

Ekushey today

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University and the colleges did not need any leaders to tell them what to do; they simply said "Enough!" challenged the government's authority and re-wrote the history of not only Bangladesh, but also of the entire subcontinent.

The War of Liberation of 1971 saw heroism and sacrifice on a massive, unprecedented scale. Yet it would perhaps not be wrong to say that no other political or social movement in this country has had so much romanticism and innocence attached to it as the one the students embarked upon 40 years ago.

It is no surprise then that 40 years on, the appeal that Ekushey has for people of this country, and perhaps for Bengalees everywhere, has not diminished one bit. True, the manner of commemoration has undergone some drastic changes. The sobriety of yesteryears has been replaced with more colourful remembrance that verges on rejecting. But then, with ultimate victory won, the martyrs themselves would probably have wanted people to rejoice on this day of defiance.

The 1992 Shaheed Day programme began with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia laying a floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at Zero Hour, Thursday.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the people to build a happy, prosperous and self-reliant country through nurturing and consolidating the spirit of nationalism.

In a message on the eve of "Ekushey" today the President also called for turning the country into a dignified democratic nation, freeing the people from the curse of poverty, illiteracy and backwardness.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a message on the eve of the historic Ekushey February, said "the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Language Movement will become meaningful when we will be able to give democracy a permanent institutional shape, remove poverty, make every one of our citizens lettered and eradicate terrorism from educational institutions. The appeal of Ekushey will be successful when our culture and tradition are flourished and nurtured and our eternal human values are strengthened firmly," she said.

She called upon all to work with sincerity and devotion from their respective positions to achieve these targets. Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave a call to

the people to unitedly resist misrule and anti-liberation communal forces and preserve Bengali language, culture and tradition.

"Let's pledge anew to restore the spirit and values of the Liberation War... resist injustice, repression and misrule at any cost and continue movement for economic freedom," said Hasina in a message on the eve of Amar Ekushey.

Paying homage to the martyrs of the historic language movement, she said Rafiq, Shafiq, Jabbar, Barkat and Salam sacrificed their bloods to pave the way for democracy and progress.

Programmes
Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The party will hoist the black flag and keep the party flag and the national flag at half mast. BNP leaders and activists will wear black badges.

At 7:30 in the morning, BNP will hold a rally near the Balaka Cinema Hall and place wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar.

The party members will also offer Faicha at the graves of the martyrs at Azimpur Graveyard.

Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) will hold a discussion meeting today (Friday) at 4:30 pm at the Ramna Itamul in observance of the day.

Bangladesh Awami League will hoist the black flag at the central party office at 5:30 am. The party members will gather at the central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue at 6 am and wear black badges.

An Awami League procession will start for the Azimpur Graveyard at 6:30 am and offer Faicha there.

The party members will place wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar at 7:30 in the morning. The party will also organise a discussion meeting and a musical soiree at its office at 4 pm today (Friday). Central leaders of Awami League will take part in the discussion meeting presided over by AL President Sheikh Hasina. Similar programmes will also be observed at the party's district and thana-level units. (More programmes on Metropolitan page).

Announcement
The final part of Countdown to Shaheed Day, which The Daily Star ran as a series from February 1 onwards, appears on Page 8 of the special supplement brought out with today's issue.

Spread literacy

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a brief introduction of the work and achievement of the recipients of the Padak.

The Prime Minister said the freedom of the nation came through the path of sacrifice and movement of Ekushey as the commitment of freedom and spirit of Language Movement were interlinked.

Begum Zia announced that the persons who were doing research on development and flourishing of Bangla at personal levels would be given patronisation from the government.

The Prime Minister said the present government which wanted to realise the hopes and aspirations of the people believed that democracy would get a permanent institutional shape only through economic emancipation.

IDB

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The board of governors expressed their full solidarity with the government of Bangladesh in dealing with this difficult problem.

Earlier the Finance Minister discussed the problem with the conference chairman and Libyan Finance Minister Mohammad El Madam El Bokhari and IDB President Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali and asked for IDB's support in conformity to establish provision for helping suffering Muslim minorities.

Both the Chairman and President of the IDB in their statements expressed grave concern at the situation arising out of the influx of thousands of refugees into Bangladesh and called for immediate solution of the problem and safe return of the refugees to their left-over hearth and home.

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Five-Party Alliance brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding expulsion of Golam Azam. —Star photo

9 get Ekushey Padak '92

The government, Thursday announced the names of the recipients of the 'Ekushey Padak' 1992, reports BSS.

According to an official announcement, the recipients are: Dewan Mohammad Azraf (Literature), Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed (Education), Khan Muhammad Salek (Education), Gias Kamal Chowdhury (Journalism), Ataus Samad (Journalism), Shahnaz Rahmatullah (Music), Amjad Hossain (Drama) and Muhammad Abul Hashem Khan (Fine Arts).

Bangla Academy

Bipradas Barua and Habibullah Straji have been named for 'Bangla Academy Literary Award 91', according to Bangla Academy sources here last night.

Each award carries Taka 25 thousand in cash and a citation.

The recipients will be formally decorated with the awards on February 22.

Pakistan

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that Islamabad had the components for an atomic device and stopped a half billion dollars in economic and military aid.

Washington has said assistance won't re-start until Islamabad rolls back its nuclear programme. Pakistan said it won't unless its traditionally antagonistic neighbour, India, also does.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974.

"Pakistan's nuclear programme is entirely peaceful in character and is not weapons oriented," Kanju said. "At the same time, for obvious reasons, Pakistan cannot forego its options unilaterally."

After a series of talks between Washington and Islamabad failed to break the impasse, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif launched a diplomatic offensive to try to ease misgivings about Pakistan's nuclear intentions.

During a visit to Paris last month, Sharif acknowledged for the first time that Pakistan had the components to make a nuclear bomb but wouldn't.

He also has pushed for a five-nation summit—Pakistan, India, the United States, China and the former Soviet Union—to make South Asia free of nuclear weapons. So far, New Delhi has rejected the proposal.

"We remain firmly committed to the objective of nuclear non-proliferation and are willing to accept any non-discriminatory regional regime for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons," Kanju said.

Shab-e-Barat

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newspapers carried special articles highlighting the significance of the holy night. Bangladesh Seerat Mission, Sufi Foundation Bangladesh, Dewanbagh Pak Darbar Sharif, Bangladesh Mehnati Party and different organisations held Milad Mahlis and congregations to observe 'Lailatul Barat'.



BAFA artistes performing dance at a function jointly organised by BFUJ and DUJ at the National Press Club auditorium Thursday in observance of Ekushey. —Star photo

Beijing urges Yangon

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boosted its border troops to about 90,000 amidst a torrent of Rohingya Muslim refugees fleeing Arakan into Bangladesh.

The number of refugees has crossed one lakh with an estimated 3,000 people pouring into Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts daily.

China, which supplies arms both to Myanmar and Bangladesh, believes that such border tension is unfortunate, but not unusual between neighbours.

The sources said some western intelligence reports have overstated China's 1989 arms deal with Myanmar.

They said China's actual arms sale to Myanmar is much below the level of 1.4 billion dollars speculated by the western intelligence.

Italy joins as full member at next Aid Club meet

By Staff Correspondent

Italy, for the first time, will participate as a full member at the Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting due to begin in Paris next April, Italian ambassador in Dhaka Claudio Pacifico said on Wednesday.

Briefing newsmen on the 'remarkable progress' made in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Italy at the embassy chancery, Ambassador Pacifico said relations between the two nations gained 'special momentum' following the recently concluded first ever Joint Economic Commission meeting in Rome.

Replying to a question, he said that Italy will participate as a full member for the first time, unlike as an observer in the past, at the next Paris Aid Club meeting for Bangladesh. He added that Italy was likely to make a 'significant contribution' at the meet.

Termining the upcoming visit, which begins today, by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman to Italy as an 'important' one, the Ambassador said that the visit also has political significance and underlines the special momentum gained in recent months on the bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the visit the Foreign Minister is scheduled to meet Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, Senior Italian politicians and important industrialists, he added.

Nothing that the newly-installed democratically elected government in Bangladesh had a positive impact on the Italian public opinion, he said that the prevailing view in the

Beijing urges Yangon

ern intelligence.
12 shot dead

Meanwhile reports reaching Dhaka from the Bangladesh-Myanmar border said that refugees pouring into Teknaf on Thursday said that Myanmar soldiers shot dead at least 12 Rohingyas, including three young women whom they tried to rape.

The incident occurred on Tuesday at the Puiamali village near the Huthidong town of Arakan province, according to a refugee who claimed to have witnessed the killing.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said a Myanmar patrol grabbed the three women on their way to bring water from a nearby mountain stream.

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Italian government is to help Bangladesh attain a sound economic environment.

Ambassador Pacifico said that Italy would like to make Bangladesh a 'preferential' partner for cooperation and also provide soft-term loans to promote the 'industrial interests' of Bangladesh. The real way to help Bangladesh is to assist her in developing her own economic and industrial bases," he added.

He hoped that the recent progress made in the bilateral relations could trigger new forms of economic and industrial cooperation between the two nations.

Envoy

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highest esteem.

The Ambassador conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to King Fahd and also extended thanks and appreciation of the government and the people of Bangladesh to the government and the people of Saudi Arabia for their constant support and concern at the time of Bangladesh's needs.

