

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Md. Shahriar Alam, MP
State Minister
মোঃ শাহরিয়ার আলম, এমপি
প্রতিমন্ত্রী



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

Message

15 August 2020

Today is 15 August, our 'National Mourning Day'- the most disgraceful day in the history of the Bengali Nation. At the dark night of forty five years back, the greatest Bengali of all time, founding architect of Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members was brutally killed.

None of Bangabandhu's family members, even his boy child Russel could not escape the claws of hyenas. Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who contributed greatly in Bengali Nation's struggle for freedom, also faced martyrdom along with Bangabandhu and other family members during that brutal killing. 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.

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

Under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the people of this territory conquered the red sun of the independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. The Bengalis had then achieved their own nation-state, flag and national anthem. Bangladesh stands ready to celebrate the golden jubilee of our Glorious Independence next year and is celebrating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation at this moment, which are rare occasions in our history.

Bangabandhu laid the foundations of the new Republic by putting into numerous measures, including withdrawal of all allied forces within 3 months of victory, formation of a constitution for the new state within 10 months, recognition of Bangladesh by more than a hundred countries, Bangladesh's membership of important international bodies including the United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, NAM and OIC. He took over the leadership of a war-ravaged and economically backward country. Bangabandhu accomplished the formidable tasks of rehabilitation and rebuilding the nation just in three and a half years period of time, when the conspirators and enemies attempted to thwart the advancement of the country through his assassination. 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. The Awami League Government has implemented the verdict of Bangabandhu murder trial to uphold democracy and the rule of law. Five convicted killers of Bangabandhu are still fugitive in different parts of the world. The government is committed to bring them back to the country and execute the verdict.

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By killing Bangabandhu, the murderers wanted to erase the spirit of the War of Independence, secularism and the values of building an equitable society. However, the killing of Bangabandhu could not wipe out his values, principles and ideals; rather these are ingrained in the heart of the Bengali nation. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the torch-bearer of the ideals of the Father of the Nation, has been working relentlessly to establish fundamental rights for all, as well as to ensure economic emancipation for the common people and to raise their standards of living. Amidst this unprecedented global corona pandemic, our Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced a number of stimulus packages totaling about Tk. 1 lakh crore to stand by the poor and helpless people, to keep the momentum of economic activities, and to maintain the trend in growth and development. The government under the able leadership of Deshratna Sheikh Hasina has been working persistently to transform Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041. Along with economic growth, Bangladesh has become a global role model for poverty alleviation, women empowerment, coping with climate change and curbing child mortality rate significantly. All these achievements have been made possible within the fastest period of time, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the last decade, through successful implementation of the laws and policy frameworks promulgated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I request all the members of our Missions abroad to assist the expatriate Bangladeshis with utmost dedication and commitment in tackling their difficulties, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe that Bangladeshi Diaspora will also be supportive to each other to overcome this pandemic.

We will take Bangladesh ahead by dedicating ourselves from our own positions to the destination of 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu and 'a technology based developed and modern Bangladesh' as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through the transformation of our grief of losing the Father of the Nation into strength. This should be our pledge on this National Mourning Day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever

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