

Proposed Broadcast Act

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advertisements in foreign channels has been stopped. "Besides, cable operators are now maintaining the serial of Bangladeshi TV channels as per their on air date. After keeping Bangladeshi channels, the cable operators are keeping foreign channels on the list," he added.

APPROVAL TO BE NEEDED TO AIR DUBBED SHOWS
The minister said some television channels are airing foreign TV serials dubbed in Bangla, which is not acceptable. "So, the ministry has issued an order for TV channels to take the government's approval to broadcast dubbed serials. A preview committee will also be formed soon to oversee the matter," he added.

Termining television "a medium of nation building", the minister urged private television owners to make programmes containing patriotism and human values for the new generation as they are the future of the country.

Senior journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, BJC trustee Mozammel Babu, BJC President Rezaun Haque Raza and senior journalist Naem Nizam, among others, spoke in the meeting. Founder Chairman of Television, Film and Photography Department of Dhaka University Dr AZM Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

History dept running

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certificate in the job market. The VC launched the department per his own will and he (VC) is responsible for the uncertainty it has caused in students' life," Kamal added.

He also demanded to bring the VC to book for this. Kamal urged the university not to enroll students this year before getting approval from UGC. UGC Chairman Prof Professor Kazi Shahidullah said they are looking into the issue.

'1974-like situation prevailing in country'

Moudud Ahmed slams govt over price hike of essentials

UNB, Dhaka

Criticising the government for soaring prices of essentials, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said a socioeconomic situation like that of 1974 famine is prevailing in the country.

"People of Bangladesh are angry over the onion crisis. A government which is unable to ensure the supply of an essential item like onion has no moral right to be in power," he said. Speaking at a doa mahfil, Moudud

said a problem over salt was created after onion, while rice prices kept rising inflicting sufferings on people.

"Scenes of '74 are still clear in my mind. A socioeconomic instability was there in the country in '74. Now, I hear the same footfall of it," he observed.

BNP arranged the programme at the party's Nayapaltna central office marking its acting chairman Tarique Rahman's 55th birthday.

The BNP standing committee member urged the government to step down immediately over its failure to deliver on all fronts. Or else, he warned, people will force the government to quit and accept their justified demands.

Moudud said 2019 has been a "bad year" for the nation as many unwarranted incidents are happening throughout the year since the government has lost control over the state machinery.

Road crashes

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Sitara was crossing the highway, leaving her dead on the spot. Police confirmed the incident.

In Kishoreganj, two people were killed and three injured after a microbus collided with the CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Phulerghat in Pakundia upazila around 6pm on Wednesday, said police.

The deceased are Md Al Amin (35) and Bigon Rabidas (27).

Al Amin died on the spot, and the injured were rushed to Kishoreganj General Hospital where Bigon succumbed to his injuries, they added.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent them to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the microbus and arrested its driver. A case was lodged.

In Dinajpur, Md Abdul Mannan (55) was killed on the spot after a speeding truck hit his motorcycle at Kabirajhat in Birganj upazila around 7:30pm on Wednesday, said police.

The truck driver and his helper fled the spot with the vehicle.

ACC sues Jubo League

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ACC will investigate this. "If the information is found true, the commission will include those also," reads the case statement.

Against the backdrop of an ongoing drive against persons involved in illegal casino business, ACC on September 30 declared to initiate enquiry into their wealth.

So far, the anti-graft watchdog has filed 16 cases.

On Wednesday, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood hinted to catch more people who have amassed wealth illegally in the near future, adding that the commission has prepared a list of 159 such persons.

Govt must

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development is vital for the government to reap benefits of the demographic dividend.

Some 22 lakh new faces have entered the labour force this year, and half of them could be absorbed in the local market. Some five to seven lakh people were sent overseas but they were unskilled or semi-skilled, he said.

MA Faiz, a retired professor of medicine, said health education should be "in-built" within the education system.

Prof Syed Abul Hamid of DU's Institute of Health Economics said family planning counselling could be introduced at marriage register's offices to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Brig Gen (Retd) Shahedul Anam Khan, associate editor of The Daily Star; Mashrurul Islam, country director of Marie Stopes Bangladesh; Alia El Mohandes, senior family planning adviser, USAID Bangladesh; Nadira Sultana, country lead of Options Consultancy Services Ltd; and Abu Jamil Faisal, freelance consultant on reproductive health, among others, spoke at the roundtable.

Speakers demand

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In his presentation, Dr Stephen R Cornor, executive director of The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA), said many people who need palliative care are not getting it due to different barriers.

Referring to different studies, Dr Cornor said only 14 percent patients in need of palliative care (out of around 40 million globally) have access to it, while at least 18 million die in extreme pain.

"Death doesn't have to be defeated. Rather it should be given a human touch through adding soul to the dying person," Dr Bimalangshu Dey, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, said in his presentation.

"Palliative care focuses on patient, not on medicine... and family. It not only heals but also increases life span," he added.

He termed 53mg permissible amount of morphine for a patient in a day in Bangladesh "social injustice", claiming it to be far too low.

Prof Dr Nezamuddin Ahmad, former chairman of the department of palliative medicine at Bangandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, spoke of the evolution of palliative care which was first adopted as a discipline at UK hospitals in 1984.

In Bangladesh, there are only two palliative care units -- BSMMU and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Speaking as special guest, health secretary Ashadul Islam said, "Health sector is one of the priorities in development programme of the government."

Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO representative to Bangladesh stressed on skilled workforce for palliative care to tackle increased non-communicable risk diseases, where nurses are on the "frontline".

Physicians from different hospitals in Dhaka also participated in a question-answer session in the event.

Former finance minister AMA Muhith spoke at the event as guest of honour.

Anne-Marie Barron, associate dean at school of nursing and health sciences at Massachusetts General Hospital in USA; Nusrat Feroz Aman, chief patron of Ayat Foundation; and Tahsin Aman, chairperson of the foundation, also addressed the programme.



Doa mahfil for Sultana Islam

CITY DESK

Sultana Islam, wife of late Rezaul Islam -- former additional chief engineer of the Public Works Department of the government -- breathed her last on November 16 at Square Hospital, Dhaka. She was 72, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at their residence in 59/A West Razabazar today after Maghrib prayers. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

We want discipline

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without fitness, and hurting our children one after another," he said.

"If we fail to bring discipline, our children, who are sitting in front of us, will unitedly drive us out from the road. You cannot go to the street and we will not be able to discharge our duties," he said drawing attention of the transport leaders and workers.

The commissioner said, "You will not find a single family who have not lost at least one of their relative in such accidents. How long will we tolerate the chaotic situation?"

"This is the last chance to bring discipline to the roads," he said, urging all to follow traffic rules.

About implementation of the new Road Transport Act 2018, the commissioner said even continuous violators will be given warning once or twice and made aware of the law. Then they will be fined for traffic rule violations.

The commissioner said only vehicles broken down on street, remained unattended by drivers for a long time and plying the streets without documents would be dumped by wrecker.

He also urged drivers not to drop off passengers in the middle of the roads, leaving them susceptible to accidents.

At the programme, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said, "We don't want to obey the law. We think our honour is hurt if we obey the law. Actually, obeying law is the honourable thing to do."

There are some systematic problems in implementing the law that were discussed during Wednesday night's discussion with transport leaders and workers, he said, adding that their nine-point demand will be forwarded to the road transport and bridges minister.

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