

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

15 August 2019

Today is 15 August, our 'National Mourning Day'. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all time, our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members was assassinated in one of the most barbaric carnages of the history. By the grace of Almighty Allah, his two daughters Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived as they were abroad.

On this day of mourning, I pay my profound tribute to the Father of the Nation and his martyred family members.

Bangabandhu and Bangladesh are complementary to each other—like an author and his works, like the sun and the day. Just in this order, they make a complete and integrated whole. In the same order, the independent and sovereign Bangladesh is his masterpiece; his self-fulfillment. Therefore, to know Bangabandhu, is to know Bangladesh and vice versa. Bangladesh is now well poised to celebrate the golden jubilee of our glorious independence and Birth Centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which are rare occasions in our history.

Under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of this territory brought the red sun of the independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. The Bangalees had then achieved their own nation-state, flag and national anthem.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of a happy and prosperous Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal), free from all kinds of exploitation and oppression. The seeds of development of the country were sown in 1972 under the leadership of Bangabandhu. He took over the leadership of a war-ravaged and economically backward country. Pakistani Occupied Forces killed 3 million people, 2,70,000 children and 2 lakhs women who were subject to rape and torture. More than eight thousand villages were destroyed totally. Pakistani Forces destroyed all kinds of communication system including bridges and culverts.

Bangabandhu accomplished the formidable tasks of rehabilitation and rebuilding the nation just in three and half a year. Conspirators and enemies committed the heinous crime on 15 August 1975 to thwart our advancement. The anti-liberation forces linked to the carnage initiated the politics of assassination, coup and conspiracy. The trial of Bangabandhu's brutal assassination was blocked through promulgation of indemnity ordinance. The killers of the Father of the Nation were awarded with jobs at Bangladesh Missions abroad and they were made partners of the state power, and were rehabilitated politically and socially.

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Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Government of Awami League has implemented the verdict of the murder trial of Bangabandhu. The trial of the killers of four national leaders has also been completed. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's zero tolerance policy towards all forms of terrorism and violent extremism has received full support and cooperation from all walks of life as well as from the international community.

Bangabandhu, the great architect of our Liberation War dreamt of a happy, prosperous, exploitation free and equitable 'Sonar Bangla'(Golden Bengal). His able successor, his daughter, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina aims at turning Bangladesh into an upper middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by the vision 2041. She hopes to realize Bangabandhu's dream "Sonar Bangla", a prosperous, exploitation free, just and developed Bangladesh.

Now Bangladesh is on a pathway to prosperity. Currently, Bangladesh is marching forward with more than 8.13% GDP growth rate. In the last ten years, the size of our national budget enlarged about five and half times. Bangladesh is now recognized as a 'Role Model of Development'. The United Nations has announced Bangladesh's eligibility for graduation to the status of 'Developing Country' from 'Least Developed Country'. By successful launching of Bangabandhu-1 satellite- the first Bangladeshi geostationary communication satellite, we have taken the communication technology to a new height.

The collaborators' plot today could not thwart Bangladesh from the highway of amazing ongoing development leading to the realization of Bangabandhu's cherished golden Bengal. The killers were able to assassinate Bangabandhu but they could not erase his dreams and ideals. On the day of mourning, let us transform our grief into strength and devote ourselves to build a prosperous Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to realise Bangabandhu's dream of Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal).

Joy Bangla , Joy Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP