

# SHAHBAGH ENGULFED BY TEARGAS, PROTEST



## Mahbubey Alam can continue as attorney general: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has cleared the way for eminent jurist Mahbubey Alam to continue running as attorney general of the state.

The court on Tuesday summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of holding the office of chief law officer of the republic by Advocate Mahbubey Alam.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman passed the rejection order saying that the petition, moved as a public interest litigation, is not acceptable as the post of AG is not a public office, petitioner's lawyer Advocate Eunos Ali Akond told The Daily Star.

He said he will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the order after receiving its certified copy.

On November 10 last year, Advocate Eunos filed the petition saying that the president appointed AG Mahbubey Alam under Article 64 (1) of the Constitution. Under this article the president shall appoint a person as AG who is qualified to be a SC judge and the age limit of SC judge is 67 years.

Mahbubey Alam turned 67 on February 17 last year and he cannot hold the office of attorney general any more, Eunos Ali said in the petition.



**Clockwise from middle left, a driver of a police water cannon vehicle burns an anti-Rampal poster to get respite from the burning and watery sensation in his eyes due to the effect of the showers of teargas shells lobbed at the pro-Sundarbans activists in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday during their half-day shutdown that ended in the afternoon with a daylong confrontation. Protesting, a picketer jumps on a water-cannon vehicle. A man helps a sick family member cross a street since the road from Shahbagh to Dhaka University was closed to traffic. An armed police throws a brickbat at the protesters. While the activists do the same. Police arrests a protester. The national oil, gas committee holds a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club. Meanwhile, a 6km long human chain was formed in Babubari at Rampal of Bagerhat in the morning supporting the coal-fired power plant close to the forest.** PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PRABIR DAS



# Cable TV operator evades Tk 10cr tax thru hundi

The Rajshahi-based agency used to send Tk 25 lakh a month to three countries including India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

New Uttara Communications, an illegal cable television network operator in Rajshahi city sent at least Tk 25 lakh every month to three countries -- India, Thailand and Indonesia, running pay channels through piracy.

The operator incurred the government a loss of at least Tk 10 crore in taxes in last three years operating without any license by setting up a few dozen of dish antennas on the roof and installing downlink and broadcast servers inside of a rented house in the city's Pathanpara area.

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion led by executive magistrate Sarwar Alam revealed the facts during the ending hours of a raid at the operator's office Wednesday night.

Ehteshamul Islam, owner of the business, managed to flee, but the law enforcers arrested seven staff including chief executive Shahin Reza Mithu, 44, and technician Atikur Rahman, 27.

The court ordered one-year jail term each for the seven and filed a case against the owner. The other employees are -- Jahir Hossain, 35, Shamim, 28, Sagor Ali Bappi, 24, Sagor, 22, and Parvez Ali, 26. The court sealed off the office and seized the equipment.

"They paid the foreign channels Tk 20 to Tk 25 lakh every month running 217 pay channels illegally through internet and 83 channels using analogue gears. They had no license to operate under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act of 2006 that

permits only functioning through approved operators," said Sarwar Alam.

The operator paid the foreign channels through hundi (a system for transferring money without legal protection or supervision) and the mobile court seized some pay cards of foreign channels. Besides, they ran banned channels including Pogo, Hangama, Fashion TV, and Movie Look, he added.

Meanwhile, hundreds of residents of the area and some parts of Chapainawabganj were seen contacting other operators' as their cable television services were no longer available due to the raid. They also expressed frustration as to why the company was able to conduct business illegally for the last three years.

# Father wants speedy trial of Imran's killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father of slain private university student Asif Imran yesterday demanded that his son's killers be tried under a speedy trial tribunal.

He also sought the prime minister's intervention as, what he said, the killers are influential, issuing repeated threats to the family members.

Imran, a first-year student of American International University of Bangladesh (AIUB), was traceless since he came out of his Uttara house with his friends on October 7, 2015.

Amid desperate efforts to find him, police on November 15 last year collected DNA samples of his parents, which matched with those of an unknown body recovered from the Buriganga river on October 9, 2015, and buried

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# Every school will have two scout teams: PM

UNB, Gopalganj

Stressing the need for expanding activities of the Scouts in every school from primary to secondary level, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is always ready to take more effective and sustainable measures to support Bangladesh Scouts.

