

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Md. Shahriar Alam, MP
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

21 February 2020

Today is Amar Ekushey (Immortal 21), the great 'Shaheed Day' (Language Martyrs' Day) and the 'International Mother Language Day'. At the beginning of the Language Movement, Pakistan government arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 11, 1948. The Bengali rebellious youths including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and Shafiur sacrificed their lives to establish our mother tongue as the state language on this very day in 1952. The flame of rebellion ignited in our mind by the spirit of the 21 February was the beacon of our great Liberation War.

On this auspicious day, with deep reverence, I recall the greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Shiekh Mujibur Rahman under whose legendary leadership, through a systematic struggle for self-autonomy from 1952 to 1971, we attained an independent Bangladesh based on language, culture and distinct identity. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his speech in Bengali in the 29th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 1974. It was Bangabandhu who instituted Bengali as the state language of Bangladesh in 1972 after the independence.

I pay my heartiest gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and some expatriate Bengalis for their united efforts in promoting the issue of Language Movement to the global arena. As a result of their tireless efforts, the UNESCO designated 21 February as the 'International Mother Language Day' in November 1999 and the member states of the United Nations have been observing the day in befitting manners since 2000.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the government has been working relentlessly to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. Currently, Bangladesh is marching forward with 8.15% GDP growth rate. Along with economic growth, Bangladesh has become a role model in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, climate change and curbing child mortality rate. All these achievements have been made possible with the policy guidelines promulgated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman within three and a half years and through successful implementation of those laws and policy framework under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the last decade.

21 February sharpens our sense of patriotism. Celebration of 'International Mother Language Day' in foreign lands carries equal importance as it is done in Bangladesh. My special greetings go to the diplomats and staffs working in Bangladesh missions abroad whose tireless efforts are behind the successful observance of all National Days including 21 February in other countries. Also my heartfelt felicitations go to the Bangladeshi Diaspora who has been contributing unceasingly for

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the development of our motherland by sending invaluable remittance and brightening the image of Bangladesh globally by practicing Bengali and Bengali culture abroad.

From our own position we will work unitedly with the spirit of the Language Movement and the War of Liberation for the implementation of the Visions declared by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and bring a golden future for Bangladesh – let us make this pledge on this great day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.


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