



Drama department of Rajshahi University brings out a colourful procession on the campus yesterday marking Basant Utsab (spring festival) on the first day of spring according to Bangla calendar.

PHOTO: STAR

LANGUAGE MOVEMENT IN NILPHAMARI

Faces in the front line

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

The 1952 Language Movement attained a new dimension in the then sub-divisional town of Nilphamari as a good number of female students organised processions and meetings and inspired people through patriotic songs and poems.

"In those days, women were mostly confined to houses. But in the wake of Language Movement in 1952, they took to the streets, inspiring common people to join the movement to foil the then Pakistan government's conspiracy against the mother tongue," said Language Movement veteran advocate Mahbubar Rahman Dulu.

"A number of female activists, mostly students of Nilphamari Girls' High School, played active role in Language Movement in the area," he said.

On February 21 in 1952, in line with the central programme, an all out strike was observed in the educational institutions of Nilphamari. A big rally was held on the premises of Muslim Hostel of Nilphamari High School. Fouzia Begum and Feroza Begum addressed the rally along with male student leaders.

As the news of killing Rifiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar, Shafiq and others on February 21 by Pakistani police in Dhaka reached Nilphamari on the night, thousands of people burst into to protest the next day, turning the town into an area of processions and meetings.

The situation turned serious when Pakistan government arrested Awami Muslim League leader Khairat Hossain, the opposition member of the then East Pakistan provincial assembly, in Dhaka on February 22. Khairat Hossain, a lawmaker elected from the district, along with renowned political personality Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkobagish had walked out from the Provincial Assembly in Dhaka in protest against the killing of February 21.

Thousands of people including a good number of women on 24, 25 and 26 February took to the streets and chanted slogans demanding release of Khairat Hossain and other political prisoners.

To suppress the movement in



Fouzia Begum



Chhomela Begum



Khairat Hossain



Abu Nazam Mohd Ali



Mahbubar Rahman Dulu



Shafiar Rahman

Nilphamari, police arrested Local Awami Muslim League convener advocate Dabiruddin Ahmed and educationist Abu Nazam Mohammad Ali on the night of February 26, forcing several other local leaders to go into hiding to avert arrest.

During the vacuum in leadership, female activists including Zakia Sultana, Chhomela, Feroza, Halima, Saleha and Sofia arranged street meetings and functions where they delivered fiery speeches, recited poems and rendered patriotic songs composed by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Jibonando Das and others to inspire people.

People besieged the local police station on February 28.

Police arrested local unit Muslim Chhatra League general secretary Shafiar Rahman and Jubo League convenor Shamsul Haque, triggering further protest and indefinite agitation programme by locals.

The arrestees were released after staying in jail for different periods.

'Runaway' transformers chained

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Amid rising incidents of transformer theft, authorities of Palli Bidyutayan Board (Rural Electrification Board) have made it obligatory for its customers in the district to set iron chains and locks with electric transformers.

Sixty-three electric transformers of different categories have been stolen from Delduar and Nagarpur upazilas in Tangail and Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj under Delduar Palli Bidyut Samity since 2008, said sources of Palli Bidyut office at Delduar.

There are 3,508 electric transformers of different categories for 40,407 subscribers in the areas under Delduar Palli Bidyut Samity, said Tapan Kumar Das, deputy general manager of the office.

When transformers are stolen, subscribers face untold sufferings in addition to monetary losses as transformers cannot be set in time even after depositing money due to shortage of the equipment, palli bidyut officials said.

As per direction of Rural Electrification Board Chairman Brig Gen Moin Uddin, the organisa-

tion has already taken initiative to motivate its customers to put chains and locks on all electric transformers in the district within May 31 this year, they said.

"There are 15,700 electric transformers of different categories for 1,67,000 customers in eight upazilas under Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity. Over 2,000 transformers have been chained

and locked so far and the rest will follow within the deadline," Obaidur Rahman, general manager of Tangail Palli Bidyut Samity, said a few days ago.

Several customers of Palli Bidyut Samity said although it is not their responsibility to protect transformers from stealing, they are being forced to spend Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,800 for buying two 12-

feet chains and two to six locks for the purpose.

Asked about the matter, Obaidur Rahman said, "Palli Bidyut Samity is a customer-oriented organisation and it runs with the money of its customers. And so, customers will have to arrange chains and locks to protect their transformers from stealing."



