

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী  
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA

Message

21 February 2020

Today is the Immortal 21 February, the 'Shaheed Dibosh' and the 'International Mother Language Day'. On this great day, I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat and Jabbar who laid down their lives for establishing the right of our mother tongue Bengali on 21 February 1952.


On this historic day, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who steered our epic struggle for freedom. The life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is an example of supreme sacrifice and struggle for ensuring rights of Bengali people. His political ideologies reflected his belief in humanity, empowering people, ensuring socio-economic freedom, establishing democracy, peace and rights of the oppressed people all across the world. After independence in 1972, Bangabandhu established Bengali as our state language and then on 25 September 1974 at the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, he delivered his speech in Bengali for the first time and introduced Bengali to the world.

The great Language Movement is a historic and significant event in our national history. The movement aimed at establishing the right of our mother tongue as well as protecting self-identity, culture and heritage. Being a source of ceaseless inspiration, Amar Ekushey (Immortal 21) inspired and encouraged us to a great extent to achieve the right to self-determination and in the struggle for independence. On this day, I convey my warmest wishes to all Bengali speaking people around the world and to people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The 'Immortal Ekushey' of 1952 is now observed as the 'International Mother Language Day' all over the world. It was the timely initiative and leadership of the daughter of Bangabandhu, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the sincere efforts of two expatriate Bengalis which resulted in the UNESCO conferring 21 February and Bengali with this glorious recognition in 1999. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been working relentlessly to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by the vision 2041. Bangladesh achieved 8.15% GDP growth rate, the highest among the Asia-Pacific countries. Bangladesh is now recognized as a 'Role Model of Development'.

With the great spirit of 'Immortal Ekushey' we will strengthen the hands of the daughter of Bangabandhu, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and engage ourselves to transform Bangladesh into a progressive, technology based, developed and respectful country- let it be our pledge on this very day.

**Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.**

  
Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP