



# Deliver verdicts in Bangla

## PM urges judges

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday requested judges to deliver verdicts of lawsuits in Bangla.

"Because of poor knowledge in English, most of the litigants need to depend on their lawyers to understand the verdict. The litigants have no scope to know about the essence of the judgement and in many cases, they are harassed for this reason," she said.

"So, it's crucial to publish the court judgement in Bangla," she said, adding that the judges may write verdict in English, but there should have a provision of publishing it in Bangla.

The premier was inaugurating a four-day programme of International Mother Language Institute at Segunbagicha in Dhaka, marking Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day.

"Language of the judgement should also be simple avoiding any Roman style to make people understand it easily. It's better to deliver the judgement in Bangla and translate it into English," she said.

Describing Bangla as one of the scientific languages in the world, the premier said, "But, we are not so careful to learn Bangla as we are serious to learn English. That's why

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The country observed International Mother Language Day and commemorated the martyrs in a befitting manner yesterday. Clockwise from left, holding Bangla letters, many gathered at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar in the morning. People from all walks of life paid tribute at Chattogram Central Shaheed Minar. An alphabet procession of students in Barishal.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR, TITU DAS, COLLECTED

# Homage paid to language martyrs

STAR REPORT

International Mother Language Day was observed in befitting manner in various parts of the country yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents and agencies.

In Chattogram, people from all walks of life paid their respect to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs by placing wreaths at the city's Central Shaheed Minar.

The programme began at 12:01am with salute by Chattogram Metropolitan Police. Later, the city mayor, political party leaders and activists placed wreaths at the base of the monument.

Besides, students and members of different socio-cultural organisations did the same.

Singing the song "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano", thousands of barefoot people with flowers in their hands walked to the monument.

Different educational institutions including Chittagong University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology also observed the day through different programmes on their respective campuses.

In Savar, people under the banner of several organisations and institutions observed the day. They placed wreaths at Shaheed Minars on different spots.

Officials of Transparency International Bangladesh

along with others, including students, placed wreaths at Savar's Central Shaheed Minar on the Savar Adhaor Chandra Government High School premises.

Besides, leaders and activists of several social and cultural organisations and political parties did the same.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote members rendered Language Movement songs. Sacheton Nagorik Committee in association with Youth Engagement Support arranged mass signature campaign against corruption.

The Jote also arranged art and Bangla writing competitions where students of several institutions took part.

Savar Volunteer, a student-based organisation, launched a temporary school in Banktown area for providing education to street children.

In Rajshahi, since early morning, thousands walked barefoot with flowers in hand towards Shaheed Minar to pay their respect.

Marking the day, city streets were decorated with national flags and banners inscribed with Bangla alphabets. Discussions, cultural events and programmes for children were also held throughout the day.

Meanwhile, a three-day art exhibition on Language Movement ended at Rajshahi University.

The exhibition titled "Muktir Suchona" was organised by Shilpojatra, an organisation of RU fine arts faculty students, on the university's central library premises.

Paintings, sculptures, and art installations of 30 artists were displayed there.

In Khulna, people from all walks of life observed Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day in a befitting manner.

National flags were hoisted at half-mast atop all buildings and educational institutions, and "probhat ferry" (morning processions) were brought out in the city.

Art and essay competitions for children were also held as part of various programmes, marking the day.

In Rangpur, socio-political, educational and cultural institutions arranged a series of programmes to observe the day.

The events included hoisting of the national flag at half-mast atop all government, private buildings and educational institutions, decoration of city streets, drawing and essay competition for children, feeding of the destitute and screening of documentaries.

Language Movement veterans were accorded receptions and special prayers were offered at mosques, temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship.

# 'An opportunity to celebrate linguistic diversity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Mother Language Day is an opportunity to promote and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, and to recognise and protect human rights of minorities and indigenous people, said Fernand de Varennes, UN special rapporteur on minority issues, yesterday.

"Language can also empower people, whereas the absence of education in minority and indigenous languages and political instrumentalization of language by state and non-state actors has been a contributing factor to exclusion, discrimination and even violence," he said in a statement, in observance of the day.

The day, first announced by Unesco on November 17, 1999, was formally recognised by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in a

resolution, establishing 2008 as International Year of Languages.

The idea to celebrate the language day was an initiative of Bangladesh, where February 21 is the anniversary of the day when Bengalis fought for recognition of Bangla language in 1952 against the then West Pakistani rulers' imposition of Urdu as state language.

This year, celebrating linguistic diversity becomes even more meaningful with the launch of the International Year of Indigenous Languages by UNGA on February 1.

As part of the celebration of richness and beauty of the world's linguistic tapestry, it's essential to move away from the ideology that societies and states should only have one language, said Fernand de Varennes.

# Free health

FROM PAGE 4

Currently as many as 80 lakh people in the country are affected by diabetes due to a lack of awareness and unhealthy lifestyle, he added.

KAMPS has been arranging this programme for the last 14 years at the same venue to provide healthcare and humanitarian support to the underprivileged patients in Tangail and adjacent areas.

Dr Sharif Hossain Khan, civil surgeon of Tangail; Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, former skipper of the national cricket team; Shawkat Shikder, chairman of Shakhipur Upazila Parisad; Md Aminur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Shakhipur; Prof Dr Md Abdul Halim, principal of Kumidini Women's Medical College Hospital; and Nasrin Begum, managing director of KAMPS, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# DMC air heavy

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Around a dozen policemen were busy preparing inquest reports and filing unnatural death cases for each of the identified bodies to ensure speedy handover.

Leaders of various political parties, charities, civil societies also visited the relatives and tried to console them.

Dr Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department of Dhaka Medical College, said this is not a new experience for them. They dealt with such situation in the past, especially after the collapse of Rana Plaza in Savar in 2013 and the fire at Tazreen Fashion Factory in 2012.

"We had discharged our duties previously. I hope we can handle the situation this time too," Dr Sohel said. Meanwhile, office of Dhaka Deputy Commissioner (DC) opened an information centre at the morgue.

Those who could not trace their relatives gathered there. Around 2:10pm, the Dhaka Medical College morgue authorities began handing over the bodies to relatives.

At least 39 bodies were handed over yesterday till 9:30pm, while the rest were unidentified. Twelve remain missing. Many were still waiting to identify the bodies of victims.

Imrul Hasan, senior assistant commissioner and executive magistrate at Dhaka DC office, told The Daily Star that the unidentified bodies will have to go through DNA test.

Names of relatives of the missing were recorded and they will have to contact the office later, he said.

"It takes two weeks to one month to complete the DNA test. So, they have to wait till then," a professor of forensic medicine told The Daily Star.

# Teen dies after being pushed off rooftop

UNB, Keraniganj

A teenage boy died as he was pushed down from the roof of a building allegedly by two of his friends in Keraniganj of Dhaka early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jisan, 14, son of Abul Kalam.

Kalam is from Shibchar in Madaripur. He used to live with his family in Keraniganj.

Victim's mother Hazera Khatun claimed that two of Jisan's friends called him out of their house at dead of night and took him to the rooftop of a six-storey building in the area.

Later, they pushed him off the rooftop, she said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Keraniganj police.

# Sromik Jigyasha: Legal aid at RMG workers' fingertips

SHADMA MALIK

A ready-made garment worker, Rekha was informed that some of her colleagues had been fired from the factory in Tejgaon without any prior notice. They were asked to leave without salaries.

Though she was not one of them, she sought legal help on their behalf through a mobile application called "Sromik Jigyasha".

Rekha was later advised to meet officials of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) directly, with relevant documents. With the help of a paralegal officer, she along with other workers sent a legal notice to the authority of the garment industry. The result was quick; those who had been fired were handed their due salaries within a few days.