PHOTO: STAR

An electric transformer meant for subscribers of Palli Bidyut Samity (rural electrification association) in Delduar upazila headquarters under Tangail district gets chained and locked by the authorities amid rising incidents of transformer theft in the district.

Doc sent to jail for giving fake certificate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A Sirajganj court on Sunday sent a doctor to jail for giving fake medical certificate to a man who used it to implicate his opponents in a case.

The doctor, Humayun Kabir, 48, is the registrar of Rafatullah Community Hospital in Bogra.

Nazrul Islam, 27, son of Badiuzzaman of Rahimabad village under Salanga upazila of the district, was injured in a clash with his rivals at the village on December 27 last year. He was admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital the same day and discharged on December 29.

Doctor Humayun Kabir issued a fake certificate, stating that Nazrul was admitted to the community hospital with serious injuries and under his treatment until December 29.

Later, Nazrul and his brother Rabbani lodged a case against their rivals with Salanga Police Station, using the certificate.

As the lawyers for the accused on January 23 drew attention of the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court to the fake certificate, the court summoned Doctor Humayun Kabir to appear before the court on February 12.

Humayun Kabir appeared in the court, confessed to issuing the fake certificate and sought mercy. Senior Judicial Magistrate Nazmul Haq rejected Kabir's mercy petition and sent him to jail.

Dilapidated office building haunts staff, visitors

PONUEL BOSE, Narail

The staff of and visitors to Kalia upazila settlement office in Narail district pass their time amid fear of accident any time as the 73-year-old building has turned risky due to lack of repair.

The Kalia upazila is about

48 kilometres away from the district headquarters.

During a recent visit to the office, about 48 kilometres away from the district headquarters, this correspondent found rods of roofs exposed at many places and several cracks on

the walls. Chunks of plaster fallen off roofs and walls were seen on the floors. Hanging electric cables pose risk for employees and visitors.

The first floor of the two-storied building is used for Kalia upazila assistant set-

tlement officer's court while there are rooms for other staff and record books on the ground floor.

Several lakh record books of land kept in the building are getting damaged as rainwater enter the building through walls, said Md Easin Mollah, surveyor.

"We are working here amid life risk as chunks of plaster often fall off while rainwater entering the building causes damage to valuable documents," said Md Mujibor Rahman, office cum bench assistant.

Ashok Chakrobarty, a visitor from Patna village under Kalia upazila, said, "We often come here for our land-related purposes amid risk of accident anytime due to the dilapidated condition of the building."

Md Kamruzzaman, assistant settlement officer of Kalia upazila, said, "We use the building as our office upon yearly lease from Kalia AC land office. We sent several letters to the higher authorities concerned, demanding immediate reconstruction of the building but to no effect."



PHOTO: STAR

Dilapidated settlement office building in Kalia upazila of Narail district poses risk of accident for the staff and visitors.

Bangladesh-Thailand Business Forum (BTBF)
Business Matching 2012 (February 25, 2012)

DCCI, btcci, TBBC

At DCCI Auditorium (Time: 10:00 p.m.-5:00p.m.)
Organized by: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) and Fiscal Policy Research Institute (FPRI), Thailand

A high profile delegation from Thailand comprising representatives from Thai M/O Commerce, Thai-Bangladesh Business Council, FPRI and a group of leading businessmen will attend BTBF jointly organized by DCCI and FPRI, Thailand on 25 Feb 2012. Interested sectors of the delegation are: Electric Power Generating, Metal, Scrap Metal, Aluminium, Stainless, Construction, Textile, Plastic, Food and Food Processing, Rice and Grains, Stationary, Publication and Books, Fabrics etc. The programme includes:

- (1) Panel Discussion on Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh (10:00 a.m.-01:00 p.m.)
- (2) Business Matching Meeting (BMM) (02:00 p.m.- 05:00 p.m.)

Interested Business Entrepreneurs are requested to join the BTBF by registering your participation on or before 22 Feb 2012. Registration Form and Delegation Profiles are available at DCCI Research Cell (Mr. Azizur Rahman), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), 65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 9552562 Ext. 119, 143, Mob: 01720089480, E-mail: humayun.kabir@dhakachamber.com.

SME FOUNDATION **জাতীয় এসএমই মেলা-২০১২**
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