

**Amar Ekushey programmes**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and cultural organisations and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day today.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia have issued separate messages on the occasion.

The president in his message said, "The spirit of nationalism that emanated from the historic language movement inspired Bangalees to achieve self-determination and sovereignty. Thus, we achieved our long-cherished Independence in 1971."

He also recalled Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, erstwhile member of Legislative Dharendra Nath Dutta, Maulana Akram Khan and other language movement veteran who contributed immensely to materialise the language movement a success.

In her message, the prime minister said Ekushey is the symbol of grief, strength and glory in the life of every Bangalee.

The BNP chairperson said the first step of our struggle for independence originated from the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs of the Language Movement.

Leaders of Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Workers Party, Jamaat, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, Jatiya Party (JP), Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal also gave separate messages on the occasion.

AL, BNP and other political parties will hoist the national and party flags at half-mast atop their central offices.

The PM will inaugurate International Mother Language Institute Bhaban today at 3:30pm at Segunbagicha in the city.

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd organises a blood donation programme at 10:00am at its head office at Road-24, House-3, Block-K at Banani.

Islamic Foundation organises a milad and doa mahfil at 10:30am at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

Shaheed Asad Parishad organises recitation of poems at Swadhinata Udyan at 11:00am.



President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar minutes after zero hour, paying tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement on the occasion of Amar Ekushey. (Story on Page 1)

**A day of book lovers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Ekushey Boi Mela witnessed an overwhelming crowd yesterday as book lovers in their thousands conversed on the fair premises ahead of the International Mother Language Day to be observed today.

They had to stand in long queues to get their entry into the fair venue. Security measures were also beefed up a day before the day of the Amar Ekushey February.

People from different walks of life thronged the academy compound that spilled into its adjacent areas at the second consecutive holiday.

The book lovers had to jostle for their best positions in the crowd.

Beside this, the presence of noted writers added an extra attraction to the fair as, at least 10 writers and media personalities visited the fair.

Visitors, especially youngsters, were seen waiting in a queue in front of Nazrul Mancha to collect autographs of noted writer Zafar Iqbal, Prof Abdullah Abu Syed and others.

Booksellers of various publishing houses said they had a selling spree yesterday.

Barnana Bhowmik, a student of Dhaka University, said: "The Ekushey book fair creates an opportunity for us to fulfil the our thirst of reading books. I spend at least one hour at the fair venue regularly to get updated about the books of my favourite writers ignoring difficulties caused by milling crowd."

A total of 152 new titles hit the fair the same day while books of poems topped the list of new arrivals again with 35 titles. A good number of 25 novels and 17 stories entered the fair.

The new titles include

Upannas Samagra-1st part by Manik Bandopadhyay, Mahajagotik Mahakabha by Shishir Kumar Bhattacharjee, Rajnitir Nana Prosongo by Mujahidul Islam Selim, Paltu Biltur Adventure by Alsan Habib, Nirbachito 200 Kobita, Ekushey February'r Tatporjo by Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Golpe Golpe Abdullah AL Muti by Anisuzzaman, Ratrir Kanna by Rahat Khan, Probondho Somogro by Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Ebong Ekawthor by Mamun-Ur-Rashid.

A discussion titled 'Role of Language Movement in establishing Bangalee Nationalism and Bangladesh as a State' was also held on the fair premises where Prof Sanatkumar Saha, Prof Rangalal Sen, Selina Hossain and Prof MM Akash spoke.

The fair will remain open to all from 8:00am to 10:00pm today.



**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over southern part of the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 6:27am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 9.4 degrees at Srimongal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.3	16.2	44	32
Chittagong	29.5	15.1	63	44
Rajshahi	28.5	11.8	74	39
Khulna	29.2	16.0	88	55
Barisal	30.0	13.6	80	65
Sylhet	29.8	14.2	51	42

**Farmer Aziz wins Channel i Krishi Padak**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's Channel i Krishi Padak 2010 went to farmer Abdul Aziz of Tangail for his innovative contribution to the country's agriculture sector.

The authorities of the private television channel made the announcement yesterday, says a press release.

They also declared giving Lifetime achievement award to an agriculture personality from this year for long-term and special contribution to farming sector.

The awards will be conferred at a programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on April 9.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impres Telefilm Limited, declared the name of the award winner at a press conference at Channel i Bhaban, as Hridoye Mati O Manush, a popular programme of the channel on farming, enters seventh year of its broadcast today.

Shykh Seraj, head of news and director of the channel and maker of the flagship TV programme Hridoye Mati O Manush, was also present at the programme.

As part of online marketing of agriculture products, the TV station also inaugurated a website 'www.krishimarket.com' through which a farmer can get registered with the web page and advertise their products.

Highlighting various aspects of the programme, Shykh Seraj said climate change is bringing about a significant change in agriculture. Facing such challenges and protecting the country's farm sector should be the government's prime focus to ensure food security.

**NATURE LOVER ABDULAZIZ** Abdul Aziz, a farmer of Ghatail upazila in Tangail, has eight acres of ancestral land. He was once a truck driver that helped him travel across the

country and get introduced to people and soil of various nature.

Being enthused with his self-determination, Aziz committed to serving the causes of agriculture and people. He started growing fruits.

The farmer collected fruit plants from various parts of the country and even from neighbouring countries. His tender care has resulted in a huge garden on the eight acres.

He left three acres in the hand of nature, meaning for animals, birds and people. He grew lemons of over 100 varieties, mangoes of over 50 species and other fruits in his orchard. He distributed fruits among the people surrounding his village. He started distributing saplings free of cost for growing fruit-bearing trees in the area.

Every year, Aziz celebrates Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla new year, and invites hundreds of people to attend the programme. He gives them saplings. Aziz even goes to schools with baskets of oranges, pineapples, tangs, lemons, mangoes and other seasonal fruits. He entertains teachers and students with the fruits and requests them to sow fruit trees.

Aziz turned Garobazar into an agri-output market.

**Obituary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Khatun, mother of pro-JSD Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Hosayen Ahmed Tafsir, passed away due to old-age complications on Friday night at the age of 60, says a press release.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Mahmud Hasan Ripan and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Rotan, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujan and General Secretary Biplab Roy condole the death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

**ভাষা শহীদদের ধন্যবাদ**

“তোমাদের মহান আত্মত্যাগই আমাদের সবাইকে দিয়েছে মাতৃভাষায় কথা বলার গৌরব আর আনন্দ উদযাপনের এমন অনন্য একটি দিন।”

এই গৌরবে নিজ ভাষায় কথা বলুন আপনজনের সাথে  
যেকোনো অপারেটরে ৫ টি FnF-এ দিন-রাত ২৪ ঘণ্টা, মিনিটে মাত্র ৬৮ পয়সা  
আর পার্টনার নম্বরে মাত্র ৪০ পয়সা।

