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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

15 August 2019

Today is 15 August, our 'National Mourning Day' - the most sorrowful, dreadful and disgraceful day in the history of Bangalee Nation. It is the 44th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In the early morning amidst the dark of late midnight of 15 August 1975, when daylight was not even visible in the sky, the most disgraceful event of the history happened. The greatest Bangalee of all the time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated by a gang of anti-liberation forces. Eighteen members of the family along with Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, three sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel were killed on that fateful night. Fortunately both the daughters of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina (present Hon'ble Prime Minister) and Sheikh Rehana survived the carnage as they were abroad at that time.

I, on this day of mourning, with a heavy heart, pay my profound reverence to the martyrs of the 15th August. I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of their souls.

Bangabandhu, a visionary leader and the prime mover of independence, led the nation at every struggle and democratic movement including the historic Language Movement in 1952, Juktafront Election in 1954, movement against Martial Law in 1958, Six-Point Movement in 1966, Mass Upsurge in 1969 and the General Elections in 1970 which all were directed towards attaining the right to self-determination.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman never compromised on the question of the rights of our people. We achieved an independent and sovereign Bangladesh through a nine month long armed struggle under his charismatic leadership. The title 'Bangabandhu' what our common people conferred on him has become a synonym for the word 'Bangladesh'. The world reputed Newsweek Magazine of its 5 April, 1971 issue termed Bangabandhu as a 'Poet of Politics' which marked the firm conviction and deep reverence by the world community to the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Father of the Nation took over the leadership of a war-ravaged and economically backward country. He took the responsibility of rehabilitation of almost all the people of the country economically and socially. Bangabandhu made the basis for newly independent Bangladesh to stand on its own feet within three and a half years achieving the recognition of 116 countries and getting the membership of 27 international organizations, including the United Nations. Immediately after the independence, free ration was distributed for months to save the two crore displaced people from death. They had to provide shelter, clothing, medicine, and other necessities for their survival. Bangabandhu accomplished the challenging tasks of rehabilitation and rebuilding the nation within short time. Against this backdrop, conspirators committed the heinous crime with utmost brutality with him and his family members on 15 August 1975. The death of Bangabandhu does not mean the extinct of the values, principles and ideals; rather these are ingrained in the depth of the heart of the Bangalee Nation.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Though 15 August massacre was a tragic event for the Bangalee nation, the subsequent government rewarded the killers by appointing and rehabilitating them to different Bangladesh Missions abroad instead of punishing them. Implementation of verdicts of the Father of the nation Bangabandhu murder case, and the cases on war crimes and crimes against humanity demonstrated a firm commitment against long prevailing culture of impunities. The nation will finally be free from its liabilities through bringing back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu from abroad and executing the verdict.

The people of the country became leaderless after the brutal murder of Bangabandhu. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the most successful and acclaimed statesman in the country after the Father of the Nation. We are now enjoying a respectable position in the world arena only due to her dynamic, intelligent and effective leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh is regarded as a Development Miracle in the world forum. Bangladesh has succeeded in accelerating economic growth to above eight percent and per capita income 1909 US Dollar. The poverty line has dropped from 40 percent in 2005 to 21 percent. Extreme poverty dropped from 25 percent to 11 percent. The government has been working to establish 100 economic zones by 2030, which is estimated to create direct and indirect employment opportunities for around 10 million people and increase export by additional 40 billion USD and beyond.

On this grief-stricken day let's make this pledge that we should continue the onward march under the leadership of the daughter of Bangabandhu and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by putting an end to all plots of killing and wicked politics of conspiracy.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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