

'Victory was not success of any individual'

Discussion on Language Movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Victory in the movement for establishing Bangla as state language was not a success of any individual; it was rather an outcome of collective efforts of the entire nation.

This was observed at a discussion on Amar Ekushey organised by the Spectra Group in the city yesterday.

"Though we have to learn other languages too, we must perceive the world in our mother language. We have achieved the right to it at the cost of supreme sacrifice," said Abdul Matin, a language movement veteran.

"We have established Bangla as the state language on the basis of Bangalee nationalism, which paved the way for subsequent struggle for political freedom," he said reminiscing the history of language movement of 1952.

"A series of attacks on our cultural identity by the Pakistani rulers during the 50s turned the movement for language into a mass upsurge, eventually forcing them to recognise Bangla as state language," he said.

Gaziul Haque, another veteran of the language movement, said his generation has struggled to achieve the right to mother language and to uphold the national glory, and called

on the young generation to carry on with the efforts to fulfil nation's aspirations.

"Human beings can never be defeated, we must go forward along the glorious path of victory," he said.

Gaziul Haque made an appeal to uphold and learn from the achievements of national heroes.

Shahadat Chowdhury, editor of the weekly Shaptahik 2000, said the glorious history of national victory is the pride of the nation.

In the then context of Pakistan, having an aspiration for Bangalee nationhood required people of this land to have enormous courage and vigour, he said.

Going back into the history, he said that at the time of the birth of Pakistan, its leaders maintained that Urdu, as a cultural language of Muslims, should have been the official language of the newly born state.

But noted personalities like Abul Mansur Ahmad and Kazi Motahar Hossain refuted the argument, saying that Bangla spoken by more than 50 percent of the population should be the state language instead of Urdu spoken by only 16 percent, Shahadat said.

Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, said the nation has many great achievements, but at the same time, there are colossal failures too in giving true forms to the national aspirations.

"We must realise the fact that assertion of one's personality depends on up to what extent one has mastery over his or her mother language. Otherwise, we will run the risk of jeopardising our very existence as a nation," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Language movement veterans Gaziul Haque and Abdul Matin at a discussion on Amar Ekushey organised by the Spectra Group in the city yesterday.

JCD leader Ashraf murder case

Four to die, five get 10 yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A court here yesterday sentenced four people to death and five others to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for the murder of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader.

Ashraful Haque alias Asha, a leader of Bandar Upazila JCD, was killed in an attack on August 28, 2002.

Those who received death penalty are Boro Shahadat, Chhotaikka Badal, Narayan, and Boncha Suman.

The five other convicts are Sarwar Hossain, Phensi Johnny, Pichchi Shahadat, Jamal Papli, and Bokra Farid. They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to serve six months more in prison.

The court also acquitted seven

other accused -- Abdur Rashid Contractor, Azizul Haque, Sanaulah Sanu, Liton, Monir, Gopal and Mohsin.

Of the convicts, two were tried in absentia. The fugitives are Bocha Suman and Sarwar Hossain.

According to the prosecution, the criminals attacked Ashraful Haque Asha and his companion Zakirul Islam Ratan with sharp weapons and hacked them in Jamaipara area of Bandar Upazila.

Later, Asha died on the way to hospital.

His father Abdul Haque filed a case with Bandar thana the next day.

After examining 25 witnesses, the District and Sessions Judge handed down the verdict in a crowded court.

Discussion

Bangladesh Bar Council will hold a discussion on the 'Role of bar council in the independence and separation of judiciary' with council Vice-Chairman Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam in the chair. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Iraq Ranangane' by Anis Alamgir will be held with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: Kagoj Prokashon Stall of Ekushey Book Fair, Bangla Academy premises. Time: 5.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Students Association will hold a discussion in observance of late Shaheed Dr Shamsuzzoha Day. Venue: Mohila Samity, Bailey Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Rotary meeting

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Film show

Dhaka University Film Society will screen two films titled 'Bitter Moon' and 'China Town' directed by Roman Polanski. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.45pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Don Juan De Marco' (1995). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

BUP workshop

The concluding session of a workshop on 'Sharing of common regional resources', organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), will be held. Venue: Best Western La

Sufficient supply of fertiliser demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishak Samity (BKS) yesterday demanded of the government to ensure supply of sufficient fertiliser across the country with a view to tackling the existing fertiliser crisis.

The BKS leaders said some dealers belonging to the ruling party have created artificial crisis of fertilizer.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the black marketers for creating the crisis.

Addressing a rally in city's Mukhtangan, the BKS General Secretary Morshed Ali said fertiliser is being sold in the black markets at a higher price that is beyond the capacity of farmers.

"Per kilogram Uria fertiliser is being sold at Tk. 9 to Tk. 10 while the original price ranges from Tk.5 to Tk.6," he said adding that some dealers are responsible for the practice.

"The crisis of petrol and diesel have also surfaced due to wrong policy of the government which is hampering the irrigation in the ongoing IRRI- Boro season," the BKS general secretary said.

He also demanded exemplary punishment of the dealers responsible for the artificial fertiliser crisis.

