

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

২১ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৪

21st February 2014

বাংলাদেশ হেরিটেজ এন্ড
এথনিক সোসাইটি অব আলবার্টা

Bangladesh Heritage &
Ethnic Society of Alberta (BHESA)

Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta
BHESA





Message from Delwar Jahid, President, BHESA

International Mother Language Day annually celebrates by The United Nations' (UN) on February 21. It recalls events of movement in which campaigned to official use their mother language, Bengali, in Bangladesh. The killing of four students on February 21, 1952, prompted nationwide protest that eventually became the foundation of freedom in Bangladesh.

It is difficult to say how many languages are there in the world? It's about 5 billion! From an unknown source it was found that ..."each of us talks, listens, and thinks in his/her own special language that has been shaped by our culture, experiences, profession, personality, mores and attitudes. The chances of us meeting someone else who talks the exact same language is pretty remote".

Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta (BHESA) has been in the vanguard to provide quality Community Services in Edmonton. It has been promoting language diversity and variety in Alberta, Canada.

The Office of Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, wishes enjoyable celebration of International Mother Language Day. In a Message from Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Alberta, states "International Mother Language Day", also known to many as Shohid Dibôsh, recognizes the significance of language within our global cultural mosaic and advocates for multilingual education and tolerance. Throughout history many individuals have fought to defend linguistic rights and freedoms, and on this day we must take time not only to celebrate linguistic diversity but also to honour their struggles. Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC Premier of Alberta recognizes the importance of IMLD and mentioned "Alberta is a province that cherishes its cultural diversity, and the preservation of mother languages is essential for multicultural societies." In a separate Message to BHESA Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture said "In Alberta and throughout the world, IMLD is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity.

As a province home to individuals of many backgrounds, this occasion also offers Albertans an opportunity to recognize the diversity we have here at home and to encourage our residents to preserve or learn their mother tongue".

We are proud to say that Hon. Naresh Bhardwaj, MLA Edmonton-Ellerslie, M. Sohail Quadri (PC) MLA for Edmonton-Mill Woods, Mr. David W. Atkinson, President, MacEwan University, Amarjeet Sohi, representative of Edmonton City Council and Professor Dr. Olenka Bilash, Member and North American representative, Advisory Board, UNESCO's Linguapax expressed their strong support and solidarity to the BHESA's campaign.

Multilingualism is our partner in safeguarding the quality of education for all, in promoting accumulation and opposing discrimination. Constructing genuine dialogue is principle on respect for languages. Each demonstration of a better life, each development goal is articulated in a language, with specific words to bring it to life and converse it.

We to protect our Languages and protect ourselves. Multilingualism is a living resource; and for the benefit of all let us use it in our society.



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



February 21, 2014

Message from the Prime Minister

I am delighted to extend my warmest personal greetings to members of the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta as you observe International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day, first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999, is an occasion to promote multilingualism and multiculturalism. With our tremendous cultural and linguistic diversity, this celebration holds special significance for Canada. In addition to our two official languages, and the mother tongues of our First Nations, millions of Canadians proudly preserve the language of their country of origin in their homes and communities.

For Canada's Bangladeshi community, February 21st also marks the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh. On this special day, I am pleased to join you in recognizing a defining moment in Bangladesh's history and your community's invaluable contributions to Canada's proudly pluralistic society.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada*



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5K 2B6



Message from Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC Premier of Alberta

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to recognize the importance of International Mother Language Day.

Alberta is a province that cherishes its cultural diversity, and the preservation of mother languages is essential for multicultural societies.

The historic event in Bangladesh that led to the creation of this special day highlights the value that language plays in our lives. It is a part of our individual identity, a connection to our communities, and an important part of our cultural heritages. By encouraging Albertans to maintain or to learn their mother languages, we are demonstrating our commitment to multiculturalism while ensuring an even more inclusive and welcoming community for all.

My thanks to the Bangladeshi Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta for your work promoting the importance of this day.

Best wishes for your continued success!

Alison M. Redford, QC

February 21, 2014

Alberta



Message from the Speaker

Language embodies our cultural reality. "International Mother Language Day", also known to many as Shohid Dibôsh, recognizes the significance of language within our global cultural mosaic and advocates for multilingual education and tolerance. Throughout history many individuals have fought to defend linguistic rights and freedoms, and on this day we must take time not only to celebrate linguistic diversity but also to honour their struggles.

When we unite in recognition of mother languages, we cultivate understanding and inclusive societies, ensuring a world rich with cultural experiences for generations to come.

