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Your Right to Know

PLUS 8 PAGES TABLOID INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY SPECIAL

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# Pay Tk 1,000cr by Monday

*Apex court orders Grameenphone over audit claim dispute with BTRC*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered Grameenphone to pay Tk 1,000 crore by Monday, in a development that can be viewed as the walls closing in on the country's leading mobile operator in its protracted tussle with the telecom regulator over unpaid dues.

"First pay Tk 1,000 crore to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and then come on February 24 [Monday] for further orders," said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who led the seven-member Appellate Division bench, while passing the order yesterday.

The order came in response to a review

petition filed by Grameenphone earlier on January 26 to allow it to pay Tk 575 crore in 12 equal instalments.

The review petition was filed after the apex court had directed Grameenphone on November 24 last year to pay Tk 2,000 crore to the telecom regulator within three months (by February 23) against the claim of Tk 12,579.96 crore determined by an audit.

The audit, which looked into Grameenphone's books from its inception until 2014, claimed that the carrier owed the amount in revenue shares, taxes and late fees.

But at the hearing yesterday for the review

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## A senseless act of a govt official

*He shared info on suspected Covid-19 patient on Facebook*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A top official at the Benapole Customs in Jashore yesterday allegedly posted on Facebook the photograph, identity and address of a passenger, claiming a coronavirus patient was identified at the port.

After the post was updated, health officials, however, found that the

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## Games involving luck, money are gambling

*Defines HC in its full verdict*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court observed in the full text of a verdict that games played with money at stake and dependent on luck rather than skills are gambling.

It said playing such games and organising them were punishable offences, but excluded authorised lotteries.

However, the games will be allowed when played without money or valuables at stake, the court added.

It is expected that the government will seriously consider amending the law so that the prohibition applies equally to all people, irrespective of their financial and social status, the full text read.

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## AMAR EKUSHEY TODAY



President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying homage to the Language Movement martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar early today. People across the country will observe the International Mother Language Day and commemorate the martyrs today.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## TEACHING ETHNIC PUPILS IN MOTHER TONGUE

# Govt initiative faltering

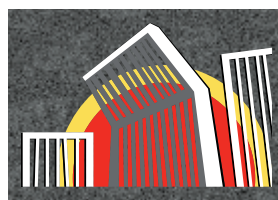
MATHEWS CHIRAN

The government move to ensure children from ethnic communities are given early childhood education in their mother tongue is apparently falling flat due to a lack of teachers with a good command of these languages.

As per the government plan, ethnic minority students would learn exclusively in their mother tongue from pre-primary level up to class II and gradually learn Bangla from class III.

With this aim, the government decided to publish textbooks in ethnic languages in 2012. And since 2017, it has been distributing textbooks in Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Sadri and Garo languages.

This year alone, the National Curriculum and



Textbook Board (NCTB) has distributed 2,30,130 copies of textbooks in these languages for 97,594 students.

But it all risks coming to nought as most of the teachers can speak in the languages but they do not know how to read and write them.

"They need intensive trainings on teaching using the textbooks," said the headteacher of a government primary school in Khagrachhari Sadar upazila.

The teachers, who don't have thorough knowledge on their language, still do not know how to impart lessons based on the textbooks, said several teachers and education officials while talking to this newspaper.

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## No Shaheed Minar in 77pc pry schools

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A staggering 77 percent of the government primary schools do not have Shaheed Minar, a monument where students can pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), while preparing its annual report, recently came up with the data revealing that in some districts over 90 percent of state-run primary schools have no language monument.

Teachers and education officers cited a lack of funds as one of the main reasons

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## Buet, CU won't adopt centralised entry test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Buet and Chittagong University will not adopt the centralised admission system this year as they have decided to follow the existing admission system for student enrolment.

The two universities made the decision at the meetings of their academic council in the last two days.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Buet academic council member Prof Md Mizanur Rahman said, "The academic council

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বায়ানের অমর ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারি-  
 শহীদদের রক্ত ঝরেছিলো রাজপথে  
 রক্ত ঝরেছিলো তোমারও বিপ্লবী হৃদয়ে।  
 মুজিব, সেদিন তুমি ছিলে অঙ্ককার জেলে  
 তবু ভাষার তরে কী যে ছটফট করছিলে!  
 তাইতো একাত্তরে তোমার নেতৃত্বে  
 পেয়েছি স্বাধীন সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ  
 শহীদদের আত্মদান স্বীকৃতি পেয়েছে অশেষ!



আজ শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করছি সকল ভাষাশহীদ,  
 ভাষাসৈনিক ও বঙ্গবন্ধুকে, যাদের অবদান চির-অবিনশ্বর।



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