

Reverence for language

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institutions and government, semi-government and autonomous offices to show respect to the language martyrs.

President Md Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at early hours.

They stood in solemn silence there for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the language heroes.

Afterwards, the Speaker, ministers, advisers to the prime minister, parliament members, chiefs of the three services, senior Awami League leaders, freedom fighters, foreign diplomats and high civil and military officials also paid tributes afterwards.

Later on, the Shaheed Minar was opened to the public. Thousands from all strata of society walked barefoot to it for paying tributes to the valiant sons of the soil.

EDUCATION SHOULD BE IN MOTHER TONGUE: PM
Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated a four-day programme of the International Mother Language Institute at Segunbagicha to mark the occasion. The medium for education in educational institutions should be everyone's mother tongue, said the PM during the event.

"I think that our medium of education should be in our mother tongue. Besides, there should be scope to learn other languages too."

"If anyone gets education through their mother tongue, then receiving that education, knowing that education, and understanding that education will become much easier," she said.

However, the whole world is now so close to each other that learning other languages is also needed, she added.

At the programme, the PM also distributed prizes and certificates among the winners of the Linguistics Olympiad organised by the institute.

Besides, children from various backgrounds greeted the premier in their mother tongues on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

EKUSHEY AT MISSIONS ABROAD
Bangladesh missions in various parts of the world yesterday celebrated

International Mother Language Day, spreading the message of respecting languages and cultures and union among peoples of all ethnicities.

Officials of the Bangladesh missions flew the national flag at half mast in the events they organised, read out the messages from the president and prime minister marking the day.

Foreign dignitaries of the countries concerned and the members of Bangladesh community also attended the events and paid floral homage to the language heroes who sacrificed their lives for Bangla on February 21 in 1952.

At a discussion marking the day, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Mustafizur Rahman highlighted the instrumental role of the Language Movement in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state.

In the evening, a multilingual cultural programme was organised at the High Commission's Bangabandhu Hall.

In addition to Bangladesh and the host country India, cultural troupes from Chile, Ghana, Japan and Nepal performed in the programme and showcased their respective history and culture through their performances.

Meanwhile, at the historic Independence Square in Colombo, a programme was held on the occasion. Sri Lankan Education Minister Dr Susil Premajayanth and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry were the guests of honour.

Visiting Bangladesh Agriculture Minister Md Abdus Shahid was also present among others.

A blood donation camp was also arranged by the high commission.

Marking the event in Tokyo, Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmad said the spirit of February 21 vital for development of all languages and cultures.

Addressing an event in Jakarta, Bangladesh Ambassador Tarikul Islam underscored the importance of mother language in nation building. The programme also included a painting competition among children.

Bangladesh embassies in Italy and the Philippines also organised similar events marking the day.



Risking life, a man jumps over a median on Mohakhali flyover to get on a bus. Violating traffic rules, many bus drivers drop off and take in passengers in the middle of flyovers. The photo was taken Tuesday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Elias sees success in dragon fruit farming

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

In Barguna's Amtali upazila, lies a meticulously laid out dragon fruit plantation, surrounded by many other fruit trees such as guava, mango, and more.

Rows of dragon fruit plants thrive in plastic drums on a cement base across the 2.5-acre plantation. Besides, there is a pond in the middle where different fish are being farmed including tilapia, rohu and catla.

One Elias Hossain works alone in the plantation. The youth greeted this correspondent with a smile when he visited the place recently.

The 32-year-old is now earning Tk 10-12 lakh annually from this initiative.

The path to this success, however, was not smooth.

After his graduation, Elias went to Kuwait in 2012 spending Tk 5 lakh. But he had to return home empty handed in 2017 due to various reasons, and remained unemployed for two more years.

However, he did not lose hope. After watching videos on dragon fruit cultivation on YouTube, Elias decided to try his luck in it. In 2019, he leased 33 decimals of land near his home for Tk 5,000 and started dragon fruit cultivation with 100 saplings, alongside several other fruits including guava and mango

around the plantation.

The harvest after the first year earned him a profit, which inspired him to expand his plantation.

At present, there are 2,000 dragon fruit plants in the plantation. The orchard of mango, guava and other fruits has also

from my garden," he added.

Former deputy commissioner of Barguna Habibur Rahman and UNO of Amtali Md Ashraf Alam visited his plantation along with officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension.

"Elias' initiative is an exemplary



grown in size and production.

"I do not use any chemicals. So far I have spent Tk 30 lakh. Now my annual income from the cultivation is Tk 10-12 lakh," said Elias.

"Fruit traders from surrounding areas including Amtali, Barguna, Kalapara, Patuakhali buy fruits

one. There is a high demand for dragon fruit in the market, and many are cultivating it watching his success. We have often provided him with support and advice regarding his initiative," said Md Icha, agriculture officer in Amtali upazila.

Divided by border, united by language

STAR REPORT

There is a border separating them, and on paper, they are citizens of two different countries. But they have a common identity, which is they all speak the same language - Bangla.

Marking International Mother Language Day, hundreds of Bangla-speaking people from both sides of the India-Bangladesh border came together to pay homage to the language martyrs at zero point of Hili border in Dinajpur and no man's land at Benapole Land Port in Jashore yesterday.

They offered floral tributes to the language martyrs of 1952 while uniting from both sides with a shared love for Bangla.

At Hili border, cultural representatives from India's Balurghat handed over floral tributes to Muktijoddha Sangsad and Muktijoddha Santan Command in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur, Bangladesh, at 11:00am. Later, they offered floral tributes at the martyrs' memorials in their respective countries.

In Benapole, Bangalees from both India and Bangladesh jointly paid their homage to the language martyrs at the temporary Shaheed Minar erected in No-Man's Land at 10:00am yesterday.

Hundreds of people from both countries participated in the event.

AL supporter found

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when the team paid tribute," he added.

Moiful then called him on the phone, where Ziarul mentioned retreating back to his warehouse due to threats from Abul Hasan's men.

Moiful said, "I asked him [Ziarul] if he needed escorts home. He said no."

"After a while, I found out that he had been killed," he added.

Police were informed by a fisherman who found Ziarul lying on a concrete road, 200 yards away from his home around 2:00am.

Upon arrival, the police recovered the body with Ziarul's motorcycle beside him, said ASP Sohel Rana.

The process of filing a case in this connection was ongoing as of last night.

Contacted, Abul Hasan denied any involvement in the killing.

Evading Tk 50 lakh

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Preparations are underway to file a case at the Bondor Police Station in this regard, said Deputy Commissioner of Custom House AKM Khairul Bashar.

The company has a history of importing commercial items in

the name of RMG raw materials, he added.

Contacted, Shafiqul Ahad, the owner of Mahmood Trade International, said, "I am unaware of the matter." He, however, claimed someone else may have misused their company name.

US aware of report

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was an open secret that people in the Bangladesh regime were involved in corruption.

He said former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury is alleged to have built an empire in the UK and US valued at 200 million pounds sterling, equivalent to one percent

of the country's foreign reserve. This is just one case among many.

Miller said, "We are aware of these reports and encourage the Government of Bangladesh to ensure that all elected officials comply with the country's laws and financial regulations."

E-dictionary for sign The forgotten heroes

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understanding for those with hearing and speech impairments.

"This innovative initiative not only aligns with the spirit of International Mother Language Day but also reflects our ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and accessibility in all aspects of our

work. The Sign Language E-Dictionary is a powerful tool that allows normal individuals to learn and contribute to building a more inclusive and understanding society," he added.

UNDP also encouraged individuals, communities, and organisations to explore and utilise the e-dictionary resource.

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student of the college.

"The presence of a large Shaheed Minar is not a bad thing, but the original monument has been lost in time due to the authorities' negligence. The new generation should know about the glorious past of this institution," he added.

Mahabub Hossain,

secretary of the teachers association of Pabna Edward College, claimed the college authority organises numerous programmes annually to keep the memories of language heroes alive.

He said the new Shaheed Minar is enough to pay tribute to the Language Movement martyrs and activists.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Corrigendum of Local Tender Notice

Memo No.44.01.0000.024.01.004.2023-342 Date: 20 February 2024

Invitation for national tender published in different national dailies as per Memo No-44.01.0000.024.01.004.2023-2380 Date: 28 December 2023 is hereby amended only for Purchase of goods (Vehicles for Bangladesh Police) as follows:

Other terms and conditions shall remain as before.

SL no.	Description	Published	Revised/Amended
10	Tender Selling last date	20 February 2024	19 March 2024
11	Tender closing date and time	22 February 2024 at 12.00 pm	20 March 2024 at 12.00 pm
12	Tender opening date and time	22 February 2024 at 12.30 pm	20 March 2024 at 12.30 pm

(Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM)
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শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
অলসায়ু সচিবু বাংলাদেশ

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Forest Department
Sustainable Forests & Livelihood (SUFAL) Project
Cox's Bazar North Forest Division

Memo No: 22.01.2200.771.29.061.24. 481 Date: 20 February, 2024

e-Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP system portal. (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement

Tender ID No	Package No	Description	Online Notice publications date & Time	Online Tender Closing Date & Time
953013	CoxNFD/Sufal/2023-24/GD-05	Supply of Poly-propylene bags for additional 2000 Hac. Nursery raising.	22-02-2024 10:00	13-03-2024 11:00
953040	CoxNFD/Sufal/2023-24/GD-06	Supply of Chemical Fertilizer & Decomposed Cowdung for additional 2000 Hac. Nursery raising.	22-02-2024 10:00	13-03-2024 12:00
953062	CoxNFD/Sufal/2023-24/GD-07	Supply of Materials for additional 2000 Hac. Nursery raising.	22-02-2024 10:00	13-03-2024 13:00
953080	CoxNFD/Sufal/2023-24/GD-08	Supply of Chemical Fertilizer & Decomposed Cowdung for additional 2000 Hac Plantation.	22-02-2024 10:00	13-03-2024 14:00
953101	CoxNFD/Sufal/2023-24/GD-09	Supply of materials for additional 2000 Hac. Plantation.	22-02-2024 10:00	13-03-2024 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529)

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