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, I want to congratulate and thank the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta for marking this important occasion. Thank you for your continued support of language and cultural diversity in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly
MLA, Edmonton Mill Creek



ALBERTA
CULTURE

*Office of the Minister
Responsible for the Francophone Secretariat
MLA, Edmonton - Glenora*



Message from Honourable Heather Klimchuk Minister of Culture

As Minister responsible for culture in Alberta, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to everyone commemorating International Mother Language Day.

The late Nelson Mandela once wrote, "Without language, one cannot talk to people and understand them; one cannot share their hopes and aspirations, grasp their history, appreciate their poetry, or savor their songs." In Alberta and throughout the world, International Mother Language Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity. As a province home to individuals of many backgrounds, this occasion also offers Albertans an opportunity to recognize the diversity we have here at home and to encourage our residents to preserve or learn their mother tongue.

I want to thank members of the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta for your work throughout the year promoting Bangladeshi heritage and traditions, and for helping to raise the profile of International Mother Language Day in our province.

Best wishes for a wonderful celebration!

Heather Klimchuk
Minister

**Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta
Greetings from Honourable Naresh Bhardwaj
MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie**



As the MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie, I am honoured to extend my best wishes to you and your families as we wrap up another year and look forward to 2014.

I am pleased to support your organization as you strive to provide cultural and social interaction for the families and individuals of the Bangladeshi community and offer a variety of programs and services to its members. The association has been actively building communities since 2009 through volunteer and cultural activities.

It is one of the Alberta government's goals to ensure that everyone in this province feels a sense of inclusiveness and pride regardless of their background. And, it is through great efforts of organizations like the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta that makes attaining this aspiration possible.

I would like to thank all of those involved that have worked continuously to build community spirit and keep the Bangladeshi heritage flourishing in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Naresh Bhardwaj
MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie



**SOHAIL QUADRI, MLA
EDMONTON – MILL WOODS**

Greetings to BHESA on organizing "International Mother Language Day"

It is a pleasure for me to extend greetings on behalf of Premier Alison Redford and all of my colleagues at the Alberta Legislature to Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta-BHESA for organizing the landmark event in Edmonton to celebrate "International Mother Language Day".

Bangla is among the six most spoken languages in the world and your association's efforts in promoting the language sets a great example in encouraging Albertans to engage and learn their mother languages.

We have committed to building vibrant, engaged communities in Alberta, where citizens have a strong sense of the past, face the future with optimism and get the most out of life each and every day.

I want to congratulate the team of BHESA and the community at large for Celebrating this occasion and helping our province to further achieve the goal of diversity, inclusiveness and multiculturalism.

**Sohail Quadri, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Woods Constituency Office
101, 9807 - 34 Ave Edmonton, AB, T6E 5X9
Ph: 780-414-1000 edmonton.millwoods@assembly.ab.ca**





February 17, 2014

Subject: International Mother Language Day

On behalf of MacEwan University I would like to express my support for International Mother Language Day. MacEwan University recognizes the importance of diversity in the community it serves and strives to be a hub of creative scholarly and cultural activity.

I applaud the role of the Bangladesh Heritage and Ethnic Society of Alberta and it is a privilege to host International Mother Language Day on our City Centre Campus.

Sincerely,

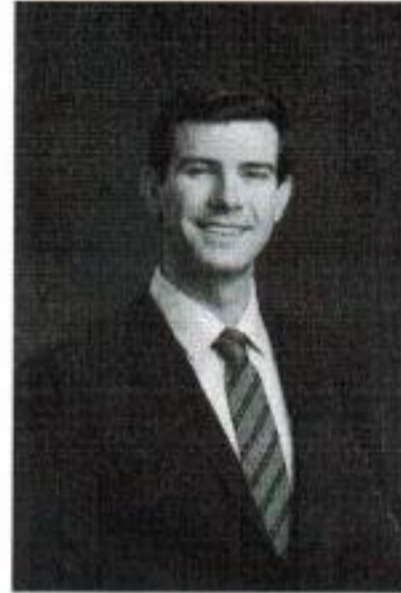


David W. Atkinson

President



**Message from His Worship
Mayor Don Iveson**



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, it's my pleasure to help commemorate International Mother Language Day.

