

Embassy of Bangladesh
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dated: 21 February, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

The Embassy of Bangladesh observed the National Martyrs' Day (Amar Ekushey) and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2011. It is a historic day of Bangladesh's history, culture and heritage, which was declared as the International Mother Language Day by UNESCO on 17 November, 1999. 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 at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi 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. Following the flag hoisting, a number of paintings drawn by the students of Bangladesh community school on this occasion were displayed on the wall of the Embassy premises. Besides the officials of the Bangladesh Embassy, a large number of Bangladesh nationals from all walks of life living in the UAE enjoyed the painting exhibition. 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, Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina and Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni 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 Hon'ble Prime Minister he said, "the resonance of the pride of Amar Ekushey is now resounded in the hearts of the people of 189 countries surpassing the boundary of Bangladesh. The International Mother Language Day is now a source of inspiration for all people of the world to establish truth and justice."

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.

After the morning programme, the second part of the day's programme held at the SKBZ Bangladesh Islamia School Auditorium at 11.00 am. Teachers, students, guardians and members of the school governing body attended the school programme. H.E. the Ambassador distributed the prizes among the winners of Painting and Essay competition participated by the students of the school. A documentary on "Ekushey" was also screened in the school auditorium.

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



Flag hoisting at half mast



Painting exhibition



Discussion meeting



Ekhuahey Chorus