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THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

Ekushey' Vs English Education

Sir,

We carried out our Language Movement against the Pakistani rulers not only to make Bengali as one of the State languages along with Urdu, but also a movement in which Bengali shall flourish in our literature, dramas, folk songs etc. Actually this was a movement for the resurgence of Bengali nationalism. The search for our identity resulted in the birth of an independent and sovereign Bangladesh 19 years later. It was a stepping stone for making of 'Sonar Bangla' — the cherished dream of Bangabandhu.

On the contrary what we observe is that we maintain that spirit only for one day, that is 21st February and then we keep this spirit in limbo. If course, we don't mean that 'Ekushey' should clash with any language but the way English medium schools are mushrooming all around and the parents and guardians behave to get their wards admitted to many of these substandard schools by paying enormous amount of donation and exorbitant fees is definitely a betrayal of that spirit. This we do simply for a bright prospect and healthy future of the wards. We forget the lesson of 'Ekushey'. No doubt, English is now an international language and in almost all areas of life it has become an integral part. Cannot our Govt run our schools located in districts, upazillas and unions on the line of English Medium schools, or if not possible, at least in some form of these English Schools? The fact is we cannot discard English at any stage of life. Our electronic media could play a vital role in this respect.

N.H. Sufi, Dhaka.