



*Consulate General of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh
Sydney*

Press Release

The Consulate General of Bangladesh observed Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day and pays homage to the language martyrs

21 February 2021, Sydney:

The Consulate General of Bangladesh in Sydney observed the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day 2021 in a befitting manner with due solemnity and fervour. The day commenced in the morning with the hoisting of the national flag at half-mast at Bangladesh House, Sydney.

A discussion meeting and cultural event was organized in the afternoon at the chancery premises in presence of a capacity crowd within the limitation of the COVID-19 restrictions. The programme commenced with the recitation from the holy scriptures. A minute of solemn silence was observed in memories of the language martyrs. In his remarks, the Consul General paid rich tribute to the language heroes for their supreme sacrifices to earn us the right to speak in our mother tongue. Highlighting the significance of the language movement in shaping the future of our nation, he stated that the event laid the foundation stone of our independence which eventually culminated into victory in 1971 through two decades of struggles and sacrifices under the stewardship of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He underscored the need to uphold the spirit of our language movement in our national life and underpinned various government initiatives to protect, preserve and promote mother languages, including the establishment of International Mother Language Institute and introduction of mother-language based education for small ethnic groups at pre-primary and primary level.

At the end of the discussion session the Consul General launched a fortnightly language and cultural promotion programme of the Consulate that is designed to introduce Bangla language and Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage to the children of expatriate Bangladeshis.

The cultural programme held after the discussion was gilded with patriotic and folk songs, chorus, recitation of poems. Performance by the son of Late Abdul Latif- the initial composer of the iconic Ekushe song "Amar bhaier rokte rangano ekushe February.." and the

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lyricist, composer and singer of the other iconic language movement song “Ora amar mukher kotha kaira nite chai..” added a different dimension to the programme. At the end of the cultural programme, children’s Bangla story books were presented to the child performers as encouragement.

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