

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

16 December 2019

Today is 16 December, the Great Victory Day. On this day in 1971, our brave Bengali heroes earned the victory through their decade's long hard struggle for self-emancipation and a 9 month long blood-spattered War of Liberation in 1971.

On the eve of the Victory Day, I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitations to all the citizens of Bangladesh living home and abroad.

On this happy moment of the glorious Victory Day, I recall with profound respect the greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose charismatic leadership contributed to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state in the world. I pay my profound homage to the 3 million martyrs and 2 hundred thousand mothers and sisters whose supreme sacrifices and dishonour ushered us an independent and sovereign Bangladesh. My respectful salute goes to all freedom fighters including the wounded war heroes.

On this memorable moment of Victory Day, I express my sincere gratitude to all foreign friends, expatriate Bangladeshis, members of diplomatic front who accelerated our victory by extending all possible support during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. I also recall with deep gratitude the invaluable contribution of the members of the then Pakistan Foreign Service who defected to Bangladesh Foreign Service and the newly formed Bangladesh government during our liberation war in 1971.

Bangabandhu, a visionary leader and the prime mover of independence, led the nation to every struggle and democratic movement 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. 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. Bangladesh is going to celebrate the birth centennial of Father of the Nation in 2020 and the golden jubilee of our independence in 2021. The government has already declared 2020-2021 as 'Mujib Barsha'. During the year-long celebration of the Birth Centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, many events will be organized in the country as well as abroad, through which I believe that the ideology and achievements of the Father of the Nation will be upheld in a much wider range in the international arena.

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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 and accomplished the formidable tasks of rebuilding the nation just in three and half a years. Conspirators and enemies committed the heinous crime of killing Bangabandhu on 15 August 1975 to thwart our advancement.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthiest daughter of our Father of the Nation employed all the authority and resources of her government for the all out welfare of this country and its people. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. As per ADB, among the 45 Asia-Pacific countries, Bangladesh achieved highest GDP growth rate last year and it was 8.15%. Bangladesh has achieved one of the fastest poverty reduction rates in the world with poverty rate dropping from 41.5% in 2006 to 21.3% in 2018 and extreme poverty from 25% to 11.3%.

Along with economic growth, Bangladesh has become a role model in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, climate change and curbing child mortality rate. All these achievements have been made possible with the policy guidelines promulgated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman within the fastest period of time and through successful implementation of those laws and policy framework under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the last decade.

On this great Day, I congratulate Bangladesh Diaspora in every corner of the world which is immensely contributing to our economic development and in brightening the image of Bangladesh. I also express my gratitude to all the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Missions abroad who have been working with dedication and commitment in achieving our foreign policy objectives and promote national interest of Bangladesh on the world stage.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working tirelessly for realization of the dream for which our Father of the Nation fought; for which the freedom fighters poured their fresh blood on the green grass of this land. Let us pledge today that, all of us will be working according to our own ability from our respective positions for the welfare of people, motherland and global humanity.

**Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu**  
**May Bangladesh Live Forever**

**Md. Shahriar Alam, MP**