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**AMAR EKUSHEY-3**

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement. Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

**The second Shaheed Minar**

AHMAD ISTIAK

Jashore's fight for mother tongue began in February 1948, and during the course of the language movement, it eventually became the home to the second Shaheed Minar after Rajshahi in February 1952. According to Fakhre Alam's book "Jashore Er Bhasha Andolon", on February 28, just like in Dhaka, a "Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad" SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



A seller shows a book of colourful drawings to a toddler held by her father at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela on the second day of the month-long event at the capital's Suhrawardi Udyan. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**44TH-47TH BCS EXAMS PHQ for halting recruitment to 310 police posts**

BAHARAM KHAN and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The Police Headquarters has recommended suspending the recruitment process for all 310 police cadre posts from the 44th to 47th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

The public administration ministry held preliminary discussions on the matter yesterday but made no final decision after receiving the recommendation via the home ministry.

At least four officials from both ministries confirmed this to The Daily Star.

A home ministry source said the Police Reform Commission proposed the formation of a separate commission for recruitment to the force.

Since this matter is currently under process, the PHQ suggested suspending recruitment so that future police appointments can be conducted through the proposed commission, the source said.

Another home ministry source said it did not take a separate stance on the issue. Since recruitments fall under the jurisdiction of the public administration ministry, the recommendation was forwarded to it.

Confirming the receipt of the letter containing the PHQ recommendation, a senior public administration ministry official told The Daily Star, "We have received the recommendation, but no final decision has been made yet." SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

**7 lumberjacks 'abducted' in Bandarban**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Seven lumberjacks have been reportedly abducted from Soroi Union in Bandarban's Lama upazila.

The incident occurred around midnight on Saturday in the remote Pomu Khal forest of Ward No. 9 in the Lemu Palong area.

Local sources said the Bangalee workers were taken from the jungle when they went there for collecting logs.

Mobile network coverage in the remote area is limited, making details scarce.

However, neither locals nor police could identify the abductors or abductees.

Sub-Inspector Mohammad Atikur Rahman confirmed the incident. He said the workers were employed by a timber trader named Mohammad Helal from Adu Nagar.

No official complaint has been filed, he added.

Soroi Union Chairman Md Idris Company also confirmed the abduction.

Additional Superintendent of Lama Police Abdul Karim said police and joint forces have launched a rescue operation.

**US fund crunch hits dev projects**

Many professionals fear for their jobs

PORIMOL PALMA

Thousands of Bangladeshi development professionals face uncertainty as US government-funded projects have been halted following an executive order by the Trump administration on January 20.

Though the order mandates a 90-day review, many employees have already been terminated, and all project activities have come to a standstill. The USAID website has also gone offline.

Project personnel have been advised to avoid office visits. In some cases, staffers attend offices to maintain appearance but are not engaged in any work.

Authorities have instructed employees not to comment publicly on the executive order or its implications, said a diplomatic source.

"We come to the office but spend time on social media or learning new skills," said a mid-level official of a USAID-funded project in Dhaka. "The uncertainty is frustrating."

Another project official said they had been told to work from home but had no actual tasks. "We don't know if we will still have jobs after the 90-day period."

The executive order comes amid Bangladesh's economic struggles, including high inflation and foreign currency challenges due to high foreign loan repayments.

The country, which is undergoing a political transition following Sheikh Hasina's removal from power, faced floods and cyclones that damaged crops and rendered many people displaced.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2.66 million people were seeking employment as of September 2024, a 6 percent increase from the previous year. Inflation remains close to 10 percent, further burdening ordinary citizens.

"We hope that the new US administration will make a positive decision after the review."

AKM Jashim Uddin, director of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh.

**FARUK MURDER Ex-MP Rana, nine others acquitted Two get life term**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court yesterday sentenced two people to life term imprisonment and acquitted 10 others, including former Awami League MP Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, in a case filed over the murder of Awami League leader Faruk Ahmed nearly 12 years ago.

Tangail's First Additional District and Sessions Court Judge Mahmudul Hasan handed out the verdict in absence of the convicts - Mohammad Ali and Kabir Hossain.

