

Embassy of Bangladesh
Bangkok

Press Release

21 February 2016, Bangkok

Bangladesh Embassy and UNESCO Regional Office jointly observe Ekushe and International Mother Language Day in Bangkok.

'Upholding the values of 1952 and 1971, young expatriates should prepare themselves as multilingual and multicultural global citizens.' said Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem on the occasion of National Martyrs Day and International Mother Language Day organized in collaboration with UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau and UNESCAP at the Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok.

Paying homage to the language martyrs, Ambassador Tasneem paid a rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his fearless leadership of the 1952 language movement even from the shackles of repeated imprisonments culminating into the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. Bangladesh Ambassador also reaffirmed 'Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government remain deeply committed towards strengthening of the UNESCO accredited International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka for research, preservation and development of more than six thousand mother tongues of the world.' Ambassador Tasneem also called upon all expatriate Bangladeshis to spontaneously support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's campaign for recognizing Bangla as one of the official languages of the UN.

While reading out the message of UNESCO's DG, UNESCO Representative praised Bangladesh Embassy for its relentless efforts in promoting Mother language and multilingualism through regular observance of International Mother Language Day in Bangkok.

The Embassy and the UN Offices organized a colorful multilingual cultural program participated by large number expatriate Bangladeshi children, representatives of UNESCO, UNESCAP and senior diplomats from neighboring South Asian Countries. Diplomats from South Asian countries and various representatives of UNESCAP all spoke in their mother tongues and commended Bangladesh for creating a platform for cultural interactions based on love for language, friendship and peace.

Singing the legendary *Omor Ekush* lyrics '*amar bhairro koter angano*', a long procession of Expatriate and children led by the Ambassador laid wreaths and flower bouquet at the steps of a 'Shaheed Minar' replica built at the Embassy. The programme ended with a reception where homemade Bangladeshi food was served to nearly 250 people.
