

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

01 Poush 1428  
16 December 2021

## Message

Today is the 16 December- our great Victory Day. Bangladesh has completed 50 years of her victory. This is a glorious day of the Bangalee nation. Responding to the clarion call of the Greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangalee nation achieved ultimate victory on this day in 1971 after 23 years of intense political struggles and 9 months of blood-shedding War of Liberation.

I extend my heartiest greetings and congratulations to the countrymen on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of our great victory. I recall with deep gratitude Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I pay my tributes to four national leaders, three million martyrs, two hundred thousand dishonoured women of the War of Liberation and the greatest sons of the soil- the Freedom Fighters whose supreme sacrifices made independent-sovereign Bangladesh. I recall with gratitude those foreign states and friends who had extended their support during our Liberation War.

On the occasion of the 'Mujib Year' marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation and Golden Jubilee of our victory, colorful programs have been chalked out. In the wake of Coronavirus pandemic, the programs are being celebrated following the health protocols avoiding public gathering.

Under the undaunted leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the Bangalee nation got prepared for independence through Language Movement of 1948-'52, Education Movement of 1962, Six-point Demand of 1966, and Eleven-point Movement and Mass Upsurge of 1969. The Awami League secured an absolute majority in whole Pakistan in the general elections of 1970. However, Pakistanis did not allow the Bangalee nation to assume power. The Father of the Nation realized that the oppression, persecution and deprivation meted out to the Bangalee nation would not be ended without achieving independence. Accordingly, on the historic 7 March of 1971, he in front of a million of people at the then Race Course Maidan firmly pronounced, 'The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence.' At the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, country-wide non-cooperation movement began. Preparation for waging armed struggle also continued. On the fateful night of 25 March of 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces launched a brutal onslaught and committed genocide on the innocent and unarmed Bangalees. At the early hours of 26 March, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib declared independence of Bangladesh. Formal War of Independence started. The first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the President, Syed Nazrul Islam as the Vice-President and Tajuddin Ahmad as the Prime Minister was sworn-in on 17 April at the historic Mujibnagar and led the Liberation War. The valiant freedom fighters earned ultimate victory on 16 December by defeating Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators- Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Sham. We have gotten our red-green flag.

In just three and a half years of his government, the Father of the Nation rebuilt the war-ravaged country. Destroyed roads, bridges, culverts, railways, ports were rebuilt to revive the economy. In just 10 months, our constitution was drafted on the basis of the spirit of Liberation War under his direction. In 1975, the GDP growth rate exceeded 9%. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib turned war-ravaged Bangladesh into a 'least developed' country.

While Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was advancing to build an exploitation-deprivation-free non-communal democratic 'Sonar Bangla' overcoming all obstacles, the anti-liberation forces brutally killed him along with most of his family members on 15 August 1975. After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the development and progress of Bangladesh came to a halt. The politics of killing, coup and conspiracy started. The assassins and their accomplices promulgated the 'Indemnity Ordinance' to block the trial of this heinous murder in the history.

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Getting the public mandate in 1996, Bangladesh Awami League formed the government after 21 years. After assuming the office, we took initiatives to establish Bangladesh as a dignified state in the comity of nations. Through the introduction of social safety-net programs, poor and marginalized people are brought under government allowances. We made the country self-sufficient in food production with special emphasis on agricultural production. The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was signed with India in 1996. We signed the historic Peace Accord in 1997 with the aim of establishing peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. By repealing the 'Indemnity Ordinance', we started the trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Forming governments for the three consecutive terms since 2009, Bangladesh Awami League has relentlessly been working for the last 13 years to improve the living standard of the people. We are implementing the unfinished works of the Father of the Nation. Today, Bangladesh is self-reliant in food production. We are now focusing on ensuring nutrition for the people. Our sovereign rights over a vast area in the Bay of Bengal have been established through the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes with Myanmar and India. The implementation of the Bangladesh-India Land Boundary Agreement has put an end to the protracted inhuman life of the enclave people. The nation has become free from stigma by executing the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case. The trial of four national leaders has been accomplished. The trial of war criminals continues and the verdicts are being executed.

We have formulated the Second Perspective Plan for 2021-2041 and are executing the 8th Five-Year Plan. We have started implementation of 100-year 'Delta Plan-2100' for the first time in the world. Today, the benefits of 'Digital Bangladesh' have been expanded from urban to remote rural level. The urban facilities are being delivered to every village. All landless-homeless people are being provided houses. No one of Bangladesh will be left homeless. To keep the economy going offsetting the impacts of Coronavirus, we have so far announced 28 stimulus packages worth Tk 1,31,641 crore. A total of 99.75% people has been brought under electricity coverage. Per capita income increased to 2,554 US\$ now from 543 US\$ in 2005-06. We have made incredible progress in every sector of the country. Bangladesh is now a 'Role Model' in every field of socio-economic development including agriculture, education, health, communication, information technology, industry, trade and commerce. Bangladesh has received the final approval of the United Nations to graduate from a least developed country to a dignified 'developing' nation.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib elevated Bangladesh to a 'least developed' country, and we took the motherland to the row of a 'developing' state on the auspicious occasion of 'Mujib Year' and the Golden Jubilee of our victory. Everything we have achieved in the last 50 years since our Independence has been attained by the Father of the Nation and the Awami League. I firmly believe that if this trend of development continues, Bangladesh will be established as a hunger-poverty-free and developed-prosperous country by 2021 as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, InshaAllah.

The establishment of the nation-state 'Bangladesh' through the victory of the War of Liberation on 16 December 1971 was the greatest achievement of the Bangalee nation. To make this achievement meaningful, we have to know and let people know about the Greatest Hero of Independence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and the War of Liberation. We will convey the spirit of the great Liberation War from generation to generation- let this be our pledge on this auspicious occasion of the Golden Jubilee of our victory.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

**Sheikh Hasina**