

Abdus Salam(1925-1952): Martyr of State-Language Movement in Bangladesh. Abdus Salam was born on 27 November 1925 in the village Laxmanpur (at present 'Salam Nagar') under Matubhuiyan union of Daganbhuiyan upazila in Feni district. His father was Munshi Abdul Fazel Miah and mother was Daulater Nesa. Munshi Abdul Fazel Miah joined the Second World War and worked in Basra of Iraq.

Language martyr Abdus Salam spent his early life in Laxmanpur village. He started primary education in Krishnarampur Primary School. Upon completion of primary level, he got admitted into Matubhuiyan Kalimullah Minor School (now 'Matubhuiyan High School'). Salam studied from grade six to eight in this school. Later he got admission in Daganbhuiyan Ataturk High School. But he could not continue education after grade ten because of financial scarcity. Getting determined to relieve his family out of poverty, Salam went to Kolkata where he got shelter of his cousin sister's husband Abdul Qader in Metiaburuz. Abdul Qader used to work in Kolkata port. He found a job for Salam in the port. Immediately after the partition of India, Salam came back to Dhaka and started living in a mess in Azimpur (Palasi Barrack).

On 21 February 1952, the students and common people raised a protest with the demand for Bengali as one of the State Languages of Pakistan. Defying official ban on assemble of people imposed under Section 144, they staged a demonstration in front of Dhaka Medical College. Abdus Salam took part in the demonstration. At that time, police fired brutally on the demonstrators. Salam was shot and seriously injured along with Barkat, Jabbar, Rafique, Shafiur and others. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and received treatment for about one and half month. He passed away on 7 April 1952. Salam was buried in Azimpur graveyard. The Language Movement was the beginning of the Nationalist Movement of Bengali people. In commemoration of the martyrs of the Language Movement, the National Martyrs Monument (Jatiya Shahid Minar) had been built near Dhaka Medical College.

In 1999, UNESCO recognized 21 February as the <International Mother Language Day>. Since 2000, the day has been observed as the <International Mother Language Day> for the first time. In February 2000, Language Martyr Abdus Salam has been awarded 'Ekushe Padak Posthumously'. After this recognition, renowned sculptor Rasa took an initiative to make a portrait of Abdus Salam, as his photograph was not available. Rasa named this initiative as "Astitter Shekade Alo" (Light behind the Root of Existence). A group of Bangladeshi artists and sculptors were involved in this great effort. The artists were: Abdul Mannan, Alokesh Ghosh, Ahamed Shamsuddoha, Shajahan Ahamed Bikash, Sheikh Afzal and sculptor Rajeeb Siddiquee. The launching ceremony of this historical event was organized in the swimming pool of the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University. Language Movement activist Abdul Matin inaugurated the memorable event of making portrait of Martyr Abdus Salam. Language Movement activist Gaziul Haque, poet Shamsur Rahman and other renowned intellectuals were present in the occasion.

With a view to preserve the reminiscence of Abdus Salam, 'Bhasha-Shahid Abdus Salam Smriti Parishad' was founded in 2000 under the initiative of Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, editor, *The Daily Fenir Shamoy*. From this year, the local people of Laxmanpur village named the village as 'Salam Nagar'. In 2009, the name has got government recognition. At the same time, the road to Salam's house was constructed. The auditorium of Daganbhuiyan Upazila Parishad was named as 'Language Martyr Salam Auditorium.' Besides this, the name of Feni District Stadium has been changed locally and it was named as 'Language Martyr Salam Stadium.' Moreover, a community centre was founded named 'Language Martyr Salam Community Centre' in Mizan Road with the initiative of Feni Zila Parishad.

In 2008, the then Care Taker government took initiative to found 'Language Martyr Abdus Salam Library and Memorial Museum' adjacent to the primary school of Salam Nagar. In 1988, Salam's family members and the local community people jointly established the primary school in Laxmanpur near Salam's house. In 1991, the school was named as 'Laxmanpur Community Primary School' and in 2009, it was named as 'Laxmanpur Primary School'.

Many noted poets wrote and composed poems and songs about Abdus Salam. Among them are: Begum Sufia Kamal (*What a Wonderful Day*), Shamsur Rahman (*February 1969*), Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury (*21 February: 1970*), Hasan Hafizur Rahman (Immortal 21 February), Belal Mohammad (Inspiration of 21 February), Mahin Shah (Song of 21 February), Kobial Bijoy Sarkar (Song of 21 February), Gaziul Haque (Song of 21 February), Abdul Halim Bayati (Song of 21 February), Abdul Latif (Song of 21 February), Shah Abdul Karim (Song of 21 February), Qazi Rosy (Song of 21 February), Fazal-e-Khoda (Bhashar Gaan Desher Gaan-Song of Language and Country) etc.

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