

Embassy of Bangladesh
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Dated: 21 February 2010

PRESS RELEASE

The Embassy of Bangladesh observed the National Martyrs' Day (Amar Ekushey) and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2010. It is a historic day of Bangladesh's history, culture and heritage. It may be noted that 21 February was declared as the International Mother Language Day by UNESCO on 17 November, 1999 at Paris. As the pioneer of the draft resolution Bangladesh committed herself not only to protect her own language Bangla, but also to honour other mother languages of the world.

The day's programme started in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, 21 February, 2010 with hoisting of the National Flag at half mast by H. E. the Ambassador Mr. Md. Nazmul Quanine to pay respect to the martyrs of the great language movement. Besides the officials of the Bangladesh Embassy, a large number of Bangladesh nationals from all walks of life living in the UAE, were present on the occasion. The ceremony was followed by a discussion meeting, poetry recitation and a short cultural program presented by the students of SKBZ Bangladesh Islamia School in Abu Dhabi.

At the beginning of the discussion meeting, messages from Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh H.E. Md. Zillur Rahman and Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina were read out. In the discussion, the speakers highlighted the significance of the day.

The ambassador, in his address paid glowing tribute to the martyrs of the language movement who laid down their lives to establish Bangla as the state language on 21 February, 1952. While highlighting the importance of the day, quoting the Prime Minister he said, 'imbued with the spirit of Shahid Day, every citizen of our country would be committed to build up a happy and prosperous Bangladesh and would contribute towards nation building process from the respective fields'. Quoting the PM he also added, observance of the 'International Mother Language Day' would strengthen the bonds of unity and amity along with protecting the intrinsic value of different languages among the people of the world.

Earlier, the Ambassador distributed the prizes among the winners of Art and Essay competition participated by the students of the SKBZ Bangladesh Islamia School, Abu Dhabi on the occasion. The programme was held at the school auditorium at 8.00 am morning.

The function was concluded with a special prayer offered for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs and continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

In the evening, a Reception was organized at the Embassy Residence, for the diplomats of foreign missions in Abu Dhabi and professionals from Bangladesh community in the UAE. In the evening programme, posters and wall magazine depicting the pictures & information relating to the 'Amar Ekushy' were mounted in the walls to highlight the significance of the day, which were highly praised by the foreigners.



Ambassador giving prizes to the winners of Art & Essay at school competition.



Ambassador hoisting flag at half mast at embassy premises



Students of Bangladesh school performing in Embassy programme