Proposal for revision of Unicode Bangla Block

1. About Bengali Sign Nukta (◌)

Proposal: Request to remove the Bengali Sign Nukta (◌) from the Unicode Bangla Block.

Rationale: The Unicode Bengali Block (0980 – 09FF) includes the Bengali Sign Nukta (◌). The code to represent Nukta is 09BC.

The historical evidences of Bangla scripts do not have any sign called Nukta. In Unicode Bangla Block, some uses of Nukta have been shown as a symbol to construct three Bangla consonants, namely Bengali Letter RRA (ড়), Bengali Letter RHA (ঢ়) and Bengali Letter YYA (য়). While the Bengali script never had such a symbol called Nukta, there is no question of writing other characters using Nukta.

Examples: Following are the examples of Bangla scripts which will demonstrate the fact that Nukta does not belong to Bangla language.

Example-1:

![Bengali Vowel & Consonant in Barna Parichay](image1)

Bengali Vowel in Barna Parichay

Bengali Consonant in Barna Parichay

Figure 1. Bengali Vowel & Consonant in Barna Parichay by IssharmaChandra Bidyalogor (1855)

Source: Barna Parichayer Dersho Bachhar o Ananya by Ashoke Kumar Mitra (Published by Punashcha, Kolkata in 2006)
Example-2:

![Bengali Vowel in Shishu Shikkha](image1)

![Bengali Consonant in Shishu Shikkha](image2)

Figure 2. Bengali Vowel & Consonant in Shishu Shikkha by Madanmohan Trakalankar (1849)
Source: Barna Parichayer Dersho Bachhar o Annanya by Ashoke Kumar Mitra (Published by Punashcha, Kolkata in 2006)

Example-3:

![From আ - এ](image3)

![From উ - ব](image4)

![From ভ - হ](image5)

Figure 3. Evolution of Bengali Characters from 10th to 15th Century
Source: Professor Mohammad Abdul Quayuum (2000)
2. About Bengali Letter RRA ( springfox), Bengali Letter RHA (ঢ়) and Bengali Letter YYA (য়)

Proposal: In Unicode Bangla code chart, recognize Bengali Letter RRA ( springfox), Bengali Letter RHA (ঢ়) and Bengali Letter YYA (য়) as atomic and NOT as conjunct characters.

Rationale: In Bangla language, the three letters, namely Bengali Letter RRA (込む), Bengali Letter RHA (ঢ়) and Bengali Letter YYA (য়) are atomic in nature. These are listed in Bengali consonants as atomic characters. Whenever, these characters are produced using Bangla Software, these are produced as a single unit and NOT as conjunct characters involving Nukta. In Unicode Standard, these characters are listed as additional consonants. The standard also prescribes methods to produce these three characters both as atomic characters as well as conjunct characters as follows:

09DC  ঢ়  (single key stroke and single code)
09A1  ড + 09BC  ়  (multiple key strokes and multiple codes)

09DD  ঢ়  (single key stroke and single code)
09A2  ঢ + 09BC  ়  (multiple key strokes and multiple codes)

09DF  য়  (single key stroke and single code)
09AF  ঢ + 09BC  ়  (multiple key strokes and multiple codes)

Writing these characters as conjunct characters and then allocating codes for these in the Unicode Bengali Block do not go with the basic principle of Unicode of using atomic consonant representations.

Examples: In Bangladesh, the national keyboard of Bangladesh incorporates all the three characters consonants ঢ় (09DC), ঢ় (09DD) and য় (09DF) as atomic characters following the national standard of Bangladesh BDS 1520:2018. In India, the Boishakhi Bangali keyboard also incorporates these consonants as atomic characters.
Example-1:

Figure 4. National Keyboard of Bangladesh (BDS 1738:2018)

Example-2:

Figure 5. Boishakhi Bengali Keyboard
Source: www.nltr.org
3. The Bengali Currency Signs

Proposal: In Unicode Bangla code chart, rename the Bengali Currency signs as ‘Bangla Taka Mark’ instead of ‘Bengali Rupee Mark’.

Rationale: In Bangladesh, the currency is called ‘Taka’. The currency of India is called ‘Rupee’. In some other countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Mauritius, etc. currency is called ‘Rupee’. However, in Bangla language the currency is called ‘Taka’. Throughout the world, the Bengali community uses ‘Taka’. Even in India, the Bengali community uses ‘Taka’ to refer the currency ‘Rupee’ (See Example-1 in Figure 6). The Unicode standard, the currency should incorporate ‘Taka’ instead of ‘Rupee’.

Examples:

Example-1: Extract from ‘Anandabazar’ of India
Figure 6. Extracts from Bengali newspaper ‘Anandabazar’ from Kolkata, India (5 March 2019)
Source: https://www.anandabazar.com/business/amidst-india-pakistan-tension-oil-price-is-rising-1.959567

Example-2: Extract from ‘Daily Prothom Alo’ of Bangladesh
4. Dependent Vowel Signs

Proposal: Make provisions to print the dependent vowel signs independently and allow changes in typing sequence of dependent vowels with consonants.

Rationale:

i) Dependent vowels signs (09BE-09CC)

There are 11 dependent vowel signs in Bangla Unicode chart. These dependent vowel signs cannot be printed without accompanying dotted circles which accommodate consonants. However, there are times when these characters need to be printed independently, especially in teaching the language. Hence, there should be provisions to produce these vowel signs independently without the dotted circles.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present form</th>
<th>Requested form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>੃</td>
<td>੃</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ੁ</td>
<td>ੁ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii) Sequence of dependent vowels with consonant

In using the Unicode charts, the dependent vowels are always typed after the consonants no matter where it attaches. For example, ক+িই produce কি, or ক+ৌ produce কৌ. As per the graphical view, the dependent vowel signs should appear first and then the consonant.
Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present form</th>
<th>Requested form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>কেঃকে</td>
<td>কেঃে+কে</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>কি:ঘিি</td>
<td>ঘিি:ঘি+ঘ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. ‘Bangla’ instead of ‘Bengali’


Rationale: The word Bangla is constitutionally approved term which is used to indicate a language name and a spatial entity. On the other hand the term Bengali has rarely been used and it becomes obsolete now. Moreover, in terms of practice, the Bangladeshi people/govt/pundits have already declined the term due to colonized nomenclature system. Even the government of West Bengal has changed the name of state/province as Bengal to Bangla.

The term/word Bangla is closely related to Bhasha Andolon, i.e Language Movement (occurred in 1952).

The popular daily newspaper of this country published a headline “Bangla ke Rashtrovasa korite jonogon shes roktobindu dibe” which means “People will sacrifice last drop of their blood to establish Bangla (Bengali) as the State Language”.

The language movement eventually led the country’s independence and birth of a new country called Bangladesh in 1971. The new country was named after the language for which its people fought in 1952 and ‘Bangla’ has become the national language of this country. So the word ‘Bangla’ has a historical value and has been part of national heritage.