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CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

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It is with profound shock and sorrow that the members of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC mourn the demise of Hon'ble President Mr. Muhammad Zillur Rahman, the guardian of the nation. With his demise, ends an era of a political legacy, a legacy of political acumen, immaculate judgment, and the courage and resilience to stand for what we believe to be rightfully ours as a nation. It is indeed an irreparable loss to the country and the people of Bangladesh.

The growing up of President Zillur Rahman as a politician coincides with perhaps the most turbulent and exciting period in the history of our nation. Inspired and blessed by the guidance of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, President Zillur Rahman started his steadfast journey as a politician in 1950s. It was a defining period in the formation of Bangladesh as a country, or perhaps even larger than that when speaking in universal terms of fighting for democracy, or showing defiance against authoritarian regimes, or for that matter creating a political language of liberal thoughts and ideas in the country. In his long and illustrious political career, he contributed to each and every political movement that defined today's Bangladesh as to who we are. He fought for our language in 1952; he has been a key leader in the movement against military rulers in 1962, six-point movement in 1966 and mass upsurge in 1969. At the clarion call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he played a prominent role in organizing our War of Liberation in 1971. In the post 1975 Bangladesh, he continued his role in consolidating the political forces in trying times. He has been a key figure during different movements for restoration of democracy in the country. In the process, he had to bear the brunt of sacrificing his beloved wife. He however remained unmoved in his lifetime struggle for establishing democratic rights of the people of the country.

While we all mourn his loss today, we believe, his brilliant leadership will always remain a source of inspiration and encouragement to all his friends, countrymen and fellow Bangladesh nationals all across the globe.

We pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Hon'ble President Muhammad Zillur Rahman and convey profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. Our thoughts are with his family and we pray to Almighty Allah to give them the same strength and courage that earned President Zillur Rahman the great esteem of his countrymen and beyond.

Akramul Qader