



পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

21 February 2022

Today is the great 21st February. I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar who sacrificed their lives for establishing the right of our mother tongue 'Bangla' on 21st February 1952.

We observe this day as the 'Shaheed Dibosh' at national level and as the 'International Mother Language Day' both nationally and internationally. On this auspicious occasion, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose legendary leadership through a systematic struggle for self-autonomy from 1952 to 1971, we achieved independent and sovereign Bangladesh based on language, culture and distinct identity. After independence in 1972, Bangabandhu established Bangla as our state language and then on 25th 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 language anew to the world. Bangabandhu's able daughter Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's timely initiative and leadership, with sincere efforts of some expatriate Bangalis, resulted glorious recognition of '21st February' as the International Mother Language Day by the UNESCO in 1999 to protect, preserve and promote native languages of the world that are dying. After this recognition, the 'Immortal Ekushey' is being observed as the 'International Mother Language Day' since 2000 all over the world.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been working relentlessly to turn Bangladesh into a developed country by the year 2041. Currently, even in Covid pandemic Bangladesh is marching forward with 6.94% GDP growth rate and US\$ 2,591 per capita income. Bangladesh is now recognized as a 'Role Model of Development'. I congratulate our expatriates for their invaluable contribution to our nation building process and for upholding the image and prestige of Bangladesh in foreign lands. We need to share the correct history including that of our Liberation War with our new generations and encourage them to learn the language for which the brave sons of our soil had made the supreme sacrifices.

On this auspicious day, I convey my warmest wishes to all Bangla speaking people around the world and people from diverse linguistic and cultural background. We will strengthen the hands of the daughter of Bangabandhu and engage ourselves to transform Bangladesh into a progressive, technology based, developed and respectful country- Let it be our pledge on this historic day.

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

Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP