



The Shaheed Minar still stands as a symbol of the right to expression and resistance against all injustice. Imbued with the spirit of Ekushey, people from all walks of life paid tributes to the fallen heroes who earned them the right to their mother language. The photos were taken from the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.



PHOTOS: RASHED SHUMON, PRABIR DAS

Simplify scientific terms in Bangla

Urges PM for students' benefit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for simplifying the use of scientific terminology in Bangla to attract more students to study science.

"I think that no nation can step forward without flourishing science-based education," she said while inaugurating a four-day programme of the International Mother Language Institute at Shegunbagicha to mark Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day.

"We have to pursue technological education. We can't advance without it," she said. "Research in every sector, like health, education, science and even in industry, is of utmost importance," she said.

Regarding the uses of scientific terminology, she said use of a tough terminology in Bangla might not be understandable for all.

"Widely used words and internationally accepted words can be used as it is, we have to accept the word that is used widely in the international arena," she said.

In this connection, she said using tough terminology could bring forth a non-understandable situation and that should be avoided. "I do not believe in using terminology or translation everywhere," she said.

The PM said in science, there are many words inducted from many languages including English and French.

She also said about 8,000 foreign words have been inducted into Bangla.

"We should not be so much conservative in this regard. The commonly used scientific terms can be used in Bangla for easy learning of science."

Hasina said to transform the country from developing to developed, practice and research in all subjects including language, literature, culture and science is urgently needed.

At the outset of the programme, one minute silence was observed to show respect to the Language Movement heroes for their sacrifice.



PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 22



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-20	12-45	4-30	6-03	7-30
Jamaat	5-55	1-15	4-45	6-07	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Aglow with the Ekushey spirit

DIPAN NANDY

As scores of people placed floral wreaths on the pedestal of Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, they also thronged the nearby Ekushey book fair, which commemorates the sacrifice made in 1952 through literature.

Many tagged along with their family and friends, adorned in black and white clothes with Bangla alphabets printed on top. Faces of little ones were seen covered in the alphabets too.

The spirit of Ekushey was emphasised further by the music playing on speakers and speeches from the stage.

Yesterday was the fair's longest day, opening from 8:00am and continuing all till 9:00pm. Throughout this period, there were long queues at the gates.

However, all this didn't exactly translate into great sales for the publishers. Monirul Haque, proprietor of Ananya, said, "But this is not a problem. February 21 is more about carrying on the spirit of Ekushey."

Pushing through the crowd, Soumik Biswas and Afroza Nazneen from Indira Road could be seen with their sons Praty and Priyam. Praty said he bought Humayun Ahmed's "Best of Misir Ali", Imdatul Haque Milon's "Best Ten Novels" and Zaheer Raihan's novel "Arek Falgun", while little Priyam bought a book on birds.

He, however, said he was more happy with the tattoo he got as a gift for buying the book.

A total of 224 new books were published yesterday.

'We can't trust them'

Say ACC officials on high-ups as job uncertainty grips them following termination of Sharif Uddin



The incumbent commission took charge in March last year. In the last 11 months, over 100 officials were show-caused, and departmental procedures (DP) were initiated against around 30.



ACC sacked Sharif Uddin On February 16.

WHAT OFFICIALS SAY

- Of top 12 ACC posts, 10 filled by current, ex-bureaucrats, who don't look after officials
- An investigation officer is burdened with 40/50 inquiries, investigations
- Current commission putting irrational pressure on them
- Officials face repercussions when investigation report goes against will of DG, high-ups
- They are being asked to submit 3 reports each month
- In many cases, high-ups ask officials to go slow, change case priority
- Frequent issuance of show-cause, DP damaging work environment

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Officials of Anti-Corruption Commission are having a hard time keeping their faith in the high-ups, and job uncertainty has gripped them, following the instant termination of one of their colleagues.

Out of fear, ACC officials have united, and for the first time in history, have formed ACC Service Association to press home their demands for welfare.

After former ACC deputy assistant director Sharif Uddin, who came into the limelight for unearthing massive corruption in Cox's Bazar, was terminated without any explanation under section 54(2) of the corresponding service rule, their fear has intensified.

Section 54(2) of Anti-Corruption Commission (Service) Rule, 2008 empowers ACC to terminate an official without showing any explanation.

The incumbent commission took charge in March last year. In the last 11 months, over 100 officials were show-caused, and departmental procedures (DP) were initiated against around 30.

"We don't have any representation in the top tiers. Of the top 12 posts, 10 are filled by former and current bureaucrats. They don't look after us," said an ACC official, preferring anonymity.

"We can't trust them. That's why we've united to raise our demands," he said, adding that the full-fledged committee of the association will be declared within a day or two.

According to ACC's organogram, there is a three-member commission comprising the ACC chairman. The ACC secretary works under the commission, and there are eight director generals under the secretary.

On February 20, ACC officials gave a letter to the chairman through the secretary.

"Recently, we're seeing a tendency of magnifying our small mistakes and seeking explanations on each incident," reads the letter. "DPs are being initiated, saying that our explanations are unsatisfactory, which is abnormal."

So far, five commissions have completed their tenure, and this is the sixth commission. "The

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Name-only job agency busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers claimed to have arrested seven persons for running a racket that duped people by promising jobs. In only the last six months, they defrauded more than 700 job seekers.

A team of Rab-1 carried out a raid at their office, Sinthiya Security Service Limited, in Dhaka's Uttarkhan on Sunday and made the arrests, Abdullah Al Momen, commanding officer of Rab-1, told a press conference yesterday.

The arrestees are managing director Shamsunnahar Maya, general manager Jewel Mia, deputy general manager Kamruzzaman, Farhana Yeasmin, Mehedi Hasan, Al Mamun and Tajbir Hasan.

They used to lure job seekers by publishing advertisement for body guards, house managers, caretakers, security supervisors and guards, taking Tk 12,500 from each applicant as security deposit and other costs.

The Rab official said the gang used to promise jobs with monthly salaries of Tk 10,000-15,000. However, they'd later refuse to get them jobs or pay the money back.

BNP against spirit of Bangla, Liberation War

Says Hasan Mahmud

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP is destroying the spirit of the Liberation War, Bangla and Bangalee.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government is working to establish Bangla's dignity across the globe, while BNP keeps ruining the spirit of Bangla, Bangalee and the Liberation War," he told reporters while paying

tribute to the language martyrs with Awami League leaders at the Central Shaheed Minar.

In reply to a query, he said all the country's achievements came under the AL leadership.

On the other hand, BNP joined hands with anti-liberation forces, against the Liberation War's spirit, said Hasan, also Awami League's joint general secretary.

The minister urged all to remain alert against those who are patronising anti-liberation forces.

AL destroying the Language Movement spirit

Alleges Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday accused the Awami League government of destroying the spirit of the Language Movement.

"This is our bad luck that now there's a government in power which has distorted the spirit of Amar Ekushey. It has snatched the right to vote and freedom of speech," said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

Talking to reporters after paying homage to language martyrs by placing wreaths at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar, he also said the current government is crippling the country's economy.



Back from the morning procession at Shaheed Minar, many walked right into the Boi Mela yesterday. A large number of children were seen browsing through the stalls and pavilions with their parents, dressed in clothes that reflected the spirit of the day.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN