

'Recognise languages of minority communities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for recognition and free use of mother languages of all minority communities in the country.

The government should take initiative to promote all major and minor languages, which are on the verge of extinction, they said.

The Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) and the United Nations Information Centre jointly organised the discussion on 'International Mother Language Day' at the university auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Ataus Samad, advisory editor of the daily Amar Desh, called on the new generation to read the history of Bangla language movement more and more to learn about the significance of the Mother Language Day.

Apart from Bangla, there are many languages used by the minority communities in the country, he said, adding that the government should give recognition to these languages and allow the minority communities to use their languages freely.

Unesco Representative Wolfgang Vollmann said 80 percent of rural people could not read and write Bangla, which is a great threat to Bangla language.

"Literacy for all" would be a better slogan of the International Mother Language Day, he added.

Prof Nurul Momen, former chairman, Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, said

According to a survey report of a

European research council, there are about 7,000 languages in the world and 3000 of them are at high risk of extinction, said Prof Nurul Momen.

"Apart from Bangla, there are more than 100 different languages in our country, and we have to show respect to all languages," he said.

Presided over by NUB Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Ali, the discussion was also addressed by NUB Treasurer Abu Bakar Siddik, Business Faculty Dean Prof Dr Azhar Uddin, Prof Dr Sadruddin Ahmed, Officer-in-Charge of UN Information Centre Kazi Ali Reza and Publisher of the Amar Desh Hasmal Ali.

According to a survey report of a

council of the Mother Language Day.

A regional leader of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was killed in a 'shoot out' between his accomplices and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Shailakupura upazila of Jhenidah yesterday.

A Rab team from Khulna, after a tip off, arrested Foyez Uddin Biswas, 32, at Sabujbagh in Dhaka Sunday morning.

Rab said they went to Assannagar following Foyez's lead to recover arms. They claimed BCP operatives opened fire on them as they reached the spot around 2:30am triggering an hour-long gun battle.

Foyez was caught between the two battling parties as he attempted to flee from the Rab van. He died on the spot. Rab recovered one pistol, one shotgun and eight live ammunitions from the spot.

Foyez was accused of five criminal cases including two murder cases, Rab official said.

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Outlaw killed in 'shoot out'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

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Growth and Equity in South Asia: How has Bangladesh Performed?

Monday, February 20, 2006

CIRDAP Auditorium

Organized by

CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)
BANGLADESH

Photo: STAR

Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Rehman Sobhan speaks at a dialogue on 'Growth and Equity in South Asia: How has Bangladesh Performed' at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud and on his left are Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed and Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed. CPD organised the dialogue.

Take lessons from Feb 21 to topple govt

AL leaders urge people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday called upon people to be imbued with the spirit of the historic Language Movement to launch the toughest agitation to unseat the four-party alliance government.

"We have to avail ourselves of the lessons of February 21 to topple a government that has no right to remain in power after its continuous failure to govern the country," said AL Presidium Member Zillur Rahman MP while addressing a discussion.

The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Awami Juba League on the occasion of the Language Martyrs' Day at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city.

Another AL Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said, "Nazmul Huda wants to change the date of Language Martyrs' Day to Falgun 8 of Bangla year from February 21 to destroy the spirit of Amar Ekushey."

"Those who are now in power do not believe in the spirit of 1952 and 1971, they believe in the spirit of 1947," said AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

He said the government has shifted the international cricket match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to Bogra from Bangabandhu Stadium in Dhaka as it does not want the name of Bangabandhu to be highlighted in the international media.

Presided over by Juba League President Jahangir Kabir Nanok, the discussion was also addressed

by former education minister ASHK Sadique MP, Juba League General Secretary Mirza Azam MP, Prof Montazuddin, Poet Moha Dev Saha, Writer Syed Shamsul Haque and Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

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