While inaugurating the weeklong 11th National Rover Moot at Manikdah Housing Area in Gopalganj, Hasina hoped that the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education would take steps for expanding cub scouting in primary schools.

"Every educational institution will have at least two cub-scout teams, two scout teams and two rover scout teams," she said urging the scout leaders to take steps to increase the number of scouts besides maintaining their standard.

The present number of scouts in the country is 15 lakh and Bangladesh Scouts has set target to raise this number to 21 lakh by 2021, said the premier, suggesting that the scouts should motivate people to adopt



economical use of water, electricity, gas and other services.

The Rover Moot has begun with the theme "Shantimoy Jibon, Unnata Desh" (Peaceful Life, Developed Country) and where some 10,000 rover scouts from Saarc (The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and

the Asia-Pacific region have participated.

She said participation of girl scouts should be strengthened and standard scout units for girls have to be introduced in all girls' schools and institutions of co-education. She appreciated the services of the rover scouts for downtrodden people during natural calamities, cyclones, fire incident and severing winter.

The "main arena" of the moot, set up in Manikdah Housing Area, has been named after Bangabandhu and the "camp-in-camp", set up in Tungipara, has been named after Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

Later, the prime minister unveiled a commemorative postal stamp and first day cover on the occasion of the Rover Moot.

# Under-trial prisoners for over a decade

HC bail lets five out of jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to five under-trial prisoners of Kashimpur jail, who have been suffering in custody for 11 to 14 years, in separate cases.

The accused prisoners are: Russel Sheikh, Mohammad Parvez, Masud, Liton and Babu.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nuruzzaman and Justice SH Md Nurul Huda Jaigirdar also directed the lower court concerned to complete the trial proceedings against two other prisoners -- Saidur Rahman and Rajib Hossain in the next three months.

They gave the orders after hearing a December 15, 2016 HC rule, asking the government to explain why the seven should not be granted bail.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice JBM Hassan issued the rule following a report broadcast by private television Channel 24 on December 9, which said there was little progress in lower court trial proceedings of the criminal cases against the seven.

Russel of Kushtia is in jail since 2004 in an arms case, Masud of the capital's

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# JU burns greenery, threatens wildlife

JU CORRESPONDENT

At least seven bushy areas of Jahangirnagar University, which is endowed with rich biodiversity, were burnt in the last couple of days causing harm to the environment.

Teachers and students have expressed deep concern over the issue as the practice has been going on for a long time increasing the adverse impact on the environment.

According to estate office of JU, some rowdy visitors and inhabitants of the campus who walk through the bushes frequently create bushfires by disposing lit cigarette butts after smoking in the bushes.

However, some students alleged that university gardeners set fire to bushes to keep the places beside roads and buildings clean as trimming overgrown bushes is time consuming.

While visiting the area, this correspondent saw the remaining of some burnt bushes near Botanical Garden, AFM Kamal Uddin hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hall, Al Biruni Hall, Water Research Centre and the chemistry department.

A bush was still burning behind

the Teacher-Student Centre of the university during the visit of this correspondent.

Prof Khabir Uddin of environmental sciences of the university said, "It will not only affect trees and animals but also damage the land permanently as micro-bacteria and other micro-components of soil, which are must for its fertility, get destroyed."

He said burning the bushes would drive away animals like squirrel, bird, mongoose, lizard, and water monitor that find their homes in the bushes.

The professor demanded immediate measures to stop such act.

Selim Reza, a master's student of economics, said, "Our university estate office is totally careless to save the environment of our university and do not discharge their duties properly."

Seeking anonymity an official of the estate office said, "People who are unable to do their job in other offices are transferred here. So, they are not properly trained to do this job."

Prof Monwar Hossain, chairman of the zoology department, said, "I have personally met the estate office

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Remnants of burnt straw at a place on Jahangirnagar University campus as the university gardeners set fire to at least seven bushy areas to keep the places beside roads and buildings clean, raising concern among teachers and students. Inset, a bush behind the Teacher-Student Centre is still burning. PHOTOS: STAR

