



High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh
1100-350 Sparks Street,
Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8, Canada
Tel: 613-236-0138/9, Fax: 613-567-3213
E-mail: mission.ottawa@mofa.gov.bd
Webpage: www.bdhcottawa.ca

Press Release

Subject: Canadian Parliament Passed the International Mother Language Day Act: Bill S-214

Today, the Canadian House of Commons passed the Bill S-214 on International Mother Language Day (IMLD) Act. By adopting this Bill, Canada would now officially honour IMLD on 21st February every year. It is a historic moment for Bangladeshi-Canadians and the proponents of mother tongues globally.

On this happy and joyous occasion, we gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Late Rafiqul Islam, Abdus Salam and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for getting the International Mother Language Day adopted by the UNESCO in 1999 and later by the UN. We also recognize the contribution of Mr. Aminul Islam to take the initiative to get the Bill S-214 passed by the Canadian Parliament.

H.E. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada, was present at the House of Commons during the discussion and passing of the Bill. The Hon'ble Ken Hardie MP, who introduced the Bill to the House also recognized the presence of the High Commissioner in the House of Commons. Another great proponent of the Bill, the Hon'ble Mobina S Jaffer, Senator, who led the passing of the Bill earlier by the Canadian Senate, was also present in the House of Commons with the High Commissioner.

After the passing of the Bill Hon'ble MPs, including the Hon'ble John Aldag MP and Senators congratulated the High Commissioner. The Opposition CPC Leader was also present in the House when the Bill was passed.

We acknowledge the initiative and contribution of the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society and it's President Mr. Aminul Islam to persist with the Bill S-214 with the Hon'ble MPs and Senators for almost a decade. H.E. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada has been working closely with the Hon'ble Senators and MPs in coordination and collaboration with Mr. Aminul Islam to get the Bill S-214 passed by the House of Commons for last two years.

Adoption of the Bill S-214 highlights Canada's commitment to linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. The bill recognizes that language is an essential aspect of one's identity and cultural heritage, and linguistic diversity should be celebrated, promoted, and preserved.

30 March 2023



‘মুজিববর্ষের কূটনীতি, প্রগতি ও সম্প্রীতি’
‘Mujib Year's Diplomacy, Friendship & Prosperity’