

Nation honours language heroes

President, chief adviser pay homage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus have paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement, marking the Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day.

One-minute past midnight, the president laid a wreath. Prof Yunus paid his tributes around 12:10am after the president left the Shaheed Minar premises.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan received them upon arrival.

After paying tributes, they stood in solemn silence for a while as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the language heroes.

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed with other judges paid their tributes and then the advisers to the interim government, foreign diplomats, invited guests and high-ranking military and civil officials, Dhaka University teachers also paid their tributes at the alter.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A group of women paints graffiti on the street in front of Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday in preparation for International Mother Language Day. Marking the day, the nation will pay homage to language martyrs at the memorial today.

‘Dhaka’s law and order situation quite stable’

Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law and order situation in Dhaka remains normal, with only a few isolated incidents, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali yesterday.

“There have been no significant crimes apart from a few isolated incidents. Overall, the law and order situation in Dhaka is quite stable,” he told journalists yesterday morning while discussing the security measures at the Central Shaheed Minar on the occasion of February 21. He mentioned one significant incident, which took place in Uttara recently and went viral on Facebook. He said all five involved individuals have been arrested. Police successfully handled the situation.

When asked if the presence of top criminals out on bail posed any security threat on February 21, the DMP chief said, “The crime or operational areas of these criminals are one thing, but the floral tributes at Shaheed Minar are entirely different. They have no interest in this... We are aware of those who are out on bail, we are tracking them, and they are already cornered.”

RISE IN CULEX POPULATION

Mosquito menace continues

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite a drop in dengue cases due to the winter chill, city dwellers continue to suffer from an alarming rise in mosquito infestations, with authorities failing to take effective measures to control the surge in Culex mosquitoes.

Experts warn that without immediate intervention, the Culex mosquito population will keep increasing until March.

They also stressed the importance of targeting Aedes mosquitoes during this period by identifying dengue-positive households and launching pre-emptive mosquito control drives.

Residents across the capital are struggling to cope with the mosquito menace.

Saiful Alam, a resident of Mirpur-12, said it has become nearly impossible to sleep at night without a mosquito net or repellent. “I often have to use mosquito repellent even during the day just to protect myself,” he added.

Sabakat Sabris Sami, an HSC candidate from East Shewrapara, said, “Mosquito numbers have increased dramatically recently. We have not seen any anti-mosquito drives in our area for

ISSUES

- Residents struggling due to mosquito infestation
- No visible anti-mosquito drives in many areas
- Mild winter contributing to increased mosquito numbers
- Authorities criticised for lack of proactive measures
- Aedes mosquito hotspots remain unidentified

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clean drains, waterbodies before applying larvicide
- Identify, eliminate mosquito breeding sites
- Set up dedicated mosquito control authority
- Improve surveillance to locate mosquito hotspots
- Continue anti-mosquito drives in critical areas



weeks.”

Md Kamal, a resident of Dhaka Nagar Lane in Gandaria, echoed him.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar said, “Cleaning drains and waterbodies and applying larvicide simultaneously is the key to controlling mosquitoes. However, simply applying larvicide without cleaning the drains will not yield results.”

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said, “There is no specific body to take effective measures against mosquitoes. If we can eliminate breeding sites such as canals, stagnant waterbodies, and lakes, we can solve 70 percent of the problem.”

He said last year’s failure to control Aedes mosquitoes resulted

in a nationwide dengue outbreak.

“If the authorities locate and destroy Aedes mosquito breeding clusters now, it will be much easier to control their population during the peak season,” he said.

Meanwhile, entomologist Monzur A Chowdhury highlighted the importance of tackling Aedes mosquitoes during the winter lull. “The number of Aedes mosquitoes has decreased due to the cold weather. This is the perfect time to identify dengue-affected households and conduct extensive anti-mosquito drives around them to eliminate breeding sources and adult mosquitoes,” he said.

DNCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Imru-al Quais, speaking at a programme at Nagar Bhawan, said apart from their regular anti-mosquito drives, they have their own surveillance system to control Aedes mosquitoes.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Metro rail staffers call off work abstention

STAR REPORT

After receiving assurances from the authorities yesterday, a section of metro rail staffers decided to call off their planned work abstention which was set to begin today.

