

*Embajada de
La República Popular de
Bangladesh
México*



*Embassy of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
Mexico City*

PRESS RELEASE

Unveiling of the Permanent Shaheed Minar in Napantla, Mexico

Mexico City, 09 November 2023

In partnership with the Government of Mexico and the local administration of the State of Mexico (Edomex), the Bangladesh Embassy celebrated the inauguration of a permanent replica of the Shaheed Minar at the Sor Juana Museum site in Nepantla, State of Mexico (EdoMex), situated to the south of Mexico City. This historic event took place on November 9, 2023, under the leadership of the Bangladesh Ambassador to Mexico, Abida Islam. Distinguished local dignitaries, including Secretary of Culture EdoMex Nelly Minerva Carrasco Godinez, Coordinator of International Affairs of EdoMex Pablo Montemayor Camacho, Director General of Amecameca Government Region Tonstih Martinez Mariscal, Director General of Cultural Heritage and Cultural Services of the Valley of the Volcanoes Estibaliz Aguayo Ortiz, Mayor of Nepantla Abelardo Rodriguez Garcia, President of Mexico-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group Deputy Rosalinda Domínguez Flores, and Member of Mexico-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group Deputy Jose Miguel de la Cruz Lima, also graced the occasion.

The ceremony commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by these esteemed dignitaries, followed by the placement of a floral wreath at the monument, paying homage to the language martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice during the 1952 language movement to secure recognition of Bangla as the state language. Additionally, a plaque bearing a QR Code, offering pertinent information about the Mother Language Day Movement, was affixed to the Shaheed Minar.

In the cultural segment of the event, an informative video was screened in the Sor Juana Museum's auditorium, shedding light on the historical context of Language Martyrs Day for the local dignitaries. Ambassador Abida Islam expressed profound gratitude to the Mexican Ministry of Culture, both at the central and local levels, Deputy Jose Miguel de la Cruz Lima, and the Bangladeshi expatriate community in Mexico for their invaluable support in acquiring the land and constructing the replica. Emphasizing the historical significance of the language movement, she underscored the importance of erecting the martyr's monument at the birthplace of Mexican icon Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, a 17th-century scholar of Spanish literature who utilized language as a means to advocate for women's rights. It's worth noting that the Embassy had previously unveiled a commemorative plaque for the language movement of Bangladesh in City of Santo Domingo in Petapa, State of Oaxaca in April 2023, with Deputy Rosalinda Dominguez leading the initiative.


During their speeches, Cultural Secretary Nellie Minerva, Mayor of Nepantla, Deputy José Miguel de la Cruz Lima, and Deputy Rosalinda Dominguez Flores paid heartfelt tributes to the courageous language martyrs. They commended the embassy's efforts to educate future generations about the Language Movement of Bangladesh and International Mother Language Day. Furthermore, they emphasized the global significance of preserving one's mother tongue for the sake of human identity, expression, and empowerment. They also expressed their unwavering commitment to safeguarding Mexico's rich diversity of 67 indigenous languages and voiced optimism that this replica would serve as a catalyst for cultural exchange and foster connections among the younger generations of both countries.

The event featured a captivating cultural presentation by the "Primero Sueno" Museum Cultural Group, consisting of students aged 9 to 11, who performed various pieces related to the 1952 Language Movement, leaving the audience spellbound.

Approximately 120 individuals attended the ceremony, which concluded with the sharing of traditional Bangladeshi cuisine, creating a delightful conclusion to this momentous occasion.



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