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# Golden Jubilee of Amar Ekushey, Int'l Mother Language Day today

The nation pays glowing tribute today (Thursday) to the memory of its valiant sons whose supreme sacrifices established the right of our mother tongue 50 years ago, reports UNB.

On this day in 1952, Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Shafiq and Jabbar laid down their lives on the streets of Dhaka for the cause of Bangla language. Their sacrifices also

paved the way for snatching liberty from erstwhile Pakistan in 1971.

Ekushey February was recognised as International Mother Language Day by UNESCO on November 17, 1999 giving a new dimension to its celebration and

further glorifying the Bengali language.

This year marks the Golden Jubilee of the great Language Movement.

President Prof AQM Badruddin Choudhury, who is now in

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

The Prime Minister will lead the nation in paying homage to the

## Golden Jubilee

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the Central Shaheed Minar when the clock chimes 12 at midnight heralding the auspicious day.

The PM will be followed by thousands of people who in bare-foot mourning procession— traditional *provat feri*— will throng the historic monument to show their respect to the martyrs.

The Shaheed Minar will be decked with flowers and wreaths.

Mourners will also lay floral wreaths on the mazars of the Language Movement martyrs at Azimpur Graveyard. Other programmes will include discussions, rallies and cultural soirees.

People from across the country will also bring out "*provat feri*" and place wreaths at the local Shaheed Minars to pay homage to the martyrs besides arranging discussion meetings and cultural programmes.

The day is a public holiday. National flag will be kept at half-mast while black flags hoisted symbolising the pains of the nation.

State-run Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar and satellite channels will air special programmes on the occasion. Newspapers will bring out supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

Over 250 million people of the world speak in Bangla and some 188 countries around the world will observe 21st February as the International Mother Language Day.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Political parties and different social and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the day. It includes processions, offering of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar, hoisting of black flag and National Flag at half-mast at dawn, discussions and seminars and also cultural functions.

Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes on this glorious day. The party will begin its programme with hoisting of national and party flags at its central office at half-mast and Bangabandhu Bhaban and also wearing of black badges. Bare-footed morning procession, placing of wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar and offering prayer at the Azimpur graveyard

where the martyrs were buried. Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote will hold cultural function at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon.

Bangladesh Krishak League, Bangladesh Christian League, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Party (E) also chalked out programmes which include hoisting of black flags, placing of wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar to pay rich tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952.

Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) will begin its day with offering of prayer at the graveyard of the martyrs of the Language Movement at Azimpur graveyard in the morning to be followed by placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar. The party will also hold a discussion at its party office at New Kakrail.

Various cultural, social and women organisations also chalked out colourful programmes to celebrate the day. These include Bulbul Lalitakala Academy, National University, Asian University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Karma-sangsthan Sangsitha, Bangladesh Nepalese Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Krishi Sramik Mukti Andolan, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Officers Club, Dhaka, Dhaka Reporters Unity, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Nari Pakhya, Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Trust, Bangladesh Hawkers Federation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur, National Press Club.

The city unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh will hold a discussion at its Paltan's office to be followed by 'Doa Mahfil' on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia (left) and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina (right) placing wreaths at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar at Wednesday midnight to the memory of language martyrs of 1952.

Salutation