

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

the Heian period (794-1185). *Kimigayo wa, Chiyo ni yachiyo ni...* (May your reign, Continue for a thousand, eight thousand generations, Until the pebbles, Grow into boulders, Lush with moss...)

- Malaysia (1957): Negaraku (My Country) in Malay. *Negaraku, Tanah tumpahnya darahku...* (My country, The land where my blood has spilt, The people living united and progressive, May God bestow blessing and happiness...)
- Maldives (1972): Qaumiisalaam (National Salute) in Dhivehi (Maldivian language). *Gaumee mi ekuverikan mathee thibegen kureeme salaam...* (We salute you in this national unity. We salute you, with many good wishes in the national tongue, Bowing the head in respect to the national symbol. We salute the flag that has such might...)
- Nepal (2007): Sayaun Thunga Phool Ka (Hundreds of Flowers) in Nepali. *Sayaũ thũgā phūlkā hāmī, euṭai mālā nepālī...* (Woven from hundreds of flowers, we are one garland that's Nepali, Spread sovereign from Mechi to Mahakali, A playground for nature's wealth unending, Out of the sacrifice of our braves, a nation free and unyielding)
- Pakistan (1954): Qaumī Tarāna (National Anthem) in Urdu. *Pāk sarzamīn šād bād kišwar-ē ḥasīn šād bād...* (Blessed be the sacred land, Happy be the bounteous realm, Thou symbol of high resolve, O Land of Pakistan!)
- Saudi Arabia (adopted in 1950 with no lyrics, and then again in 1984 with lyrics): As-Salam Al Malaki (The Royal Salute) in Arabic. *Sār'ī, Li-l-mağdi wa-l-'alyā'...* (Hasten, To glory and supremacy, Glorify the Creator of the heavens!)
- Sri Lanka (1951): Sri Lanka Matha (Mother Sri Lanka) in Sinhala. *Sri Lanka Matha, apa Sri Lanka, Namo Namo Namo Namo Matha...* (Mother Lanka we salute Thee!, Plenteous in prosperity, Thou, Beauteous in grace and love, Laden with grain and luscious fruit...)
- United States of America (1931): The Star-Spangled Banner. O say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

Had we not become independent in 1971, where would we be as a Bangalee nation?

Can you see the spirit of *Aamar Sonar Bangla* breathing in each and every national anthem?

We are citizens of one world, entwined in love for common gifts of our Creator, and yet divided by greed, hatred, jealousy...