



পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী  
FOREIGN MINISTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA

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MESSAGE

Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> February, the 'Shaheed Dibosh' and the 'International Mother Language Day'. On this day, we commemorate our unique struggles and sacrifices for establishing our inalienable right to our mother tongue Bangla. I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Jabbar, Barkat and Shafiur who laid down their lives for upholding the dignity of the Bangla language and right to mother tongue.

In 1999, two expatriate Bangladeshis took initiative to recognize 21st February our "Shaheed Dibosh" as the International Mother Language Day and with the proactive support of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the UNESCO recognized it with a view to protecting, preserving and promoting the native languages plus their accompanying cultures.

I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who steered our heroic struggle for freedom. Under his indisputable leadership we could finally attain independent Bangladesh. Bangabandhu was an ardent proponent of culture and identity of the Bangalis. He was actively engaged and played crucial roles in our language movement. He had proposed to form 'Rastrabhasha Sangram Parishad' in 1948 which had initiated the struggle for recognition of Bangla as a state language. During the period of language movement he had repeatedly been arrested. He strongly condemned the killing of protesters during the strike on 21 February 1952. Immediately after our independence, Bangabandhu established Bangla as our state language in 1972. He introduced Bangla to the global

community by delivering his maiden speech at the 29th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 1974 in Bangla.

Our Father of the Nation dreamt of a 'Sonar Bangla' -- a prosperous Bangladesh. Inspired by the vision of Bangabandhu, his able daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been leading the development pursuit of Bangladesh. Under her dynamic leadership, Bangladesh has been marching forward as a Role Model for the developing countries. Bangladesh has already become eligible for graduation to the status of Developing Country. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has aimed at transforming Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041. I hope all Bangladeshis both at home and abroad will help strengthen the ongoing peace and stability so that Bangladesh can reach its goal of Sonar Bangla by 2041.

I convey my warmest wishes to all Bangla speaking people around the world as well as people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Let's work together being imbued with the spirit of the language movement and the war of liberation in realizing Bangabandhu's dream of 'Sonar Bangla.'

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh live forever.



**(Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP)**