This demand for "Bangla" as the State language of Pakistan was the foundation stone for the Language Movement, which led towards the birth of a Bangali Nation Bangladesh. He was the first to plead for Bangali Nationalism in a formal way. The price was his life!

After the pronunciation of the historic demand for Bangla as the State Language within a fortnight on May 11th 1948, Language Day was observed in the then East Pakistan. The spirit of movement was installed and the process continued. The momentum reached its height on 21st February 1952, where thousands of patriotic students participated in a big demonstration in Dhaka. Many were shot and killed by the ruling regime. They valiantly offered their lives for Bangla as the State Language and became Shaheeds (Immortal). That very incident became the milestone of the Language Movement, and the process of movement continued.

At the age of 85, he was picked up by the Pakistani Army from his Comilla residence in the dead of night on March 29, 1971 along with his son, Shaheed Dilip Datta, who was also tortured in front of his father and killed.

Shaheed Dhirendra Nath Datta was taken to the Mainamati Cantonment. Between arrest and his subsequent murder, he was brutally tortured for about a fortnight and blinded. He was beaten mercilessly. They broke his arms and legs and crippled him. He couldn't walk. He crawled in the prison cell. That also did not satisfy the Pakistani Army. His whole body was charged with bayonet stabbing; blood oozed from him. They did not spare his head either, it was full of bruises and deep cuts. Finally they blinded him by bayonet charges. After continuous torture, as a cripple and a blind man, he was dragged by a rope to a nearby ditch in the hills of Mainamati and was shot and killed. They covered the ditch with red soil of Mainamati, where he lies eternally.

Pakistan never forgave him for demanding "Bangla" as the State Language of Pakistan. That very incident of 25th February 1948 in the Constituent Assembly of Karachi haunted the soul of Pakistan for 23 years.

Shaheed Dhirendra Nath Datta did not die; a Shaheed never dies. He offered his life for creation of a new nation Bangladesh. His blood engraved for eternity 'Bangla' as the State Language for the New Nation Bangladesh. His existence lives through the birth of a new nation Bangladesh! ■

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