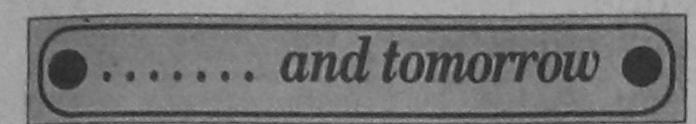
That's on today

Cultural programme: Anindya, a cultural organisation, has organised an evening of Tagore songs. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi, Time:

Memorial lecture: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, has organised 'Abdul Jabbar Khan Memorial Lecture and Gold Medal Award ceremony' as part of its National Council 2000. Venue: IDEB premises, 160/A Kakrail. Time: 4:30

Seminar : A seminar on "Women of the Sout's Asian Diaspora: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Arranged Marriage and Ginu Kamani's Junglee Girl' will be held. Rebecca Haque of the Department of English will present keynote paper on the topic while Dr Razia Khan Amin and Dr Ferdous Azim will take part in the discussion. Organiser: Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities (CARH). Venue: Lecture Theatre (Room No 434) of Dhaka University. Time: 4:00 pm



Scouts General Meeting: The National Council of Bangladesh Scouts will hold its 27th general meeting. President and Chief Scout Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the meeting. Venue: National Scout Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: '0

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office predicted. Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.6 degree Celsius was

recorded at Hatiya and the lowest of 9.0 degree Celsius at Sri-The sun sets in the capital today at 5.58 pm and rises tomor-

row at 6.26 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Humicity in Temperature City/Town

	in Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.7	13.8	52	43
Chittagong	30.5	16.0	57	51
Rajshahi	27.3	11.2	93	62
Khulna	28.5	14.4	68	51
Barisal	28.5	14.0	75	60
Sylhet	28.4	12.0	65	41
Cox's Bazar	30.1	18.6	62	61

HERE and THERE

DUJ

Dhaka Union of Journalists has observed Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day with due respect, reports UNB.

A discussion meeting on the significance of the day was held at Jatiya Press Club with DUJ president Altaf Mahmood in the chair.

The participants in the discussion described the International Mother Language Day as the symbol of pride of the Bengali nation in the comity of na-

Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Molla Jalal, Khan Mohammad Salek, Sukumer Sarker, Khandker Mojahidul Huq. Ashok Sinha, Mujahid Ansari, Bhanu Ranjan Chakraborty, Khandker Anisur Rahman and Abdul Zalil Bhuiyan took part in the discussion.

BADC workshop

Participants in a workshop have stressed the revival of water regulations in the light of the National Water Policy to ensure proper use of irrigation machinery and irrigated water for agriculture purposes, reports BSS.

They referred to the ongoing projects of the irrigation wing in the agriculture sector and called for launching new projects immediately in other deserving areas under the small irrigation programmes of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC). a BADC press release said yester-

Organised by the BADC, the workshop on "Small Irrigation Programmes of BADC" was held in the auditorium of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) on February 20.

BADC Chairman MA Quader inaugurated the workshop. Member Director (Irrigation) Ashabuddin Mahmood was in the chair. Deputy Chief Engineer of BADC Abul Kashem Mia

read out the key-note paper. The participants in their recommendations said the organisational set-up of the BADC's irrigation wing should be expanded to district and thana levels in view of the different realities.

5-day show of Muktir Kotha'

A five-day long show of 'Muktir Kotha', a documentary on the struggled and suffering of people in 1971, directed by Tareque and Catherine Masud. began at Shawkat Osman Auditorium in the Fublic Library yesterday, says a press releate.

Show times are 3, 5, and 7 pm. Admission tickets of Tk 20 are available on the Public Library premises as well as La Bamba (Dhanmondi), La Dolce Vita (Banani), and Pathak Samabesh (Aziz Market).

Nikunja murder

From page 1

Nikunja Bihari Nath. a Joint Secretary to the Local Government Ministry, was stabbed to death by a group of muggers near Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University on January 11 while returning to his Azimpur residence from Kamalapur railway station after Eid holi-

DU Political Science Dept Ex-students

Assoc A meeting of the Dhaka University Political Science Department Ex-students' Association was held on February 20 at EBL's Head Office, says a press

The association discussed different aspects of the organisation and decided to hold the reunion on March 3 at Ramna

Green, Ramha Park. For details, contact M Khairul Alam. Ph. 9558390-91, or MI Talukder, Ph: 8611507, or KMA Bari, Ph: 9557019 or 017-

527147. The next meeting will be held at the same place on February 27 at 5 pm.

Truck strike begins in Ctg port

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 22: Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended as the Port Truck Owners Association enforced a 36hour strike at the port from 8 pm tonight, port and association sources said.

