

Stringent electronic media law planned

Compulsory licensing, cancellation of licences, fines and jail terms for violation of law proposed

REZAUL KARIM

The government is considering a stringent legislation to bring the electronic media, especially the satellite channels, under a guideline in an apparent bid to control them.

The information ministry after a series of discussion with other ministries and authorities concerned has finalised a draft of the law, Private Broadcast Media (Radio and Television) Bill 2004, and will place it in tomorrow's cabinet meeting for approval.

in the upcoming Jatiya Sangsad session for passage.

It also proposes government permission for transfer of shares and licences and strict enforcement of Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001, suspension and

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20 killed, 30 hurt in Tangail bus accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people were killed and 30 injured in a road accident in Tangail yesterday.

claimed three lives.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that a road mishap on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway at Birkusha under Sadar upazila left 20 people killed and 30 others injured.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 2:30pm when a bus carrying 50 disciples of Peer Shaheb of Enayetpur from

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Habib Bank staff resign en masse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire staff of the two branches of Habib Bank in Bangladesh resigned en masse protesting the bank's decision to axe 31 of 68 officers and employees last Thursday.

The bank staff also submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor yesterday apprising him of the situation.

The central bank has instructed the authorities of the Pakistan-owned bank to resolve the issue of termination through negotiations.

The BB authorities summoned Habib Bank Country Manager Abdul Hye yesterday and inquired of the latest status of the branches.

The regional manager of the bank, Ashraf M Wathra, is due to fly in from Singapore to negotiate the issue with representatives of the

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40 AL men hurt in 'Jubo Dal' attack

UNB, Narayanganj

Alleged Jatiyabadi Jubo Dal cadres swooped on different gatherings of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations, injuring 40 pro-AL activists, two with bullet, in a series of attacks at different parts of Narayanganj town yesterday.

Alleged to be ruling BNP's student wing activists, they fired on a gathering organised by AL, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League in M Circus area. The AL men were to attend the party's grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital, witnesses said.

Among the injured, AL leader Liton and BCL activist Wahidur Rahman Jewel were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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Cold claims 12 more in two days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 people including four children died from cold and cold-related illnesses in the south-western regions in the last two days.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reported 10 people including two children died of pneumonia and other cold-related diseases during the last 48 hours, raising the number of deaths in the district to 23 since December 29.

Hospital sources in Lalmonirhat said another 35 people were admitted to different local hospitals with cold-related complexities.

Our Sakhira Correspondent added a two-month-old baby son of Tariqul Islam of Hagachha under

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Hasina gives govt a month to meet 15-point demand

Hartal, agitation threatened otherwise



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks before a vast crowd at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave the government a month to fulfil her party's 15-point demands or step aside.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her government

- Disband Hawa Bhaban activities
- Stop violence and corruption
- Expel war criminals from the cabinet
- Reduce livelihood expenditures
- Stop the conspiracy to export natural gas
- Bring reforms in the electoral process and ensure transparency

will have to resign if it fails to fulfil the demands by February 10," Hasina announced amid deafening cheers and occasional slogans from a gathering of tens of thousands of people who thronged the city's Paltan

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Botanical Garden land gobbled up

JS body to visit spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An allegation that grabbers have illegally occupied 18.2 acres of the Botanical Garden land at Mirpur was raised yesterday at a meeting of the parliamentary standing com-

mittee on the environment and forests ministry.

Some corrupt officials of the Department of Forest allocated the land to a company through forgery and the illegal occupants have

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BAN ON BOOKS Ahmadiyyas to fight it out in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Bangladesh will go for a legal battle against the government ban on all their publications after they receive the order to this effect.

"We have not yet received the

government order. Once we receive it, we will go to court," said Tareq Mobasser, an Ahmadiyya spokesman.

"We will file a writ with the High Court against the ban, which infringes on our rights of religion

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এই সেই এক্সপোর্ট কোয়ালিটি চা বাংলাদেশের বাজারে

ফিনলের নিজস্ব বাগানে প্যাক করা হয় বলেই ফিনলে চা এত সতেজ এবং এর আমেজটাও আলাদা। এজন্যই বিশ্ব জুড়ে এর এত চাহিদা। তাই স্বীকৃতিরূপে পেল স্বর্ণপদক।

ফিনলে চা উৎপাদনে প্রাচীনতম প্রতিষ্ঠান যার রয়েছে ২০০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা।

তাই আজই কিনুন ফিনলে চা।



ফিনলে চা, আসলে চা



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Slashed its lending rate further

Serial #	Particulars	Rate of Interest
01	Export (Packing Credit)	7.00%
02	Term Loan under FMO Export Credit for importing capital machinery	8.50%
03	Agriculture :	
	a) Loan to primary products	9.00%
	b) Agro-based Industry (Term Loan)	9.00%
04	Term Loan to Small & Cottage Industry	10.00%
05	Commercial Lending (Internal Trade/Import Financing etc.) :	
	A) Composite facility:	
	i) Import/Export related facilities	
	a) LTR : 30 Days	11.50%
	b) LTR : 90 Days	11.75%
	c) LTR : 180 Day	12.00%
	ii) Import/Export related facilities e.g. PAD	12.00%
	iii) Other than Imports & Exports e.g. LDBP	12.00%
	iv) OD, COD, CC (HYPO), Loan General etc.	12.00%
06	Industrial Term Lending (Large & Medium)	12.00%
07	Other Term Loan	12.00%
08	Working Capital for Industry	12.00%
09	Housing Finance	12.00%
10	Lease Finance (Lease Rent Calculated on the basis of)	12.00%
11	Overdraft Secured by FDR	3.00% above FDR rate



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