



NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

17th May



The Norwegian Royal Family

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

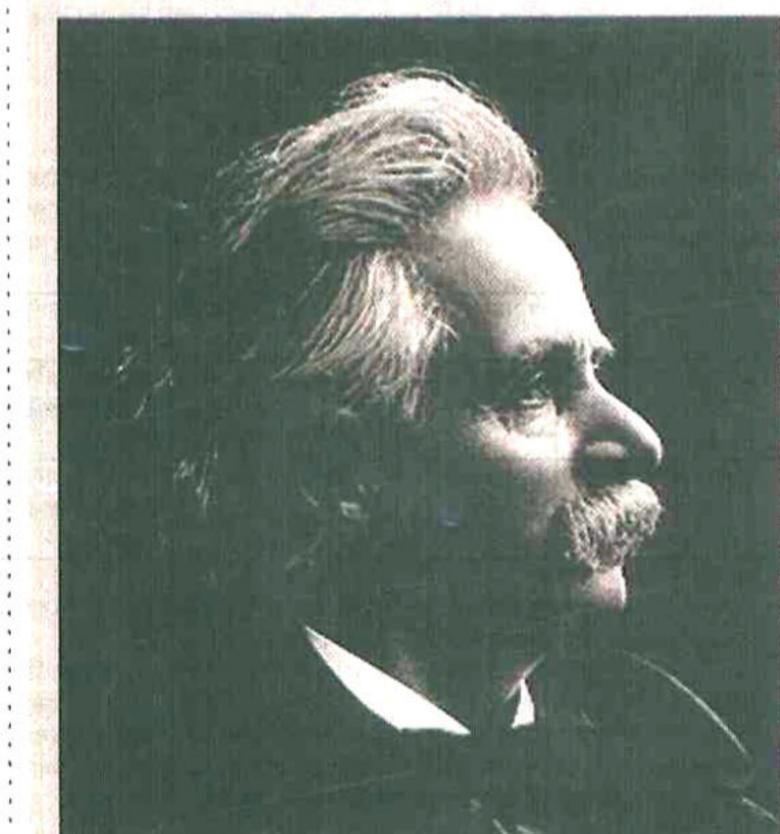
It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the Norwegian Constitution Day, 17th of May.

Last year was a special year in the relation between Bangladesh and Norway. First, we commemorated the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen with an extensive programme here in Bangladesh.

Then, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Grameen Bank and Prof. Muhammad Yunus. It has been heartening to observe the joy and pride over the prize expressed by Bangladeshi from all walks of life, whether living in this country or abroad. Norway was equally proud and happy to be the host of the Nobel Peace Prize. The award to Prof. Yunus has increased the interest for Bangladesh all over Norway, where people are eager to learn more about the culture and people of this country.

It is my sincere hope that the Peace Prize will strengthen Bangladesh and its people in its progress towards development and new opportunities for all people.

This year, we are celebrating the 17th of May 2007 in the spirit of one of the finest Norwegian artists, the composer Edvard Grieg, who died on 4th September 1907, thus commemorating the centenary of his death. Edvard Grieg was an artist whose music, words and ideas are still relevant today. He remains one of



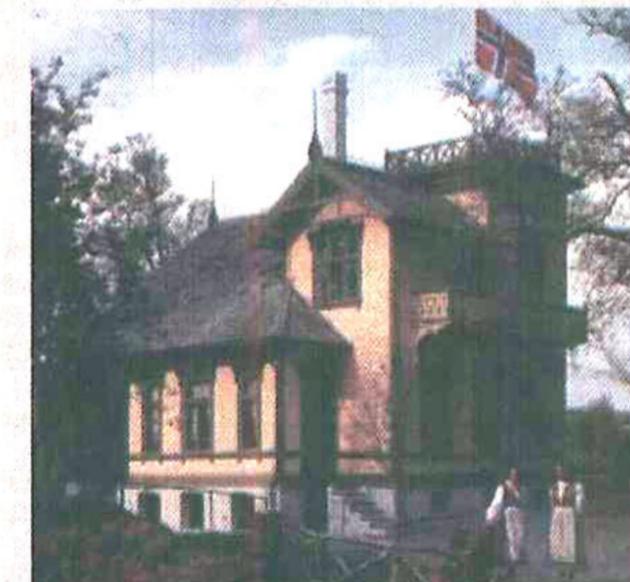
EDWARD GRIEG

1843 - 1907

In 2007 we commemorate the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, one of Norway's finest musicians of all times.

Edvard Grieg was born in Bergen on 15 June 1843. Although small in stature, he had a great artistic heart that beat for justice, truth and solidarity. He was a strong defender of freedom, democracy, justice and rule of law, both in his attitude and his actions. He maintained that artists play a key role in the fight against discrimination and exclusion.

Grieg strongly believed in the importance of music in society. He held free concerts for Laborers and the poor on several occasions. He claimed that there was no upper or lower class



Edvard Grieg's house

in art, and that art could therefore have a educating effect on society.

Like many composers of his time, Grieg took an interest in collecting sounds he heard in nature and in folk music. This was an expression of a process of national awakening and identity-building. Birdsong, waterfalls, rain and mountains all found a place in his compositions, and listeners are given a genuine experience of nature through his music.

Grieg was a close friend of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, and composed music to one of Ibsen's plays, Peer Gynt.

A spirit held high for 193 years
Congratulating all the Norwegians on their Constitution Day


grameenphone