Port Truck Owners Association withdrew all its trucks from port at 8 pm tonight protesting use of own trucks by a private cement company Confidence Cement Ltd.

The trucks were used to carry clinkers from a ship imported by the company, port sources said.

The association demanded its trucks be used in carrying clinkers of the same private company instead of its own trucks. The association threatened

truck strike in greater Chittagong for indefinite period if its demand was not meet immediately.

Port sources said cargo handling works in the ships related with direct delivery from the port by trucks, remained suspended from 8 pm in addition to delivery from port sheds.

Country's lone taxidermist dead

The lone taxidermist of the country and an officer of Natural History Department in the National Museum, Khondoker Ali Ahad died yesterday at his residence at the age of 42, reports BSS

Ali had been suffering from brain cancer for the last seven months and was treated at home and abroad. He left behind his wife and a son, a press

release said. He was the lone expert on taxidermy in the country and got higher training abroad on

this subject. TV: Showcause

From page 1 jection of the Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Khaleda Zia on 'he Ekushey night, people were talking about

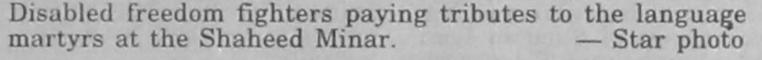
We gave her (Khaleda Zia) as much coverage as she deserved as an opposition leader. There is no question that the government suffer a loss of image." Despite frantic efforts, BTV

officials could not be contacted yesterday for their comments. Meanwhile, the notice recipients plan to give replies today, denying the allegation of negliany order from the customs authorities. "However, if we receive any He claimed that the com-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seen among others at a discussion meeting in the city

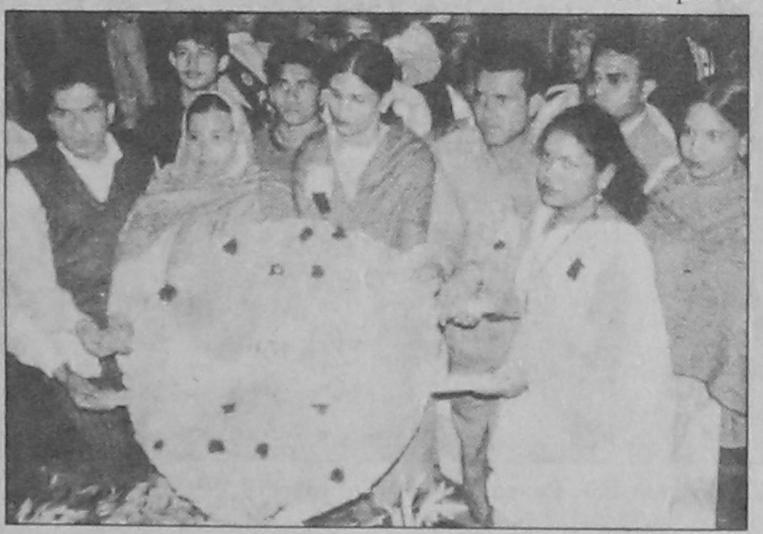
yesterday to mark the Amar Ekushey & International Mother Language Day (top), and

artistes rendering songs followed by the discussion.





Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. - Star photo



Members of Projonmo '71 placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. - Star photo

Youngone co fined

From page 1 missioner in a report said the

team found a stock of 18.51 156 yards of cloth worth 42,02,364 US dollars against 74,92,304 yards worth 1,70,03,084 dollars, shown in the 'closing balance', resulting in a shortfall of 56,41,148 yards. The price of the 'missing' goods stands at 1,28,00,720 dollars.

A preliminary assessment in February 1998 showed that the company evaded Tk 42 crore taxes by "illegally taking out the missing cloth".

Later, a joint committee comprising customs officials and representatives of the company was formed to examine the allegation after the company officials termed the figures inflated.

The committee finally detected evasion of Tk 35 crore taxes.

The Commissioner, Ali Ahmed, in his order also said that under the bonded facility. the company either sold those in the local market or expc ted those without bringing the

money in the country. Talking to The Daily Star last night, Deputy Director of the company AKM Shamsuddin said that they had not received

order, we will appeal against such penalty." he said.

pany was not involved in any illegal business and that the whole thing was due to negli-

gence of customs officials.

Shamsuddin said, Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) rules call for audit every year but that was not followed. Customs officials suddenly came for audit in 1998 and could not match the stock with the 'closing balance' as many documents could not be found because those were years-

"Our company was formed in 1993 and the customs came for audit for the first time in 1998, Shamsuddin said.

He also denied that a joint committee was formed for in-

vestigation. "What happened was that customs officials came and said that we evaded 42 crore taxes They wanted to investigate again and our officials co-operated with them in the investigation for the second time. They (customs officials) are terming this (co-operation) a joint investigation" Shamsuddin claimed.

Clinton

From page 1 and accommodation "in case of overnight stay" in 'he

Bangladesh capital. Some top officials in Dhaka, seeking anonymity, said that a night stopover in Delhi before coming to Dhaka would 'undermine the image' of Bangladesh and that US officials preparing Clinton's itinerary should be duly in formed of this.

From page 1 languages and former President Language Day recognising

Ekushey: World peace

night.

- Star photo

of the Republic of Iceland, underlined the importance of this day in the preservation of linguistic diversity and hoped that all languages would be treated as equal in this world.

Felix Marti, Chairperson, Advisory Committee for linguistic pluralism and multilingual education, also made a short statement advocating the importance of preservation of all languages as the right of humankind.

To give an idea of the rich culture of Bangladesh, the embassy in consultation with the UNESCO, arranged a short cultural programme at the launching ceremony.

Bangladesh artistes in Paris presented four patriotic Bangla songs that are normally sung on the occasion of Ekushey February. These are Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano, Moder Gorob Moder Asha, Salam Salam Hajar Salam and Joy Bangla Banglar Joy. Sayeeda Rahman, Partha Pratim Majumdar, Reeta Arham, Ferdousi Hena, Rahim Khan, Suresh Marma and Anuvab Barua participated in the cultural programme. The capacity crowd at the UNESCO auditorium showed their appreciation of these inspirational Bangla songs with thunderous applause.

A video presentation was made by the director of the language division in the UNESCO about the detailed programme that they have undertaken to preserve various mother language of the world. He hoped that at the ceremony next year they would be

tion about the richness of the diversity of language spoken in the world today The closing address of the ceremony was given by Colin Power, Deputy Director General of UNESCO, who also empha-

able to make a visual presenta-

sised the need to respect linguistic diversity. AP adds from New York There are 6,000 languages in the world and Secretary-General Kofi Annan was promoting every single one of them on the

first International Mother Lan-

guage Day. "In an age of globalization and international cooperation where a few languages have become global languages, it is imperative that we uphold the diversity of local language," he said in a statement marking Monday's commemoration.

Annan said the United Nations and UNESCO "have long worked to promote the dissemination of mother tongues and to advance multi-lingual education and linguistic diversity."

"Along with nation and community, language is an essential component of identity and a means by which we find our place in the world. The very essence of belonging in an increasingly rootless world is to hear a language of one's own, to understand and be understood with ease," he said.

"Given the danger that many of the 6,000 languages spoken today may disappear in the next 20 years, it is critical that the international community redouble its efforts to protect this common heritage of mankind," Annan said.

The secretary-general expressed hope that International Mother Language Day, which was proposed by Bangladesh, would contribute to the coexistence of the peoples who speak them in the 21st century.

UNB reports from Calcutta International Mother Language Day and Shaheed Dibosh was observed here and elsewhere in multi-ethnic India today with a call for establishing right of mother tongue for all

Heads of missions of different countries here, dean of consular corp. and secretary and representatives of union and state governments came at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Sarani in Calcutta to pay homage to the 1952. martyrs of Dhaka.

This is for the first time such dignitaries paid homage to the Language Movement martyrs as UNESCO declared 21st February

Sunday. Siddique's writ

From page 12

Judge, Dhaka. Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for Quader Siddique while Deputy Attorney General

Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the government. If Siddique does not prefer to appeal against the verdict, the Law Ministry's ir uiry committee will proceed with the investigation, legal experts sa 1.

as International Mother martyrdom of Bengalis for

mother tongue. Among the heads of missions and representatives who paid visit to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission were from USA, UK, Germany. Japan, Thailand, Nepal Switzerland, Russia, Cyprus, Hungary, Tongo and Denmark.

Diplomats of different countries in Calcutta as well as representatives of Indian union government and state government of West Bengal offered tributes at the altar of a makeshift Shaheed Minar at the Deputy High Commission.

Earlier, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner M Humayun Kabir led mission's officials and their families in paying tributes. Country's visiting Tagore singers and officials of Biman and Sonali Bank here also joined in laying wreaths. The day began with lowering of the national flag to half-

mast and hoisting black flag. Messages of President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were read out. A special prayer was also offered. Elaborate programmes were also drawn up by the West Ben-

gal government and different organisations in Calcutta. The Deputy High Commission in the afternoon organised a discussion that was followed by a cultural soiree. Among the discussants were West Bengal Deputy Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya, Calcutta University VC Ashis Kumar Bannerjee and writer Bud-

dhadev Guha. Earlier on Sunday, visiting singers of Bangladesh Ravindra Sangeet Shilpee Sangstha rendered the inaugural song "Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano Ekushey February" at the Amar Ekushey function in the capital of West Bengal

BSS adds: Tributes were paid to the martyrs of the historic language movement on the occasion of the immortal Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day at a function in New Delhi on Monday.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Mustafa Faruque Mohammed, former Indian foreign secretary Muchkund Dubey and editor of National Book Trust, India, spoke at the function organised jointly by Bangladesh High Commission and Impressario, India, a socio-cultural organisation.

In his speech Muchkund Dubey recalled the intensity of emotion of the Bangalees in Bangladesh on Ekushey Febru-

'Jamai' Faroog

From page 1

legal action to ensure equal dispensation of justice, said leaders of the citizens' committee.

The committee also demanded arrest of the political leaders who were financially benefitted from Shikdar and gave him scopes to commit heinous crimes.

Shikdar disclose names of all his beneficiaries during interrogation by a high powered probe body headed by Masudul Hug, a director of NSI.

The probe body identified 79 people including some political leaders of the ruling party and the opposition as beneficiaries of Ershad Shikdar who are yet to be brought to book.

Some of the beneficiaries serving in the police department and some others holding high positions in the ruling party are still conspiring in favour of Shikdar so that he returns to Skid Ghat to recapture his lost domain, said leaders of the citizens' committee.

They have demanded immediate arrest of the remaining armed cadres now at large and recovery of Ershad's illegal arms without any further delay.

Maj Gen JK Das

as Rafiqul Islam in a report in The Daily Star on February 21. which contained details of the major reshuffle in the Army on

The report said that five area commanders have been changed in the Army reshuffle. But taking the case of Major General Anwar Hossain, the number of area commanders changed is six, out of a total of

seven. Meanwhile, High Commissioner to the Maldives Major General Harun Ahmed Chowdhury Bir Uttam, who has come back, is yet to get a fresh posting. He still has around eight months of service in the Army. help.

Mannan Bhuiyan urges people Make BNP programmes of Feb 24, 28 a success

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul lation of PSA. Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged the people to make the agitation programme of February 24 and country wide hartal of February

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia along with other leaders of her party paying tributes to the

martyrs of the language movement at the Central Shaheed Minar after midnight Sunday

28 a success. BNP will observe demonstration day on Thursday demanding release of their arrested leaders and activists, held during previous hartal cancellation of Public Safety Act (PSA), and withdrawal of 'false cases' against its leaders and activists.

The main opposition has called for a country wide dawn to dusk hartal on Monday demanding resignation of Awami League government and cancelMannan Bhuiyan also urged

leaders and activists at all level to hold agitation rally and bring out procession on Thursday at thanas, districts and metropolitan cities.

- Star photo

Meanwhile, city BNP will organise a rally at the Paltan Maidan at 3:30 pm Thursday. The rally will be followed by a procession.

City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP urged people from all strata of the society and leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations to attend the rally to intensify their movement for one-point demand.

Tributes to martyrs

From page 1 at the Central Shaheed Minar

at 12:30 am. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, ministers, political leaders and diplomats then

placed wreaths.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Sahata Zahrab led the diplomats and foreign nationals who went to the Shaheed Minar.

