

Metropolitan

'Learn your mother tongue before other languages'

Leading litterateurs call on all at the Nat'l Poetry Festival

By DU Correspondent

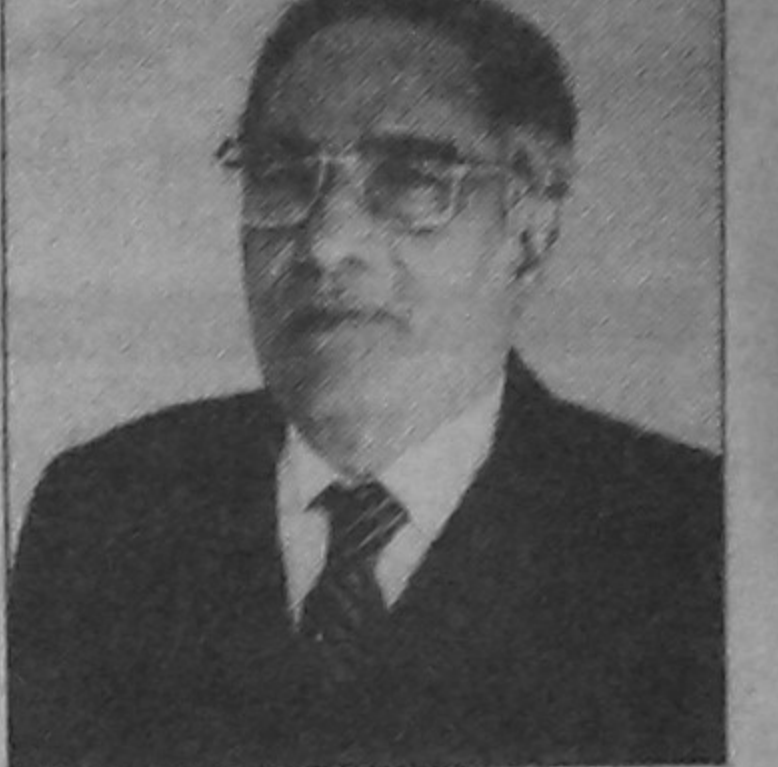
Leading litterateurs of the country at a discussion on the Dhaka University campus yesterday called upon the countrymen to learn their mother tongue properly prior to going for learning foreign languages. Emphasising on appropriate use of Bengali in every sphere of life, they said that unless we learn our mother language properly, we won't be able to learn foreign languages well. The renowned personalities of the country also urged the citizens, particularly the pro-liberation forces to come forward to preserve and uphold the image of the mother language. They were discussing on two separate keynote papers placed on the closing day of the two-day 18th National Poetry Festival yesterday. Jatiya Kabita Parishad organised the festival marking Amar Ekushey February (from Feb 21 to Feb 22).

Dr Khondakar Ashraf Hossain submitted a paper on "Poet and Information Technology." Chaired by Dr Anisuzzaman, the discussion was addressed by Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Nirmalendu Goon, Samarendra Sen Gupta, Rahat Khan, Forhad Mazhar, Muhammad Nurul Huda and Rafiqul Kabir. In his paper, Dr Khondakar Ashraf Hossain said that poetry cannot be created unless in one's mother tongue. The correlation between poetry and mother tongue is inevitable as with internationalisation, he added. Sazzad Kabir in his keynote paper disagreed with the opinion that the invention of new technologies has created a gap between people and poetry. He said that although people are now busy with the different technologies, the invention of such technologies had rather helped to bring out the "creativity" in them. Meanwhile, the second day's poetry festival was disrupted due to yesterday's countrywide

hartal sponsored by the opposition. According to witnesses, this year's festival was less attractive than that of the previous years as lesser number of visitors attended it. Some poets, who were scheduled to attend the festival from the remote areas, could not come due to the hartal, they added. Two sessions for poetry recitation for local and West Bengal poets were held in the afternoon yesterday, on the final day of the festival. Meanwhile, four dramas - Bou, Mukpora, Rangbaaz and Sonar Bangar Puthi - were staged at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday on the second day of the week-long street drama festival. Bangladesh Grop Theatre Federation organised the festival to celebrate the recognition of Ekushey February as International Mother Language Day. Three more dramas - Chand Mita, Kashaal Khana and Kadamtalir Army Camp - will be staged today.