In a press release yesterday, the staffers announced the suspension of their protest. A metro rail official later confirmed the statement’s authenticity.

Faruque Ahmed, the newly appointed managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the agency which operates the metro rail, also verified the development to The Daily Star.

DMTCL has committed to finalising the service rules within 30 days. Additionally, 50 percent of the outstanding arrears will be paid next month, with the remaining balance to be settled soon, he said.

On Monday, a section of metro rail staffers warned they would abstain from work starting Friday if the authorities failed to finalise their service rules within three days.

According to the press release, the staffers decided to suspend their plan out of respect for International Mother Language Day, which falls on Friday, and in response to assurances from the MD.

BDR MASSACRE

Commission records 37 testimonies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Independent Investigation Commission, formed to re-investigate the 2009 BDR massacre, has so far recorded the testimonies of 37 individuals in 41 working days since December 24, regarding the incident.

Among the 37 individuals who have testified so far, there are three lieutenant generals, two major generals, five brigadier generals, four colonels, four lieutenant colonels, seven majors, two captains, seven BDR members, and three victims’ family members.

The commission has already sent letters to the foreign ministry to establish communication with certain foreign embassies to reach former army chief general (retired) Moeen U Ahmed, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and others residing abroad.

Maj Gen (retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman, the commission chief and former director general of the then-BDR (now BGB), shared the developments at a press conference at the BRiCM building in the capital’s Science Laboratory yesterday.

He said former army chief general (retired) Moeen U Ahmed is crucial for obtaining detailed information about the incident.

The commission has already sent letters to the foreign ministry to establish communication with certain foreign embassies to reach Moeen, ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and others residing abroad, he said.

Fazlur said, “I cannot reveal the names of those embassies being contacted to bring back fugitives.”

When asked about Moeen, who is now based in Florida in the US and has shared his version of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DEVIL HUNT 492 more held across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 492 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the “Operation Devil Hunt”, according to the Police Headquarters.

With the latest arrests, the number of arrestees is now 6,849. Additionally, 1,260 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours.

Law enforcers also recovered two pipe guns and two sharp weapons.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following an attack on “students and people” in Gazipur.

Analysing reports from some districts, this newspaper found that many of the arrestees are members of the Awami League and its associate bodies. Many are accused in cases filed after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

Seize flats, freeze bank accounts of SK Sur, his family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate two flats and a piece of land and freeze 39 bank accounts of former Bangladesh Bank deputy governor SK Sur Chowdhury and his family members over allegations of corruption.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Nazmul Hussain, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

The court also asked the ACC to freeze bank accounts of Sur’s wife Suparna Sur Chowdhury and their daughter Nandita Sur Chowdhury.

ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the application on behalf of anti-graft body.

These bank accounts have Tk 3,98,64,040.

The immovable property seized includes a flat in the name of SK Sur in the capital’s Segunbagicha, whose deed value stands at Tk 44,17,700, and a flat measuring 4,400 square feet in the name of Suparna Sur in Dhanmondi, whose deed value stands at Tk 1.25 crore.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A group of students browse books at the Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. They ventured into the fair after finishing classes and were excited to finally have time to pick up a few books. As the Boi Mela draws to a close, with February 28 being the last day, more and more people have begun flocking to Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Secretariat entry policy formulated

BSS, Dhaka

The government has formulated “Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2025” aimed at checking entry of unwanted persons and controlling vehicles into the secretariat to ensure a congenial atmosphere for work.

“In line with the current world, the ‘Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2025’ was issued after discussions with the stakeholders in the perspective of the changing situation,” said a notification of the home ministry signed by its Senior Secretary Nasimul Ghani.

In accordance with the “Bangladesh Secretariat Entry Policy, 2014”, the government formulated the policy in the interest of maintaining security and discipline, it said.

The home adviser has requested all concerned to follow this policy properly to provide overall security to the Bangladesh Secretariat.