



DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION FOR
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
CHENNAI, INDIA



Celebration of International Mother Language Day in a multinational ambience

Press Release

Chennai, India, 21 February 2023

The 'Martyrs' Day of Bangladesh and the International Mother Language Day 2023' was observed in Chennai, India in a colourful and multicultural atmosphere. In association with diplomatic Missions in Chennai and Tamil Nadu Art & Cultural Department a scintillating cultural program was jointly staged at Kamrajar Arangam Auditorium, Chennai. In the cultural segment, various Missions in Chennai, namely Bangladesh, France, Japan, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka performed pieces in their own languages in line with the essence of the International Mother Language Day.

The event was graced by Dr. M M Ranjendran, former Governor, Dr. B Chandra Mohan IAS, Principal Secretary for Tourism, Culture & Religious Endowment and members of diplomatic communities. Apart from Consul Generals/ Deputy High Commissioners of Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Korea, USA in Chennai, the cultural evening was also attended by members of diplomatic communities in Chennai and high-level Government officials of Tamil Nadu, academicians, business community, representatives of civil society, media, and members of Bangladesh community.

The program started with welcome remarks by the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Shelley Salehin. He paid homage to the memories of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had steered the language movement from the prison cell, as well as to the language martyrs. He shed light on the significance of the day in the history of Bangladesh, while mentioning that 21st February is a gift from the Bangalees to the speakers, patrons and defenders of thousands of mother languages around the world as many of them are facing extinction. Moreover, he also emphasized on the importance of preserving the languages all around the globe. Gifts/ crests were distributed among the participants. High Tea were served.

A special program was also held at the chancery premises. The program started with observing one minute silence towards the memory of the Language martyrs. Then, the Mission officials read out of the messages from the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs on the eve of the 'Shaheed Dibosh and International Mother Language Day-2023'. This was followed by an open discussion on the importance and impact of the event in our national life. At the discussion, the undisputed leadership and contribution of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent country and rebuilding the war-ravaged country were recalled with profound respect. Moreover, the growth and development in the socioeconomic fields of Bangladesh that have and are taking place under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was also discussed. A special 'Dua' was performed at the end of the program.

Shelley Salehin

