

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

21 February 2019
9 Falgun 1425

Message

Today is the great 21st February, the 'Shaheed Dibosh' and the 'International Mother Language Day'. This day we commemorate the unique struggle and sacrifice we had made for upholding our inalienable right to our mother tongue, Bangla. On this great day, I remember with profound respect all language martyrs including Rafiq, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar who laid down their lives for establishing the right of our mother tongue Bangla on 21 February 1952.

On this auspicious moment, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bangalee of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who steered our epic struggle for freedom. Under legendary leadership of Bangabandhu through systematic struggle for self-autonomy, we attained independent Bangladesh based on language, culture and distinct identity. After independence, Bangabandhu established Bangla as our state language in 1972 and then introduced Bangla to the global community on 25 September 1974 at the 29th session of General Assembly of the United Nations.

In fact, the seed of an independent Bangladesh, underpinned by democracy and social justice, was sown in that historic struggle for mother tongue. Over time, we always return to 'Ekushey' to find an enduring source of strength and inspiration for our nation-building endeavors. This day has become synonymous to young generation to be inspired against unfairness, injustice, bigotry and fundamentalism as well as against terrorism and violent extremism. On this historic day, I extend my heartiest greetings to expatriates for their efforts for upholding the spirit of Language Movement and the glorious Liberation War.

Bangabandhu dreamt for a modern developed Bangladesh. Inspired by the vision of our founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his daughter, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has been leading the development pursuit of Bangladesh since her assumption to power in 2009. The people of our country reinforced their confidence on her with massive public support on the general election on the 30 December 2018.

As a result of pragmatic initiatives taken by the Awami League government, now Bangladesh has been transformed into a vibrant economy. Currently, Bangladesh is marching forward with more than 7.86% GDP growth rate. On one hand, while Bangladesh is now recognized as a 'Role Model of Development' on the other hand it has been steadily achieving successes, earning many international awards and accolades. As a consequence, the United Nations has recently announced Bangladesh's eligibility for graduation to the status of 'Developing Country' from 'Least Developed Country' category. By successful launching of Bangabandhu-1 satellite- the first Bangladeshi geostationary communication satellite, we have embarked to communication technology to a new height.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina aims at becoming an upper middle income country by 2021 and developed country by 2041. She helps to realize Bangabandhu's dream "Sonar Bangla", a prosperous, exploitation free, just and developed country Bangladesh. On this historic day of shaheed Dibosh, let us all vow to transform Bangladesh into a prosperous, technology based, developed Sonar Bangla.

**Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever**

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP