



Winners from Sylhet Cadet College, Heed International School, Mirzapur Cadet College, Saint Jude's International School and SOS Hermaine Gmainer pose with Golden Tickets they won to compete in the divisional Spelling Bee round.

PHOTO: STAR

20 spellers

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Opu, Samiullah Emon and S.M.Rashid Shahriar qualified from Saint Jude's International School.

From Heed International School, the spellers who moved on to the Divisional Rounds were Tanzina Afrin Oyshi, Sakhawat Hussain Ifty and Faria Raisa Nabi.

From Mirzapur Cadet College, the five Class 10 students who qualified for the next round were Ehtashamul Alam, Muhtaseem Zaman, Seem Shahid Noor, Sakib Anjum Khan and Khandaker Shadman Sakib.

The top spellers from Sylhet Cadet College, were SM Asifur Rahman, H.M. Tahmeed, H.M. Ferdous, Arindam Das Joy, Sadman Fakid and H.M. Barkat.

Those who have not made it to the Divisional Rounds through their school can still participate through the online game at www.champs21.com. The finals of the competition will be held in June.

Detailed information about the competition is available on www.champs21.com, the first e-learning portal of Bangladesh. Students who wish to participate in the event through the online rounds can visit the website and play the Spelling Bee Game.

Ancient

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currently spoken in Asia and the Pacific and recreated the early language from which they descended.

The work is published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Currently language reconstructions are carried out by linguists - but the process is slow and labour-intensive.

Dan Klein, an associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley, said: "It's very time consuming for humans to look at all the data. There are thousands of languages in the world, with thousands of words each, not to mention all of those languages' ancestors."

"It would take hundreds of lifetimes to pore over all those languages, cross-referencing all the different changes that happened across such an expanse of space - and of time. But this is where computers shine."

Rosetta stone
Languages change gradually over time.

Over thousands of years, tiny variations in the way that we produce sounds have meant that early languages have morphed into many different descendants.

Dr Klein explains: "These sound changes are almost always regular, with similar words changing in similar ways, so patterns are left that a human or a computer can find."

"The trick is to identify these patterns of change and then to 'reverse' them, basically evolving words backwards in time."

The scientists demonstrated their system by looking at a group of Austronesian languages that are currently spoken in southeast Asia, parts of continental Asia and the Pacific.

From a database of 142,000 words, the system was able to recreate the early language from which these modern tongues derived. The scientists believe it would have been spoken about 7,000 years ago.

They then compared the computer's findings to those of linguists, finding that 85% of the early words that the software presented were within one "character" - or sound - of the words that the language experts had identified.

Crowds keep

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intersection, demanding capital punishment to all war criminals, including Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

The movement began on February 5, soon after a war crimes tribunal sentenced Mollah to life term in prison for crimes against humanity during the 1971 war. The protest was initiated by Bloggers and Online Activist Network, but it soon turned into a mass movement.

The movement spread to other parts of the country, with the call for capital punishment to all war criminals getting louder and louder.

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu, noted economist Prof Abul Barkat, a group of thirty retired army officers and many other eminent personalities yesterday joined the movement at Shahbagh and expressed their solidarity with the demonstrators.

"Their [Jamaat-Shibir's] violence can't dampen the spirit of the Shahbagh movement."

"Do they think they can intimidate us? Do they think we will hide under our beds? They can come with all they have got," said Esha Siddiqui, a demonstrator.

"They couldn't stop us in 1971; they can't stop us today," added Esha, a private university student.

JU campus

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During the two-hour vandalism from around 8:30pm, many unknown faces were seen on the campus and some of them were involved in the violence, said teachers and students.

JUVC Prof Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star that he was on his way to the campus from Pabna at the time of the attack. "My wife was at home and she heard some people shouting 'Naray Takbir' before the attack on my residence."

Prof Anwar went to Pabna Edward College to declare the institution free of Jamaat-Shibir.

Campus sources said Md Malek, a master's final-year student of Maulana Bhashani Hall, fell sick around 8:00pm and he was taken to the university medical centre for treatment.

He was referred to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, but he could not be immediately taken there as there was no ambulance, added the sources.

An hour later, Malek was rushed to Enam Medical but doctors there declared him dead.

When his body was brought to the campus, students went on the rampage, vandalising the residences of the teachers, students said.

A group of students also blocked the Dhaka-Aricha road for some time, but Chhatra League leaders forced the demonstrators to remove the barricade.

Prof Rayhan Rhyne and Prof Afshar Ahmed of JU said the way the attack was carried out was abnormal, and that the JU students could not carry out such attacks.

"Besides, many of the attackers who swooped on the teacher's quarter are unknown. There was no link between the teachers and the death of the student," Prof Afshar, chairman of Fine Arts, told The Daily Star last night.

General students also echoed Prof Afshar and Prof Rayhan's views.

Meanwhile, protestors have urged all to celebrate the Pehela Falgun, the first day of spring, today with the spirit of "struggle".

Terming Jamaat a "black spot" of the spring, they said they hoped to annihilate this blackness before the season was over.

"Boshonter kalo daag, ei Boshonte muche jak (let the black spot of the spring wipe out this spring)," protestors chanted.

In a mock execution, a youth, dressed like Quader Mollah, was hanged on the stage, and the demonstrators held a procession carrying his symbolic dead body.

Effigies of other alleged war criminals were also burnt.

Jasim Uddin, who played Quader Mollah's role, told The Daily Star that he took part in the mock hanging because he hated all the war criminals.

Many said they made the protest venue their home for the last few days and would not go home until their demand was met.

"I have been staying here for seven days. I eat here and take rest here," said Sekander Ali, who claimed to be a freedom fighter.

Rally losing

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The observations came in a press statement endorsed by the BNP standing committee at an emergency meeting in the early hours of Monday.

Chaired by party chief Khaleida Zia at her Gulshan office, the meeting discussed in detail the youth movement, its future direction and possible impact, insiders said.

In the statement, BNP criticised the prime minister's remarks in parliament on Monday, saying she "urged the judges to award capital punishment to the war criminals considering the expectation of the people while her responsibility as head of government is to ensure justice in all sorts of crimes including crimes against humanity".

"If the judges cannot independently deliver verdicts based on their evaluation of the arguments and evidence, then the entire judicial process will become questionable. It's contrary to the rule of law and justice," the statement continued.

"Though the gathering is claimed to be a neutral one, it is gradually becoming clear that followers of a particular political party are trying to wrest control of the movement."

The party assured people that if voted to power, it would ensure complete independence of the judiciary, and fair and impartial trial for crimes against humanity; offences like killings of Bishwajit Das and journalist couple Sagar-Runi; and Padma bridge graft and share market, Hall-Mark and Destiny scams.

The statement observed the movement could have been more glorified had the youths also raised their voice against extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances, human rights violations and the government's corruption and other misdeeds.

It further said, "People of the country are now in a movement demanding an acceptable election with the participation of all parties under a non-party and neutral government. So, we all expect the new generations will play an important role in saving democracy and maintaining its continuation."

Solidarity in silence

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It became emblematic of the resolute spirit of 1971 when three million people laid down their lives for the independence of Bangladesh from the clutches of Pakistan.

It was also a show of hatred for the handful few led by Jamaat-e-Islami and its leaders including Gulam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abdul Quader Mollah, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and others, who tried to defend Pakistan and committed heinous crimes like genocide, rape and plunder against Bangladeshes.

For the first time since the protestors started demonstration at the Shahbagh intersection eight days ago, the entire place came to a standstill at 4:00pm, resonating with the silent appeal of the whole country for justice. They had called on the whole nation to observe the three-minute silence today.

"60...59...58..." cried thousands of voices in unison in a countdown to the three-minute silence to press home their demands for capital punishment to all war criminals.

"3...2...1..." suddenly, the otherwise roaring crowd at

Shahbagh lapsed into complete silence, as the protestors raised their hands at 4:00pm, and solemnly and silently pledged their support for the movement for justice.

The surrounding areas were also quiet during the three minutes -- there were no slogans, no honks, no shouts or chatters of hawkers or bystanders.

A thunderous chorus of "Joy Bangla" broke the three-minute silence, followed by the animated slogans that have been going on at Shahbagh since the protestors took to the streets eight days ago.

People, irrespective of their age, profession, class, ethnicity and religion, showed their support for the movement.

"All the staff in this building came down spontaneously," said an employee of a media house. "As word got out that some people were going down to express solidarity, everyone else wanted to do the same. It was a powerful feeling."

Tasmia Rahman, an NGO worker, said, "We couldn't get down in time, since we were on the top floor of the building. We stood in silence on our floor instead."

Arju Shefa, a grade-12 student, said, "My rickshaw-

puller pulled the rickshaw over and told me to observe the silence. He also asked others around us to do the same."

Bangladesh Premier League took a pause for three minutes, as players and supporters at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur stood in silence in support of the movement.

Parliamentarians, secretariat officials and journalists covering the parliament session lined up in front of the parliament's South Plaza. Law enforcers were also seen expressing their support at different points. Many garment and transport workers halted their work, and students came out of their educational institutions.

People across the country responded to the call for holding the three-minute silence. Thousands of people poured into the streets to hold the three-minute silence in Pabna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Narsingdi, Madaripur, Chandpur, Kushtia, Munshiganj, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Khulna and Khagrachhari, report our correspondents.

They stood in silence wherever they could -- in highways, in front of markets, shops, educational institutions or their homes.

Bazar mosque around 1:30pm. After about ten minutes, they started shooting and throwing brick chips at law enforcers.

"We were prepared; so we managed to control the situation," Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Monjurul Kabir of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon) said.

Witnesses said the cadres also damaged several motorbikes near the Prothom Alo office. Being chased by police, they moved towards Sonargaon intersection.

Another gang vandalised two vehicles of private television channels NTV and RTV at Karwan Bazar. It also smashed five cars of Titas Gas office.

The rioters then vandalised the police box at Sonargaon intersection and fired several stray bullets.

This was when garment worker Hafiza Akhter sustained bullet injuries.

The group firing stray bullets and blasting cocktails moved towards Bashundhara Shopping Mall at Panthapath, where three youths suffered bullet injuries.

A running battle between police and rioters took place between the shopping mall and Panthapath traffic signal.

The armed cadres were about to get trapped between two police teams -- one from Karwan bazar end and the other from Panthapath, witnesses said. At this stage, they began chanting Joy Bangla slogan like the ruling Awami League supporters.

Chowdhury Monjurul Kabir of DMP said, "We picked up 24 Jamaat-Shibir men, five of them injured."

MOTIJHEEL
In Motijheel, several hundred Jamaat-Shibir men suddenly brought out a militant procession in front of Notre Dame College around 1:30pm and blocked the road by setting fire to garment waste.

Within minutes, another group of 20 to 25 set fire to a microbus of daily Naya Diganta on its office premises. The newspaper staff doused the fire.

Abdur Razzak, an employee of the daily, said the group also threw brick chips at the office and left the place within a few minutes.

Officer-in-Charge Hayatuzzaman of Motijheel Police Station said, "In retaliation for gun shots from the

cadres, we fired around 200 bullets and several tear gas canisters. They fled through lanes and bylanes in the areas."

He said 43 Jamaat-Shibir men were detained from the spot

Prothom Alo

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At that time, a car carrying the editor of the Bangla daily and noted educationist Prof Anisuzzaman came under the attack.

The activists shattered its window panes, injuring Matiuur Rahman. Anisuzzaman, however, escaped unhurt.

The Jamaat-Shibir men erupted into violence, taking police by surprise, said Chowdhury Manzurul Kabir, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Tejgaon zone. Being obstructed, they attacked law enforcers.

Police swung into action to bring the situation under control and arrested several people, including three injured.

Meanwhile, Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (a forum for secular Bangladesh and trial of war criminals of 1971) issued a statement, condemning Jamaat-Shibir's attack on Prof Anisuzzaman and Matiuur Rahman.

BCL men

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handed over the charge to the acting principal on February 3.

The attackers also blocked the approaching road to the college by burning tires. When they chased Prof Shankar, he took shelter inside a petrol pump and left the area later.

Shankar told The Daily Star that he was assaulted by some unruly students of the college and informed the higher authorities about the matter.

Askok Nandi, assistant commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police, said hearing the news he visited the area and deployed police force and patrol there.

Prof Nazrul Islam, acting principal of the college, said he felt helpless amid such a situation. BCL men have kept all college activities suspended and have not been letting general students enter the campus since January 29.

Every new car

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button pushing and a lot more focus on voice commands.

The connected car is already the third fastest growing technological device after phones and tablets, Intel believes.

There is an app to find a car parking space in some major cities, using electronic sensors, or analysing an aerial view of local street spaces.

When stopped at a traffic light, trials have shown a system where a time can pop up on the dashboard letting drivers know how long until it changes.

It is thought billions of pounds have been spent so far on the development of these services.

With driving currently taking every bit of the driver's attention - until at least more progress is made on self-driving cars - critics have warned of safety concerns.

Safety concerns are being addressed with a mandatory sensor, which calls emergency services in the event of an accident.

In Ford's new systems, for example, apps are physically separated from vehicle critical devices - making it, it says, impossible to hack between the two.

Android-based systems have already been demonstrated by a company working in partnership with BMW and most systems in cars can communicate with these devices.

But there are predictions

that one or two developers like Apple and Facebook are researching ways to turn car technology on its head.

A lot of companies are betting a lot of money on this industry continuing to grow rapidly.

If these companies are right, it is only a matter of time before the car could directly compete with the phone and the tablet to be the biggest smart industry.

Star website

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"Anonymous Continues Struggle for Justice" as the lead news of the daily's website around 4:30pm.

About an hour after the post had been removed, the hackers uploaded the same post under another headline "Anonymous Steps It Up" on the paper's site.

The message quoted the following lines usually used by Anonymous hackers:

"We are Anonymous. We are legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us"

A Facebook search for Anonymous hackers group generates dozens of results with one page having nearly one million likes.

The leading Anonymous Facebook page shows that it is predominantly anti-government and focused on American rights issues. It also claims to have hacked into Israeli, Syrian or Egyptian sites to send its message.

Brushing teeth

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been identified as the best for encouraging children to brush their teeth properly as it enables them to complete the correct number of strokes needed for a complete clean.

An expert from Brighton Institute of Modern Music and a dental professional have devised a musical formula for brushing teeth, which works out the pattern of beats needed for a perfect clean.

The equation, created by Ivor Novello nominee Jim Williams, shows that songs that have eight bars of music, followed by another two sets of four bars can encourage brushing.

They must also include a double chorus and middle 'bridging' section, known as a double eight.

Based on this formula, Williams compiled a list of songs that best match the calculation designed to help children brush better.

Gangnam Style --which recently became the most

watched item ever posted on YouTube with over one billion views -- came out on top, followed by Rihanna's Diamond; Gotye's Somebody That I Used To Know; Olly Murs' Troublemaker; Wiley's Heatwave and Cheryl Cole's Call My Name.

Dental expert, Tina Tanna, who worked with Aquafresh to create the brushing technique, said: "Children must brush at least 35 times on each side of the mouth -- using seven strokes in five areas -- to ensure their teeth and gums stay healthy."

Lesley Stonier, senior brand manager for Aquafresh, said: "This new formula and top songs to brush to are designed to help put the fun into brushing time."

"Using these tunes to establish a good teeth cleaning routine with your children will set them up with good dental hygiene for life."

Sayedee's son

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Hossain, a teacher of Bangladesh International Cadet Madrasa, Abdur Rashid, owner of Colombia Travels International, and Mohammad Ripon.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahrar Mahmud Adnan passed the remand order when Kabir Hosain Hawlader, investigating officer of the case, produced them before the court with a seven-day remand prayer for each.

Defence lawyers submitted their petitions to the court for cancelling the remand prayer.

On January 28, a group of Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists brought out a procession in Motijheel area, demanding release of their top leaders who are facing trial for crimes against humanity.

As police resisted them, the activists attacked the law enforcers, preventing them from discharging their duties and blasted cocktails that left several policemen injured.