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National Revolution and
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বাণী

জাতীয় বিপ্লব ও সংহতি দিবস উপলক্ষে আমি দেশবাসী ও প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

৭ নভেম্বর আমাদের জাতীয় জীবনে এক অবিশ্বরণীয় দিন। ১৯৭৫ সালের এ দিনে দেশপ্রেমিক জনগণ ও সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অকুতোভয় সদস্যগণ দেশের বিরুদ্ধে সকল ষড়যন্ত্র নস্যোৎ করে ঐতিহাসিক সংহতি ও মহান বিপ্লবের মাধ্যমে দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্বকে সমুন্নত রাখে। সিপাহী-জনতার এই বিপ্লব ও সংহতি জাতির ইতিহাসে উজ্জ্বল হয়ে আছে। জাতীয় ইতিহাসের ওই সন্ধিক্ষণে জনগণের আশা-আকাঙ্ক্ষার মূর্ত প্রতীক হিসেবে জাতির নেতৃত্ব অর্পিত হয় শহীদ প্রেসিডেন্ট জিয়াউর রহমানের ওপর। তাঁর বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্ব সংকট থেকে উত্তরণে সকলকে দিকনির্দেশনা প্রদান করে এবং জনগণের দীর্ঘদিনের কাঙ্ক্ষিত বহুদলীয় গণতন্ত্র, বাকস্বাধীনতা ও জাতীয় ঐক্যের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশী জাতীয়তাবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়।

জাতীয় বিপ্লব ও সংহতি দিবসের আদর্শ হলো দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্বকে সংরক্ষণ, পরনির্ভরশীলতার পরিবর্তে স্বনির্ভর অর্থনীতি ও আত্মমর্যাদাশীল জাতি গঠন এবং বিশ্বের বুকে বাংলাদেশ রাষ্ট্রের মর্যাদা সমুন্নতকরণ। এ আদর্শ বাস্তবায়নে প্রয়োজন দলমতনির্বিশেষে সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টা ও জাতীয় ঐক্য। এ ঐক্য স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্ব সুসংহত করার পাশাপাশি গণতন্ত্র ও অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রযাত্রাকে ত্বরান্বিত করবে।

সুশী-সমৃদ্ধ ও আত্মমর্যাদাশীল জাতি গঠনের মাধ্যমে জাতীয় বিপ্লব ও সংহতি দিবসকে সার্থক করে তুলতে আমি সকলকে ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে কাজ করার আহ্বান জানাই।

আব্দুল হাফেজ, বাংলাদেশ জিন্দাবাদ।

শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

প্রধানমন্ত্রী, বাংলাদেশ

voice made the proclamation of independence and call for initiation of the War of Liberation on behalf of imprisoned leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The leaders of Awami League representing the people of the country formed the expatriate government. The inspired youth and the patriotic

The Second revolution of the 7 November

Sadeque Khan



people irrespective of creeds came forward to participate in the War of Liberation by taking up weapons, providing war material and other practical and moral support, enhancing the ability of publicity and by putting up resistance. In this way, the first revolution of 1971 took place.

The revolt of the soldiers in 1971 served as the backbone of the revolutionary spirit of the people and gave strength to the nation to hold its head high. In the same way, in the changed situation in 1975, the united effort of the soldiers and the people led to the 2nd revolution. By that time, the mainstream towards the formation of the nation state was hindered by sporadic revolts and counter revolts by the soldiers. The army that takes part in the war of liberation can always feel the pulse of public life. The fact that the united effort by the soldiers and the people can lead a nation state out of any crisis was proved again through the soldier-people revolution in 1975.

Needless to recount the course of events of the soldier-people revolution. Those events are now part of the national history; I'll quote Late M M Rezaul Karim, a diplomat and freedom fighter, to focus on the significance of the revolution. He wrote, "The National Revolution and Solidarity Day has been observed almost every year since 1976 in our diplomatic missions home and abroad through meetings and discussions. The joint effort of the soldiers and the people to undermine autocratic one party system and to dispel the fear of losing the status of national sovereignty became victorious on the

7 November 1975. On that day, a rare event of solidarity between the soldiers and the people took place. A review of some previous events may be helpful to understand the significance of that day.

After the partial army-revolt and the killing of Bangabandhu and the members of his family on the 15th August 1975, the assassins and leaders of the rebellion, who were major in rank, took shelter in Bangabhaban making themselves well protected

by armoured force. They made one of the Bangabandhu's colleagues and the then commerce minister Khandaker Moshtaq Ahmed president and the commander-in-chief of the war of liberation General M A G Osmany Defence

Advisor. Khandaker Moshtaq, the new president, included most of the ministers of the BKSAL cabinet in his newly formed cabinet and promoted General Zia as Army chief. However, the majors took over the control of the country keeping themselves behind the curtain.

