



Proclamation

WHEREAS, there are more than 6,000 languages estimated to be spoken in today's world. About half of these languages are under threat of disappearing forever; and,

WHEREAS, the existence of different languages in a culture allows us to gain a different perspective of its history and illuminates the outstanding ability of any culture to create communication; and,

WHEREAS, in order to recognize Bangladeshi students who made sacrifices to restore their mother language as their state language, International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21st every year, was launched at the 30th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, International Mother Language Day aims to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education, as well as increase awareness of linguistic cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance, and dialogue; and,

WHEREAS, in the constitution of Bangladesh, adopted in 1972, it is stated, "The Language of the Republic would be Bengali." In Bangladesh, efforts continue to be made to establish Bengali, the language in which famous poets Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam wrote, into all walks of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association of Greater Chicagoland (BAGC) has been a leading force in educating its community and will sponsor a celebration marking the anniversary of International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2018;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2018, as INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize the value that languages have in understanding our shared cultural history.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this ELEVENTH day of JANUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
EIGHTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundredth.*

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR