

Bangla still off computer code

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Bangla, the mother tongue of the world's eighth-largest population group, is not included in the cluster of languages that are part of the computer operating system.

Popular computer software makers have incorporated more than 250 languages into their operating system, but Bangla did not find its place yet, despite a sharp rise in the use of computers, experts in the information communications technology (ICT) said.

The operating system is the low-level software, which handles the interface to peripheral hardware, schedules tasks, and allocates storage and default to users when no application programme runs.

Bangla has lost its possibility of entry to the computer operating system due to lack of initiatives and patronisation by the government and non-implementation of copyright laws in the country.

Bangladesh is yet to have the universal computer code of its language since the country is not a member of the Unicode Consortium, a body on formation of a global character standard or universal computer code. The Unicode Consortium has successfully created International Standard ISO/IEC 10646 for languages.

Bangla works in the English operating system as a 'mask', and users have already lost Bangla as a language in the system, said Mostofa Jabbar, an ICT expert.

There is no Bangla software available in the rules of Bangla dictionary or according to the rules of Bangla, he added.

"We would not be able to proceed further with Bangla until we could integrate it into operating system," Jabbar said.

He, however, said the use of the language is increasing gradually since over 30 crore people use the language, which is the state language of an independent nation and mother language of a large number of people in West Bengal, India.

Even, many tribal people use the Bangla alphabet in their languages like Ahomia, Monipuri, Naga and Chakma.

The then government in 1987 initiated a move to have the universal computer code for Bangla, but no progress has since been made, sources said.

As a solution to the problem, Bangladesh needs to become a member of

Ban on 2-stroke three-wheelers in city after 6 months

UNB, Dhaka

streets without fitness certificate, route permit and tax stickers.

"Punitive actions, including imprisonment, will be taken against the drivers and owners of those three-wheelers that will ply the streets with fake stickers," said an official announcement quoting the

decisions of an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been asked to take effective steps in this regard.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda presided over the meeting held at the

Communications Ministry.

Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, State Minister for Communications Salah Uddin Ahmed, State Minister for Energy

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Fierce Israeli attacks on Palestinians, Arafat's office

Call for emergency UNSC session as 15 killed

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel killed 15 Palestinian security forces members in a fierce wave of ground, air and sea attacks in Gaza and the West Bank early Wednesday in bitter payback for a guerrilla ambush that gunned down six Israeli troops.

The retribution strikes for the first time hit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Gaza City headquarters, strafed by a warship, killing four of Arafat's bodyguards and injuring four others.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon, who has been severely criticised for failing to outline a clear plan to tackle the 17-month crisis which threatens to explode into all-out war, ordered his forces to hit back hard and fast after one of the deadliest Palestinian guerrilla raids yet.

The ambush Tuesday night occurred after Palestinian gunmen took up a position in a building overlooking an army checkpoint, near the village of Ein Arik, west of Ramallah on the West Bank, opening fire before escaping into Palestinian territory.

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Police asked to probe all killings in 18 days, nab 23 top terrorists

UNB, Dhaka

Six Israeli soldiers were killed and one injured.

Israel swiftly hit Arafat's Gaza compound, with Palestinian security officials reporting an attempted beach assault by Israeli marines on the building, but there was no independent confirmation.

Minutes after the first strike, an F-16 fighter-bomber blasted Gaza City police headquarters and Apaches helicopters launched five hours of strikes.

They fired 20 missiles at targets across the city, including a civilian

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Tk 42 lakh snatched in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In two separate incidents, armed muggers took away Tk 42 lakh from the owners and staff of two garments factories from the city's Agrabad commercial area yesterday.

Police said Tk 33.50 lakh was snatched from in front of the Fashion Group of Industries located at Jahan Building in Agrabad commercial area by armed muggers at around 12.45 pm.

Managing director and four other employees of the Fashion Group drew Tk 33.50 lakh from Sonali Bank KC Dey road branch in Laldighirpar at noon.

When they reached in front of the factory by a microbus, a gang of armed muggers swooped on them and snatched the money at gun

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ANNOUNCEMENT

On the eve of Eid, The Daily Star runs Eid TV highlights instead of the regular culture page.

Fantasy Kingdom at Ashulia inaugurated yesterday offers a number of amusements for children and adults alike, and a respite from the chaotic city life.

Fairy tales come alive at Fantasy Kingdom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Folklore stories of fairies flying on magic carpets and doing wonderful tricks to save the day have enthralled many as children who often fantasized about these marvelous events, only to find their dreams whipped and shattered by the harsh lashes of reality.

But now the Fantasy Kingdom at Ashulia beckons to city-dwellers like a dream come true where visitors can enjoy a ride on a magic carpet along with at least 20 other such amusements of fun and fantasy.

The Fantasy Kingdom at Ashulia, which is around 30 kilometers north of the city, is now open to the public and offers an ideal getaway for families dying for a breath of fresh air and unsullied entertainment away from the repulsive congestion and pollution of the busy metropolis.

The massive amusement park at Ashulia built by Concord Group of companies was inaugurated yesterday by SM Kamaluddin, chairman of the group, who declared the soft opening of the dreamland by switching on the lights of its large gate with two star-shaped structures on top.

The opening ceremony of the largest amusement complex in the country was followed by an attractive cultural function attended by around two

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