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International Mother Language Institute Bill 2010 approved

The cabinet has approved the International Mother Language Institute Bill 2010 (IMLI), which stipulates the country's Prime Minister as its chief patron and the Education Minister as the chairman of its governing body, reports UNB.

The cabinet meeting was held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Bangladesh Secretariat on Monday.

Briefing journalists at the Press Information Department, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad said according to the approved IMLI Act 2010, the institute will be headed by a 23-member governing body.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 21 this year formally inaugurated the International Mother Language Institute with a declaration that her government wants to make it an autonomous institution furnished with modern facilities for research on all languages, equipped with a world-class library.

The Press Secretary said the International Mother Language Institute will be an autonomous institution which will run lots of research to preserve the world's languages, as well as all historical documents and souvenirs of the 1952 Language Movement. Azad said the initiative was first taken to establish the International Mother Language Institute by the last Awami League government.

The then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the presence of the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on March 15, 2001 and the construction work was started from April of the year as a part of the then government's mega plan to create a 'cultural ring' centering Suhrawardi Uddayan, Bangla Academy and Shilpakala Academy areas, Azad said.

But later the next BNP-Jamaat government had stopped the construction work, Azad said.

The International Mother Language Institute has been established as the continuation of the global community's recognition of the great sacrifices of the Bangali people to uphold the dignity of their mother language on February 21, 1952.

The nation first got global recognition for the glorious history of the language movement when on 17 November, 1999, UNESCO, the cultural and educational wing of the UN, declared 21st February as the International Mother Language Day.

Of the total world population, 4% speak Bangla. When Pakistan was born in 1947, 55% of its population spoke Bangla. Meanwhile two other items on the agenda- a proposal for establishing permanent membership of Bangladesh in United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and canceling the cabinet's decision to buy two containers from Pakistan for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation was withdrawn from the cabinet.

Two reports on Regional Workshop on Paris Declaration Evaluation Methodology and Turkey President's Bangladesh visit on February 12-13 were also presented at the cabinet, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said.

Besides, the cabinet also discussed another agenda on contempt of court petition No 07/2004 and the court's order given on December 8, 2009 and February 28, 2010.