During the presentation ceremony King Fahd conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the government and the people of Bangladesh and welcomed him as the Ambassador of a brotherly country with which Saudi Arabia has the strongest ties deeply rooted in their common faith. In demonstrating his feelings towards Bangladesh King Fahd mentioned that "The people of Bangladesh are part of Saudi Arabia and the people of Saudi Arabia are part of Bangladesh."

Accused bailed without formal order!

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 20: The accused in a murder case was released on bail without any formal order passed in the judicial record in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge-II on February 15.

The bench clerk (Peshkar) was transferred to Daulatpur on the basis of that allegation. A complaint petition was sent by Advocate Abdur Rakib Khan to the Chief Justice today alleging that murder case was on hearing for bail petition in the court of the Additional Sessions Judge-II Abdur Razzak, on February 15.

On that day, bail petitions of four accused, Anwar, Rana, Shaheen and Azhar, was being heard by the said court. No formal order was passed on that order sheet of the court. But on the following day, the bench clerk (Peshkar) informed the lawyer that only one of the four accused was granted bail.

A separate date was fixed for the hearing of the three other accused. Advocate Khan was surprised when he saw on the record sheet that no written order was passed by the judge and the date for the hearing was recorded for the other accused.

The matter was brought to the notice of the District Judge on February 17. Accordingly, the District Judge transferred the bench clerk to the Daulatpur Upazila Court today.

The name of the accused who was released on bail was on the FIR while those of the three others were not. Advocate Khan then urged for a judicial enquiry.

When contacted the District Judge said the record sheet would be regularised and the concerned bench clerk transferred for negligence of duty.

The Midnight File

Klerk to announce referendum soon

CAPE TOWN, Feb 20: South Africa's President Frederik de Klerk announced today that a referendum will be held "soon" on proposed constitutional changes. If he lost the referendum he would resign, he told parliament. The announcement was made in the wake of the crushing defeat of his ruling National Party in the Potchefstroom by-election, reports AFP.

IDB to set up investment guarantee firm

CAIRO, Feb 20: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has decided to set up a firm to guarantee investments and export credits to boost trade among Muslim states, Egyptian Finance Minister Mohammed al-Razaz said. The decision on the new firm, comprising all 44 IDB members, was taken by the bank's governors at talks in Libya Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Palestinian peace negotiators leave for Jordan

JERUSALEM, Feb 20: Palestinian peace negotiators left for Jordan by bus today on their way to a new round of Middle East peace talks in Washington. Chief negotiator Haidar Abdel-Shafi said he expected the talks starting on Monday to address arrangements of interim self-rule for nearly two million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, reports Reuter.

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ID cards

From Page 1 Col 4

with Myanmar," he said. Matin Chowdhury, who heads a high-level committee to supervise an estimated 1 lakh refugees, said Bangladesh believes the problem can be resolved through diplomatic efforts.

He estimated the refugees at about 50,000 saying "more refugees are coming to escape various repressive measures of the Myanmar government and the number is feared to swell in future."

BSS adds: Bangladesh Wednesday described the unabated influx of Myanmar Muslims into its territory as a matter of "great concern" and hoped that the on-going diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue would produce quick and positive results.

The Home Minister said at an OCAB briefing in Dhaka that Bangladesh believed diplomatic endeavours for resolution of the problem were not exhausted and were continuing for an early solution of the issue.

He said refugees would go back to their country but added that Bangladesh could not force their return if they feared their security.

The Home Minister said Bangladesh was looking forward to the visit of the Myanmar Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaaw to Dhaka when a fruitful discussion on the refugee issue was expected.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that the Foreign Minister is unlikely to pay the scheduled visit within this month, the Home Minister said, "We have been told that the visit is being delayed due to his preoccupations but the visit will take place," he said.

যে গাছ শুধু ফলই দেয়!

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় স্কীমসমূহ এমনই একটি ফলবান গাছ।

আপনার অর্জিত সম্পদ জাতীয় সঞ্চয় স্কীমসমূহে বাটিয়ে আপনি শুধু ফল পেতেই থাকবেন— নিশ্চিত অধিক মুনাফা। আপনার সুখ ও সমৃদ্ধির জন্য নির্দিষ্ট আয়ই পছন্দসই স্কীমসমূহ বেছে নিন।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় স্কীমগুলো হচ্ছে—

- তিন বছর মেয়াদী সঞ্চয়পত্র
- প্রতিরক্ষা সঞ্চয়পত্র
- বোনাস সঞ্চয়পত্র
- পাঁচ বছর মেয়াদী বাংলাদেশ সঞ্চয়পত্র
- ওয়েজ আর্নার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড
- প্রাইজ বণ্ড
- ডাকঘর সঞ্চয় ব্যাংক:
 - (ক) সাধারণ হিসাব;
 - (খ) মেয়াদী হিসাব;
 - (গ) বোনাস হিসাব
- ডাক জীবন বীমা
- সঞ্চয় ট্যাম্প।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর

১৯৭৩ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত।