



Bangladesh observes International Mother Language Day, recalling language heroes



'Mohan Shaheed Dibash' (the Martyrs' Day) and the International Mother Language Day-2024 was observed in Bangladesh on February 21 by paying glowing tributes to the language martyrs.

The people from all walks of life paid homage to the memories of the language movement heroes, the valiant sons of this soil who made supreme sacrifice to establish the rights of the mother tongue, Bangla, on this day in 1952.

Thousands of people clad in black and white dresses especially traditional sharees and panjabees, who thronged the Central Shaheed Minar here since midnight to pay their glowing tributes to the 1952 language martyrs, also demanded for launching the Bangla at everywhere.

The day was also observed around the world as the UNESCO recognised the 21st February (Ekushey February) as the International Mother Language Day on November 17, 1999.

This year's theme of the day is "Multilingual education: a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning".

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the martyrs of the historic Language Movement by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka at one minute past zero hour, while the immortal song Amar Ekushey-"Amar Bhaiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February"- was played on the loudspeaker.

Later, Sheikh Hasina, also the President of the Awami League, along with senior party leaders paid homage to the language martyrs placing a wreath at the Shaheed Minar on behalf of her party.

Marking the day, the Central Shaheed Minar and its adjacent areas of the Dhaka University campus were decorated with street paintings and graffiti with Bangla alphabets and selected verses of eminent poets about the mother languages on the walls. The day was also observed at Bangladesh missions abroad in a befitting manner.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/174840>

President Shahabuddin, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pay homage to language heroes



President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the historic Language Movement marking the Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

Both the Head of the State and the Head of the Government paid homage by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city at one minute past midnight on February 21.

The President and the Premier proceeded to the altar of the Central Shaheed Minar together in slow pace while playing the historic immortal song on the Amar Ekushey "Amar Baiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February . . . Ami Ki Vulitey Pari ?"

President Shahabuddin was the first to lay wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar. Just after the President, the premier placed wreath at the Shaheed Minar. They stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the Language Heroes.

Later, the Shaheed Minar was opened to the public when hundreds of people from all walks of life walked barefoot with flowers in hands and humming "Amar Bhaiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February" to recall the supreme sacrifice of the language heroes on this day in 1952.

Source : <https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/amar-ekushey-president-pm-lead-nation-in-honouring-language-movement-heroes/131327>

President calls for proper practice, preservation of Bangla language, culture



President Mohammed Shahabuddin has emphasized the need for proper practice and preservation of the Bangla language and culture, saying that the spirit of Amar Ekushey is the incessant source of inspiration for protecting the own languages and culture of the people of different languages across the world.

"Nowadays, the spirit of Amar Ekushey is the incessant source of inspiration for the people of the world in protecting their languages and cultures. But we have to be more diligent in proper practice and preservation of Bengali language and culture," he said in a message on the eve of 'Shaheed Day' and 'International Mother Language Day 2024'.

"With the blessings of information technology, we are now the inhabitants of a global village," he said, adding that therefore, to maintain the pace of advancement in the developed world, the present generation has to be skilled in different languages which are recognized as international communication media.

Observance of the International Mother Language Day will play a positive role in the development and preservation of the country's own language as well as in building a sustainable future through multilingual education - this is the expectation, the head of the state said.

Embracing the spirit of Amar Ekushey, he said mutual respect should be awakened among the people of different languages and cultures of the world.

He urged all to build a colorful and developed world without discrimination.

"Today is 21 February, The great 'Shaheed Day (Martyrs Day)' and 'International Mother's Language Day'. On this memorable day, I recall Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiur and many unsung heroes of the language movement with deep homage who laid down their lives to establish the right of mother tongue Bangla," he said.

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day 2024, he extended his sincere greetings and congratulations to the people of various languages of the world, including Bangla and other ethnic groups.

President Shahabuddin said that February 21 has now been recognized by the United Nations as the 'International Mother Language Day' because of the spontaneous willingness and sincere endeavour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the primary efforts of some Bangladeshi expatriates in 1999.

"As a nation, it is one of the great achievements for us. It is a unique celebration in protecting mother tongue as well as our own culture and heritage," he said and urged all to uphold the glory and right of the Bangla language earned at the cost of the sacrifices and the blood of martyrs.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/174674>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets all on Int'l Mother Language Day



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has extended her sincere greetings to the people of all languages and cultures of the world, including Bangla on the occasion of the great Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day-2024.

"UNESCO and Bangladesh have been jointly celebrating this day with due dignity since 2000. I think this year's theme of the day-'Multilingual education: a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning,' is worthwhile," she said in a message on the eve of the day.

Noting that the importance of the language movement in the history of the Bengali liberation struggle is immense, the Premier said the foundation for a non-communal, democratic, language-based state system was laid through this movement.

On this day in 1952, she said, Abul Barkat, Abdul Jabbar, Abdus Salam, Rafiquddin Ahmad, Shafiur Rahman, and many others sacrificed their lives to protect the dignity of our mother language Bangla.

"I pay my profound respects to the memory of the martyrs of all languages, including Bangla and remember all the language movement activists, including the Greatest Bangalee of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose supreme sacrifices and struggle elevated the esteem of our mother, land, and people," she added.

Sheikh Hasina said the glorious history of the language movement of the Bangla from 1947 to 1952 is a source of inspiration in "our national life".

The Father of the Nation was repeatedly imprisoned for leading the language movement, she said, adding at the Education Conference held in Karachi on November 27, 1947, Urdu was decided to be the state language of Pakistan.

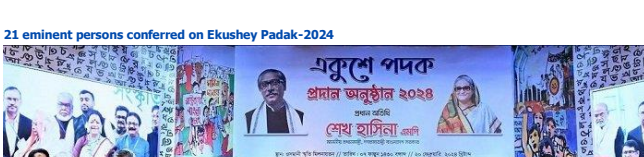
Mentioning that Bengali nationalism was established through the language movement, she said following the ideals of Bengali nationalism and the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, her government has made Bangladesh a role model for development in the world in the last 15 years.

Sheikh Hasina also vowed to transform the country into Smart Bangladesh by 2041 by bringing change towards Smart Citizens, Smart Government, Smart Economy, and Smart Society.

"In addition, we are also implementing Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100. I firmly believe that together, we will be able to establish the developed, prosperous, and self-esteemed 'Golden Bangladesh' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation," the Premier said.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/174678>

21 eminent persons conferred on Ekushey Padak-2024



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has distributed "Ekushey Padak-2024" among 21 eminent persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions to various fields on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

The premier handed over the Ekushey Padak, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh, at a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on February 20 as the chief guest, organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

This year two persons were conferred on the award in the Language Movement category, while one on making documentation on the Liberation War, 11 on Shilpakala (acting, music, recitation, arts and painting), two in social service, one on education and four on language and literature.

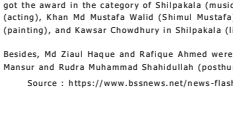
Moulavi Ashrafuddin Ahmad (posthumously) and valiant freedom fighter Hatem Ali Mia (posthumously) have been awarded in the Language Movement category.

Jalal Uddin Kha (posthumously), freedom fighter Kalyani Ghose, Bidit Lal Das (posthumously), Andru Kishore (posthumously) and Shuvra Dev got the award in the category of Shilpakala (music) while Shibli Mohammad in Shilpakala (dance), Dolly Johur and MA Alamgir in Shilpakala (acting), Khan Md Mustafa Walid (Shimul Mustafa) and Rupa Chakrabarti in Shilpakala (recitation), Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash in Shilpakala (painting), and Kawsar Chowdhury in Shilpakala (liberation affairs documentary and archiving).

Besides, Md Ziaul Haque and Rafique Ahmed were given the award in Social Service, while Muhammad Samad, Lutfor Rahman Riton, Minar Mansur and Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah (posthumously) in Language and Literature, and Professor Dr Jinabodhi Bhikkhu in Education.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/174511>

Efforts on to make Bangla UN official language: Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud



Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said Dhaka keeps continuing its efforts to make Bangla as an official language of the United Nations (UN).

"We know there are hurdles (to achieve the goal). But today, this is our dream to make Bangla as an official language of the UN," he said and paid deep respect to language heroes who made supreme sacrifice to establish the rights of the mother tongue, Bangla, in 1952.

The foreign minister was speaking as the chief guest at a programme on February 21 organized by the Foreign Ministry at Foreign Service Academy on the occasion of the 'Mohan Shaheed Dibash' (the Martyrs' Day) and International Mother Language Day.

Dr Hasan Mahmud recalled with deep respect the role of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the language movement in 1952 as a young leader.

The foreign minister also paid homage to Bangabandhu, his family members, and those who sacrificed during the War of Liberation in 1971. He also described how Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is taking forward the country to the next level of development.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen also spoke at the event where various foreign missions stationed in Dhaka performed. Foreign Service Academy Rector Mashfee Binte Shams, diplomats stationed in Dhaka and senior officials of the Ministry, and their children were present.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/top-news/174824>

International Mother Language Day observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observed "Mohan Shahid Dibosh" and the International Mother Language Day on 21 February by recalling the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement.

To commemorate the historic day, the Embassy arranged a daylong program by paying glowing tributes to the language heroes who laid down their lives in Dhaka 72 years ago to establish Bangla as the state language.

As part of the program, a colorful function was held at the auditorium of the Mission in the evening in the presence of ambassadors, diplomats from various countries, senior officials of the US government and the members of Bangladeshi diaspora.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran delivered the welcome remarks, while Mr. Scott Urbom, the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, the US Department of State, spoke at the function as the Guest of Honour.

In his remarks, Ambassador Imran paid deepest homage to the martyrs of the great Language Movement and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He described the spirit of great Language Movement as like a 'lighthouse' for Bengali nation and said that the rich Bangla language earned through the bloodshed of the language heroes could be a proper diplomatic tool to project Bangladesh in the international arena.

Holding the spirit of the great Language Movement and the War of Liberation, Bangladesh is marching forward fast with tremendous economic performance under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he said.

The Ambassador called upon the Bangladeshi diaspora in the USA to encourage the new generations to learn more about the rich Bangla language, culture and heritage.

Speaking at the function, Mr Scott Urbom said Bangladesh has been an important partner of the USA for over 50 years, investing billions of dollar in Bangladesh's health, education and other sectors. "We look forward to deepening the partnership with Bangladesh in the next 50 years and beyond," he said.

He said the Mother Language Day holds special place in the hearts of not only the people of Bangladesh, also the people of all over the world. He also mentioned the sacrifice of those heroes who shed blood to establish the nation of Bangladesh and preserve the Bangla language.

Mr. Scott Urbom said today Bangla ranks one of the most well-spoken languages in the world, and it is the testament to Bangla language's influence and importance of connecting Bengali speakers around the world.

Later, a spectacular cultural function was held where the Embassy Family, officials of the Foreign Service Institute, the US Department of State, as well as artistes from India, Nepal, Japan and Sri Lanka and a Bangladeshi cultural group performed captivating the audience with songs, group dance and reciting poems at the packed Bangabandhu Auditorium. Later the Ambassador handed over prizes among the winner of essay competition organized by the Embassy.

Earlier in the morning, a discussion session highlighting the significance of the glorious day was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium in the morning. Ambassador Muhammad Imran and Defence Attache Brigadier General Md Shahedul Islam took part in the discussion.

The program of the day commenced with the placing of a floral wreath at the altar of the Shaheed Minar by Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran on the embassy premises and bringing out a 'Probhat Ferry' with the participation of the officers, employees and their family members at one-minute past zero hour.

Other program of the day included ceremonial hoisting of the national flag at half-mast by the Ambassador in front of the Chancery and placing of a floral wreath at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the presence of the Embassy officials and employees, screening of a documentary and holding a special prayer.

The messages issued on the occasion by the Hon'ble President, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister were read out by Minister (Economic) Md Fazle Rabbi, Minister (Political) Md Rashedujjaman and First Secretary Wahiduzzaman Noor.

Counselor and Head of Chancery Shamima Yeasmin Smriti, First Secretary (Passport & Visa Wing) Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton and First Secretary Ataur Rahman conducted the daylong program.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/top-news/168580>