Language is the most powerful way to preserve customs and traditions throughout the world, and the ability to speak in one's mother language is a right. When mother languages are taught to our young people, they grow up with a rich sense of their heritage and learn the value of other cultures. Linguistic and cultural diversity represent universal values that strengthen our communities and help to make our city a more dynamic, vibrant place to live.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Iveson". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Don Iveson
Mayor



Bangla Language Movement to International Mother Language Day

When the British left in 1947, Indian subcontinent was divided into India and Pakistan based on religion only. The two parts of Pakistan, West Pakistan (present Pakistan) and East Pakistan (present Bangladesh) were too far from wings separated by India in the middle, nine hundred miles apart with lot of cultural and linguistic differences.

Although Bangla language was the majority among both West and East Pakistan especially in East Pakistan but majority people of west Pakistan speaks Urdu therefore West Pakistani influence tries to establish Urdu language as the official language for both West and East Pakistan and through the trail from that the first government general of Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Ali Zinnah (A origin of West Pakistan) declared that Urdu will be the only official language for both East and West Pakistan during his visit in the Dhaka University of East Pakistan, at that very moment student of Dhaka University protest against this declaration. On 31st January 1952 an all party committee of action decided to hold a general strike on 21st of February when the East Pakistan parliamentary assembly was due to meet. February 20, 1952 an order under section 144 prohibiting procession and meeting in Dhaka city was promulgated, this ordered generated tension and resentment among students. On the next day February 21st, 1952, students of the Dhaka University decided to defy the section 144 and procession were taken out to stage a demonstration in front of the provincial assembly. Police started lobbing teargas shells and drive the crowd toward the nearby campuses of the Medical and Engineer colleges. Police open fire in front of the medical college hostel and a number of students were killed. The news of killing spread like wildfire throughout the city and people rushed toward the medical college premises, thousands of men and women from the university area gathered to offer prayer for the victims. After

prayer when they went for procession, the police again open fire and many more got killed. Through the night of 23rd February student of the Dhaka medical college student constructed “Shaheed Sreeti Stambho” (A monument in the memory of martyrs). In the next 48 hours government took extreme measures by deploying military and police, almost all the students and political leaders associated with the language movement were arrested.

It was the first and only events in world history where people sacrificed their lives to save their mother language. To commemorate this movement and the fallen one “Shaheed Minar” (a symbolic sculpture) was erected in the place of the massacre and every year since 1952, the citizens of Bangladesh have been commemorating the martyrs’ day or Mother Language Day on February 21st; it is celebrated as a major national holyday in Bangladesh. Each year on 21st of February starting from early morning, millions of peoples walk barefoot to pay their respect to the martyrs at the “Shaheed Minar”. The language movement had a major cultural impact in Bangladeshi society. It has inspired the development and celebration of the Bangla language, literature and culture.

UNESCO comprehend language is the most powerful instruments for preserving and developing our heritage. All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues, serves to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education. It develops awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity among nations. UNESCO promotes mother tongues based multi lingual approaches in education and attempts to protect language from extinction. In reference to this motto, responding to a proposal from Bangladesh, in November 1999 UNESCO declared 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. The decision was pioneered by two Canadian immigrants from Bangladesh; Mr. Rafiqul Islam and Mr. Abdus Salam. In its resolution UNESCO said, 21st February is proclaimed International Mother Language Day throughout the world to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives on this very day in 1952.

By_



Shahid Hassan

ভাষা আন্দোলনের স্মৃতিচারণ

ভাষা সৈনিক মুহাম্মদ সিদ্দিক হোসেন

পাকিস্তানের জাতির পিতা কায়দে আজম মুহাম্মদ আলি জিন্নাহ মৃত্যুর কয়েক ঘণ্টা আগে তার ডাক্তার এর কাছে তিনি শিকার করে ছিলেন যে জীবনে দুইটা ভুল তিনি করে ছিলেন। তার প্রথমটা হলো লাহোর প্রস্তাব অনুযায়ী প্রত্যেক ইউনিটকে স্বায়ত্ব শাসন না দেয়া এবং বাংলাভাষাকে পাকিস্তানের অন্যতম রাষ্ট্র হিসাবে গ্রহন না করা। একথা অনস্বীকার্য যে এই দুই ভুলের মাসুল স্বরূপ আজকের স্বাধীন সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ।

বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীন হওয়ার পূর্ব থেকেই (১৯৩৫) রাষ্ট্রভাষা নিয়ে চিন্তাবিদরা চিন্তা ভাবনা শুরু করেছিলেন তবে আন্দোলন শুরু হয় ১৯৪৭ এর ৭ই ডিসেম্বর থেকে। ১৯৪৭ এর ৫ই ডিসেম্বর করাচীতে এক শিক্ষা সন্মেলনে উর্দুকে পাকিস্তানের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্র ভাষা করার সিদ্ধান্ত হয়। এই সিদ্ধান্ত পূর্বপাকিস্তানে ছাত্রদের মধ্যে তীব্র ক্ষোভের সৃষ্টি করে এবং ৭ই ডিসেম্বর ঢাকা শহরের বিভিন্ন স্কুল কলেজের ছাত্ররা বিখ্যাত আমতলায় প্রতিবাদ সভা করেন। সভাপতিত্ব করেন অধ্যাপক আবুল কাশেম। সভাশেষে ছাত্ররা প্রতিবাদ মিছিল বের করে ও সচিবালয় গিয়ে নূরুল আমিন, হামিদুল হক চৌধুরী সহ কয়েকজন মন্ত্রীর সাথে সাক্ষাৎ করেন। মন্ত্রী নূরুল আমিন প্রতিজ্ঞা করেন বাংলাভাষা রাষ্ট্র ভাষা না করতে পারলে তিনি মন্ত্রীত্ব ছেড়ে দিবেন। সেইদিনই মিছিল করে ছাত্র-জনতা খাজা নাজিমুদ্দিনের বাসার দিকে যায় এবং মৌলভী ফরিদউদ্দিন ও আরো দুইজন সহ খাজা নাজিমুদ্দিন সংগে দেখা করে রাষ্ট্র ভাষা বাংলা করার একটি লিখিত প্রতিশ্রুতি আদায় করেন। এ আনন্দে কয়েক মাস কেটে গেল।

কিন্তু গণ পরিষদ এ ভাষার দাবী গৃহিত না হওয়ায় ক্ষোভের আগুন আবার ও জ্বলে উঠলো। এর ফলে রাষ্ট্রভাষা সংগ্রাম পরিষদ ১১ ই মার্চ ১৯৪৮ সারা দেশে ধর্মঘট আহ্বান করে।

আমি ও আমার সহযোগীরা অর্থাৎ রাজশাহীর ছাত্র সমাজ ধর্মঘট পালন করি। একমাত্র অমুসলিম ও অবাঙ্গলী ছাত্র ছাড়া ভাল সাড়া পেয়েছিলাম।

পাকিস্তানের প্রথম দিকে অমুসলিমদের সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে মতামত প্রকাশ করা সহজ ছিলো না। চাকুরীজীবীদের কাছ থেকে সহানুভূতি পেলে ও সহযোগিতা পাইনি।

কায়দে আজম মুহাম্মদ আলি জিন্নাহর পর খাজা নাজিমুদ্দিন ২৬শে জানুয়ারী ৫২ পল্টনের এক জনসভায় পুনরায় ঘোষণা করেন “উর্দুই হবে পাকিস্তানের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রভাষা। এর আগ পর্যন্ত প্রতি বছর ১১ মার্চ রাষ্ট্রভাষা দিবস উদযাপন করতাম। ২৭শে জানুয়ারী ’৫২ কলেজ ইউনিয়নের জি, এস এর আহ্বানে আমরা একটি প্রতিবাদ সভার আয়োজন করি। এবার বেশ সাড়া পাওয়া গেল কিন্তু আলীগড়ি পায়জামা পান্জাবী ও জিন্নাহ ক্যাপ পড়া মুসলিম লীগারদের দেখা যায়নি।

এর পর মর্মান্তিক ঘটলো ঢাকায়, রক্তাক্ত ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারীতে। আমরা ভোরে ইট দিয়ে হোস্টেল গেটে শহীদ মিনার তৈরী করলাম যা পুলিশ এসে ভেঙ্গে দিলো। স্কুল কলেজের ছাত্ররা আবারো প্রতিবাদ মিছিল বের করে ভূবন মোহন পার্কে শোকসভা ও শহীদের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা করে। সেদিন সন্ধ্যায় সরকার চালিত আরবী অক্ষরে বাংলা লেখার স্কুল বন্ধ করে দেয়া হয়।

আমি সেই বছর প্রবেশিকা পরীক্ষার্থী ছিলাম। সরকারের বিরোধিতা করায় কতৃপক্ষ ক’মাস আগে আমাকে হোস্টেল থেকে বের করে দিয়েছিল। ২২ ও ২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারীতে মোট ৫জন ছাত্র গ্রেফতার হয়েছিলো। এরপর থেকে প্রতি বছর ২১শে ফেব্রুয়ারী মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে পালিত হয়ে আসছে। কাল পরিক্রমায় তা আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস হিসেবে পালিত হতে শুরু করেছে।

BHESA honored with Ekushe Heritage 2014

The **BHESA** introducing Ekushe Heritage Medal of Honor Awarded for the personal acts of the ability & willingness to work in the fields of education, social-work, and community services in Alberta. Those who have made outstanding contributions to those fields or to other significant organizational endeavors.

The recipients of award for this year are:

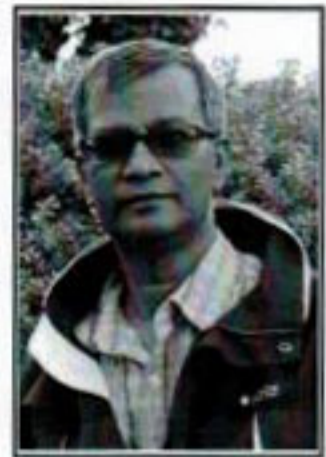


Mohd. Siddique Hossain (Language Movement Participant) For his participation in the Language Movement of 1952 in former East Pakistan, he joined that movement advocating the recognition of Bengali language as an official language of Pakistan. The movement that reached climax when police killed student demonstrator that day...he was a hero who survived... He was ex- president of Bangladesh Canada Association of Edmonton (BCAE). Siddique Hossain is well respected in the community for his contribution to the society for over 4 decades of voluntary work, who stated his life as a school teacher in Bangladesh.

Dr. Mohd. Nurul Islam (Education and Community Service) is an educationalist, serving MacEwan University since July 1998, prior to that he taught many other universities i.e. Dhaka University, National University of Singapore, Dalhousie University, Memorial University, University of Northern British Columbia. He was ex- president of Bangladesh Canada Association of Edmonton (BCAE) and founder of Edmonton Bangla School. Member of the board of trustee in Edmonton Islam Academy from January 2008 to November 2010. Continue contributing to our community with dedication and sincerity.



Dr. M Hafizur Rahman (Research and Community Service) First Class 1st in B. Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. in Botany University of Dhaka. Teaching as a Lecturer and Assistant Professor at University of Dhaka (1982-1987). Ph. D. obtained from University of Calgary. Post-Doctoral Fellow and then Research Associate at University of Alberta since 1994. Have over 50 research publications in international journals and book chapters. Member of Azad Boys Club in Dhaka premier league that won many league and tournament championship/runners-up trophies during 1973-1978. Former President of Bangladesh Canada Association of Edmonton (BCAE), serving the community more than 18 years with devotion to social work.



Shahid Hassan (Organization and Community Service) Founder President of Bangladesh Cultural Association of Edmonton (BCAE) that renamed to Bangladesh Heritage & Ethnic Society of Alberta (BHESA). Three Terms – President of BCAE / BHESA - Since 2010 -2012. Ex-Chair of Bangladesh Pavilion at Edmonton Heritage Festival (2011). Additional Director of Alberta Progressive Conservative Party (PC) – Edmonton – Ellarslie (2010 -2013), Serving Community near 10 years with his strong ability to organize and enthusiasm to volunteerism.

Tajul Ali (Community Service) Ex-President of BHESA (2013), Ex. Vice President of BHESA (2012), Ex- Chair of Bangladesh Cultural Association of Edmonton, Ad-hoc Committee, Ex-Chair of Bangladesh Pavilion at Edmonton Heritage Festival (2013) and Serving the Community with highest commitment over 17 years.



Mohammad Ismail (Community Service) Served under Bangladesh Navy (Engineering Branch since 1976-1981. Automotive Journeyman with Inter-provincial Certificate & currently, serving under Airport Terminal Services of Edmonton. Ex- Vice President of BCAE (2010) Ex- Vice President of BCAE (2011), Serving Community with utmost devotion over 25 years.

মাহিনুর জাহিদ
মেমোরিয়াল
ফাউন্ডেশন

Mahinur Jahid Memorial Foundation



Mahinur Jahid, was born on June 15, 1984 & died in a tragic car accident at Lloydminster on January 4, 2012.

The life which is unexamined
is not worth living. – Socrates

Mahinur conquer anger,
dismay and dissatisfaction...
always loyal and respectful to
his parents & relationship!

We watched how the whole
world fall apart...even at the
last moment of his departure
when he gives a smiling
goodbye...

We pay our respect to the
language martyrs of Bangla-
desh.

MAHMOODUR RAHMAN

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