It was said on behalf of the majors that they truly believed that they were inspired by patriotism and their action was aimed at uprooting autocratic BKSAL rule. According to them, it would have not been possible for them to achieve their main objective of establishing multi-party democracy without removing the president. Since they did not receive any response from the Army Chief or Deputy Chief or any senior official next to them, they took the initiative themselves by violating military discipline. But, they claim, the reaction in the army following the situation that arose out of the heart-rending incident of killing of the women and children of Bangabandhu's family got out of their control. Some senior officers got extremely annoyed them by the attitude and activities of the majors in



Bangabhaban. They objected that they had to follow the orders of their junior officers, which was contrary to the military rules. Some people think that they expressed their thought regarding this matters to general Zia indirectly. But there was no immediate response from him.

On the late night of November 3, 1975, some officers of Dhaka cantonment led by Chief of General Staff Brig. Khaled Mosharrif took initiative to punish the majors in Bangabhaban. Some pilots from the Air force flew the fighter planes and helicopters over the Bangabhaban flexing their military muscle. By that time Khaled Mosharrif kept Army Chief Major General Zia under house arrest in the cantonment area. Mediators were sent to the majors demanding their surrender. After hard bargaining it was decided that the majors would be allowed to leave the country with their family.

Khaled Mosharrif was promoted to the post of Army chief. Primarily he wanted Khandaker Moshtaq Ahmed to continue as the president and other officers and ruling system to continue as before. But his plan was foiled due to the subsequent events. Two days later Khaled Mosharrif tried to flee sensing danger. But he was caught and imprisoned by the soldiers marching towards Dhaka and was killed instantly.

After the events of the 3rd November, many military officials feared that they would lose the privilege they were

enjoying at that time. Besides, many civil and military persons apprehended the rule of Khaled Mosharrif might be influenced by foreign forces. At dawn on November 7 the members of the army freed General Zia from imprisonment and made him Army Chief again and came out on the street. When they came on the street the people joined them spontaneously and rejoice over the victory. After this event Major General Ziaur Rahman's accession to absolute power became easier."

I think, that is not our main concern regarding the soldier-people revolution, Ziaur Rahman's accession to power was only incidental. President Saem took over the power as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Later, Ziaur Rahman gradually adjusted marshal Law with civil Administration, paved the way for multi-party politics and took over the responsibility of running the state affairs.

In the crisis of the present day world order and in the confusion of this countries advancement towards democracy, this realisation will certainly give us courage that united effort of soldiers and the people to protect the dignity of the state will never be defeated by any machination of foreign forces.

The responsibility to make a nation state serve certainly lies with the people, because sovereignty belongs to them.

In democratic system there are ways to face emergency situation arising out of insurrection rebellions serious mismanagement or increasing secret attacks. There are provision in this regard in our constitutions too. The solidarity between the soldiers and the people is always there and will remain for ever to ensure the continuity of constitutional process, progress of peoples conscience and to keep the dignity of the nation state intact. This is the expectation of the countrymen and commitment of the citizens on the the 7 November.

Translation: Kazi Moshtaq Zahir

Plateau of Dreams

Original : Al mahmud

Once in hazy mist our journey had started
Then a flash of light on the horizon
Had illumined our path. There was fragrance
of rice in the air.
The woodlands were full with the chirping of birds.
Our hearts remained suspended like an
Exquisite portrait of nature
River, River-
Raising their fingers in euphoric delight
The spring shown to us by our offspring is our soul.
It is that stream, with whose design our women
Weave sarees. It is that curve imitating which
Our sisters cover their bodies in curved line.
Look this is the stream
Whose ripples drown us in music.
Look at it, look.
Our Destination the picture of that huge plateau
Have swallowed our entire aoul. Our flag
Is touched by the wind of fairy tales. The future
Swings our hopes like a golden pendulum,
Again and again.
Immersed in joy we have started our journey
Toward dreams Sorrows
Do not make us tired.
On a calamitous night we tamed our face
Towards a brilliant day, Obstacles
Have not overpowered us.
Leaving behind the maze of screams, cries and
disappointment,
We shall set forth Let death
Doth not touch us.
We shall scatter the seeds of crop on the plateau
of dreams
On the left would flow the waters of a silvery river
On the right an intensely hungry mountain.

Translation : Helal Uddin Ahmed

(Reprinted)

