



আমাদের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি
সকল ভাষা শহীদ ও ভাষা সৈনিকের প্রতি

ফিউচার এক্সপ্রেস

বাংলাদেশ এক্সপ্রেস কোং লিঃ
সাইটসেইট অব ফেডারেল এক্সপ্রেস কর্পোরেশন



Buy 1 Philips 21" Flat TV
and enjoy movies with a
PHILIPS DVD player

This offer is valid only at Transcom Premium showrooms and selected dealer outlets till stock lasts



Customer Care Centre: 8855366-8, 01712-665463

BB warns of steps unless banks cut lending rates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday asked all commercial banks to reduce lending rates from March to cut export and import costs and curb the soaring prices of essentials.

The banks were also asked to repay Tk 986 crore overdue export bill and reschedule loan repayments in the bird flu affected poultry sector.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Salehuddin Ahmed warned the banks that although the central bank does not want to step in, but if the banks fail, the BB might have to take steps to reduce the spread between deposit and lending rates themselves, sources said.

He told this at a meeting with

the Association of Banks, Bangladesh (ABB), a group comprising managing directors of all commercial banks.

The meeting follows a similar discussion held by BB with the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), a forum of commercial bank owners, where the central bank also asked them to reduce the gap between lending and deposit rates.

The central bank has asked both the BAB and the ABB to sit together and hand over a proposal to the BB by February 28 on how to reduce the lending rates and its spread with deposit rates.

"The central bank does not give instructions in a free-market economy, it is only a moral persuasion. We have responded positively," K

Mahmud Sattar, ABB president, told reporters after the meeting.

Meeting sources said, despite the commercial banks' best explanations, the BB asked them to reduce lending rates and service charges given the present economic context of Bangladesh.

The central bank asked the bankers to speed up the repayment of the Tk 986 crore export bill that is overdue out of the total outstanding export bill of Tk 7,727 crore.

Commercial banks were also asked to look into each loan in the poultry sector and judge whether they need to be rescheduled because of the recent avian-flu crisis.

The central bank will send a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

NIKO CASE Khaleda denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summarily rejected the bail petition of detained former premier Khaleda Zia in connection with the Niko graft case, as the case was filed under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail for Khaleda Zia.

On February 17, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) obtained permission to interrogate Khaleda at the sub-jail gate in connection with the case, but is yet to interrogate her.

Khaleda was shown arrested in the case following a petition submitted by the IO of the case on December 30 last year.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed (4th from right) is seen with the nine recipients of Ekushey Padak 2008 given away yesterday at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

AL asks govt to lift emergency by next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday urged the caretaker government to lift the state of emergency by next month and announce the date for holding the ninth parliamentary election immediately.

The AL leaders also called upon the government to release detained AL President Sheikh Hasina before people forge an all-out movement to free her.

They were speaking at a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday with Acting AL President Zillur Rahman in the chair marking the International Mother Language Day.

Zillur said if the existing unity in the party remains intact, they would get AL chief Sheikh Hasina released very soon.

He asked the party men to work

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

DIST COURTS STAFF AG asked to appear in SC on Feb 26

UNB, Dhaka

As the government failed to comply with the Supreme Court orders, the apex court yesterday once again asked the attorney general to appear before the court on February 26 along with a gazette notification on appointment of supporting staff, including upper division (UD) clerks, for the district judicial magistracy.

On February 17, the court granted the government time to publish the gazette notification in this regard by February 20.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Losing mother tongue

Ethnic children forgetting their own languages

PINAKI ROY

Balaree Chisim cannot speak Mandi properly and often incorporates Bangla words in his native Garo language. His elder brother Sagre and sister Aski can speak Mandi but do not use it unless someone talks to them in that language.

"This is their condition although they were born and brought up in a Garo village in Madhupur," Babul D Nokrek said about his children. "But the case with those living in the city is the worst," said the teacher of a school in the capital.

"It seems that my youngest son,

who is just five, will not be able to learn pure Mandi. The other children—even those living in Madhupur—will also meet the same fate as in schools they are taught in Bangla and everyone around them speaks in Bangla" Babusaid.

Not only Babul D Nokrek, people from other indigenous communities, including Chakma, Tripura, Hajong and Santal, living in the city or in areas where the majority speaks in Bangla, are anxious that their children will not learn their native tongues.

"Both my five-year-old son and nine-year-old daughter under-

stand Santal language but they cannot speak in it," said Daniel Hasda. "They are good in Bangla and English."

These indigenous guardians said they are compelled to teach their children in Bangla so that they can compete with the Bangla-speaking students at school. And because of this their children are losing interest in learning their own mother tongues.

They said if the government takes initiatives for primary education in one's mother tongue—at least in the densely populated indigenous areas—then their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Abu Zandal confesses to carrying out Aug 21 attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harkatul Jihad Al Islami leader Mufti Moinuddin alias Abu Zandal, now on a seven-day remand, admitted during interrogation his role in carrying out the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally in 2004 to kill AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

Zandal, a close aide of detained Huji operations commander Mufti Abdul Hannan, is now being interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

CORRUPTION CASES Charges pressed against Falu, Shahjahan Omar, Lotus Kamal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu, his wife, former state minister for law barrister Shahjahan Omar, his wife, son and detained former Awami League (AL) lawmaker AHM Mustafa Kamal alias Lotus Kamal in three separate graft cases.

Meanwhile, former agriculture minister MK Anwar has been sued

along with his son, former SP Awaranga Mahub, two former officers-in-charge (OCs) of Daudkandi and Meghna thanas and a Sub-Inspector (SI) for beating up a journalist and extorting money from him.

CASE AGAINST FALU
ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alam, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Falu and his wife Mahbubā Sultana to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Obama beats Hillary in two more states

AFP, Wisconsin

Barack Obama pummeled Hillary Clinton in Wisconsin and Hawaii Tuesday, making it 10 wins in a row against his bitter rival in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing

February 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



আমরা ছাড়া কে পেয়েছে
ভাষার জন্য জীবন দিতে?
মাতৃভাষার এমন মায়ায়
বিশ্ব ভুবন জড়িয়ে নিতে?
অমর একুশের মহান শহীদদের
গভীর শ্রদ্ধার সঙ্গে স্মরণ করি।

২১ ফেব্রুয়ারি
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

বাংলা ব্যাংক

মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mercantile Bank Limited

দক্ষতাই আমাদের শক্তি

প্রধান কার্যালয়: ৬১, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ৯৫৫৯৩৩৩, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬১২১৩, www.mblbd.com

অমর

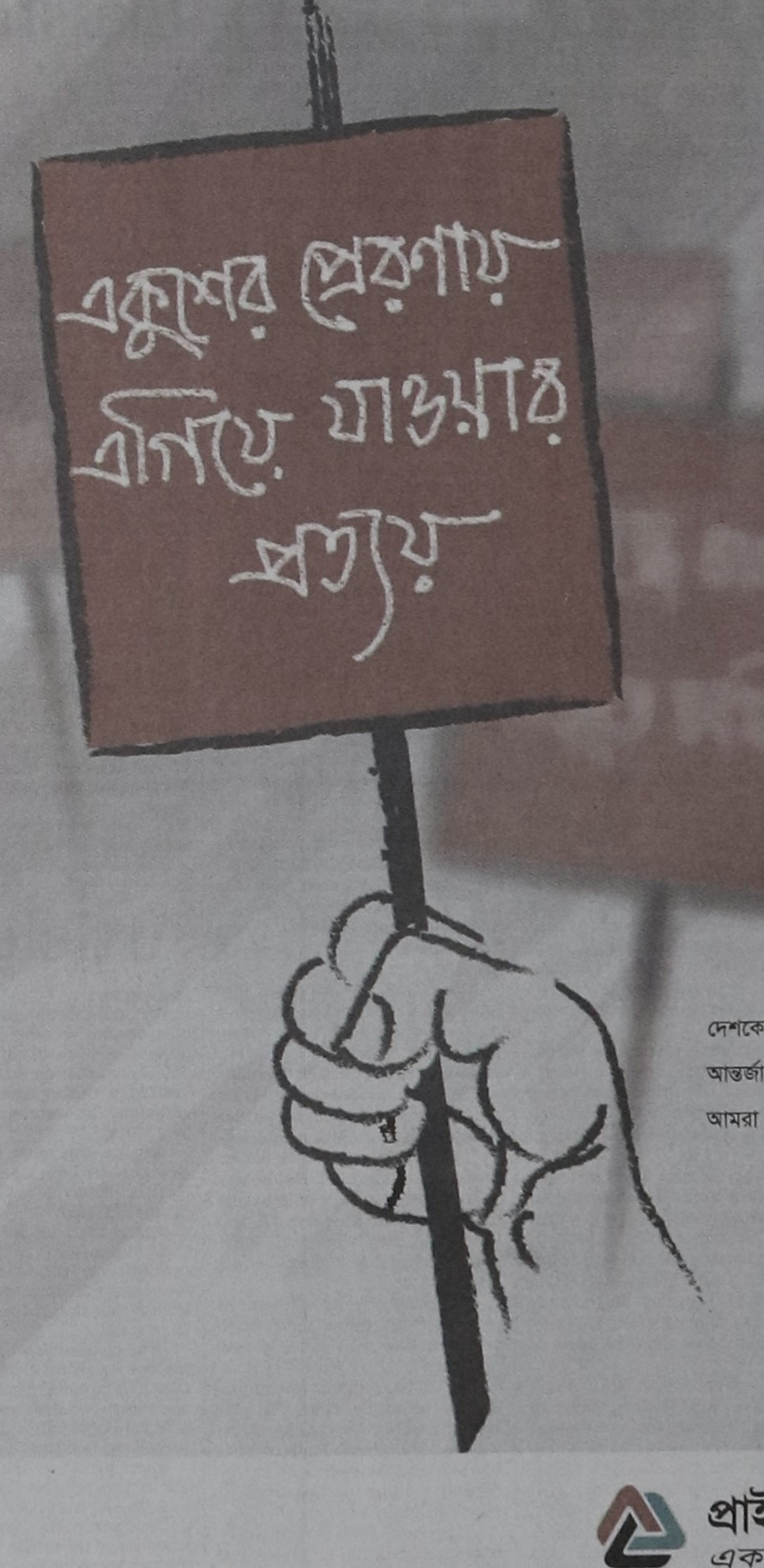
২১

ফেব্রুয়ারি

যাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগ
আর বলিষ্ঠ ভূমিকার জন্মে
আমরা পেয়েছি মহান একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারি
আর আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস
সেই শহীদদের জানাই
আমাদের সমৃদ্ধ সালাম

মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

you can bank on us



একুশের প্রেরণায়
এগিয়ে যাত্রা শুরু
শস্য

দেশকে সমৃদ্ধির পথে এগিয়ে নেয়ার প্রত্যয়ে,
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে সকল শহীদকে
আমরা জানাই গভীর শ্রদ্ধা আর ভালোবাসা।

প্রাইম ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
একটি ব্যতিক্রমধর্মী ব্যাংক