Vice Chancellor of the

Dhaka University Prof AK Azad

Chowdhury and Prof. RIM

Aminur Rasheed, Convenor of the Ekushey Udjapan Committee received the distinguished guests at the Minar. Soon after the security ring was withdrawn, various professional, socio-cultural, political and student organisations and thousands of people in processions from different parts of the city then converged there.

singing in chorus the famous song 'Amar Bahaiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February, Ami ki Bhulite Pari" and the process continued. The organisations that paid homage to the Language martyrs by placing wreaths included Bangladesh Awami league, Bangladesh Nationalist party. Left Democratic Front, Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh

Krishak Samajbadi Dal and Samyabadi Dal. Other organisations, institu-

tions and bodies which placed wreaths included Dhaka University Teachers Association, Dhaka University Senate and Syndicate, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Dhaka Reporters Unity, Crinie Reporters Association, Bangabandhu Parishad, Ekaturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee, Bangladesh police: Bangladesh Shishu Kishore Parishad, BUET Teachers Association, Udichi Shilpi Goshti, Bangladesh Inter- Religious Brotherhood Association, Bangladesh Bar Council, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy,

Officers Association and Dhaka University Class Four Employees Association. The Day was a public honday. The National flag was hoisted at half-mast and black

Bangladesh Shisnu Academy,

National Museum, Mukijuddha

Jadughar, Dhaka University

flags were hoisted across the country on the Day. Bangladesh Betar and BTV put up special programmes and national dailies brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the his-

Kendra, Gano Foram, Sramik Rohingya

Samajtantric Dal, Workers

Party of Bangladesh, National

Awami Party. Communist

From page 1 by the military junta. After about 2,30,00 of them were repatriated till July 1997,

the Myanmar government sud-

denly stopped the process. It later agreed to repatriate 7,000 more -50 per week - from November 1998. In the following six months, only 378 were taken back in 18 batches but the high birth rate in the camps has almost outstripped the very slow pace of repatriation, offi-

cial sources said. Bangladesh and Myanmar officials held a high-level meeting in January to expedite the

process. Azad Ruhul Amin, Secretary, Ministry of Relief, who led the Bangladesh delegation at the talks at Yangon told The Daily Star that the Myanmar authorities gave an assurance of reconsidering repatriation of the remaining 14,000 refugees.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad visited Myanmar in late 1998 and his counterpart, U Aung Win, paid a return visit in July last year. In the talks. Myanmar agreed to take back all their nationals.

Earlier in 1978, there was another influx of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh. The situation was tackled through discussions.

FF's appeal

Khondker Asaduzzaman, a valiant freedom fighter, is now suffering from acute kidney ailments. Both of his kidneys are not working properly, says A resident of Joypurhat.

Asaduzzaman is now undergoing treatment at BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka. He needs at least one kidney

transplant immediately, doc-

tors said. But he cannot afford

The freedom fighter has appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for financial assistance and all possible

achievement", she said while

describing her government's

Hasina From page 1 Language Day is yet another

toric Day.

role in bringing about international recognition of the nation's sacrifice for its mother tongue, Bangla. "It's a pride for the whole nation that 188 countries across the world will now continue observing the 21st February. Ekush (the 21st) is an occasion

mixed with sorrow and joy. It is

also a matter of great achieve-

ment for the nation," the PM

said paying tributes to the

martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement Addressing the meeting as the chief guest. Hasina also reiterated that an international centre for research on mother language would be set up in Dhaka. "We want to ensure

dignity of each and every language across the world". Turning to her government's vision for a prosperous Bangladesh by the year 2020, the Prime Minister called upon all to sink differences and work hard to free the country from poverty and illiteracy. "All our plans aim at turning Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country before we celebrate 50 years of national independence in 2021 ... I

am sure we can achieve the target through united efforts." Earlier, noted poet Syed Shamsul Haq honoured Sheikh Hasina with the title, Bangabhasha Kanya (the daughter of Bangla language). The huge crowd burst into cheers and gave her a standing ovation al-

by the Chair Chaired by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting was also addressed by other top Al. leaders including Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Principal Quamruzzaman and State Minister for

Shipping Mofazzal Hossain

Choudhury.

ter Hag's proposal was endorsed