



# The Daily Star

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## Rogue IPTVs on the prowl

They masquerade as news channels with little or no regulatory watch, letting loose thousands of freewheelers with boom and cam to make a living

ZYMA ISLAM

Right opposite the bus Gabtoli terminal, there is a blue building squeezed between bus counters -- a hotel as seedy as it gets. A narrow flight of stairs takes customers up to the bare-bones rooms.

Hotels like these are the chosen venues for sex workers to practise their trade, which makes them susceptible to police raids, and naturally, extortion.

But the hotel's regular roster of extorters include an unlikely bunch of people -- self-proclaimed journalists.

The hotel's manager, a squat middle-aged man, pulled out a bunch of business cards from his shirt pocket.

"The reporters ask for Tk 200-Tk 500 depending on the situation. The editors have to be given Tk 1,000. Every day I get upwards of 10 such visits from



these people. If I don't pay them, they will call the police to conduct a raid. Then they will film the raid and broadcast it," said the manager, who requested anonymity for both himself and his hotel.

These so-called reporters and editors belong to a special breed of new media -- online television channels, broadcast out of a cheap server set-up, and can be viewed either on their websites or on dedicated streaming applications and websites.

Colloquially, they are called IPTVs, in reference to the technology being used for the broadcast, which is internet protocol.

Industry insiders will say with conviction that the main revenue model for a lot of these online television channels is sponsored programming, and often extortion.

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## Chart roadmap for the ones left behind

Says Hasina after receiving SDGs progress award; joins UNGA opening session

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for charting out a bold and ambitious global roadmap to put the world back on the SDGs track so that no one is left behind as the pandemic has pushed many countries way behind from the goals.

"We have already entered the Decade  
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## E-COMMERCE INDUSTRY Still left to run without reins

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and SUKANTA HALDER

E-commerce firmly began to put down roots in Bangladesh back in 2009 and since then has gone on to become a mainstay in the retail landscape. Yet, in all these years, the government did not feel the urgency to come up with a definitive e-commerce policy or assign a regulatory body for the fast-growing industry to ensure discipline.

And it is this loophole that rogue players like Evaly and Dhamaka Shopping exploited to the hilt to expropriate money from unassuming consumers.

While there is a National Digital Commerce Policy 2018, it was not until July this year that the commerce ministry came up with the standard operating procedure and guidelines.

By this time, the rogue e-commerce players have run amok with people's money.

The policy also mandates the formation of an e-commerce regulatory authority, which the government is yet to do, prompting Supreme Court lawyer Md Anwarul Islam Badhon on Monday to submit a writ petition as public interest litigation to the High Court on the matter.

This begs the question: why was the government so negligent on this sector, one of the pillars of its much-cherished Digital Bangladesh vision?

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## Rassel placed on another day's remand

Evaly customers, sellers call for his release

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mohammad Rassel, chief executive officer of Evaly, on a day's remand in a case filed over embezzlement of about Tk 35.85 lakh from a businessman.

The court, however, sent Rassel's wife Shamima Nasrin, also the chairperson of Evaly, to jail after rejecting both the remand and bail prayers for her in the case.

The couple was produced before the court

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## ROAD TRANSPORT SECTOR 1 feud, 2 strikes, same demands

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A feud between two major factions of road transport owners and workers has led to calling of two separate strikes of goods-laden vehicles in the span of a week.

The first spell of a 72-hour strike started yesterday, halting the operation of goods transportation from major sea and land ports, while a 48-hour strike would start from Monday.

Although their demands are almost the same, they still called "work abstention" from different platforms just because they

are locked in a long-standing conflict.

One faction is backed by two major platforms in the road transport sector while the other is dominated by transport agencies and some truckers' associations.

On August 25, Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van, Tank Lorry, Prime Mover Owners and Workers' Coordination Council called a 48-hour work abstention from September 27 to press home their 10-point demand. Their demands include withdrawing murder cases against drivers under section 302 of the penal code for road

RELATED STORY ON B1 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 6th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members



Police taking Evaly CEO Mohammad Rassel to a court in Old Dhaka yesterday after completion of his three-day remand.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Healthcare workers' recruitment scrapped

Ministry cites 'ambiguity in answer scripts'; fresh process soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has cancelled the process for appointing 2,839 for the posts of medical technologists, technicians and cardiographers due to "ambiguity in the answer scripts of the written test".

In a circular issued on Monday, the ministry has also directed the director general of the health directorate to publish a fresh recruitment circular and complete the appointment process within a shot time.

Candidates who applied for written tests earlier will be eligible to take the fresh examination. They will not need to apply afresh, said the circular.

On April 13, the ministry had postponed the appointment process and formed a four-member probe committee, led by Additional Secretary Nazmul Haque Khan, to investigate anomalies in the recruitment test, which came to light through a report run by Bangla daily Prothom Alo the previous day.

Based on the report of the investigation committee, the ministry issued the circular cancelling the appointment process.

The circular said as the investigation report stated about ambiguities, the health directorate has been directed to

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