

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

09 Falgun 1425  
21 February 2019

## Message

I would like to greet the Bangla-speaking people and people of all languages and cultures across the world on the occasion of the glorious Martyrs and International Mother Language Day.

The great Ekushey is the symbol of grief, strength and glory in the life of every Bangalee. On this day in 1952, many valiant sons of the soil, including Rafiq, Shafique, Salam, Jabbar and Barkat, sacrificed their lives for protecting the dignity of the mother tongue.

I pay my deep homage to the memories of the martyrs. I also pay my deep respect to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had led the language movement and all other language veterans.

In 1948, State Language Movement Council was constituted comprising Tamuddin Majlish, Student League and other student bodies as per a proposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The council called a general strike on 11th March to realise the demand for recognising Bangla as the state language. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with a number of student leaders was arrested on the day from in front of the Secretariat. They were released on 15th March. Bangabandhu chaired a public meeting at Amtola on the Dhaka University campus on 16th March. The movement spread all over the country.

On 11th September 1948, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was arrested from Faridpur. He was released on 21st January 1949. He was again detained on 19th April and released at the end of July. On 14th October, Bangabandhu was again arrested from Dhaka and confined to jail. His undaunted inspiration from inside the jail provided new impetus to the people's movement. In continuation of the movement, the language martyrs sacrificed their precious lives on 21st February 1952 while breaking Section 144 imposed by the rulers.

The resonance of the pride of Amar Ekushey is now resounded in the hearts of the people of 193 countries surpassing the boundary of Bangladesh. Some expatriate Bangladeshis living in Canada including Salam and Rafiq took initiative for recognition to the 21st February as the International Mother Language Day.

The then Awami League government placed the demand to the United Nations. Therefore, the UNESCO gave the recognition to the 21st February as the International Mother Language Day on 17th November 1999. The International Mother Language Day is now a source of inspiration to all people of the world in establishing the truth and justice.

We have already placed the demand before United Nations to make Bangla, spoken by over 26 crore people of the world, as one of the official languages of the UN. We established 'International Mother Language Institute' to preserve the languages of the world and carry out research on those.

Holding the spirit of Ekushey and war of liberation, our government achieved huge progress in every sector including macro economy, agriculture, education, health, communication, information technology, infrastructure, power, rural economic development, diplomatic success and cooperation during the last 10 years. Bangladesh is now a 'Role Model' for development in the world.

The people made Bangladesh Awami League victorious in the recent 11th parliamentary elections. We will fully honour the huge mandate that the people of our country have given us. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041, InshaAllah.

Let us build a hunger-poverty-free and happy-prosperous Sonar Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation being imbued with the spirit of the great Ekushey.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina