



OBSERVATION OF GREAT MARTYRS' DAY AND INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

21 February 2024

Embassy of Bangladesh, Stockholm



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Stockholm celebrated the Great Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day on 21st February 2024 with due solemnity.

In the morning, the flag was hoisted at half-mast at the Chancery and Bangladesh House. Later, on 24th February, the Embassy arranged a cultural program that was attended by Foreign Ambassadors, diplomats and other dignitaries of Stockholm.



On February 21st, 1952, during the Bengali Language Movement in the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Bengali-speaking students and activists were killed while demonstrating on the streets to establish the recognition of Bengali as the official language of the then East Pakistan. This movement symbolized the struggle for linguistic and cultural rights. Great Martyrs' Day honors those who sacrificed their lives for the Bengali language, emphasizing the importance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

In 1999, UNESCO proclaimed February 21st as International Mother Language Day, inspired by Bangladesh's experience. With one language lost every 14 days, the day highlights the need to preserve and celebrate mother languages as the richness of human heritage, promoting linguistic and cultural diversity globally.



