

# Tribute to a towering figure of history

We bring out a special issue today dedicated to the man who led us to freedom and made possible the birth of our country – Bangladesh – and whose birth centenary we start observing from today.

His public life started as a schoolboy. And it never stopped till his last breath when he, along with all members of his immediate family, save the two daughters Hasina and Rehana, were brutally murdered on 15th August 1975. Throughout his life he dedicated every bit of his energy, most of his actions, the entirety of his thoughts and every ounce of his emotion to one single dream – betterment of his people – which, his experience convinced him, could only be achieved through independence. He was a man possessed – to struggle, to confront, to face odds and to suffer and to serve.

It was his ability to unify that made us come together; quality to inspire that made us dream of independence; capacity to mesmerise with his words and oratory that made us bold; enormous courage that drove us to strive for the impossible; and honesty of purpose that made us trust him so completely.

Our special publication tries to bring out the person – Bangabandhu – through his own writings and some letters written to and by him. We hope our humble effort helps our readers to understand better this towering figure of history but for whom our freedom may not have come when it did.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher



PHOTO: NASIR ALI MAMUN/PHOTOSEUM



তুমি এক আলোকশিখা  
চির অনির্বাণ,  
শুভ জন্মদিন  
শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

১৯২০ সালের এই দিন। হাজার বছরের  
অন্ধকার ভাঙতে জন্ম নেয় এক আলোকশিখা। যাঁর  
জন্মের সাথে একটি জাতির ভাগ্যে লেখা হয় মুক্তির সনদ,  
যাঁর কান্নায় ধ্বনিত হয় যুগ-যুগের পরাধীনতার আত্ননাদ!  
সারাবিশ্ব দেখেছে, সেই শিশুই একদিন একটি জাতিকে পথ  
দেখায় মুক্তিচেনার মশাল হাতে, এনে দেয় স্বাধীনতা!

আজ বঙ্গবন্ধুর জন্মশতবর্ষে আমরা সবাই শপথ নিই—  
চেনার সেই অবিনশ্বর আলোকশিখা আমরা বয়ে নিয়ে যাবো  
প্রজন্ম থেকে প্রজন্মে। শুভ জন্মদিন বাংলাদেশের স্বপ্নদ্রষ্টা,  
জাতির পিতা শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান।

