



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
BANGABHABAN, DHAKA

09 Falgun 1424
21 February 2018

Message

On the occasion of great Shaheed Day (Language Martyrs Day) and the International Mother Language Day, I extend my warm congratulations and sincere felicitations to all multilingual people of the world along with Bangla-speaking people.

Today, I recall with deep reverence the language martyrs namely Shaheed Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiur and so many unknown and unsung language heroes who laid down their lives for the cause of mother tongue. I also remember with profound respect, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led *Sarbodolio Rashtrobhasa Sangram Parishad* (All Party State Language Action Committee), formed in 1948 and was arrested for his active role in favour of the language movement. I recall Dhirendranath Dutta, the then Member of *Gonoparishad* (Constituent Assembly) who raised the historic proposal before the *Gonoparishad* to turn Bangla into the state language of Pakistan. I also remember Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah and all other language heroes for their farsightedness, unmatched valour, bravery, able organizing capacity and rapid steps in this regard that facilitated the Language Movement to reach its ultimate culmination on February 21, 1952. Consequently, the Bangali achieved their right to mother tongue.

The great Language Movement is a historic and significant event in our national history. This movement aimed at establishing the right of our mother tongue as well as protecting self-entity, and culture and heritage. Being a source of ceaseless inspiration, *Amar Ekushey* (Immortal Shaheed Day) inspired and encouraged us to a great extent to achieve the right to self-determination and struggle for freedom and war of liberation. With the bloodshed passages of Language Movement, we achieved the recognition of Bangla as our mother tongue and we attained our long cherished independence under the charismatic leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971.

In fact, to embrace martyrdom for the cause of mother tongue is an unprecedented event in the world history. February 21 has now been recognized by the UNESCO as the 'International Mother Language Day' in 1999 with the spontaneous keenness and sincere endeavour of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the primary efforts of some expatriate Bangla-loving Bangladeshis. As a Bangali nation, it was our great achievement. Today many languages and culture around the globe are becoming extinct due to lack of proper practice, preservation and patronization. Observing the International Mother Language Day, I firmly believe, will play a positive role in attaining the sustainable future through using multilingual education along with developing and protecting own languages and culture around the world.

With the enthusiastic eagerness of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the International Mother Language Institute was established in Dhaka in 2001 for the research and preservation of the dignity and the rights of flourishing as well as nearly extinct languages of the world. Besides, text books and teaching methods have been introduced for the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities in our country with a view to protecting and developing their own languages. I believe that it is a far-reaching steps for protecting the own languages and culture of multilingual races both at home and abroad.

The spirit of *Amar Ekushey* is now the source of incessant inspiration for the protection and preservation of own languages and culture of multilingual people of the world. Keeping the inspiration of *Ekushey* in mind, let the people of multilingual be united, let the almost defunct languages of the world be revived in their respective communities and let the globe be coloured with diverse languages and cultures. It is my expectation on the great Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.


Md. Abdul Hamid

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

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Message

I extend my good wishes to the Bangla-speaking people and people of all languages and cultures across the world on the occasion of the glorious Martyrs and International Mother Language Day.

The greatest Ekushey is the symbol of grief, strength and glory in the life of every Bangalee. On this day in 1952, many valiant sons of the soil, including Rafiq, Shafique, Salam, Jabbar and Barkat, sacrificed their lives for protecting the dignity of the mother tongue.

I pay my deep homage to the memories of the martyrs. I also pay my deep respect to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had led the language movement and all other language veterans.

In 1948, State Language Movement Council was constituted comprising Tamuddin Majlish, Student League and other student bodies as per a proposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The council called a general strike on 11 March to realise the demand for recognising Bangla as the state language. Bangabandhu along with a number of student leaders was arrested on the day from in front of the Secretariat. They were released on 15 March. The Father of the Nation chaired a public meeting at Amtola on the Dhaka University campus on 16 March. The movement spread all over the country.

On 11 September 1948, Bangabandhu was arrested from Faridpur. He was released on 21 January 1949. He was again detained on 19 April and released at the end of July. On 14 October, Bangabandhu was again arrested from Dhaka and confined to jail. His undaunted inspiration from inside the jail provided new impetus to the people's movement. In continuation of the movement, the language martyrs sacrificed their precious lives on 21 February 1952 while breaking Section 144 imposed by the rulers.

The resonance of the pride of Amar Ekushey is now resounded in the hearts of the people of 193 countries surpassing the boundary of Bangladesh. The day has been reached to a new height when the UNESCO gave recognition to the 21st February as the International Mother Language Day on 17 November 1999 at the initiative of the then Awami League government and with the help of some expatriate Bangladeshis, including Salam and Rafiq. The International Mother Language Day is now a source of inspiration to all people of the world in establishing the truth and justice.

We have taken initiative to make Bangla, spoken by about 25 crore people of the world, as one of the official languages of the United Nations. I have already placed the demand before the UNGA. We established International Mother Language Institute to preserve the languages of the world and carry out research on those.

The greatest Ekushey is the symbol of our democratic values, Bangalee nationalism, spirit of liberation struggle and secularism. Awami League government has relentlessly been working to develop the country being imbued with the spirit of the great Ekushey and liberation war.

During the last 9 years, our government achieved desired progress in all sectors. Bangladesh is now a 'Role Model' for development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041, Insha Allah.

Let us work together with the spirit of the immortal Ekushey keeping aside all differences for the development of the country upholding the democratic value and build a non-communal, hunger poverty-free and happy-prosperous Sonar Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

I pray to the Almighty Allah for salvation of the departed souls of the Language Martyrs.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

21 February 2018

9 Falgun 1424

Message

Today is the great 21st February. We observe this day as the 'Shaheed Dibosh (Martyrs' Day)' at national level and as the 'International Mother Language Day' both nationally and internationally. I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar who laid down their lives for establishing the right of our mother tongue Bangla on 21 February 1952.

On this auspicious moment, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose charismatic leadership we carved out independent Bangladesh in the world map. I also recall the momentous occasion of 25 September 1974, when Bangabandhu gave his maiden speech in Bangla at the 29th session of the United Nations General Assembly and introduced Bangla anew to the global community.

UNESCO has been observing the International Mother Language Day around the world for nearly 20 years. This year UNESCO's theme for celebrating this Day is, 'Acting together for linguistic diversity and multilingualism'. Besides this, in 2018 UNESCO commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by boldly stating that no discrimination can be made on the basis of language. In this connection it is to be mentioned that the Bengalis protested the discrimination practiced by the then Pakistani rulers on the basis of race and language against the Bengali nation; and eventually the Bengalis organised the language movement in 1952.

In fact, the seed of an independent Bangladesh, underpinned by democracy and social justice, was sown in that historic struggle for mother tongue. Over time, we always return to 'Ekushey' to find an enduring source of strength and inspiration for our nation-building endeavors. This day has become synonymous to young generation as inspiration against unfairness, injustice, bigotry and fundamentalism as well as against terrorism and violent extremism. On this historic day, I extend my heartiest greeting to the Bangladesh Diaspora in all their efforts for upholding the spirit of Language movement and the glorious Liberation War.

With the great spirit of immortal Ekushey we will strengthen the hands of Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and engage ourselves to transform Bangladesh into a progressive, technology based, developed and proud nation in the light of 'Vision-2021' and Vision-2041 - let this be the pledge on this day.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

(Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Md. Shahriar Alam, MP
State Minister
মোঃ শাহরিয়ার আলম, এমপি
প্রতিমন্ত্রী



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

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Message

21st February, the great 'Shaheed Day' as well as the 'International Mother Language Day' is again at our door. The Bengali rebellious youths 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 Language movement acted as the backdrop and groundwork for our great Liberation War. Achievement and victory in this movement encouraged us to march towards independence. 1971 Liberation War is the beacon of conflagration and flame of rebellion in our mind ignited by the spirit of the 21st February.


On this auspicious day, with deep reverence, I recall our 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. After independence in 1972, Bangabandhu established Bangla as our state language and then on 25 September 1974 at the 29th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations he delivered his speech in Bangla for the first time and introduced Bangla anew to the world.

The 'Immortal Ekushey' of 1952 is now being observed as the 'International Mother Language Day' all over the world. UNESCO conferred this glorious recognition on 21 February and Bangla language in 1999 as a result of timely initiative and judicious leadership of the daughter of Bangabandhu Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with sincere efforts of some expatriate Bengalis.

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 the development of our motherland by sending invaluable remittance and brightening the image of Bangladesh globally by practicing Bangla 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 transforming Bangladesh as a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041 by implementing the development commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-let's make this pledge on this great day.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh live forever.


Md. Shahriar Alam, M. P