

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the Pashai National Language Day celebration on this auspicious 14th of June.

Let me clarify a little confusion here created. Actually, formal day for the Pashai Language day which is also announced in Calendar is on 14th of June converted from Jawzaa 24 due to this purpose we chose this date 17th. It's weekend there for everyone could participate.

Today, we gather here to honor and commemorate the rich heritage and cultural significance of the Pashai tribe. The Pashai people, belonging to the Aryaee tribe, have a unique language called Pashai, which holds a special meaning in their Language and culture, symbolizing the language of listening and hearing. Pashai tribe one of fifth tribe of Afghanistan which majority of them live in eastern part of Afghanistan and also Kapisa, Parwaan and Kabul. They have around Three million population in Afghanistan. In current Avocation thousands of Pashai families evacuated from the USA We are thankful, from the USA. Besides that, many more Pashai formal families are living in the United States. The current evacuated Afghan Pashai settled in different States of the United States. Among them, 65 families live in Houston. Afghan Pashai Community in the United States has the branch & representatives under this Community. Our main office is in Houston Texas. Most representatives are here participating out this ongoing Event. I really appreciate them.

Historically, the Pashai tribe derived its name from the ancient word "Pasha/Padshah/Shehan Shah," meaning "king." This name reflects their past influence and power, as they ruled over a vast territory extending from Kabul to Kashmir. The Pashai tribe, along with the Nooristani people, shares a common ancestry and speaks different accents of the same language. Notably, these tribes played a significant role in defeating Alexander the Great in Nooristan.

Throughout history, the Pashai tribe has been at the forefront of defending and protecting Afghanistan in times of war, displaying immense bravery and sacrifice. Let us never forget their contributions.

Despite the lack of awareness among many Afghans about the Pashai tribe, today's celebration aims to share their history and culture with others. The Pashai people, residing in the mountains, are renowned for their hospitality, courage, talents, and bravery. Their reputation is such that they were entrusted as the bodyguards for high-ranking political officials in the previous government.

While the Pashai tribe excelled in military and security positions, they were not adequately represented in leadership roles. It is crucial to acknowledge the sacrifices and service of the Pashai soldiers who bravely fought for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan but were not given political recognition.

Looking back at Afghanistan's history, we remember prominent Pashai leaders who fought against foreign invasions, such as Mir Masjidi Khan, who resisted the British, and Mullana Abdulmateen, Amir Mustafa Khan, and Sherkhan, who united against the Soviet invasion. These brave leaders represented the will of the people, and we honor their memory.

In the last two decades, the Pashai tribe has made significant contributions and sacrifices, losing thousands of soldiers in various provinces of Afghanistan. Today, we pay tribute to four legendary heroes: Shahid Qasem Khan, who protected the Afghan border in Nangarhar Goshta district face to face fight. Shahid Mohammed Omer and from Laghman Shahid Abdulwali Khan, from Dari e Noor javid from Khiwa who bravely confronted hold and give hugs to suicide bombers to save thousands of others lives; giving hugs does not mean loss of life this show the real love with soil and bravery for other Afghan brother tribes. and Shahid General Halim Shah Qaderi, who fought alongside his soldiers he never sited top of the peak of the mountain to give only ordered he was ahead of his all soldiers he was always mentioning my life is not important than other Soldiers, until his martyrdom we will never forget his bravery. We have many more examples but I mentioned those who have big fame in our Afghanistan they are not only pride of the Pashai tribe but they are the pride of the all Afghan Nation.

The Pashai people possess a unique culture that sets them apart from other Afghans. They maintain ancient traditions during weddings and funerals, exhibiting their strong sense of community and peaceful coexistence. Pashai culture embraces fashion and natural beauty, with colorful attire, flowers, emotional and adornments youths. They value their language and its precise vocabulary, which has seen a resurgence in the past two decades.

The Pashai language is of significant historical importance, with its roots traced back to Sanskrit, the mother of the Indo-European languages. Scholars and all Pashai tribe Call and emphasize on USA government and those departments which are working for Minority Languages to research, document, and translate Pashai books into English to preserve and share their culture with the world.

Despite their rich heritage, the Pashai people have faced neglect and lack of political and educational rights. Their remote mountainous location should not hinder their access to education and basic services. We call upon the government to ensure the fulfillment of these rights for the Pashai people, especially women and children. Specially here in the United States we have Pashai families they can't speak Pashto/ Dari. Only they can speak Pashai which is totally difficult and different for our other Afghan brothers. We request and want to facilitate the learning of English language.

In conclusion, the Pashai tribe, with a population of approximately three million, deserves recognition and inclusion in the national fabric of Afghanistan. Their contributions, sacrifices, and unique culture should not be overlooked. Let us collectively work towards providing.

Thank you.  
Abdulsalam Rasooli.