



Presentation (Language Movement)

- Good evening, everyone. I am Sheikh Sarafat Hossain. Today, I'll shed light on a significant chapter in our history, the Language Movement in 1952 .
- It all began in 1948, shortly after Pakistan's formation where the question was raised that " What would be the state language of Pakistan? " . The central leaders of Pakistan declared that Urdu would be the state language of Pakistan. The students and intellectuals of East Pakistan, demanded that Bangla be made one of the state languages.
- In 1947, Tamaddun Majlish, led by Professor Abul Kashem, initiated efforts advocating for Bangla as a state language in Pakistan. This movement gained momentum after the education minister Fazlur Rahman proposed Urdu as the sole state language. This decision triggered unrest among East Pakistani people in a gathering on December 6th, 1947, demanding Bangla's recognition as a state language. Subsequently, the Rastrabhasa Sangram Parishad, led by Professor Nurul Huq Bhuiyan of Tamaddun Majlish, was formed in December .
- In 1948, Dhirendranath Datta proposed Bangla as a language in Pakistan's Constituent Assembly, but central leaders opposed it. This led to a general strike in East Pakistan on March 11, protesting the omission of Bangla in the Assembly, absence of Bangla letters on Pakistani coins and stamps, and Urdu-only tests for

the navy. Furthermore, When Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared Urdu as Pakistan's sole state language during his East Pakistan visit on March 19, it sparked widespread protests across East Pakistan against the dismissal of the demand for Bangla.

- On January 27, 1952, Khwaja Nazimuddin's speech in Dhaka repeated Urdu as Pakistan's sole state language despite provincial language autonomy. This triggered student and leaders, they responded with the slogan, '**Rashtrabhasha Bangla Chai**'. On January 30, Dhaka University observed a strike, leading the Language Action Committee to plan demonstrations for February 21. The government enforced Section 144 to ban gatherings and demonstrations, but The students were determined to violate Section 144 and held a student meeting at 11.00 am on 21 February at the Dhaka University campus. When the students came in groups the police started to baton charge. Unable to control the agitated students, the police fired upon the crowd of students.
- The consequences of the language movement on February 21, 1952, were tragic. Three young men, **Rafiq Uddin** , **Abdul Jabbar**, and **Abul Barkat, Abdus Salam** and a nine-year-old named **Ohiullah** were fatally wounded. On February 22, the public held a janaza and mourning procession. Finally in 1956 The public outcry following these events forced the Pakistan Constituent Assembly to acknowledge both Bangla and Urdu as state languages
- The movement laid a major foundation of our liberation war signifying the power of unity and strength to protect our cultural identity. To honor the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs, February 21st was declared as Shahid Dibosh. In 1963, the 'Shaheed Minar' was erected . Recognizing its global significance, UNESCO declared February 21st as International Mother Language Day on 17 November 1999.

- Thank you all for your time and attention