

Joi Bangla

Ekushey of Bangla
Ekushey of the World

Special Supplement

THE IMMORTAL 21ST FEBRUARY
INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAYক আ চ হ ত আ
ই অ ই জ হ ই অ
স এ এ এ এ এ এ

7th December 1999

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জাতি

রাষ্ট্রপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
ঢাকা
২৩ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪০৬
০৭ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৯

বাণী



বাংলি জাতির অভিযান একুশে ফেরুয়ারী আজ সারা বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন ভাষাভাষী মানুষের অভিযানের পরিপন্থ হয়েছে। মাতৃভাষার জন্য বাংলি জাতির আদ্বান বৃথা যায় নি, ইউনেস্কো কর্তৃক আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসের সীরুতির মধ্য দিয়ে তা আরো ভারব হয়ে উঠেছে। এ ঘোষণাকে উৎসবের সাথে পানের উদ্যোগকে আমি বাঙ্গত জানাই।

আমি এ উৎসবের সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি

স্বাক্ষর
বিচারপতি সাহাবুলীন আহমদমন্ত্রী
শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগ
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাণী

১৯৭১ সালের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের পর বাংলি জাতি ধাপে ধাপে অনেক বিজয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক সীরুতির অর্জন করেছে। এরমধ্যে ইউনেস্কো কর্তৃক একুশে ফেরুয়ারী আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষিত হওয়ার ঘটনা, এ জাতির সংজ্ঞানী এতিহেসের এক বড় পাওয়া বলেই মনে করি।

দুলিয়ার আর কোন জাতি ভাষার জন্য রক্ত দেননি। বাংলি তার মাতৃভাষার মর্যাদার প্রশ়্না যে লড়াই সংঘটিত করেছিল, মাতৃভাষার প্রতি শুক্ষালীন সকল জাতি-গোষ্ঠীর কাছেই এটা এখন অনুপ্রবর্গের বিষয়।

বিশ্বের মানুষ এখন থেকে প্রতিবেদন একুশে ফেরুয়ারিতে বাংলি জাতির মাতৃভাষা ভালবাসার গীর্ধা ত্বরণে এবং নিজেরাও উত্সুক হবে। এবং একই সঙ্গে ছেট-বড় সকল জাতি-গোষ্ঠীর মাতৃভাষাই মর্যাদার সহে সহাবত্বাল করবে।

বাংলাদেশের অন্তর্গতের এই উৎসবের দিনে প্রাক্তর সাথে স্বরণ করাই সকল ভাষা শহীদদের এবং সকল ভাষা সৈকিকদের, যাদের তাগ-তিক্তকর বিমিময়ে এই মহান অর্জন সর্বজাতি ও গোষ্ঠীর সম্পন্নে পরিপন্থ হয়েছে।

অয় বাংলা, অয় বস্বন্ত
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীৰী হোক2/12/1999
(এ এস এইচ কে সাদেক)International Mother Language Day:
Background and Foreground

—Dr Syed Anwar Husain

17 November 1999 would ever remain one of the major turning-points not only in the annals of the peoples of the world with their four-thousand or so mother-languages, but also in those of the Bengalees who inhabit the independent state of Bangladesh. For reasons more than one, it is the Bengalees who are entitled to take pride in the historic decision of UNESCO on this day.

Despite the fact that this UNESCO decision recognises all the mother languages across the world the Bengalees, for obvious circumstantial reasons, can smugly make a check-list of the gains they have garnered because of the decision. The day 21 February would henceforth be observed as the International Mother Language Day, but the rest of the world would now have to reckon with the fact that this day belongs to the legacy of the valiant language — martyrs of Bangladesh. On this day, in 1952, about half a dozen young souls fell to the indiscriminate police-firing for their demand to make Bangla (a language spoken by 54 per cent of the then Pakistani citizens) one of the state languages of Pakistan. But the blood thus spilt was not in vain; in 1956, the first constitution of Pakistan recognised this demand. Today, especially after the historic UNESCO decision of 17 November, these language-martyrs must be turning in their graves with elation and jubilation as their dear mother language has been recognised by the world-body along with other mother languages. For these language-martyrs the emergence of independent Bangladesh twenty-eight years back was an earlier cause for jubilation; for, Bangladesh had emerged out of Bengali nationalism the well-spring of which was the Bengali language. For the present generation of Bengalees who have benefitted out of the fruits of sacrifices of the language-martyrs the instant reaction to the UNESCO decision may be likened to the one which considers conquering the whole world in a big battle, albeit without firing a single shot. The

immortal 21 February would no longer be the legacy entwined only with the Bengalee nation, the whole world would have to partake of the same.

This UNESCO decision taken at the fag end of the waning millennium and at the threshold of the new one

and aspirations find expression. In the post-Cold War era, and thus in a sea-changed world, dominant cultures are driven and represented by their absolute control over dominant capital. Indeed, the contemporary world order is shaped and conditioned by this internationalisation of

mind Professor Samuel P. Huntington, while reviewing the past-Cold War world scenario, came up with the controversial observation relating to an ensuing clash of civilizations'. He would have been more apt had he characterised this clash as one of cultures. In this context, the UNESCO decision recognises multiculturalism; and thus is meant to negate possibility of a conflictual cultural scenario across the world. The context of this decision becomes more apparent when it is taken into consideration that the twenty-first century has already been recognised as one of culture by the world community. As against the Huntingtonian prognosis of clash of civilizations' we have now the counter-hypothesis of dialogue of civilizations' proffered by the Iranian President Khatami and eloquently endorsed by the UN Secretary General Kofi Anan. But while suggesting such a positive deeper perspective of the UNESCO decision it is in no way meant that in the new millennium the world would be an idyllic abode for the homo sapiens free from the aberrations that have characterised their life and times during the passing millennium. The fate of the dominated nations by the stronger nations would remain unchanged as long as the former remain economically and thereby politically vulnerable. But like all the well-meaning catalysts this UNESCO decision, backed as it is by an apparent pious wish, deserves to be viewed with a positive perspective.

Bangladesh takes pride in that it is the Bangladesh effort that bore fruit in the form of the UNESCO decision. In the past, this nation shed blood for securing one of the state languages status for their mother language. Now this very nation, through an intensive diplomatic endeavour, has, along with other languages of the world, achieved a world status for its mother language — Bangla. This new pride of the Bengalee nation is institutionally represented in the Bangla Academy—an institution that owes its origin in the blood of the language-martyrs.

has a significance deeper than is commonly assumed. It is apparently a recognition of the languages spoken across the world. But deep down the words of the decision there lies the implicit fact that this is also a recognition of cultures other than the dominant ones. As anywhere in the world language is the medium through which culture or cultural attributes

capital. But as against this apparent domination there is also discernible trend of the dominated world's (i.e. the Third World) autonomy assertion vis-a-vis the world order. For obvious reasons this autonomy assertion does not carry any meaning economically, politically, and even militarily, but culturally this is indeed prominently discernible. Keeping such a context in

France and Permanent Representative to UNESCO Syed Moazzem Ali was given the responsibility to move the proposal in the Commission. I was worried that I might miss the crucial moment of moving the proposal. Thanks to the time taken in debating other proposals, tabling of this proposal was delayed. I could as a result, join the Bangladesh delegation in Commission II before the proposal was moved by Syed Moazzem Ali. In addition to myself the other

members of Bangladesh Delegation present in the session were Prof. Saidur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof. Kafuddin Ahmed, Secretary UNESCO National Commission of Bangladesh and Iktiar Chowdhury, Counsellor, Bangladesh Embassy in Paris. Mr. Tony (Tozammel) Haque, Special Advisor to DG UNESCO was also with us.

Ambassador Ali did his job well. He prepared the state-

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21st February as the International Mother Language Day:
How We Did it and How We Felt about it

by Dr. Saadat Husain

It was 12 November '99. Commission-II of the 30 General Conference of UNESCO was in session. The proposal to establish the universal Mother Language Day on 21 February would be tabled soon. It was to be tabled on the previous day, but was not done because of time constraint. We, the members of Bangladesh Delegation to the Conference were excited and anxious about the outcome. Intense lobbying under the leadership of

Bangladesh Education Minister Mr. A. S. H. K. Sadique continued for a considerable period of time. In his address as the Leader of Bangladesh Delegation the Minister explained the importance of the 21st February and urged the fellow delegates to proclaim this day as the International Mother Language Day. The Bangladesh Embassy in Paris worked hard to muster support for the proposed resolution from the member

states of the Conference. As a result twenty-eight countries including Pakistan agreed to formally support the proposal. Having stayed in Paris for about ten days the Minister returned home. It was my turn to join the Bangladesh delegation as its Deputy Leader. On the eve of my departure for the Conference in Paris, the Education Minister briefed me about the proposal. He was hopeful that the proposal had high odds of getting accepted

in this Conference despite opposition from some quarters on the pretext of additional financial burden that they argued would be involved in the process. He also monitored the development from Dhaka on a regular basis. A few minutes back I had to withdraw from the Commission II's session because I went to the Plenary to vote for the election to UNESCO's new Director General. Our Ambassador to

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Joi Bangabandhu

পত্রিকা

প্রধানমন্ত্রী
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার১৮ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪০৬
০২ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৯

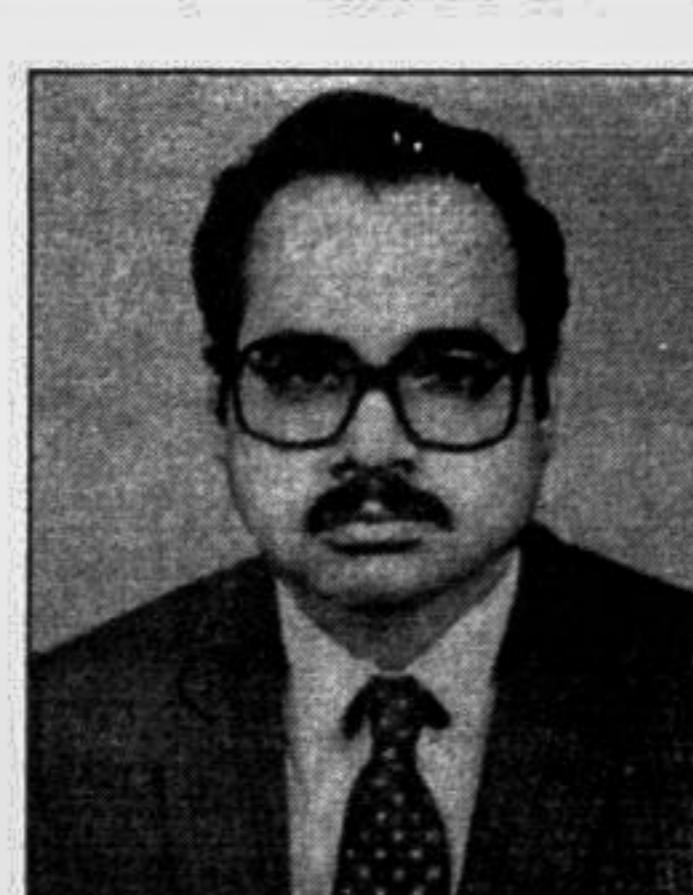
বাণী

অয় বাংলা, অয় বস্বন্ত
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীৰী হোক

শেখ হাসিনা

সচিব
শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ঢাকা

বাণী



ইউনেস্কোর ১৮ষ্টি সদস্য রাষ্ট্রের সর্বসমত্ব সমর্থনের মাধ্যমে অবৰ ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারিকে 'আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস' হিসেবে ঘোষণা করে উদ্বোধন করে। আগমী শতাব্দীর ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারী মাতৃভাষা দিবসের সময় মাতৃভাষার অধিকার এবং সকল ভাষার সম্মতি প্রদর্শন করে।

মাতৃভাষার অধিকার রক্ষণ বায়ুন্তর একটি অসম্ভব ক্ষমতা হচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশের জন্য এটি এক অসম্ভব অভিযান। ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারী মাতৃভাষা দিবসের সময় মাতৃভাষার অধিকার এবং সকল ভাষার সম্মতি প্রদর্শন করে। একই সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থা অন্যান্য দেশের অবস্থার মধ্যে পৃথক পৃথক অবস্থা হচ্ছে। এখন থেকে বাংলাদেশের সকল ভাষার সম্মতি প্রদর্শন করে। একই সঙ্গে বাংলাদেশের অবস্থা অন্যান্য দেশের অবস্থার মধ্যে পৃথক পৃথক অবস্থা হচ্ছে। এখন থেকে বাংলাদেশের সকল ভাষার সম্মতি প্রদর্শন করে।

অক্ষয় রকিবউল্লেখ আহমদ