

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Message

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Today is the Immortal 21st February, the 'Shaheed Dibosh' (Language Martyrs' Day) and the 'International Mother Language Day'. On this great day, I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Shafiur and Jabbar who laid down their lives for establishing the right of our mother tongue Bangla on this day in 1952.

On this auspicious day, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bangali of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose charismatic leadership we got the independent sovereign Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had an outstanding contribution in organizing the language movement. He was active from the very beginning of the language movement in 1947 till the end. Bangabandhu was arrested on 11th March 1948 while observing the general strike demanding Bangla to be the state language. After independence, in 1972, Bangabandhu instituted Bangla as our state language. On 25th September in 1974, Bangabandhu delivered his maiden speech in Bangla at the 29th session of the United Nations General Assembly and dignified the Bangla Language in the world forum.

Today, I also pay my heartiest gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and expatriate Bangalis for their united efforts in promoting the issue of language movement to the global arena. As a result, UNESCO declared '21st February' as the 'International Mother Language Day' in November 1999 and the member states of the United Nations have been observing the day in a befitting manner since 2000. My special greetings go to the diplomats and staff working in Bangladesh missions abroad whose tireless efforts are there behind the successful observance of all national days including 21st February in other countries.

The government under the able leadership of the daughter of the Father of the Nation, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been working relentlessly to establish fundamental rights for all, ensure economic emancipation for the common people and raise their standards of living. Along with economic growth, Bangladesh has become a global role model for poverty alleviation, women empowerment as well as coping with climate change and curbing child mortality rate significantly. Our government has been working with a target to transform Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041.

I hope all Bangladeshis at home and abroad will work unitedly being imbued with the spirit of the language movement and the War of Liberation for transforming our motherland into 'Sonar Bangla' - a happy and prosperous Bangladesh that was dreamt by Bangabandhu.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh live forever.

(Md. Shahriar Alam, MP)