এসআইবিএল ইসলামিক হোম ফাহন্যাঙ্গ এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট / ফ্ল্যাট ক্রয়, গৃহ নির্মাণ, গৃহ বর্ধিতকরণ অথবা গৃহ সংস্কারের জন্য সর্বনিম ৫,০০,০০০ টাকা থেকে সর্বোচ্চ ১,২০,০০,০০০ চাবি টাকা পর্যন্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা। আপনার হাতে * ফ্রি অনলাইন সেবা যে কোন প্রয়োজনে ০৯৬১২০০১১২২



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Jute exporters left in the lurch over India's policy change

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN and MOHSIN MILON

Bangladesh's exports of jute and jute goods to India are in jeopardy after the neighbouring country revoked the licences of its importers and asked them to apply for new

As a result, hundreds of India-bound trucks loaded with jute and jute-made products were left stranded at different ports including Benapole in the last couple of days, according to our correspondent and Bangladesh Jute Association or BJA.

India is the largest importer of raw jute and jute goods produced in Bangladesh, but the exports came to a standstill after the Office of the Jute Commissioner of India issued a notice on Tuesday.

It said it has cancelled earlier registrations of raw jute and jute products importers, so they have to sign up their units afresh. The traders to whom they sell the imported jute and jute products and the end users will said.

also have to register their units, it said. The notice also said the importers have to apply for a no-objection certificate for every consignment. When applying for the NOC, the importer has to provide details of the

buyer of the imported consignment.

If the importer is not the end user, all the stakeholders starting from the buyer through to the final user will have to register their units, according to the notice.

Although the notice did not mention names of any specific country, it effectively suspended imports of Bangladeshi raw jute and jute products. The suspension will now create a nega-

tive impact on the economy and cause irreparable losses to jute farmers, the BJA said in a statement yesterday. The ongoing volatility in the raw jute and

jute goods market is a blow to jute farmers and businessmen, the BJA said. The association urged the government to take quick steps so that the current situation

does not affect the export of raw jute and jute products. The situation may render many factories closed and thousands of workers jobless, it

Harunur Rashid, a jute exporter in Bangladesh, said it is impossible to get an NOC for each consignment by the Indian

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importers.



Japanese businesses launch mascot for Bangladesh



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A group of Japanese businesses yesterday launched a mascot, Bantora Kun, as part of a project to brighten Bangladesh's image in Japan.

The project intends to specifically tackle Bangladesh's image as a disaster-prone country, affected by both natural and man-made calamities, which is the current perception among most Japanese.

Bantora is a compound word where 'Ban' stands for Bangladesh and 'tora' is Japanese for 'tiger', and Kun is Japanese for sibling. Bantora Kun will work as Yuru-chara, a Japanese term for mascot characters, to brighten the image of Bangladesh in Japan.

Yuru-charas are created to promote a place, region, event, organisation or business in Japan.

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Bank for pensioners in the offing

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

...... The government is set to form two institutions -- a bank and a separate entity -for running the pension fund for public servants, after the cabinet gave it the green light.

At present, there is no specific authority for doing the pension-related work of about 520,000 pensioners in Bangladesh.

Subsequently, the latest Pay and Service Commission recommended setting up a bank that will have all the serving and retired government employees as shareholders.

The bank will function as both a commercial and development bank.

To be called Samriddhi Sopan Bank, the bank will be set up under the government employees' welfare board and will

AT A GLANCE

There are about **520,000** pensioners in Bangladesh

The number of pensioners and the benefits for them are increasing every year

The bank will function as both a commercial and development bank

The bank will have a paid-up capital of Tk 400cr

have a paid-up capital of Tk 400 crore.

The next steps will be taken through a joint decision of the public administration ministry, and the finance and the banking divisions.

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Vaccine scarcity causes livestock deaths: study

Diseases account for 67pc of livestock deaths

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

At a time when Bangladesh is struggling to meet the protein demand of its vast population, a lack of proper vaccination is killing thousands of livestock and poultry animals each year.

Diseases are the main killer of livestock, accounting for 67 percent of the deaths of cattle, buffaloes, goats and sheep a year.

Similarly, 79 percent of chicken and ducks die from diseases a year, according to a recent study on nine villages in Rangpur, Netrokona and Satkhira.

The findings of the empirical study were shared at a seminar at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Charitable organisation Islamic Relief Bangladesh and the Department of Agricultural Finance at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, jointly organised the programme.

A number of speakers at the seminar raised questions about the small sample size, which may not be representative of

the scenario of the whole country. However, it will help policymakers get a glimpse of the situation, they added.

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Govt to bear costs of audit into mobile operators

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will bear the costs of audits into mobile phone operators, the telecom ministry said yesterday.

Initially Grameenphone and Robi will be audited and the costs will be Tk 8.79 crore and Tk 7.82 crore respectively.

Tarana Halim, state minister for telecom, gave a go-ahead to the audit process. Instructions were also given to Bangladesh

Telecommunication

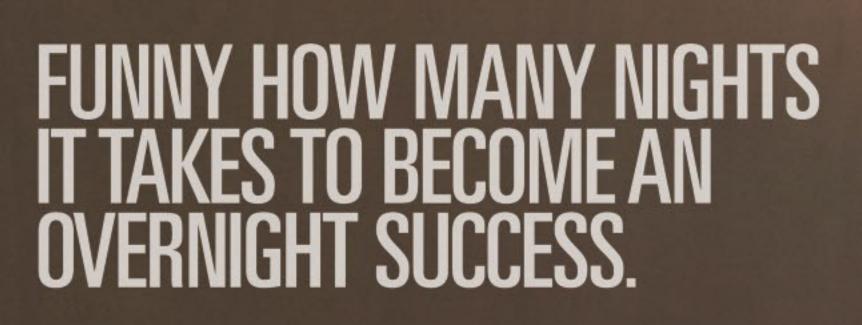
Regulatory Commission. "Now the regulator can audit the operators' accounts and technical processes anytime," an official of the telecom division said, asking not to be named.

The ministry in a letter to the BTRC also said the regulator will run the technical audit by its own officials and experts.

The BTRC has selected Toha Khan Zaman & Co Chartered Accountants for conducting the audit into Grameenphone and Masih Muhith Haque & Co Chartered Accountants for Robi and sent the proposal to

the government for

approval. **READ MORE ON B3**



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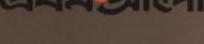
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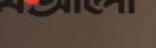
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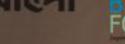


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