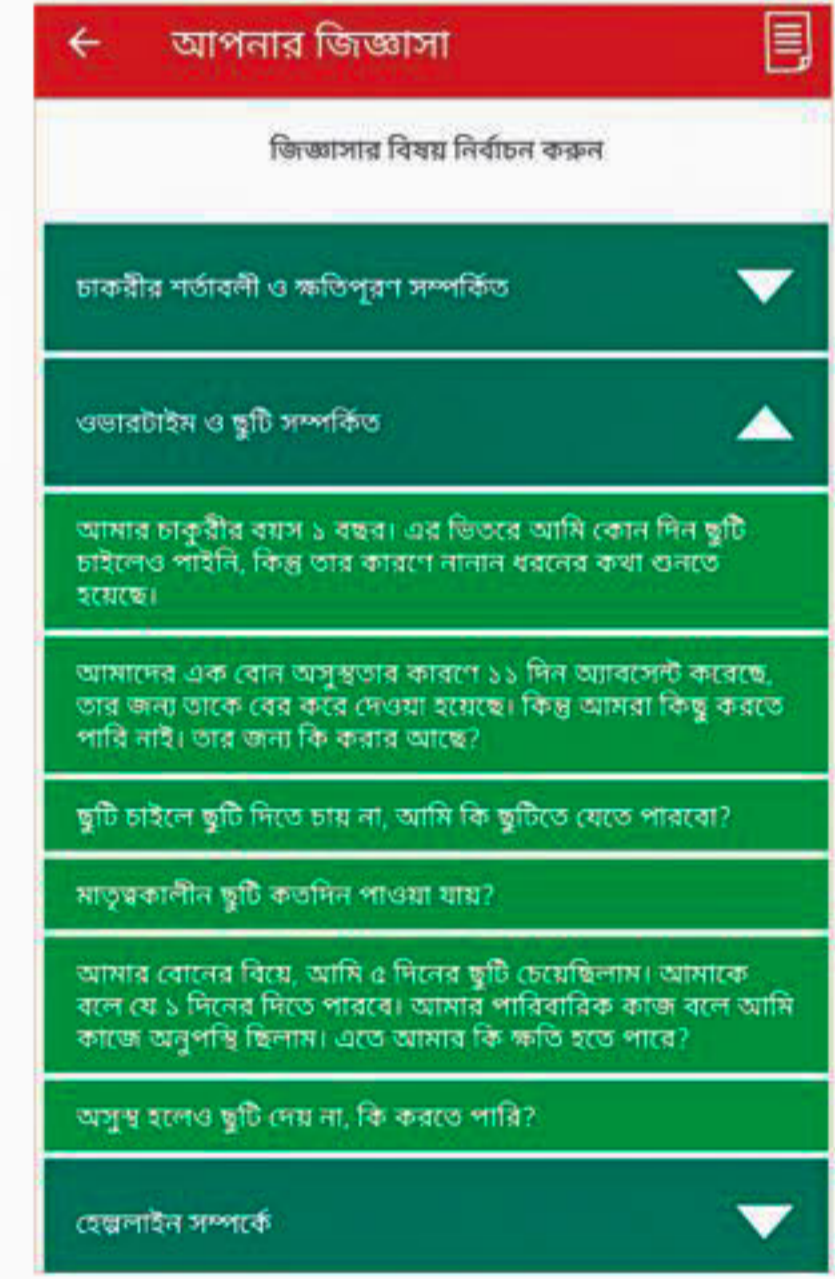
"If I need any help regarding legal issues or violence, I always get help via the app," said Rekha.

BLAST launched Sromik Jigyasha last year. It was funded by C&A Foundation, an organisation working to ensure better working environment for garment workers.

The platform is accessible in both



English and Bangla, where a team of BLAST lawyers and counsellors respond to queries. The app also provides RMG workers with information related to labour law and available health services. Users can make calls directly to the designated persons or



send text messages. On receiving a query, a paralegal may submit that application to a lawyer if the applicant requires more than just legal advice. Identity of the users would remain protected. Any garment

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A colourful depiction of Ekushey comes to life on an artist's canvas at Sreehatta Art Camp on Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# 2 die in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two persons died and two others were injured in separate road accidents in Dinajpur and Pirojpur districts yesterday.

In Dinajpur, tractor driver Al Amin, 30, died after the vehicle overturned in Phulbari upazila, reports our correspondent.

Police said, around 6am Al Amin got on a clay road after loading his tractor with sand from a nearby river.

Later, the vehicle overturned on the road and he was killed on the spot.

In Pirojpur, a worker identified as Khokan Akan, 35, died and two others were injured in an accident in Bhandaria upazila, reports our correspondent.

The injured -- Masud, 25, and Lokman, 25 -- were taken to Bhandaria Upazila Health Complex and Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital respectively, said Md Shahabuddin, officer-in-charge of Bhandaria Police Station.

Khokan and Masud were going to Rajapur upazila in Jhalakathi by a battery-run auto-rickshaw. When the vehicle reached Pirojpur-Barishal road, it was hit by a microbus coming from the opposite direction, police said.

# No dormitories for RU IBA students

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

It has been three years since Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Rajshahi University (RU) was given a separate academic building, but its students are deprived of residential facilities. Students of all other departments can live in university dormitories.

As a result, around 200 students of the institute have been suffering from acute accommodation problems. To continue studying in RU, IBA students have to incur high costs of renting private spaces outside the campus.

In 2016, a separate building for IBA was established inside campus, away from other academic buildings. A separate dormitory was also promised at the time, so IBA students were not allowed to stay at existing halls.

A second-year student of IBA, Mehedi Hasan, said, "We have to pay extra money for private accommodation facilities, where meals are also more expensive. Many of us cannot

afford this." Students said private hostels are often closed a few days before vacation starts, during the time of their exams. So they are left without a place to stay, while their exams are ongoing.

Another student, Nazmul Islam said, "Living in private dormitories, we do not get appropriate environment for studying. We don't have access to hall library, reading room, wi-fi services etc, and we are excluded from hall-centric cultural programmes."

A fourth-year female student at IBA who wishes to stay anonymous said, "University dormitories are much safer than off-campus facilities. In private hostels, owners and outsiders often violate our privacy and insult us verbally."

IBA Director Prof Shamsuddoha said, "We sent a proposal to University Grants Commission (UGC) two years ago to solve the

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