

The institute is working towards promoting Bangla and preserving endangered languages. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

larger scale human civilisation will be the sufferer because we will never come to know about the knowledge, wisdom, and culture of that language."

The institute began its journey on 10 January, 2011, with a view to conduct research on different languages of the world including Bangla, develop and promote Bangla within and outside the country, collect, preserve and research languages of ethnic minorities, research on language movements, publish and upgrade dictionaries of different languages and introduce writing system for illiterate languages.

"Our main objective is to build this institute as a language planning and management academy and equip it as a higher studies research centre," summarises Dr Ali. "Language planning entails converting illiterate languages to literate languages," he says explaining that literate languages have writing system while illiterate ones don't. "Developing a language means introducing a writing system for that language," he adds saying that it is the responsibility of people of literate languages to develop a writing system for languages that lack this aspect. Referring to the language policy of the government and the need for use of standard language, Dr Ali says that monitoring and follow up on implementation of the language policy will fall under the management function of the academy.

"Language is called the tangible and intangible phenomenon of culture," Dr Ali says referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Linguistic Rights and Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Our National Education Policy aims to provide primary education to children of indigenous and ethnic minority groups in their mother languages, which is a fundamental right. "How would you provide education to children in languages that are not literate?" he asks. Dr Ali informs that many textbooks have been published this year in the languages of the ethnic minority groups. Explaining the basic components of language – phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, he emphasises the need of analysing and describing a language before devel-

The institute also plans to provide scholarship to researchers and scholars who can associate themselves to the institute's area of work.