

Background

 Although the language movement began since the end of 1947 and reached its climax in the killing of 21 February 1952, the discussion over language started in 1937.

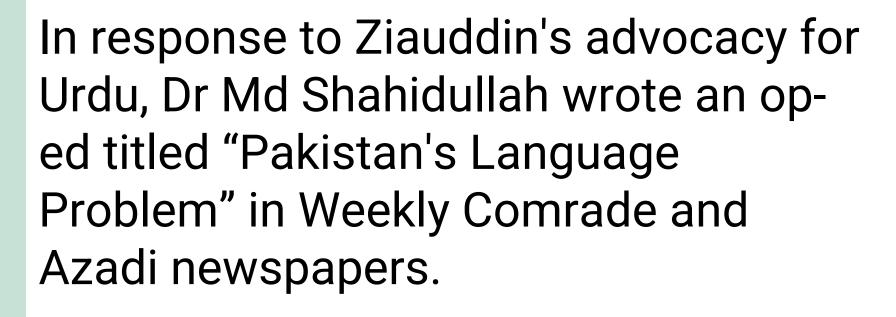
In 1937, at the Lucknow session of the All India Muslim League, a resolution recommending Urdu as the lingua franca of Muslims all over India, was opposed by the delegates from the Bengal province.

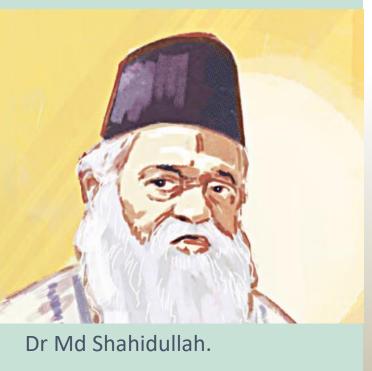
1947 Chowdhury Khalequzzaman ☐ Just a few months before the birth of Pakistan, on May 17, 1947, influential Muslim League leader Chowdhury Khalequzzaman said in a statement,

"Urdu will be the state language of Pakistan."

Two months later, in July 1947, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, the then vice chancellor of Aligarh University, was one of the first to demand that Urdu be made Pakistan's state language.

Ziauddin's opinion was important because he was also the chairman of East Pakistan Educational Reconstruction Committee.





- Bangla should be made the first state language of Pakistan.
- He was liberal enough to propose
 Urdu to be made the second state language.

The Role of

Gana

Azadi

League

A civil organization formed by secular, prodemocratic, leftist Muslim league leaders like Tajuddin Ahmed, Kamruddin Ahmed, Mohammad Toaha, Oli Ahad, and many others.

In the manifesto of Gana Azadi League it was stated that -

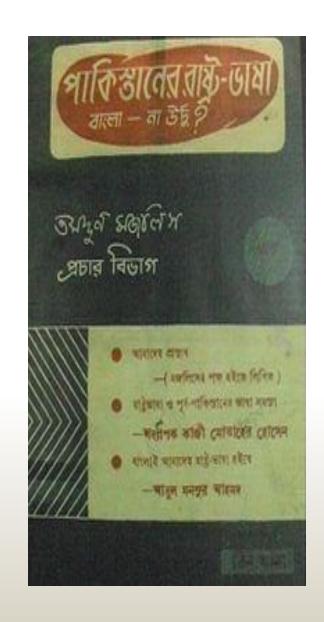
The medium of instruction for educational institutions have to be **Bangla**.

The first stage of Language Movement

Formation of Tamaddun
Majlish: On 15 September 1947
Tamaddun Majlish published a
booklet on the Language
Movement entitled "Pakistaner
Rastrabhasha Bangla Na Urdu."

 Prof. Abul Kashem, Dr. Qazi Motahar Hossain and Abul Mansur Ahmed were the authors of this booklet.

In October 1947, Tamaddun Majlish formed Rastrabhasa Sangram Parishad to give the Language Movement an organizational structure.



The first stage of Language Movement

Declaration of Karachi Education Summit – Urdu will be the state language of Pakistan.

- In response, students of Dhaka University demanded **Bangla** be made an official language in December 1947.

-In the Pakistan Constituent
Assembly session held on 25
August 1948, Dhirendranath Datta
demanded the use of **Bangla**along with English and Urdu for
conducting its proceedings.

-Ruling party **rejected** the proposal.





-Sarbadaliya Rastrabhasha Sangram Parishad (SRSP) or All-Party Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad on March 2.

-11th March, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrested.

-On that day, many students were injured and many leaders including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Shamsul Huq and Oli Ahad were arrested. It was decided that 11 March would be declared 'Bengali Language Demand Day'.

-On 15th March, The Chief Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin signed an agreement with SRSP. He agreed to:

- > release the arrested students,
- > to investigate police excesses, and
- > to move a Bill in the Assembly for making Bengali a state language of East Bengal Province.



Announcement of Muhammad Ali Jinnah: On 21 March 1948, Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Dhaka and addressed a public meeting at the then Racecourse Maidan. In that meeting, he declared, "Urdu and only Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan".

He repeated these words at the Dhaka University Convocation Ceremony held on *24 March at the Curzon Hall*, the students protested vehemently by shouting 'No, No'.

Bhasha Matin (Abdul Matin, 1926-2014) first protested against Ali Jinnah.

On that day (21 March), **Rastrabhasha Parishad** submitted a memorandum to Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Abul Kasem, Kamruddin Ahmed, Tajuddin Ahmed, Lili Khan, Oli Ahad, Mohammad Toaha were present.

Ali Jinnah **rejected** the agreement of Najimuddin and Rastrabhasha Sangram Parishad.

Final stage of Language Movement

Formation of Purbo Bangla Bhasha
Committee: On 9 March 1949, the
Government of East Bengal formed the Purbo
Bangla Bhasha Committee for reforming the
Bengali language. Maulana Akram Khan was
the President of this Committee.

Announcement of Liaquat Ali Khan: In September 1950, The Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan declared in the Constituent Assembly that only **Urdu** would be the state language of Pakistan. But in the face of strong protest from the people of East Bengal, the Constituent Assembly postponed the discussion.



Students gathering on a road in Dhaka University on 22 February 1952

- -26 January Khwaja Nazimuddin repeated the similar demand.
- -31 January, All Party Central Language Action **Committee formed.**
- -4 February Procession by the students of Jagannath College.
- -Action committee called for an all out protest on 21 February.

-Imposition of section 144

-Students violated section 144, police arrested several students and opened up fire and killed a number of students including Salam, Rafiq, Barkat and Zabbar.

(139) Bangladesh History -Language Movement 1952 -YouTube





The first Shahid Minar. This photograph was taken on Feb 24, 1952. It appears to be the only surviving high-quality photograph of the first Shahid Minar — Photo: Dr Abdul Hafiz

- -After continued unrest and widespread protest, on 7th May the constituent assembly grants official status to **Bangla**.
- -It becomes the **second** official language on **29**th **February 1956**.

Women's Participation



-Rahela, Rahima, Laila Nur, Pratibha Mutsuddi, Lili khan, Kamrunnahar Laili, Farida Bari.

Women's Participation

-As early as the late 19th century, social activists, such as the Muslim feminist Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain (1880-1932), were choosing to write in Bangla to reach out to the people and develop it as a modern literary language.

Significance

The Language Movement of 1952 was the **first organised expression** of the consciousness of the exploited and deprived masses of **Bangladesh**.

This consciousness born out of the Language Movement inspired all the subsequent Movements and helped to achieve the political, the cultural and the economic freedom leading to independence.

Significance

- ☐ This movement laid a major **foundation** of our liberation war. □On **February 29**, **1**956: Recognition made on the Pakistan constitution that "The state language of Pakistan shall be Urdu and Bengali." □UNESCO recognised 21st February as International Mother Language **Day** in 1999. ☐ International Status of Bangla Language (considered an official
- language in *Sierra* Leone)

Significance

This movement acted as an inspiration for the following movements:

- Landslide victory in the provincial election in 1954 (In the East Bengal Legislative Assembly the United Front got 236 out of 309 seats)
- Constitutional Movement in 1956
- Education Movement in 1962
- □ Six-points Movement in 1966
- Mass-uprising in 1969
- □ Great victory in 1971

Spirit of mother language movement



- -Preserving language of linguistic minorities.
- -Equal opportunity of practicing language in educational sectors.
- -Research and study scope on linguistic minorities.

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