

জন্মিত
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Call to preserve every language of world

Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Dr Osman Faruque has said the Amar Ekushey February is not simply an episode, but it is the spirit that inspired the nation to "establish a free and sovereign territory" in 1971 through the Liberation War.

"The sacrifice we made in 1952 eventually culminated into a people's upsurge in 1971. Therefore, we must continue to show respect to our mother-tongue irrespective of party affiliations," the minister said inaugurating a seminar held at Bangla Academy in the city on Monday.

International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), a project under the Ministry of Education, organised the seminar in observance of the golden jubilee of Amar Ekushey February and International Mother Language Day 2002.

The Education Minister also handed over the Sammanana Padaks (award honour) to the recipients at the inaugural function presided over by Education Secretary Shahidul Alam, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, Project Director of the IMLI Dr Altaf Hossain and Dr Abul Kalam Monjur Morshed spoke on the occasion.

For their outstanding contributions in the fields of language and literature, noted linguist and litterateur Dr Muhammad Shahidullah (posthumous) and National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan were nominated for the Sammanana Padaks introduced by the IMLI this year. AJM Taqiyyullah received the Padak awarded to his father Dr Muhammad Shahidullah.

Addressing the function as special guest, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman said the IMLI would take steps to preserve mother-tongues of various race and culture in the world as many languages of different communities are now on the wane.

"Language is not only the means of our expressions, but also the carrier of our culture. Therefore, it is imperative to preserve each and every language of the world, even of the tiny ethnic community," she added.

Three papers on the rich history of Bangla and the historic Language Movement were presented during the working session of the seminar. The paper presenters were Dr Mahmud Shah Quorcshi, Dr Begum Jahan Ara and Prof Abul Monsur Muhammad Abu Musa. Prof Moniruzzaman of Chittagong University presided over the working session.