The acquitted are Tangail-3 (Ghatail) former AL MP Rana, his three younger brothers - former Tangail municipality mayor Sahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, former Tangail Chambers of Commerce president Jahidur Rahman Kakon, and former central vice-president of Chhatra



Faruk Ahmed

**Polls only way for quick state overhaul: Tarique**

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged the government not to delay the election by taking too much time in the name of reforms.

Speaking virtually at a workshop, he said an election is the only way to promptly implement the state-overhauling proposals by elected representatives.

He also warned that the country will fall into a deep crisis and the fallen fascists will reemerge if the election is delayed due to prolonged discussions on reforms.

BNP's Dhaka South City Unit organised the programme at Kadamtali Balur Maath in the Shyampur area to train party leaders and workers on its 31-point state reform outline.

"We're now hearing continuous discussions about reforms. We would like to tell those talking about reforms that the BNP stands at the forefront in support of them," Tarique said.

However, there was no alternative to holding elections and handing over power to the elected representatives to implement the reform proposals, he added.

"Elections are the only way to implement the proposals made by the BNP or the interim government's commissions."

The BNP leader said those contesting the election would have to promise the people that, if given the opportunity, they would implement these reforms.

Only those entrusted with the responsibility by the people through the election would be able to begin the work on reforms, and they must be the ones to start it, he said.

According to him, the further the government delays the election, the longer the reform implementation will take.



**Former AL leader detained from son's wedding in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fakhrul Anwar, former industry and commerce affairs secretary of the Awami League, was sent to jail by a court yesterday, a day after his arrest from his son's wedding at a community centre in Chattogram's Tiger Pass area.

Earlier, Khulshi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mozibur Rahman said Fakhrul was taken into custody for interrogation in connection with a case filed at Kotwali Police Station for attacking protesters during the July uprising.

Police detained Fakhrul Anwar on Saturday night after a mob gathered outside the Navy Convention Hall, where the wedding was taking place, as news spread that a group of AL leaders and activists were at the event, said witnesses.

According to social media footage, over a hundred men surrounded Fakhrul and tried to harass him.

Upon receiving the news, additional police forces

**Canada, Mexico hit US with retaliatory tariffs China vows countermeasures**

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump on Saturday ordered sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China, demanding they stanch the flow of fentanyl - and illegal immigrants in the case of Canada and Mexico - into the United States, kicking off a trade war that could dent global growth and reignite inflation.

Mexico and Canada, the top two US trading partners, immediately vowed retaliatory tariffs, while China said it would challenge Trump's move at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and take other "countermeasures."

In three executive orders, Trump imposed 25 percent tariffs on Mexican and most Canadian imports and 10 percent on goods from China, starting tomorrow.

He vowed to keep the duties in place until what he described as a national emergency over fentanyl, a deadly opioid, and illegal immigration to the US ends.

"Will there be some pain? Yes, maybe (and maybe not!)" Trump wrote in all caps on his Truth social media platform. "But we will Make America Great Again, and it will all be worth the price that must be paid," he added.

Responding to concerns raised by oil refiners and Midwestern states, Trump imposed only a 10 percent duty on energy products from Canada, with Mexican energy imports facing the full 25 percent tariff.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada would respond with 25 percent tariffs against \$155 billion of US goods, including beer, wine, lumber and appliances, beginning with \$30 billion taking effect tomorrow and \$125 billion 21 days later.



After submerging a dinghy full of Bashphul paddy in the river for four days, farmers pull the paddy out of the water to dry it in the sun for two more days. Bashphul paddy is processed into a narrow variety of rice, each maund of which is sold by these farmers for around Tk 3,000. The photo was taken last week in Banaripara upazila of Barishal. PHOTO: TITU DAS

**4 of a family killed as car, truck collide**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

At least four people of a family were killed in a collision between a car and a truck in Osmaninagar upazila of Sylhet yesterday.

The deceased are Saima Akter, 35, her son Ayan, 6, Saima's sister Shamima Yasmin, 38, of Dhaka's Ashulia area and their cousin Sohel Bhuiyan, 38.

Quoting family members, Monayem Miah, officer in charge of Osmaninagar Police Station, said a car carrying seven members of a family collided head-on with a truck on the Dhaka Sylhet highway in Unish Mile area around 7:30am.

The accident left two car passengers dead on the spot and five others injured.

The injured were taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The police official also said dense fog might have caused the accident.