Police inspecting the premises of the BNP's central office at Naya Paltan after the bomb blasts there. - Star photo



Dr Mallick's death anniversary tomorrow

The third death anniversary of Dr A R Mallick, former Finance Minister will be commemorated tomorrow with due solemnity in different parts of the country, says a press release. Dr Mallick was a professor of South Asian History at the University of Pennsylvania, USA in the early 60s and the founding Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University, where he put up resistance against the Pakistani Occupation Forces during the Liberation War. After independence he was the first education secretary of Bangladesh. He was also the first High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India and concurrently credited as Ambassador to Nepal and Bhutan in 1972. In 1975 he was made the first technocrat Finance Minister of the country. In the same year Dr Mallick was elected chairman of the Asian Development Bank. Dr Mallick led the Bangladesh delegation to the World Bank annual conference held in Washington and also represented the country at the IMF annual conference. Dr Mallick was awarded the status of Professor Emeritus of Jahangirnagar University in 1983. He was the founding chairman of National Bank Ltd, the president of Asiatic Society and a fellow of Bangla Academy. Dr Mallick carried out research on the history of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. "Amar Jibon Kothea O Bangladesh Mukti Shangan" was his latest book published in 1995.

Advocate S R Pal cremated

The body of renowned lawyer advocate Sabita Ranjan Pal (S R Pal) was cremated at Postagola on Tuesday afternoon. His body was released from the cold storage of BIRDEM hospital and kept at Central Shaheed Minar for the general people to pay their last respects. A cross section of people, including his colleagues and lawyers, paid homage to him. President Shahabuddin Ahmed and some members of the cabinet also paid homage. A citizens' condolence meeting on the renowned lawyer will be held on Monday next, says a press release by the committee for preservation of S R Pal's memory.

11 Myanmar citizens held in Ctg for smuggling cattle

COXS BAZAR, Feb 2: BDR jawans Tuesday seized 73 cattleheads being smuggled into the country through the Naaf river in Teknaf thana and arrested 11 Myanmar nationals in this connection, reports UNB. Sources said that a BDR squad halted two trawlers in the river and arrested 11 Myanmar nationals along with the cattleheads worth about Tk 5 lakh. The arrested were identified as Hethami, 31, Muchiaoung, 32, Kawho, 25, Toathoa, 26, Thela, 28, Aoungoe, 29, Momzia, 35, Aoungoe, 35, Moasi, 29, Chotenoe, 28 and Koejepe, 40. A case was filed in this regard.

Former JS whip Tara charged sheeted

FENI, Feb 2: The District Anti-corruption office has submitted a charge sheet against Mahubul Alam Tara, a former whip and two other persons for their alleged involvement in corruption in respect of fertiliser reports BSS. The other accused are Hasan and Mohammad Faruk. It was alleged that Hasan applied for 500 M tonnes of chemical fertilisers to Zia fertiliser factory authorities in 1994 and Mahubul Alam Tara recommended in favour of the applicant in his official pad for allotting the fertilisers. The authorities of Zia fertiliser factory allotted 100 M tonnes of fertiliser against the applicant. The applicant sold the whole allotment in black market, not even bringing those to Feni.

BKL reception to Hasina Feb 14

Bangladesh Krishak League (BKL) will accord a reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Paltan Maidan on February 14 for the Ceres Prize awarded to her by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), reports BSS. A meeting of the advisory committee formed in this connection was held at the Awami Foundation premises in the city yesterday. Presided over by Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Food and Agriculture Advisor to the Prime Minister M Anisuzzaman, Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Devnath Shambhu, Publicity Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Abdul Mannan and General Secretary of Krishak League Harun-Rashid Hawlader. The meeting urged all to make the reception a success.

Prof Sayeed asks Khaleda to prove popularity of opposition hartals

SHANTHA, Pabna, Feb 2: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed today challenged BNP chief Khaleda Zia to prove popularity of hartal without creating panic and resorting to throwing bombs, killing, damaging vehicles and all sorts of terrorist activities, reports BSS. "Please assure people that you will not kill innocent people, hurl bombs, damage vehicles and keep people from normal activities, you will find none other than anti-social elements supporting your mindless, anti-people hartals," he said. "If you can prove that people spontaneously observe hartal at your call, not for fear of terrorism and anarchy created by pro-hartal elements, I will quit politics right now," he said.

Bangladeshi student wins Sony Gulf Environment Award

A Bangladeshi student, Zeenath Reza Khan, yesterday won the first prize in Scientific Research Category of the Sony Gulf Environment Award-2000, reports BSS. A third year Computer Science student of Wollongong University's Dubai campus Zeenath is the daughter of Dr Ali Reza Khan, a noted wildlife biologist currently managing the Dubai Zoo. UAE Minister for Higher Education and President of Zayed University, Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan gave away the prize in the auditorium of Zayed University at a function jointly organised by Federal Environment Agency of the UAE. Zeenath worked on the biodiversity and protected area of Dubai and compared it with similar but unprotected habitats in the Emirates of Dubai and Sharjah. Zeenath's award includes a certificate and a gift voucher from Sony Gulf worth Dh 5000 (equivalent to Taka 70,000). For her achievement, the Wollongong University also received a shield.

BPC hosts tourist information on Internet

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has got itself connected with the information highway by hosting country's tourist information on Internet recently, says a press release. From now on intending buyers of Bangladesh's tourist products from further corner of the globe will have the opportunity to receive information on Bangladesh at the following Website address http://www.parjatan.org. Meanwhile, for catering quicker services to the domestic and global clientele BPC has subscribed e-mail and its address is bpcho@bangla.net. CHITTAGONG, Feb 2: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) rounded up 18 miscreants from different areas of the city during the past 24 hours ending at 6 pm today, reports BSS. Violators of CMP Act, absconders and terrorists were among those arrested.

18 held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 2: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) rounded up 18 miscreants from different areas of the city during the past 24 hours ending at 6 pm today, reports BSS. Violators of CMP Act, absconders and terrorists were among those arrested.

Chehlum

The chehlum of Mahmuda Khatun Chowdhurani, 64, wife of late Saydul Haider of Chandpur, PS, Senbagh, Noakhali will be held on February 4 after Juma prayers at her village, says a press release.

Advertisement for 'নন্দখালী উপশহর প্রকল্প' (Nandkhali Suburb Project). It details the development of a suburb with 1000 units, including residential, commercial, and educational facilities. It mentions the involvement of various government departments and the goal of providing a modern living environment.

Advertisement for 'সোনালী ব্যাংক' (Sonalai Bank). It features a large logo and text describing the bank's services, including deposits, loans, and remittance. It also mentions the bank's commitment to customer service and financial stability.

Advertisement for 'শাখা স্থানান্তর' (Branch Relocation) for Sonaloi Bank. It lists the current and new locations for various branches, including the main branch in Dhaka and several branches in the Chittagong region. It provides contact information and dates for the relocation.

Advertisement for 'শাখা স্থানান্তর' (Branch Relocation) for Sonaloi Bank. It lists the current and new locations for various branches, including the main branch in Dhaka and several branches in the Chittagong region. It provides contact information and dates for the relocation.

Advertisement for 'Holy Child International School'. It describes the school's curriculum, which combines modern and Islamic education. It highlights the school's facilities, including a hostel, and its commitment to providing a high-quality education for students of all religions.

Advertisement for 'Floralia' apartments. It features a large, stylized logo and text describing the 3020 Sft Apartments at Gulshan. It emphasizes the exclusivity of each level and the advanced development technologies used in the project. It also provides contact information for the developers.