Celebration of a new year

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"Here I am- this is me
There's nowhere else on earth I would rather be."

It's an inexplicable bliss and like the songster I would also like to reiterate my desire to stay in this rightful place rather than elsewhere in the earth. Shinning rapture in young mind, childish enthusiasm surmount the melancholy of old days and juvenile exuberance synchronizes with the excerpt from the songster,

"It's a new world- It's a new start
It's alive with the beating of young hearts
It's a new day- It's a new plan."

It's a new day, the first day of the sojourn on a new year- a dewdrop in the flow of eternity. It is animate with the beating of young hearts imbued with exultance. Pictorial embellishments and cultural programs reflect the festive mood of the day. The spontaneous rush of people and merry movement of children give animation to the day.

Pahela Baishakh-one of the most widely celebrated days in our country features different programs including Panta Ilish and Baishakhi Mela. Early in the morning on the day people congregate in different programs. Cacophonous orchestration of sounds emanating from mikes and buzz of voices emerging from congregations fill the air. Rallies launched by different organizations add to the observations on the day. People from all classes rush to commercial exhibitions and relish the celebration of the day.

Pahela Baishakh-one of the oldest traditions celebrated in our country is inseparably entangled with our entity. It is a reflection of liberty, equality and fraternity and an expectation of people for the persecution of evil or demonic haunt in the year.

When will Bangla become the medium of Education?

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But, if we consider the above matter pragmatically we shall find some dire issues hovering around us which deserve immediate concentration. If Bangla is made the medium of education, students will face some grave problems particularly at the tertiary levels. First problem is the unavailability of resource, research and reference books in Bangla language. Because, most of the informative and useful books required for higher education are written in English. Second problem is that students do not have required command over English language. As a result, most of them are unable to use English books to search out information to transfer in Bangla. These problems may be plausible but not unsolvable. We have to learn from countries like China, Japan, Korea, Iran, etc where English is not the medium of their education nor do they lament for any foreign language. In every country mentioned above has a Bureau of Translation the task of which is to translate important books published in the four corners of the world within the shortest possible time.

Now, it is imperative for the government to take initiatives without further delay to establish a Bureau of Translation to translate all sorts of important books written in English, French, Russian, Japanese Arabic etc, into Bangla language and to make them accessible to the students. In this connection, the Bangla Academy and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh can render great contributions. If the government took this type of initiative even ten years ago, ten years would be saved from the stipulated time to make our mother tongue as the medium of education. Side by side, universities should establish institutes like IML (Institute of Modern Languages) as we see at Dhaka University and Chittagong University to offer courses on different languages which will help the students have confident access to the vast realm of knowledge.

Therefore, we hope that the authority concerned would realize the magnitude and magnificence of our mother tongue and state language Bangla. We also eagerly wait to see all the necessary and prerequisite issues be sincerely addressed and accomplished. Though it is a time consuming project, it is not impossible and we must start somewhere. In his essay "Je bishoita headmaster nije podan (the Subject that the Headmaster himself teaches) notable intellectual and academic Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury rightly says- the known world becomes unknown when we know it through a language which is not ours..."

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