

1173

Pope Alexander III canonizes Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury

1613

Michael Romanov, son of Patriarch of Moscow, elected first Russian Tsar of the house of Romanov



1804

1st locomotive, Richard Trevithick's, runs for the 1st time, along the tramway of the Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales

1922

Britain declares Egypt a sovereign state

ions Arab voices, stories



'The Knight and the Princess' during its world premiere at the third edition of El Gouna Film Festival

animation series he was watching.

to Egypt to get a few Arabic and to my surprise I discovered animation in Egypt or the Arab

due to switch careers from outer science and delve into on production, establishing my soon after graduation.

and many animated TV series, e on a bigger challenge and ns and limitations requested as said of why he decided to

ident in his company's ambitions felt the time was ripe for first animated feature and writer Bashir El-Deek with

ling, however. nds of an animated feature nited animation styles fit for Alabbas said.

When I was in the US during my PhD program, my son was five-years-old, I was surprised by the great impact of the animation series he was watching. I decided to travel to Egypt to get a few Arabic TV animation series and to my surprise I discovered there was no animation in Egypt or the Arab world

ALABBAS BIN ALABBAS

"So, we had to train more talents and develop the experience of all talents to outperform themselves. I was determined not to present the film with excuses of our lack of experience."

It was in the process of training animators that Alabbas and his crew ended up building a competent local industry.

"We meant to produce the film and ended up building the animation industry in the Arab world," he says.

Now that the film is finally hitting the big screen, Alabbas has reason to be optimistic about the future of the Arab animation industry.

"The successful result of our production puts a lot of pressure on everyone in the Arab world — they have no excuse not to venture into this important and vital industry," he said.

"The ball (is now in the court of) those who used to say we need to do something for our new generations that makes them proud of their heritage."

wn Times Square billboard

nd North Africa



Today we are celebrating Diab's legacy and we are proud to see him shine so brightly - literally - on the global stage

CLAUDIUS BOLLER



Amr Diab during a concert

Message



Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh

I would like to greet the Bangla-speaking people and people of all languages and cultures across the world on the occasion of the glorious Martyrs and International Mother Language Day.

The great Ekushey is the symbol of grief, strength and glory in the life of every Bangalee. On this day in 1952, many valiant sons of the soil, including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafique sacrificed their lives for protecting the dignity of the mother tongue.

I pay my deep homage to the memories of the martyrs. I also pay my deep respect to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had led the language movement and all other language veterans.

In 1948, State Language Movement Council was constituted comprising Tamuddin Majlish, Student League and other student bodies as per a proposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The council called a general strike on 11 March to realise the demand for recognising Bangla as the state language. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with a number of student leaders was arrested on the day from in front of the Secretariat. They were released on 15 March. Bangabandhu chaired a public meeting at Amtola in the Dhaka University campus on 16 March.

The movement for the demand of mother tongue spread all over the country. On 11 September 1948,

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was arrested from Faridpur. He was released on 21 January 1949. He was again detained on 19 April and released at the end of July. On 14 October, Bangabandhu was again arrested from Dhaka and confined to jail. His undaunted inspiration from inside the jail provided new impetus to the people's movement. In continuation of the movement, the language martyrs sacrificed their precious lives on 21 February 1952 while breaking Section 144 imposed by the rulers.

The resonance of the pride of Amar Ekushey is now resounded in the hearts of the people of the world surpassing the boundary of Bangladesh. Some expatriate Bangladeshis living in Canada including Salam and Rafiq took initiative for recognition to the 21 February as the International Mother Language Day. The then Awami league government placed the demand to the United Nations. Therefore, the UNESCO gave the recognition to the 21 February as the International Mother Language Day on 17 November 1999. The International Mother Language Day is now a source of inspiration to all people of the world in establishing the truth and justice.

We have already placed the demand before United Nations to make Bangla, spoken by over 26 crore people of the world, as one of the official languages of the UN. We established 'International Mother Language Institute' in Dhaka to preserve the languages of the world and carry out research on those.

Holding the spirit of Ekushey and war of liberation, our government achieved huge progress in every sector including macro economy, agriculture, education, health, communication, information technology, infrastructure, power, rural economic development, diplomatic success and cooperation during the last 11 years. Bangladesh is now a 'Role Model' for development in the world.

Through the implementation of Vision 2021 and 2041, and Delta Plan-2100, we have been working to build a hunger-poverty-free and happy-prosperous Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. Let us be firmly committed in the spirit of the great Ekushey, we will unitedly build the Golden Bangladesh of the Father of the Nation.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.