

AMAR EKUSHEY TODAY
Programmes
set to pay
tributes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various political, social and cultural organisations have taken various programmes to pay glowing tribute to the Language Movement martyrs.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages to mark the day.

Zillur Rahman in his message recalled the unfading memories of the language martyrs who made supreme sacrifices on this day in 1952. He prayed to the almighty for salvation of the departed souls.

Sheikh Hasina, in her message, extended her best wishes to Bangla-speaking people at home and abroad and people of all languages and cultures across the world on the occasion.

She said Amar Ekushey is the symbol of grief, strength and glory in the life of every Bangalee.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad said contribution of martyrs of language movement not only glorified the mother tongue but also led the way to achieve independence and autonomy of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), in a statement, said martyrs of language movement are the inspiration behind achieving rights and protesters against injustice.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, in a statement, said like men, women also played an active role during the language movement.

Workers Party of Bangladesh; Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal; Shammilito Shangskritik Jote; Jatiya Press Club; Institute of Diploma Engineering, Bangladesh; Steps Towards Development; Freedom Fighter's Communism Democratic Party; Harballife International; and Purbachal Dubai City also gave separate messages and chalk out various programmes to observe the day.



President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stood in silence for a few moments in remembrance of the language martyrs one minute after the zero hour last night. Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and people from all walks of life also paid homage to the martyrs.

PHOTO: STAR



Cases against
Yunus tarnish
country's
images

Says Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Filing of cases against Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus is harming the image of the country, Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad said yesterday.

"We are humiliating ourselves by humiliating Prof Yunus," said Ershad, a ruling Awami League ally.

In recent months, a number of courts outside Dhaka have summoned Yunus in cases filed for alleged anomalies in Grameen Bank and a number of its concerns.

"Dr Yunus earned honour and glory for the country, which nobody else could," he said while speaking at a programme at JP's Banani office in the capital.

The programme was organised marking the joining of over 200 AL, BNP and other political party men in Jatiya Party. Ershad said people across the globe respect Dr Yunus. "We also should respect him."

On politics, he said his party might think rethink about forming an alliance if his party leaders are not given due respect.

He said BNP is not a real nationalist party, as it has anti-liberation elements with it.

"It's Jatiya Party that is really nationalist," claimed Ershad.

Include Dalits
in census

Urge speakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers yesterday said exclusion of any citizen during the population census is violation of human rights. They urged the government to give special attention to the Dalit and other backward communities.

They told a media advocacy programme organised by SHAREE, an NGO, at Chittagong Press Club. Coordinator of SHAREE Umesh Saha, journalist M Nasirul Haque, social worker Jesmeen Sultana Paru spoke at the event.

Daughter of ruling
MP 'abducted'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage daughter of a ruling party lawmaker was allegedly abducted from the city's Segun Bagicha Saturday night.

The lawmaker from Kishoreganj filed an abduction case against four people with Shahbagh Police Station yesterday. OC Rezaul Karim of the police told The Daily Star that police have been conducting drives to rescue the girl as well as arrest the alleged kidnappers.

According to the case statement, Hriday of Topkhana Road with the help of his accomplices kidnapped the MP's daughter.

The police raided Hriday's house. The family member fled the house. Shahbagh police have been carrying out raids to arrest Hriday.

Police sources said they were trying to know whether it was a case of abduction or elopement.

Several attempts have been made to reach the lawmaker over the phone for his statement but his two mobile numbers were found unreachable.

MoU signed between DU,
West Bengal University

UNB, Dhaka

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Dhaka University and West Bengal University of Technology (WBUT), India was signed yesterday.

The objective of MoU is to establish and promote academic exchange and research programmes between the two institutions.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique and WBUT VC Prof Sabyasachi Sen Gupta signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions at a programme at DU VC's residence office.

Housewife dies
mysteriously

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housewife died mysteriously at Mohammadpur in the city early yesterday.

The deceased is identified Jannatul Naima Ratna, 22, daughter of Nur-un-Nobi of Bijli Moholla at Mohammadpur. She was a degree student of Mirpur University College and she got married with her classmate Jasim Uddin, 23, in 2007 without informing their families.

Ratna's brother Emran Hossain Sagar told The Daily Star that Ratna went out of their house after her husband called her over phone on Saturday evening and she fell sick soon after returned home around 9:00pm.

"We rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she died around 3:00am," said Emran suspecting that Jasim technically might have mixed poison in the foods for killing her sister.

As the couple was not capable to maintain a family, Ratna was living at her parent's Mohammadpur house while her husband Jasim at a mess in the area, but there were quarrels among them almost regularly, he added.

BDR MUTINY CASE

4 give deposition against 46

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slain army officers were piled on two vans by mutineers, carried to the backyard of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) hospital and dumped into mass graves on the night of February 25, 2009, a sepoy told a special court yesterday.

Sepoy Golam Kibria, forced to dig one of the three graves but later managed to flee, also said he saw 11 of the total 113 accused from Rifle Security Unit spontaneously digging the graves.

"They were cheering and hurling abusive words at the bodies," said Kibria, one of the four witnesses giving statements against 46 mutineers yesterday.

The 46 accused later cross-examined the

witnesses at the special court-7 set up at 13 Rifle Battalion at BGB headquarters in city's Pilkhana.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Rafiqul Islam presided over the court set up to try the 113 alleged mutineers of the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Security Unit.

The mutineers initially intended to burn the bodies in an oxidation plant but could not as the machine was out-of-order, Kibria said.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Lt Col Tariq Imam Siddique of BGB special court-10 at Darbar Hall in Pilkhana read out charges relating to mutiny against 211 of the total 310 accused jawans of 36 Rifles Battalion.

Both special courts adjourned trial proceedings till February 22.

'Make accurate census'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planning Minister AK Khandker yesterday urged the officials concerned to give full efforts for making accurate the population and housing census-2011, which is beginning on March 15.

"We hope that a well coordinated effort will be made to ensure accuracy of the census. This is very important particularly for planning of the country," he said.

Stating that there were criticisms for faults in the census, he said the enumerators' role in the census is crucial. However,

the good thing is that the people in the villages are now more educated and aware that can help in the process, Khandker said.

The minister was addressing as chief guest a divisional workshop on the country's fifth population and housing census organised by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) at the Department of Public Health Engineering in the city.

Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker said the officials at divisional and district levels have to constantly monitor process of the census, which will be held on March 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Assam for internet gateway
from Cox's Bazar to Guwahati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The government of Assam on Friday urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to extend the Internet connectivity from Cox's Bazar to Guwahati by setting up a gateway in Guwahati.

The cabinet of the north eastern Indian state of Assam, during its meeting with Singh at Guwahati, submitted a memorandum saying frequent disruptions in Internet connectivity had been deterring companies from investing in the state. Mumbai and Chennai international gateways are at present linked to Assam through the narrow Siliguri corridor in West Bengal state. This leads to frequent disruptions in Assam and other north-eastern states while Cox's Bazar is just 480 kilometres away from Guwahati and has a SEA-ME-WE-4 undersea cable landing station, according to the memorandum.

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One of the 100 poor freedom fighters at Jusposh Habiganj Eye Hospital in Habiganj after cataract surgery. Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited financed the seven-day long 'Eye Camp' recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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ওরা বীর, আকাশে জাগাত বাড !
নিদ্রায়, কাজকর্মের ফাঁকে
ওরা দিনরাত আমাদের ডাকে
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