

Unit Four

Events and Festivals



Learning outcomes

After we have studied this unit, we will be able to

- talk about events and festivals
- ask and answer questions and give opinions in a logical sequence
- infer meanings from the context.

Lesson 1: Mother's Day**A Look at the picture and discuss the questions.**

1. What do you think the woman is to the child?
2. Why is she holding the child on her flank?
3. Can a mother be compared to anybody?

*"She can be compared with no other;
This lovely lady is none but my mother."*

**B Listen to the audio and answer the questions that follow.****Listening text 2****C Choose the correct answer.**

1. According to ancient Greek myths Rhea is the
 - a. mother of gods.
 - b. goddess of love.
 - c. goddess of wealth.
 - d. goddess of health.
2. The name of Jesus Christ's mother was
 - a. Rhea.
 - b. Mary.
 - c. Anna.
 - d. Anna Junior.
3. Julia Ward Howe was
 - a. Dutch.
 - b. English.
 - c. Australian.
 - d. American.
4. Mother's Day was first announced as a formal holiday in the USA in
 - a. 1872.
 - b. 1905.
 - c. 1910.
 - d. 1914.
5. In 1914 the American president was
 - a. Roosevelt.
 - b. Ford.
 - c. Nixon.
 - d. Wilson.
6. Which country doesn't celebrate Mother's Day on the 2nd Sunday of May?
 - a. Denmark
 - b. The UK
 - c. Italy
 - d. Turkey

D Listen to the text again and answer these questions.

1. What country first observed Mother's Day as a national holiday?
2. When is Mother's Day now celebrated by most of the countries in the world?
3. How is Mother's Day usually observed?
4. Why should we observe Mother's Day?

E Write a paragraph by answering each of the following questions.

1. Do you help your mother with her housework? How?
2. Do you celebrate Mother's Day? If yes, when and how?

Lesson 2 : May Day**A Look at the picture and talk about it.**

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. Can you relate any historical event to this picture? What happened on this day?

**B Read the text and answer the questions that follow.**

May Day or International Workers' Day is observed on May 1 all over the world today to commemorate the historical struggle and sacrifices of the working people to establish an eight-hour workday. It is a public holiday in almost all the countries of the world.

Since the Industrial Revolution⁽¹⁾ in the 18th and 19th centuries in Europe and the US, the workers in mills and factories had been working a long shift, fourteen or even more hours a day.

On May 1st in 1886, inspired by the trade unions⁽²⁾, half of the workers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company in Chicago went on strike demanding an eight-hour workday. Two days later, a workers' rally was held near the McCormick Harvester Machine Company and about 6000 workers joined it. The rally was addressed by the labour leaders. They urged the workers to stand together, to go on with their struggle and not to give in to their bosses. At one point of the rally, some strike breakers started leaving the meeting place. The strikers went down the street to bring them back. Suddenly about 200 policemen attacked them with clubs and revolvers. One striker was killed instantly, five or six others were seriously wounded and many others were injured.

The events of May 1, 1886 are a reminder that workers will continue to be exploited until they stand up and speak out to gain better working conditions, better pay and better lives.

Notes

1. Industrial Revolution: the period, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries Europe, when machines were invented and first factories were established.
2. Trade Union: an organisation that represents workers of mills and factories.

Questions

1. What does May Day refer to?
2. How long did the workers have to work in a day before the May 1 strike?
3. Why did the workers in Chicago go on a strike?
4. What do you learn from the events of May 1, 1886?

C Fill in the blanks with the verbs given in the box. Put them into their correct forms.

add	arrive	begin	do	hear	live
send	support	tread	work		

Tania is a poor garment worker. She _____ in a big garment factory in Gazipur. She _____ in a slum with a few fellow workers. She works eight hours a day on a monthly salary of Tk. 3000/-. She does overtime to _____ some more money to her income. If she can save something, she _____ it to her father to _____ the family.

One day Tania was busy _____ her work in the factory. Suddenly she _____ someone shouting "Fire! Fire!" The workers were panic-stricken and everyone _____ to rush to the stairs. There were not enough staircases in the factory building. So some workers were _____ under the foot and others were injured in some other ways. However, the fire brigade _____ there in minutes and nothing serious happened.

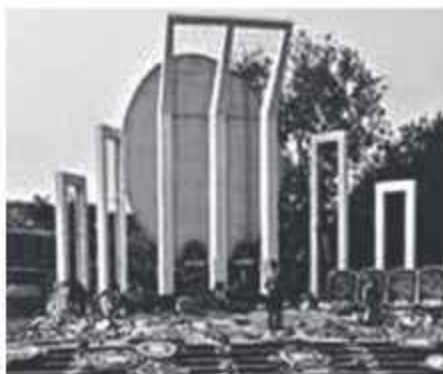
D Now read the completed passage in C silently and answer the following questions.

1. Do you think Tania's monthly salary is enough for her work?
2. Is the factory safe enough for workers? Why do you think so?
3. Do you have any suggestions for safety of factory workers? If so, what?

Lesson 3 : International Mother Language Day - 1

A Look at the picture and talk about it.

1. What's the picture about?
2. What's the place in the picture?
3. Why was it built?



B Read the text.

21 February is a memorable day in our national history. We observe the day every year as International Mother Language Day. The day is a national holiday.

On this day, we pay tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives to establish Bangla as a state language in undivided Pakistan in 1952. The struggle to achieve our language rights is known as the Language Movement.

The seed of the Language Movement was sown on 21 March 1948 when Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Governor General of Pakistan, declared in a public meeting in Dhaka that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan. The declaration raised a storm of protest all over the country. The protest continued non-stop, gathering momentum day by day. It turned into a movement and reached its climax in 1952. The government outlawed all sorts of public meetings and rallies to stop it.

The students of Dhaka University defied the law and brought out a peaceful protest procession on 21 February 1952. When the procession reached near Dhaka Medical College, the police opened fire on the students, killing Salam, Rafiq, Barkat, Safiur and Jabbar. As a result, there were mass protests all over the country and the government had to declare Bangla as a state language. This kindled the sparks of independence movement of Bangladesh.

C Complete the chart.

Time	What happened
1947	
1948	
1952	

D Match the words with their meanings.

Words	Meanings
tribute	to cause or to stimulate
climax	to refuse to obey
outlaw	to give in
defy	the ability to keep increasing or developing
provoke	an act to show respect or admiration
relent	the most exciting point in time
momentum	to ban

E Answer these questions.

1. Why do we observe 21 February as the International Mother Language Day?
2. What happened when Urdu was declared as the only state language of Pakistan?
3. "The seed of independence was sown on 21 February 1952". Do you agree? Why?

Lesson 4 : International Mother Language Day - 2**A Discuss these questions.**

1. When did the International Mother Language Day celebration begin?
2. What does the abbreviation UNESCO stand for?
3. What is the other name of 21 February?

B Read more about International Mother Language Day.

21 February is observed as *Shaheed Dibosh* every year throughout the country in remembrance of the martyrs of language movement of 1952. The commemoration begins at the early hours of the day with mourning songs that recall the supreme sacrifices of our language martyrs. People wear black badges and go to the *Shaheed Minar* in barefoot processions, singing mourning songs. They place wreaths at the *Minar*. Many of them visit the graves of the martyrs at Azimpur graveyard and pray for them. They also attend various programmes organised in remembrance of the language martyrs.

The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) on 17 November in 1999 proclaimed February 21 as the International Mother Language Day in recognition of the sacrifices of the martyrs for the rightful place of Bangla. Two Bangladeshi expatriates living in Vancouver in Canada, Rafiqul Islam and Abdus Salam, sent a proposal to Kofi Anan, the then Secretary General of United Nations. They requested him to declare 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. They added that the decision will honour and save all extinct languages of the world. As per their logical expectations the government of Bangladesh then took prompt initiative by sending formal proposal to UNESCO. Finally, on 17 November 1999, UNESCO declared 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. The day is now annually observed worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

C Match the words/phrases in the table with their meanings.

Words/phrases	Meanings
wreath	• encourage
in remembrance of	• in appreciation of
proclaim	• practice of using several languages
promote	• an arrangement of flowers in the shape of a circle
diversity	• declare
multilingualism	• in memory of
in recognition of	• variety

D Read the text in B again and answer these questions.

1. Why is 21 February called *Shaheed Dibosh*?

2. Why do people go to the *Shaheed Minar*? How do they go there?
3. Why is 21 February now observed throughout the world every year?

E Complete the passage with suitable words.

On 21 February 1952 _____ was shed at a place between Dhaka Medical College and Dhaka University _____ to establish Bangla as a state _____ of Pakistan.

All subsequent movements _____ struggles for independence had their origin in the historic language _____. *Shaheed Minar* is them _____ of the supreme sacrifice _____ the mother tongue.

F Write briefly how you observed this year's 21 February at your school.

Lesson 5 : Independence Day

A Look at the picture and ask and answer the questions about it.

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. Where is it?
3. Why was it built?



B Read the text.

