



With new books in their hands, a group of students come out of the Bangla Academy in the city after their visit to the Ekushey Book Fair yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Expats observe Ekushey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriate Bangladeshis living in countries across the globe observed the International Mother Language Day on Sunday with the spirit of practicing and spreading Bangla language and culture.

They brought out brief processions, held discussions, took part in cultural functions and art and essay competitions to share their ethos in the foreign lands where they live either for jobs, businesses or official assignments.

Several hundred Bangladeshis gathered in front of Garden of Remember in Dublin, Ireland and then brought out processions that paraded several streets, says a press release from Ireland.

At the end of the procession, the speakers highlighted the significance of the Language Movement. Bangladesh Association of Ireland organised the programme.

Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia organised a programme on its premises where Ambassador Fazlul Karim asked the expatriates to practice Bangla and introduce the language and its culture to the children who are being raised up abroad.

The messages of the president, the prime minister and the foreign minister were read out at the programme.

Construction worker Jony Ahmed, poet Karim Reza, Engineer Moazzem Hossain and Fakhru Basher Masum recited poems.

Essay writing and drawing contests were also held.

The expatriate Bangladeshis in Brunei Darussalam also gathered on the Bangladesh mission premises to pay tributes to the martyrs of Language Movement. The Bangladesh High Commission in Bandar Seri Begawan chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The celebration began with hoisting the national flag at half-mast by M Shameen Ahsan, the high commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei, on the Chancery premises in the morning.

The high commission also held a discussion on the importance and significance of the day.

This was followed by a short video documentary show on International Mother Language Day. A large number of expatriate Bangladeshis along with their family members attended the programme with great enthusiasm, says a press release.

In the evening a cultural function was organised at the Chancery auditorium. Rendering Bangla patriotic songs and reciting poetry in memory of the language martyrs were the highlights of the event.

Local waste management model to be replicated in 10 countries

BSS, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi urban waste management model will be replicated in 10 other Asia-Pacific countries soon, which treats waste as a resource and reduces the green house gas emission.

Waste Concern, a local waste management organisation, designed and implemented the model in Dhaka, which will now be replicated in other countries by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) under a project titled 'Pro-poor and Sustainable Solid Waste Management for Secondary Cities and Small Towns'.

This was revealed at a regional

workshop organised under the project at a city hotel. Sixty participants from India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and host Bangladesh are taking part in the workshop.

Inaugurating the workshop, State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud said the government is keen to extend the waste concern model to 64 districts towns in the country.

"Appropriate waste collection and disposal is becoming more and more important not only to improve the living environments in our cities but

also as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation," he added.

At a press briefing on the sidelines of the workshop, Executive Director of Waste Concern Iftekhar Enayetullah said their waste management model is a unique one in the world, which they developed in 1995 and implemented in the country using kitchen waste of Dhaka city.

The Waste concern built a plant in Bhulta in Narayanganj where they produce compost fertiliser by collecting waste of Dhaka city. About 70,000 tonnes of waste, including 80 percent organic waste, are being generated in the country, which can be turned into

compost fertiliser easily, he added.

ESCAP Economic Affair Officer Adnan H. Aliani said growth of urban populations and economics in Asia has resulted in a corresponding growth of solid waste and the municipal governments are finding it difficult to dispose of them.

The Waste Concern model will enable the cities across the region to develop and implement solid waste management strategies that are decentralised, pro-poor, low-carbon and self-financing through the sale of carbon credits.

In the second phase, the model will be replicated in ten countries in Africa, he said.

Medical varsity to be set up in Gazipur

BSS, Gazipur

Advocate AK Mozammel Haque, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Ministry, said a 500-bed full-fledged medical university and hospital would be set up here soon.

He was speaking at a function on the occasion of the launching of Gazipur branch of Dhaka Shishu Hospital at Outpara Riaznagar here as part of the announcement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to expand services of child healthcare.

Haque said all-out steps would be taken to turn the Gazipur branch of Shishu Hospital into a full-fledged child hospital.

Separate pay scales for teachers soon

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to set up separate pay scales for teachers to lessen their financial woes, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

"We shall provide salary increment and other facilities to motivate teachers who are the main component of education and hold greater responsibilities towards building the nation," the minister said at a gathering celebrating 100 years of the Teachers' Training College (TTC) in Dhaka yesterday.

"The teachers' training colleges are the main centres for

building quality teachers," he said adding that it is essential for the teachers to have modern and advanced training.

The minister said that the government is preparing a new curriculum to ensure flourishing of education in the country, which is not likely to happen with the existing syllabus.

Presided over by Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, the function was also addressed by Fazle Nur Tapash ME; Prof Noman-ul Rashid, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, and SM Abu Sayeed, acting principal of TTC.

25,955 tonnes of TSP fertiliser imported

BSS, Chittagong

The government has imported 25,955 metric tons of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) fertiliser under Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

The imported fertiliser has already reached Chittagong and Mongla ports and half of the total TSP fertiliser would be unloaded at Chittagong Port in a day or two.

Mother vessels carrying the fertiliser imported from Tunisia reached the Chittagong Port on February 7.

Joint director of BADC Shimul Bikash Dash told BSS that the fertiliser will be kept at warehouses of BADC's

sales centres and later the soil nutrient would be distributed to district and upazila and union levels through dealers.

He said there would be no fertiliser crisis this year because the BADC has bulk stock of fertiliser in its stocks.

Nonetheless, he said, the government has imported the fertiliser in view of farmers' interest.

"We are hastening our works to unload the imported TSP fertiliser so that this essential agriculture input can be reached to farmers in time," said Shimul.

The BADC opened 25 sales centres in 19 areas across the country for fertiliser management this year.

Over 1.5 lakh families to get rations in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 1.5 lakh families of Khulna metropolitan city would be brought under rationing programme from next month to ensure fair distribution of rice and wheat.

District Controller of Food Md Monirul Islam on Sunday said each family will be given 20 kilograms of rice and 20 kilograms of wheat per month.

The need for rationing has been strongly felt, as OMS programme does not seem effective anymore to bring down prices of rice in local markets, said the district controller of food.

He said that 1,55,000 families of all the 31 wards of Khulna city would initially get facility of ration card system to buy 20 kg rice at fair price.

ICT Mobile Van project for school students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to popularising information and communication technology (ICT) among the students of secondary level, the education ministry is going to launch the 'ICT Mobile Van' programme today.

Under the programme, a total of 17 microbus and pickup vans furnished with modern ICT equipment will visit different secondary schools of the country every month to make the students familiar with different equipment as well as encouraging teachers to prepare digital contents.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will inaugurate the programme at Mohammadpur Government High School today, said education ministry sources.

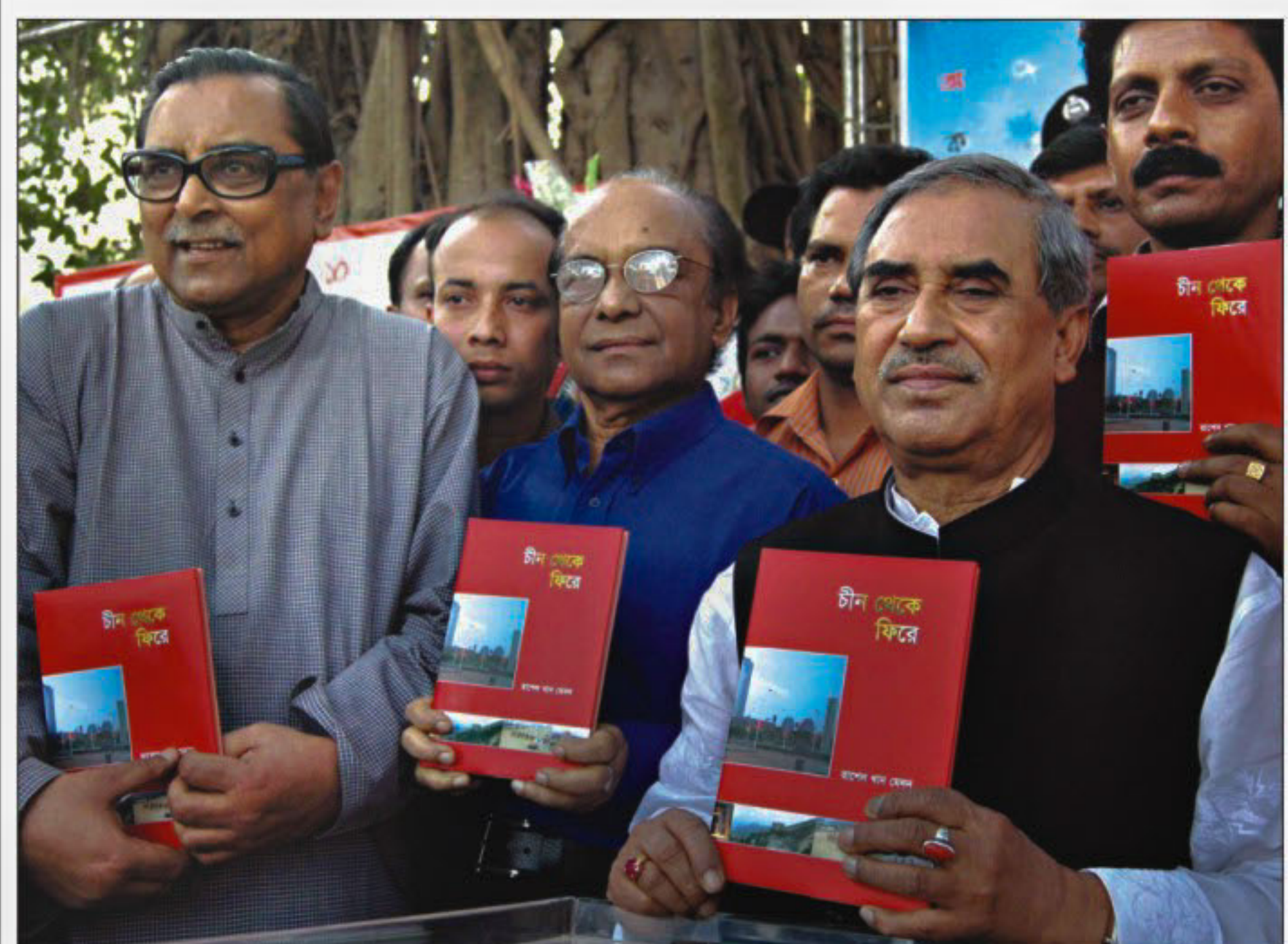
Teaching Quality

Improvement (TQI) project, a project of education ministry, will implement the programme.

The vehicles, which are being used by the Teachers Training Colleges (TTC), are equipped with laptops, modems, multimedia projectors, web camera, scanners, multi functional printers, handy generator, interactive boards and speakers, said TQI Project Director Nazrul Islam.

He told The Daily Star that the teacher educators of the TTC, as part of their school monitoring work, will go to different schools with the vans and show the usage of the ICT equipment.

The programme is expected to address social issues like health and sanitation as these issues will be featured in the multimedia projectors that will eventually create awareness among the students, he said.



Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, right, holds the copy of a book titled 'Cheen Theke Fera' after unveiling the cover of the book at a publication ceremony at the Bangla Academy Nazrul Mancha in the city yesterday. On his right are Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan and the writer of the book and Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Shipyards workers stage a demonstration in front of the Chittagong court premises yesterday to protest the restrictions on import of old ships for scrap. They also handed over a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

DIU to launch 'one-student-one-laptop' programme from May

BSS, Dhaka

Daffodil International University (DIU) is going to introduce one-student-one-laptop programme from May this year with a view to providing every student with a laptop free of cost.

The announcement came at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday, two weeks ahead of the 9th founding anniversary of the DIU, one of over 50 private universities in the country.

"All of our new students will have a brand new laptop which will be provided by the university free of cost," Vice Chancellor Prof Aminul Islam told journalists.

He said neither the tuition fee nor other charges would be increased for raising extra money for the laptops, as the cost would be adjusted through minimising the fund for commercial advertisements of the university.

Prof Islam said DIU provides at least 20 percent of its total income as scholarships to meritorious students as well as others who come from economically disadvantaged families.

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