Special Supplement

21 February 2001

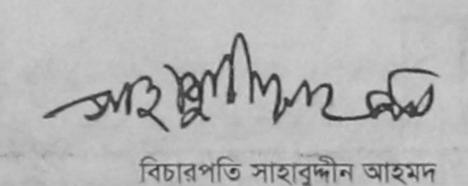
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## রাষ্ট্রপতি গণপ্ৰজাতন্ত্ৰী বাংলাদেশ ০৯ ফারুন ১৪০৭ २১ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০১ বাণী

ঐতিহাসিক ভাষা আন্দোলনের শহীদদের অমর স্মৃতির প্রতি আমি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই এবং তাঁদের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা করি।

একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারীকে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে ঘোষণা ও সারা বিশ্বে দিনটি এখন আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে পালনের মধ্য দিয়ে মাতৃভাষার প্রতি বাংলাদেশের মানুষের গভীর ভালবাসা ও এর জন্য তাদের চরম আত্মত্যাগের স্বীকৃতি প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। আমাদের মাতৃভাষার এ গৌরবে আমরা সবাই গর্বিত।

মহান একুশের চেতনা আমাদের সাহিত্য, সংস্কৃতি ও রাজনৈতিক পরিমণ্ডলে দৃশ্যমান। জাতীয় এ ধারাকে বেগবান করার জন্য সবাইকে আমি উদ্যোগী হওয়ার আহ্বান জানাই।



# In Quest of the Identity of Ourselves

ast year I had an 130 distinguished celebrities thoughtful. of the country were invited to the phases of the session to highlight our history and tradition, art and culture,

50's through 1971. I dis- 1952. The whole question of they found themselves cussed the role played by the Press that helped development of mass consciousness for our liberation.

When we talk liberation, we must start from the movement for language, which was, in fact, the very identity of ourselves and the starting mark of our struggle for self rule. It is evident that Pakistan was founded by the vote of majority Muslims of Bengal. Only excepting in Bengal, Muslim League won in none of the provinces Pakistan consists of. They did not win in Panjab, Sindhu, Baluchistan or in Frontier.

The question, naturally, was language was never easy. nowhere in Pakistan they opportunity of dis- that why and how the peo- Despite the fact that found. Mr. Zinnah apcussion with the fresh ple of Bengal got disgusted Pakistan was founded on pointed trainee officers of the with Pakistan they brought the basis of two-nations Nazimuddin as the Chief Foreign Ministry in a ses- about through their ballot? theory, on the idea that the Minister of East Bengal the sion organised by my good I put the same question be- Muslim is a different nation, friend Mohiuddin Ahmed. fore the trainee officers that, the chief aspiration of the We understand as many as I am sure, made them Muslim of Bengal was only

to stage a self-assertion.

#### Bazlur Rahman

democracy and struggles for If we take a time fifty years They thought that they were set to dominate in the liberation. I chose back, in the very initial days would be able to develop and Civil Service as much as in 'Liberation and Newspaper' of Pakistan, Muslim League establish themselves under the army and in trade and as my subject of discussion, had to face a widespread the umbrella of a free state commerce. In East Pakistan that included not only the movement just based on named Pakistan. But the priority and preference were time of liberation, but the language question. It dissolution did not take given to the Bihari era previous to that, from started in 1948 and ended in long. In one fine morning Immigrants in those sec-

eastern part of Pakistan. who did not even speak Bangla, and thus subtracted the most popular leaders including Shere-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq and Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi, Non-Bengalees



অমর 'একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারি ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস' বাংলা ভাষাভাষী জনসাধারণের জীবনীশক্তি ও প্রেরণার এক অखरीन উৎস, ১৯৫২ সালে বাঙালি জাতির গৌরবময় ভাষা আন্দোলনের স্থৃতি-সারক। মাতৃভাষার অধিকার ও মর্যাদা প্রতিষ্ঠার সংগ্রামে বাঙালি জাতির বিপুল ত্যাগ পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসে বিরল। এ দিবস বাঙালির জাতীয় জীবনে শোক ও গৌরবের এক অনন্যসাধারণ মহাকাব্যে পরিণত হয়েছে। মহান ভাষা আন্দোলনের অকুতোভয় সৈনিক রফিক, শফিক, জব্বার, বরকত, সালামসহ নাম না জানা অগণিত শহীদের আত্মত্যাগ বাঙালি জাতিকে বিশ্বসভায় আলোকিত আসন দান করেছে। আমি তাদের পবিত্র স্থৃতির প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা নিবেদন করছি।

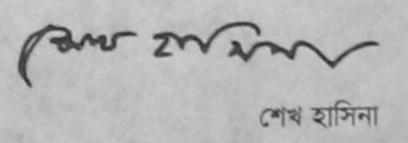
নতুন সহস্রাব্দ ও একবিংশ শতাব্দীর উষালগ্নে বাঙালি জাতির রক্তস্নাত ইতিহাস ও ঐতিহ্যের অহঙ্কার অমর একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারি আজ 'আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস' হিসেবে বিশ্বসভায় স্বীকৃতি লাভ করেছে। এর মাধ্যমে বাঙালি জাতির বিজয়গাথা সমগ্র বিশ্বকে আপ্রত করেছে। আমাদের একুশের চেতনা আজ বিশ্বময় মাতৃভাষা দিবসের চেতনায় রূপান্তরিত হয়েছে। বাঙালির গৌরব একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারি এখন পৃথিবীর সকল দেশে পালিত হচ্ছে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে।

মাতৃভাষা বাংলা প্রতিষ্ঠার দাবিতে ১৯৫২ সালের একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারিতে এদেশের দামাল ছেলেরা বুকের রক্তে ঢাকার রাজপথ রঞ্জিত করেছিল। ব্রিটিশ ঔপনিবেশিক শাসন অবসানের পর পাকিস্তানি ঔপনিবেশিক, স্বৈরাচারী, সাম্প্রদায়িক ও সামরিক শাসকগোষ্ঠী বাঙালির মাতৃভাষার অধিকার হরণের যে দুরভিসন্ধিমূলক প্রয়াস শুরু করেছিল, এদেশের জনসাধারণ তার বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিবাদে গর্জে ওঠে। তরু হয় ভাষা আন্দোলন। আমাদের মহান নেতা জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর त्रश्मान जात्मालत त्नज्जु फिर्ज शिरा कातावत्र करतन। काताखताल थ्याक जासा जारमान्त जिन विनष्ठ ज्याका পালন করেন এবং এর সাথে একাত্মতা ঘোষণা করেন।

একুশের পথ ধরেই শুরু হয়েছিল বাঙালির স্বতন্ত্র জাতিসত্তা অর্জনের অগ্রযাতা। চুয়ানুর নির্বাচন, পাকিস্তানি সামরিক স্বৈরাচারের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন, ছয় দফা ও এগার দফা তথা স্বাধিকারের আন্দোলন, উনসত্তরের গণঅভ্যুত্থান, একাত্তরের মুক্তিযুদ্ধে পাকিস্তানি হানাদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে বাঙালি জাতির বিজয় অর্জন এবং বিশ্বময় বাঙালির গৌরব ভাষা আন্দোলনের স্বীকৃতি সে অগ্রযাত্রারই সাফল্যগাথা ও গর্বের ইতিহাস। মহান ভাষা আন্দোলনের বিমূর্ত চেতনাই দক্ষিণ এশিয়ায় একমাত্র ভাষাভিত্তিক রাষ্ট্র হিসেবে স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশের অভ্যুদয় অনিবার্য ও বাস্তব করে তোলে

মহান 'একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারি ও আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস' উপলক্ষে উচ্চশিক্ষা, গবেষণা, শিল্প, সাহিত্য, সংস্কৃতিসহ জীবনের সর্বস্তরে মাতৃভাষার চর্চা ও সকল দেশের জাতীয় जीवत माज्ञायात जन्मीलन, श्राया ७ श्रमात घिरा, পৃথিবীময় মাতৃভাষার উৎকর্ষ সাধনের মাধ্যমে একুশের শহীদদের প্রতি সর্বোচ্চ শ্রদ্ধা প্রদর্শনের জন্য আমি দেশবাসী ও বিশ্ববাসীর প্রতি উদাত্ত আহ্বান জানাই।

> জয় বাংলা, জয় বন্ধবন্ধ বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক



convenor of the Council.

