

পূবালী ব্যাংক থেকে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ  
মাত্র ২.৫% প্রমোদন লাভ...

যে কোনো শাখা থেকে পিন নম্বর এর মাধ্যমে রেমিট্যান্স গ্রহণ করলে  
সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রমোদনার সাথে পাবেন আরও  
২.৫% পূবালী ব্যাংক প্রমোদনসহ মোট ৫% প্রমোদন।

সাথে আরও আছে বিচিত্র আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার



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পূবালী ব্যাংকে সক্ষয় করুন, নিরাপদে থাকুন

# Reverence for language martyrs

Mother language should be  
medium of education, says PM

STAR REPORT

"Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February Ami Ki Bhulitey Pari..."

The song that epitomises Amar Ekushey not only has a special place in the hearts of Bangalees, it also lifts their spirits.

Humming the tune, thousands of people from all walks of life thronged the capital's Central Shaheed Minar and elsewhere to pay homage to the Language Movement heroes yesterday.

Bare-footed and holding flowers, they wore black and white to honour the supreme sacrifice.

The Shaheed Minar premises, adorned in different colours, wore a festive look with street paintings and graffiti in Bangla alphabets and selected verses about mother language on the walls.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina awards a winner of the Linguistics Olympiad, organised by the International Mother Language Institute, yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Programmes including discussions and cultural sessions nationwide and in Bangladesh missions abroad reminisced the sacrifice made by Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafique and others, according to messages received yesterday.

The day is being observed worldwide as the Unesco in 1999, declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

On February 21, 1952, students and people from all walks of life took to the streets in Dhaka to protest the then Pakistan government's refusal to recognise Bangla as one of the state languages and imposition of Urdu as the only official language of Pakistan.

Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Shafiq, Jabbar and a few others were killed when police opened fire on their procession.

In Dhaka, people gathered at the Shaheed Minar since the early hours to pay homage to the language heroes.

The national flag was hoisted at half-mast in all educational

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"Ekushey" or the 21st of February is the day when the Bangalees rose up and shed first blood against the tyranny of Pakistan in 1952. The word Ekushey has ever since become a synonym for standing up for rights. On the day yesterday, every stratum of the society paid homage to the martyrs at Shaheed Minars across the country. Many also lit candles and pradeeps at Narail Govt Victoria College ground to pay tribute to the language heroes. The photos were taken in Dhaka, Barishal, Khulna, Sylhet.

PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED



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Our dream is to make Bangla the official language of UN. This is our dream. I know there are many hurdles, but this is our dream today.

HASAN MAHMUD  
Foreign Minister

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We must be respectful of Bangla language and culture to show respect for language martyrs. The mother tongue should be promoted at all levels.

SABER HOSSAIN CHOWDHURY  
Environment Minister

## E-dictionary for sign language launched

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day 2024, UNDP yesterday introduced their "Sign Language E-Dictionary", designed to empower individuals to learn sign language and communicate effectively with those who have hearing and speech impairment.



This initiative is part of UNDP ongoing commitment to promote diversity, equity, and accessibility.

The e-dictionary, offering a comprehensive glossary of sign language, can be accessed directly online and downloaded from the Google Play Store, said UNDP in a statement.

Stefan Liller, UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative, said launching of the e-dictionary will foster communication and

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## Celebrating Bangla

Ekushey Boi Mela sees huge turnout

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

If you walked towards Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, you could feel the excitement in the air. The ambience would easily catch your attention and show that it's a special occasion - Ekushey February.

The area was engulfed in a sea of black and white, celebrating International Mother Language Day.

A young group of boys and girls were singing, "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano, Ekushey February, Ami ki Bhulte Pari" in a chorus, a reminder of the heroes who fought for the right to speak Bangla.

Shahriar, who came with a friend, said, "We woke up early to visit the Shaheed Minar and pay respect to the language heroes. Today is not only about buying books, it's about celebrating our language and culture."

His friend Nawshin echoed the same, saying, "This fair is also a special event for bookworms like us. It's a time to enjoy books, while also remembering the sacrifices made for our language."

A crowd of children was also present, their faces painted with colourful Bangla letters, excitedly walking through the Boi Mela,

hand in hand with their parents. The excitement and joy also spread to the people selling books, as visitors crowded their stalls in droves.

Saifulah, a sales representative of Mowla

hours, but after noon, our staff have been struggling to keep up with bookworms."

While the Boi Mela has seen fanfare since starting in February, yesterday showed that it is more than just a haven for bookworms. Rather, it is a celebration of the Bangla language, culture, and



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

People from all walks of life thronged the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday, celebrating International Mother Language Day. The occasion saw the book fair gain record attendance as over 7 lakh people visited the Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy premises.

brothers publishing house, said, "The crowd is remarkable. The sales are higher than any other day."

Enam Khan, head of finance at Sisimpur Books, said with a smile, "It's been a really busy day as we served a record number of visitors this year. Though the number was low in the early

the love for reading. The numbers did not lie, as over 7 lakh people visited the book fair yesterday, the highest attendance this year, according to Bangla Academy. On February 14 -- on the occasion of Saraswati Puja, Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day -- the number was around 3 lakh.

## The forgotten heroes

Fading memory of Pabna Edward College's  
first Shaheed Minar

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

While Dhaka's streets ran red in 1952 during the historic Language Movement, another torch flared in Pabna.

Students of Pabna Edward College, undeterred by threats, marched in protest, with their campus becoming the site of the district's first Shaheed Minar, a monument to remember the language heroes. However, today, this piece of history lies forgotten, with most current students oblivious to their college's pivotal role and the monument's silent disappearance.

A large Shaheed Minar now stands at the site.

This is a story of unsung heroes, a fading memory, and a call to preserve the legacy of those who fought for their mother tongue.

"Every year we gather at College Shaheed Minar to honour language martyrs, but nobody told us about the historical significance of the previous monument," said Hasan Mahmud, a former student of Pabna Edward College. "It's disappointing that the college authority hasn't taken steps to preserve the memory of the Language Movement and the first Shaheed Minar."

Professor Abdul Alim, a Language Movement researcher, said, "The people of Pabna defied the Pakistan government's ban on honouring language heroes by erecting a temporary Shaheed Minar on

the Pabna Edward College premises."

"On February 21, 1955, the Pakistan regime launched a crackdown on students who were paying tribute to the language martyrs at the Shaheed Minar. Many were arrested, mostly Chhatra League and left-wing activists," Alim, also a teacher in the Bangla department at Pabna University of Science and Technology, added.

Pabna Edward College students, including Abdul Momin, Azahar Ali, and Kamal Lohani, played a crucial role in the 1952 Language Movement.

The seeds of the Language Movement were planted in Pabna in 1948, when the Pakistani parliament rejected Dhirendranath Dutta's proposal for Bangla as the state language.

Local progressive and nationalist leaders, like Dewan Lutfor Rahman and Aminul Islam Badsha, led the protests, which included hartals and agitations.

Pabna Edward College emerged as a central hub for organising the Language Movement. Many of its students were arrested between 1948 and 1952.

The original Shaheed Minar of 1952 was replaced by a concrete Shaheed Minar on the college campus in 1957. This new structure also served as a focal point for organising all movements during the pre-liberation war period, said Shibojit Nag, a former teacher and

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The people of Pabna defied the Pakistan government's ban on honouring language heroes by erecting a temporary Shaheed Minar in the Pabna Edward College premises.  
Prof Abdul Alim  
Language Movement researcher