

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

31 Shrabon 1426
15 August 2019

Message

The 15th August is the National Mourning Day of Bangladesh. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with most of his family members, was assassinated brutally.

Eighteen members of his family including Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, three sons-Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lieutenant Sheikh Jamal and 10-year old Sheikh Russel, two daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, peasant leader Abdur Rab Serniabat, youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu, among others, were also killed on that fateful night. Bangabandhu's Military Secretary Brigadier General Jamil was also killed. Several members of a family in the capital's Mohammadpur area were also killed by artillery shells fired by the killers on the same day.

On this day, I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation and all other martyrs of the 15th August.

Under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of Bangabandhu, the Bangalee nation snatched the shining sun of Independence breaking away the chain of subordination. The Bangalee got an independent sovereign country, its own flag and national anthem.

The anti-liberation clique killed Bangabandhu at a time when he had engaged in the struggle to building a Golden Bangla along with the whole nation by reconstructing the war-ravaged country. Through the killing of Bangabandhu, the defeated forces of the Liberation War made abortive attempts to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee Nation. The aim of the killers was to break the state structure of secular democratic Bangladesh and foil our hard-earned independence.

The anti-liberation forces involved in the carnage initiated the politics of killing, coup and conspiracy right after the 15th August 1975. They also blocked the way of the trial of Bangabandhu murder by promulgating indemnity ordinance.

Ziaur Rahman illegally took over the state power and promulgated Martial Law by desecrating the democracy and suspending the Constitution. He rewarded the killers of the Father of the Nation and gave them jobs at the Bangladesh missions abroad. Zia gave the anti-liberation-war criminals nationality, make them partners in the state power and rehabilitated them politically and socially. The subsequent governments of BNP-Jamaat alliance had followed the same path.

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-2-

Winning the general elections on 12th June 1996, Bangladesh Awami League assumed state power after 21 years. A new horizon of socio-economic development in the country was started in this 5-year overcoming the obstacles of the past. This period (1996-2001) was a 'golden era' for the people of Bangladesh. We had initiated the trial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman killing case. But after coming to power in 2001, BNP-Jamaat alliance government stopped the trial of the Father of the Nation murder case.

The people of the country made Awami League victorious again in the Ninth Parliamentary elections on 29 December 2008. Overcoming the stalemate left by the previous BNP-Jamaat government and global economic recession, we have put the country on firm economic footing. Rejecting BNP-Jamaat's conspiracy to foil the general elections on 5 January 2014, people upheld the constitutional continuation by casting their votes. Winning the elections, Bangladesh Awami League kept development advancement of the country continued.

During the last ten and a half years, we have achieved desired advancement in every sector. Bangladesh is now a 'role model' of socio-economic development in the world. Bangladesh has attained the status of a developing nation. We have launched Bangabandhu satellite-1 in the space. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country before 2021 and a developed one by 2041, InshaAllah.

We have executed the verdict of the Bangabandhu killing case. The trial of the killers of four national leaders has been completed. The verdicts of the cases against war criminals of 1971 are being executed. Our government is following 'zero tolerance' policy to uproot militancy-terrorism. The path of grabbing state power unconstitutionally has been stopped through the 15th amendment to the Constitution. We have to remain prepared to resist any ill-attempt by the anti-liberation-fundamentalist quarters and, anti-development and anti-democracy forces.

The killers were able to assassinate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman but they could not kill his dreams and ideals. Let's turn the grief of the loss of Bangabandhu into strength, engage ourselves in building a non-communal, hunger-poverty free prosperous Bangladesh by upholding Bangabandhu's philosophy and establish a Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. This should be our solemn pledge on this National Mourning Day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina