chaired by Justice M Enayetur Rahim recorded deposition of the witness after hearing opening statement placed by prosecutor Mohammad Zahid Imam.

"Wealth and properties of Hindus are war booty, and therefore it belongs to Muslims. If Hindus want to reside in the country, they will have to be Muslims," the witness quoted Jabbar as saying at a rally, who used to address collaborators of Pakistani invading army at different rallies in Pirojpur.

Shoebur, who had worked at Pakistan Administrative Staff College in Lahore, said he came to Dhaka on "February 29, 1971" and went to his

village Tushkhali on April 4 and trained freedom fighters there.

Pakistan Muslim League leader Jabbar was elected MPA in 1967-68, and took charge of the Peace Committee of Mathbaria Police Station in 1971 and recruited one Iskandar Ali Mridha as a Razakar commander, said the witness.

On May 16, 1971, Jabbar attended a rally around 11:00am on the playground of Tushkhali High School.

"Jabbar [at the rally] issued an order to bring Abdur Razzak and Motleb Sharif [who used to train freedom fighters] dead or alive", said Shoebur who heard him from a small room of

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SUICIDE VICTIM OF STALKING
Justice was Ritu's
last wish
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ummu Kulsum Ritu, who committed suicide after allegedly being stalked, in her last moments urged her college principal to bring the stalkers to book.

"Sir, I may not live long. But my last request [to you] is to ensure that those boys are not shown mercy," Principal Jahirul Islam quoted Ritu as saying.

Ritu said these words to the principal while she was being rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after taking poison at her home in the capital's Nandipara on Saturday.

After requesting the principal for justice, Ritu began throwing up, and her body became cold.

On Saturday evening, the class IX student of East Point Education School and College took her life after being repeatedly insulted and stalked allegedly by local youth Shimul Chandra and his accomplices. She died at DMCH.

Shimul used to stalk the girl on her way to school regularly, alleged family members and locals.

Ritu's family filed a case on Saturday night against Shimul and his family and two others with Khilgaon Police Station. All the accused are on the run.

Shimul and his father Ranjan are also accused in a murder case, and have been out on bail, said Khilgaon police.

Meanwhile, students and teachers of Ritu's college as well

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NEWSIN
brief

Man held with jeep having fake
sticker of lawmaker
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday detained a man and seized his Mercedes Benz jeep, without a licence plate, for using a fake sticker of lawmaker on it, in his flat in the capital's Poribagh.

Some Yaba pills, Tk 8 lakh and foreign currencies worth around Tk 11 lakh and a walkie-talkie were also seized from Abu Jafar Mohammad Saleh alias Carlos alias Peter, 32, said Rab sources.

Kitchen waste to make bio fertiliser
CITY DESK

A project titled "Bio Fertiliser from Kitchen Waste" was launched at Baridhara Lake Side Rajuk Park in the capital on Saturday, says a press release.

Firoj M Hasan, president of Baridhara Society, inaugurated the project, funded by Swisscontact and Pran-RFL.

PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S (PBUH) TOMB
Saudi embassy
dismisses reports
about shifting
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka in a statement on Saturday dismissed media reports regarding shifting of the tomb and chamber of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) situated in Masjid An-Nabawi in Medina.

The embassy termed such media reports as, "Totally baseless and... do not represent the opinion of the Saudi government".

"...what is being circulated in the media about the chamber where the Prophet's tomb is situated in the Prophet's Mosque is related to a special study carried out by a researcher," according to an enclosed explanatory statement quoting Ahmed Bin Mohammad Al-Mansouri, media spokesperson for the presidency of affairs of Masjid

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OPENING CEREMONY
The opening ceremony of Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) Forum has been arranged by CTO in collaboration with BTRC. Venue: Radisson Blu Water

DISCUSSION
A discussion on works of poet Ahmed Kaiser and M Jahangir has been organised. Venue: North Korean embassy. Time: 3:00pm.

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PMO awards
34 web portals
for providing
access to govt
information
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Access to Information (a2i) Programme, an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday honoured 34 national web portals for making key governance related information available for general public.

The web portals of union, upazila, district and division levels were given the awards at a ceremony in the capital's Biam Auditorium.

"These government websites have ensured that people get the right information and also ensured transparent, accountable, and pro-people governance," said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT. Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu was the chief guest.

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