Shamsul Hug, Sheikh

### The Significance and Relevance of the International Mother Language Day

nternational Mother Language Day is being celebrated all over the world today. The UNESCO General Conference took a decision to that effect on 17 November 1999 when it unanimously adopted a draft resolution submitted by Bangladesh and cosponsored and supported by 28 other countries. The celebration of International Mother Language Day on Twenty-First (or Ekushey) February is a befitting tribute to the martyrs of our language movement. Ekushey February, our Mahan Shaheed Dibash. has a unique significance in the history of our country. On this day in 1952 martyrs had laid down their lives for our mother language-Bangla. This event is unprecedented in contemporary history. Father our nationhood.

As we honour our martyrs on this day, we take a vow to preserve and enrich our language-Bangla, the language of more than 200 million inhabitants of the world. As the pioneer of this draft resolution. Bangladesh has committed herself not only to protect her own language but also to honour the 6,000 other Mother languages currently spoken. The proclamation of the Day by UNESCO con-

fers a sacred responsibility on us and we should work collectively to uphold the great honour and dignity bestowed on our national by the world.

We may ask ourselves why mother languages should be preserved. As our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has astutely

through our mother tongue. We express our feelings through languages. The language I understand of the world and draws the the best is my mother language." In other words, mother language is one of the most appropriate means to assert one's identity. The dissemination of mother languages encourages lin-

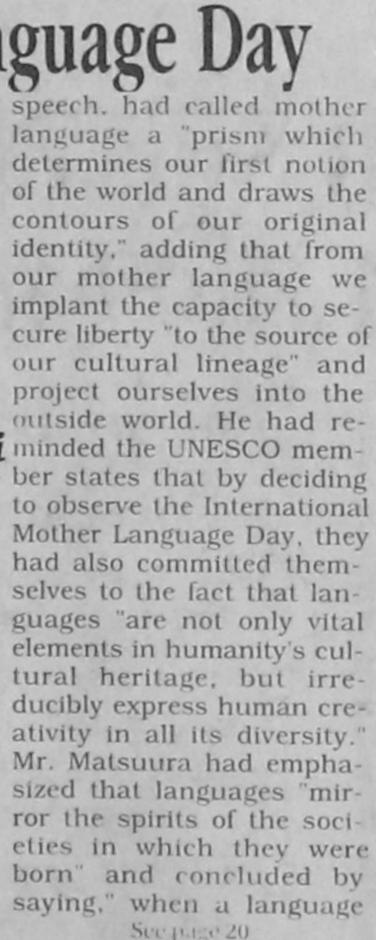
guistic diversity and multilingual education, and creates fuller awareness about linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world. As history has shown, linguistic differences do not cause wars, intoler, ance does. In fact, respect for each other's language inspires international solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

of the Nation Bangabandhu The International Mother Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Language Day had been who had played a pivotal, formally launched on this role in our Language day last year by the Movement, had always at- UNESCO Director-General tached special importance Koichiro Matsuura through to this glorious chapter of an impressive ceremony at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris. The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in his message on this historic occasion, had emphasized his belief that the observance of the day should create greater awareness about the "distinct and enduring" value of language is an "essential component of identity and a means by which we find our place in the world." While at the danger that many existing languages might disappear soon, the UN dignity of mother tongue. international community to protect the languages.

The UNESCO Director-

"common heritage of

determines our first notion contours of our original identity," adding that from our mother language we implant the capacity to secure liberty "to the source of our cultural lineage" and project ourselves into the outside world. He had re-Syed Muazzem Aliminded the UNESCO member states that by deciding to observe the International Mother Language Day, they had also committed themselves to the fact that languages "are not only vital elements in humanity's cultural heritage, but irreducibly express human creativity in all its diversity." Mr. Matsuura had emphasized that languages "mirror the spirits of the societies in which they were born" and concluded by



# International Mother Language Day: Our Glorious Pride

and sovereign state on the chant ships of Bangladesh Allahabad. A proposal was 16th of December, 1971 used to cross the Indian adopted to make Urdu the achieving absolute victory ocean. The East India language of whole India at over the occupied Pakistan Company occupied this rich the 25th session in forces. The dream and country through a conspir- Lucknow in 1937. Urdu will aspiration for freedom, acy. Those who are ac- be the state-language of Percentage of people of which the Bangalee nation quainted with the colonial Pakistan, had to cherish for one thoulanguages and the fact that sand years became a reality on that day after the supreme sacrifice of three exploitation in Indian sub- Khalequzzman declared in 6.1%, Urdu-5%, Sindhi- Efforts to write Bangla in million people. The nation continent certainly know his presidential speech on 4.8% and English-1.4%. Urdu alphabets are encourhad to sacrificed a lot not how the Bangalee's crafts- the 7th of May, long before The student community of aging'. expressing his deep concern only to earn the indepen- manship, trade, commerce the 14th of August, 1947 Dhaka irrespective of opindence, but also for estab- and industrial infrastruc- when Pakistan became an ion and belief strongly Movement Council was lishing democracy and ture of this land were de- independent state. In July, protested the statement of

and prosperous land at-"redouble its efforts" to tracted foreigners, both from the East and the West which he termed the throughout the ages and (Masizuddin Ahmed). they invaded this beautiful Bangladesh was not inriverine country land as the cluded in the proposed inmigratory birds from Siberia dependent state conceived

angladesh emerged have warmth and fooding. the 23rd seession of the All as an independent In the mediaeval age, mer- India Mulsim League in

#### Asad Chowdhury

observed, We learn to speak General, in his inaugural come here every winter to by Allama Iqbal in 1930 at

stroyed. In this backdrop, the Vice Chancellor of Governor General and de-Chief had urged the The country, being a fertile mysticism, fatalism, and a Aligarh University Dr. bondage-free culture de- Ziauddin Ahmed also gave veloped which became the his opinion to make Urdu Bangalee's lone shelter' the state language of Pakistan. After the independence. Pakistan's founder and Governor General Mahammad Ali Zinnah also repeated the

same sentiment on the 21st of March, 1948. Leading intellectual Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah and author Abdul Haq refuted and protested the statement strongly in their writings.

Choudhury various mother tongue in 1951 after the death of manded to make Bangla, the mother tongue of majority people as the state language of Pakistan.

on the 16th of October. Shamsul Hug was selected

Pakistan at that time was as Liaquat Ali Khan. He defollows: Bangali-54.6%, clared, "Urdu will the state Punjabi-27.1%, Pastu- language of Pakistan.

State Language formed on the 2nd of March, 1948 at the initiative of East Pakistan Muslim Student League, Tamuddun Majlish and representatives from student hostel of Khawaja Nazimuddin of Dhaka University. A meet-Bangladesh (then East ing of the Council was held Pakistan) became the on that day with Kamruddin Prime Minister of Pakistan Ahmed in the chair.

Mujibur Rahman, Oli Ahad, Shawkat Ali and Kazi Golam Mahbub were arrested on the 11th of March and as a result it was declared to observe the day as the state language day. Gana Azadi League, Tamuddun Majlish and Pakistan Democratic Youth League took many steps to carry forward the language movement. It may

Mymensingh were taking See page 20

be mentioned that Tebhaga

movement in North Bengal.

Nankar rebellion in Sylhet,

Tanka rebellion in