

Ban airing ads on foreign TV channels

Writ petition seeks HC order on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its order on the government to stop broadcasting advertisement on foreign television channels running in Bangladesh.

Advocate Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan submitted the petition as a public interest litigation saying that broadcasting advertisement on foreign channels in the country is prohibited under the Cable TV Network Operation Act 2006.

But some dishonest businessmen are providing advertisements to foreign TV channels without the government permission to explain why it should not be declared illegal.

He requested the HC to make information secret, senior commerce secretary, chairman of National Board of Revenue, governor of Bangladesh Bank, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, chairman of Bangladesh Television and inspector general of police respondents to the rule.

Advocate Aklas told The Daily Star that he is yet to fix any date for hearing the petition.

Under the Cable TV Network Operation Act 2006, the highest punishment is imprisonment or Tk 1 lakh fine for violating the cable network rules, he added.

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Ghazi Shamsur

FROM PAGE 3
Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

Shamsur was famously known for providing legal assistance on a myriad of issues live in BTV in the 90s. He died 19 years ago. Prof Samina donated Tk 5 lakh for the fund while Vice Chancellor Syed Saad Andaleeb donated the same amount from the university fund.

Of the yearly interest of the fund, 80 percent would be provided to meritorious and insolvent students of the department while the rest will be added to the fund.

Prof Samina said students, especially females, told her about their situation where they had to skip classes for part-time jobs and lived in fear of being married off for financial insolvency. This inspired her to create the fund, she said.

The deceased Chairperson Prof Firdous Azim also spoke.

House owner on three-day remand

FROM PAGE 4
Instituted before the court yesterday, the IO said the building owner instructed the militants including Mir Asakur Karim alias Abdullah to blast the bombs during the raid.

Habibullah also instructed Abdullah to flee from the house even though the several other tenants were staying there, the IO said. He was aware of Abdullah's militant activities and gave him shelter at his house and supported his activities.

Earlier, Habibullah said this when he was giving a confessional statement before a Dhaka magistrate in a case filed with Savar Police Station on August 26, the Rab official said.

So, he needs to be remanded to gather more information, the IO added.

Opposing the Rab plea, Habibullah told the court that he was a service holder at BTCL, and he was not at the place of occurrence. Moreover, he did not know any militant activities of Habibullah. He appealed to the court to cancel the remand prayer.

Charred remains of seven people were found inside the house during the raid on September 6 that ended with the haul of some powerful bombs, explosives, explosive-making materials and sharp weapons.

Police said seven persons had died in the house, presumably from a blast, which included two children and two women.

Later on September 8, a case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station against seven persons who died from the blasts.



A RIVER OF MISERY! Fearing more water ahead, a driver tries to turn his car around on Mirpur Road. Yesterday's rain once again turned many of the capital's roads into rivers as the rainwater could not recede smoothly, triggering traffic jams. The photo was taken near the Road 27 and Mirpur Road intersection in Dhanmondi around 2:00pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CRIMINAL CASE INVESTIGATION

Ex-police officials oppose Ansar seeking authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Months after Bangladesh Ansar and VDP (Village Defence Party) submitted a proposal to the home ministry seeking authority to investigate criminal cases, association of former police officials has requested the government not to approve.

Presently, Ansars are working as an associate force of Bangladesh Police who are the sole authority to investigate the criminal cases.

Sakhawat Hossain, a deputy director of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP, told The Daily Star that they made the demand so that they can keep pace with the time. "We are hopeful as the prime minister also has concerns regarding it," he added.

In a statement yesterday, Bangladesh Retired Police Officers' Welfare Association (BRPOWA) said their [Ansar] demand will create an adverse impact on the police. The BRPOWA termed the proposal unreasonable and unwanted.

Earlier, the Ansar first placed a draft proposal to the ministry in 2015. Later, the ministry asked for a full proposal in September last year and the force placed it in July this year.

In the proposal, they mentioned that the force should be treated as a security force under section 152 of the constitution.

The force will investigate criminal cases. The commanding officer of the Ansar battalion will take charge

of the investigation and the officials will be able to arrest criminals and terrorists.

The proposal also adds that the Ansar members will be able to recover arms and explosives and ensure security of important persons and national organisations.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the proposal.

According to officials, Bangladesh Ansar presently has 40 battalions -- two female and 38 male. Each unit has 416 personnel.

Contacted, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said they have received the proposal but are yet to take a decision in this regard.

Demise of a dream

A CORRESPONDENT, Jnl

Naim Khan had a dream of becoming a successful entrepreneur, and build up career in business so that he could take care of his family.

The fourth-year student of the accounting and information system department at Jagannath University (JnU) was very close to his dream as only six months were left for his graduation.

But, a road accident shattered everything.

On Tuesday morning, the 22-year-old youth died on his way to the university when a covered van rammed the CNC-run auto-rickshaw carrying him in Madanpur area of Naryanganj.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead, the correspondent reported.

Three other people died in the accident. But their identities could not be known.

Naim, a resident of Jampur in Sonargaon upazila of the district, hired the auto-rickshaw to catch a bus of JnU. He had been working very hard from the very first day at the university and was one of the brightest students, his teachers said.

"We cannot accept the sudden death of such a visionary student like Naim," said Shofiqul Islam, associate professor of JnU.

His untimely demise cast a pall of gloom among his family members and friends.

The university authorities expressed deep shock at the death and sympathy to the bereaved family.



Naim Khan, 22

Police gets nationwide Anti-Terrorism Unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Police has finally got a full-fledged Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) with a nationwide jurisdiction to combat militancy and terrorism.

The Public Security Division of home ministry in an order on Tuesday approved the unit.

With its headquarters in Dhaka, the ATU will have 581 posts -- 31 permanent cadre and 550 temporary -- and 41 vehicles.

Headed by an additional inspector general, the ATU will have a deputy inspector general (DIG), two additional DIGs, five superintendents of police (SP), 10 additional SPs, 12 assistant SPs, 75 inspectors, 125 sub-inspectors, 140 assistant sub-inspectors, 200 constables and 10 office staff.

Currently, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit -- the only specialised counterterrorism police unit, the government in February last year formed the CTTC to deal with militancy effectively.

Around the same time, the police headquarters forwarded the proposal for the "Police Anti-Terrorism Unit" to the home ministry in a bid to step up the fight.

has to step in to launch anti-militancy operations in areas outside its jurisdiction.

The CTTC -- also assigned with combating cyber crimes, terror financing and mobile banking related crimes -- needs special permission from the police headquarters for going into action beyond its jurisdiction.

Counterterrorism officials hoped that the new ATU would enhance their capacity in the fight against militancy.

Police have long been demanding the formation of a fully-fledged counterterrorism unit specialised in battling militancy all throughout the country.

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Food aid reaching all

FROM PAGE 3
Brigadier General Md Adil Chowdhury, chief of divisional office of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) in Chittagong, said, "A few check posts set up by the police need to be relocated."

"A check post is needed to be set up in Noakhali area to check move of Rohingyas."

He also stressed the need for proper relief distribution management so that no one can serve their ill motive.

Zonal Commander of Bangladesh Coast Guard (East Zone) Captain Shahidul Islam said the influx of Rohingyas through Naf river reduced significantly while no new blaze was seen on the other side of the river.

"Coast Guard personnel were patrolling on Naf river... We found only two boats carrying Rohingyas on Tuesday."

Deputy commissioners (DCs) of Chittagong and Noakhali, and representatives of DCs of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, Director of Ansar and Village Defense Party (VDP) of Chittagong and Chittagong regional forest conservator were also present in the meeting.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Khalid, director (operation) of the newly formed BCG ad-hoc region headquarters in Cox's Bazar, added apart from 4,000, 1,000 more BCG personnel were brought for Rohingyas.

Colonel Anis, deputy commander of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) of Chittagong region, said a total of 4,000 BGB personnel under four battalions and 16 platoons have been deployed at 12 Rohingya refugee camps in Teknaf.

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CELEBRATING LIFE DISTRICT TOUR

TODAY

Photo Exhibition
Film Screening
Concert by
BAND LALON
at Social Science Faculty
Auditorium
CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY

Partners

আনন্দধারা

Int'l community needs to make united effort

FROM PAGE 3
crimes against humanity.

Reading out a keynote paper, rights activist Sultana Kamal said Bangladesh government's position to take all necessary steps to ensure human rights of the Rohingyas refugees in line with the country's capacity must be upheld.

"At the same time, every possible path of diplomatic initiative to repatriate them to their home country immediately must be pursued," she added.

She acknowledged that ensuring security, proper registration, and providing food, drinking water, medical aid and sanitation facilities to the Rohingyas refugees are already an immense challenge for the government.

To mitigate these challenges, "the government, NGOs, international organisations, and different UN organisations will have to work together," she added.

Economist Prof MM Akash made a statement that the Rohingyas issue might create a major and permanent security problem for the region unless a peaceful and respectable solution is reached.

"International extremist groups might take advantage of the situation,"

Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Rana Dasgupta said the government needs to be watchful whether members of militant groups are infiltrating into Bangladesh under the guise of refugees.

Khusbi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, and ABM Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development, among others, were present at the press conference.