26 March, our Independence Day, is the one of the most important state festival. The day is celebrated every year in the country with great enthusiasm and fervour. It is a national holiday. All offices, educational institutions, shops and factories remain closed on this day. The day begins with a 31 gun salute.

Early in the morning the President and the Prime Minister, on behalf of the nation place floral wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar. Then other leaders, political parties, diplomats, social and cultural organisations, educational institutions and freedom fighters pay homage to the martyrs. People from all walks of life also go there in rallies and processions. There are many cultural programmes throughout the day, highlighting the heroic struggle and sacrifice in 1971.

In Bangabandhu National Stadium, school children, scouts and girl guides take part in various displays to entertain thousands of spectators. Educational institutions also organise their individual programmes. Sports meets and tournaments are also organised on the day, including the exciting boat race in the river Buriganga.

In the evening, all major public buildings are illuminated with colourful lights. Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and other socio-cultural organisations hold cultural functions. Similar functions are also arranged in other places in the country.

C Match the words with their meanings.

Words	Meanings
fervour	• acts of performing skills
alike	• to light up
spectator	• in a similar way
displays	• a strong feeling of excitement
illuminate	• a person who is watching an event

D Choose the best answer.

- Our one of the most important state festivals is
 - Victory Day.
 - Shaheed Dibosh.
 - Pahela Boishakh.
 - Independence Day.
- The celebration of Independence Day begins with
 - processions.
 - gun salute.
 - placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum.
 - parade by defence forces.
- The National Mausoleum is
 - on Dhaka University campus.
 - at Ramna Park.
 - at Savar.
 - near Dhaka Medical College.
- On Independence Day various displays are held
 - at the National Parade Ground.
 - in the streets.
 - in the decorated vehicles.
 - in Bangabandhu Stadium.

E Write in brief, how you have celebrated this year's Independence Day at your school.

Lesson 6: Pahela Boishakh

A Look at the picture. Then ask and answer the questions about it.



1. What's the picture about?
2. Where do you think the picture was taken?
3. What are the people doing?

B Read the text and complete the tasks C and D.

'Pahela Boishakh' is the first day of Bangla new year. The day is a public holiday. This day has a special significance for us as it is a part of Bangalee culture and tradition. People from all walks of life, irrespective of their ethnic identity or religious beliefs, celebrate the day with traditional festivities. On this day, the whole of Bangladesh is in a festive mood. The day inspires people to start life with renewed hopes aspirations.

Every year the day is celebrated traditionally. People wake up early in the morning, have a bath and wear traditional clothes. Women wear white *sarees* with red borders and adorn themselves with colourful *churis* and flowers, while men dress themselves in *pajamas* and *punjabis*. It is a day when people love eating traditional food.

One of the most colourful events of the day is held in Dhaka. Early in the morning, people in hundreds and thousands pour in from all directions to attend the cultural function at *Ramna Batamul* organised by *Chhayanaut*. The cultural programme begins just at sunrise and the renowned artists of the country take part in the programme that starts with the famous Tagore-song *Esho-he-Boishakh, Esho Esho*Artists also sing traditional folk songs, and perform classical dances to the rhythm of musical instruments.

People also come to join the colourful processions, the biggest carnival of the country, organised by the Fine Arts students of Dhaka University. The procession usually displays the traditional practices of Bangalee culture. The masks and wreaths worn by the people are so fascinating! Often they symbolise contemporary worries or happiness in the national life. It attracts an increasing number of foreign tourists every year.

The day is also observed all over the country. Different social and cultural organisations and educational institutions celebrate the day with their own cultural programmes.

On this day, newspapers bring out special supplements. There are also special programmes on the radio and television.

The celebration of *Pahela Boishakh* marks a day of cultural unity for the whole nation.

C Ask and answer these questions in pairs.

1. Do you go out in the morning of *Pahela Boishakh*? If you do, where do you go? If not, what do you do?
2. What kind of food do you eat in the morning of *Pahela Boishakh*?
3. Do you wear any special clothes on this occasion?

D Complete the passage with suitable words.

The word *Pahela* means the first and *Boishakh* is the _____ month of Bangla calendar. The day is observed not _____ in Bangladesh but _____ in some other parts of the world. It is celebrated in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. It is also _____ in Australia and the UK. In Australia, the largest _____ for Bangla new year is the Sydney *Boishakhi Mela* held _____ Sydney Olympic Park. In England, the Bangalees _____ celebrate the day with a street _____ in London. It is the _____ Asian festival in Europe, _____ Bangladesh and West Bengal.

E Describe your own cultural or religious festival that you celebrate. You can use the following words. You can also use other words relevant to the festival.

colourful	special	traditional	religious	dance
cultural	flowers	food	songs	festive