BKS central leader Nina Chakrabarti said farmers are not getting fertiliser due to lack of supply and black marketing by some dealers belong to the ruling party.

"Pro-ruling party dealers are selling fertiliser at night at a higher price," she added.

She said the crisis has been created intentionally by the government so that ruling party dealers could reap financial benefits.

President of the BKS working committee SMA Sabur presided. Later, the BKS brought out a procession.



PHOTO: STAR

Inam-ul-Haque, a bird expert, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday demanding probe into the killing of birds in Hakaluki haor. The Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organised the press conference.

Call to form body to probe killing of birds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) yesterday demanded of the government to form a multi-disciplinary inquiry committee to investigate the recent killing of 16,000 birds at Hakaluki haor.

BAPA also urged the authorities concerned to take effective measures to avert more killings of birds.

Inam-ul-Haque, a bird expert and convener of the observation committee on the incident formed by BAPA, said only Lanja hash (pintail) out of six species of ducks in Hakaluki haor, was killed with poisonous food.

Inam-ul-Haque said this at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club after his visit to Hakaluki haor.

Echoing the Local people's opinion he said that pintails in other beels (water body) of the country are not affected.

Quoting local people Inamul said, poachers mixed poison with boiled rice to kill the pintails. He said killing of birds is still continuing in the haor.

He urged the government and the opposition to come forward to

help protect the environment and public health. He said dead birds weighing about 10 tons are floating on water creating pollution and health hazard to the people.

Another specialist Prof. Zakir Hossain urged the government to form an inquiry committee comprising government and non-government representatives to probe the incident.

BAPA General Secretary Abu Naser Khan said it is not yet clear what type of poison was used to kill the birds though Department of Public Health primarily told that it might be a poison of DDT group, a banned insecticides.

Meanwhile, Nurul Karim Nazrul of the Centre for Natural Research Studies (CNRS), working at Hakaluki haor to create awareness among the locals, said they had been campaigning in the haor for three years which considerably reduced the rate of hunting birds by the amateur and professional hunters.

There are more than one hundred water bodies in Hakaluki haor and many people are involved in poaching.



Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours. Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division, Met Office said predicting slight rise in night temperature.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 10.5 degree at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	In Celsius		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	Max	Min	55	48
Chittagong	33.0	16.8	57	45
Rajshahi	28.5	13.6	70	57
Khulna	29.0	16.5	62	53
Barisal	29.2	14.6	74	64
Sylhet	31.2	15.0	65	45
Cox's Bazar	31.0	17.0	62	62



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan inaugurated the carnival of Zonta IV Club at Arysha Restaurant in Gulshan recently.



German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday.

5th Int'l Arsenic Confce ends

Ensure participation of locals to implement mitigation plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 5th International Arsenic Conference ended in the city yesterday with a call for greater participation of local communities and local government institutions in implementing the arsenic mitigation plans.

The conference also called upon all stakeholders to comply with the proposed National Arsenic Mitigation Policy and Implementation Plan in regard to water resources management.

Speakers at the concluding session said those who suffer from arsenic contamination do not have the sense of ownership on choices of mitigation.

"We have ignored their voices despite repeated calls for community level participation. We cannot solve such gigantic problem without them and it is time we also take them on board for policy formulation," said one of the participants from an NGO.

Pointing his fingers at the disjointed efforts, Planning Commission Member Badiur Rahman said, "The problem is recognised by all SAARC countries but there is a missing link. As the grassroots people cannot participate in such conferences, the works of NGOs, development partners

and UN agencies must be coordinated."

The speakers said all future mitigation activities regarding arsenic contamination should involve the private sector.

They urged the government to undertake more scientific scrutiny before validating any of the chemical technologies for the purpose of removing arsenic from contaminated water.

The speakers also urged all to give priority to exploitation of perennial sources of surface water.

They recommended that safety and sustainability of the deep aquifers must be ensured while using ground water.

The speakers also called upon the scientists to measure the impact of arsenic contamination in food chain and food production.

Chief Executive of Nijera Kori Khushi Kabir, Country Representative of Unicef Morten Giersing, Country Director of the World Bank Christine Wallich, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital Trust Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman and Coordinator Prof Mahmudur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Water experts, medical profes-

sionals, skin specialists, chemists, geologists and other scientists from home and abroad gathered at the conference on 'Developing Country's Perspective on Health, Water and Environmental Issues.'

Jadavpur University of West Bengal, India and Dhaka Community Hospital jointly organised the conference.

Siddeswari Girls' College Science Fair begins

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day Science and Handicrafts Fair organised by Siddeswari Girls' College got underway on the college premises in the city yesterday.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Daliluddin Mandol inaugurated the fair which will remain open for public from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

About 50 science projects and handicrafts, innovated and prepared by the college students, are being displayed in the fair.



PHOTO:STAR

Former Ambassador M M Rezaul Karim addresses a seminar on 'Paturia-Daulatdia bridge with rail tracks' in the city yesterday. Former chief advisor of the caretaker government Justice Latifur Rahman, second from left, Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, left, and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain were present.