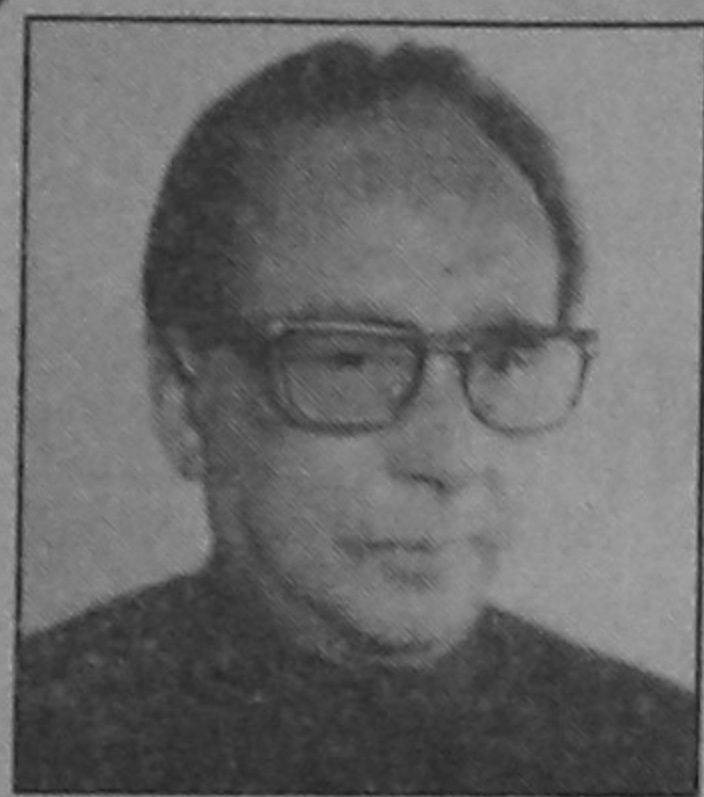


17 March NATIONAL CHILDREN DAY 2009




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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

Message

I pay my deep homage to the unfading memory of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his 89th Birth Anniversary observing as the 'National Children Day' across the country. On this day, I convey my heartfelt greetings to the children of Bangladesh.

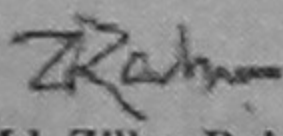
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest son of the soil, was born in Tungipara of Gopalganj district on 17 March 1920. Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader, was clamorous for the right of Bengali Nation from his early age. He led the nation in every movement towards attaining democracy and autonomy including 52's Language Movement, 54's Jukta-Front Election, 58's Martial Law, 66's Six-Point Movement and 69's Mass Uprising. During the Pakistani regime, he was sent to jail several times and borne inhuman sufferings for the cause of self-independence of our people. Responding to his clarion call, the countrymen participated in the War of Liberation on 26 March 1971 and earned the long-cherished Independence through nine-month long armed struggle. Therefore, the name of Bangabandhu would be imprinted in letters of gold in the history of Bengali Nation.

Bangabandhu's cherished dream was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh 'Sonar-Bangla' (Golden Bengal). But he was brutally assassinated with his family members on 15 August 1975 by a group of misguided armed personnel and conspirators. This event is marked as a black-chapter in the history of the nation.

It is our foremost duty to build up our young generation with the noble spirit of patriotism and values so that they can lead the nation towards prosperity and materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people. Let us put our sincere endeavour to unfold the intrinsic values and qualities of the children for making them worthy-citizens of the country. Bangladesh is one of the signatories of the UN Child Rights Convention and the Government is pledged to protect the rights of children. I urge upon all irrespective of party affiliation to work unitedly for the betterment of the children and to build a happy and prosperous nation.

I pray for the salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 89th Birth Anniversary.

Khoda Hafez. May Bangladesh Live Forever.


Md. Zillur Rahman

A Tribute to the Father of the Nation on his Birthday Dr. Harun-Or-Rashid

March 17, the birthday of Bangabandhu, an auspicious day on which the greatest Bengali was born. It's the birthday of the Father of the Nation. On March 17 in 1920 the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took his birth in a village called Tungipara under the Gopalganj subdivision (presently a district) of Faridpur district. Who knew, after 51 years of that in 1971 under the leadership of that baby boy, through the blood-stained pathway of the armed liberation war, there would be the emergence of a free state and nation in the world map-the nation called Bengali and the state, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

From his childhood Mujib was incomparable, distinctive with vigour. The qualities of a good leadership like integrity, sturdiness, intrepidity, perceptions of just-unjust, intense patriotism, non-communalism, love for mankind, dare to risk, all were noticeable even at his school-going age. Before the partition



Bangabandhu is seen in a jovial mood in the midst of youthful members of Kanchi Kanchar Mela, Khelaghar, Boy Scouts and Girls Guide at the Ganabhaban Mall on his Birthday

of India in 1947, he was actively involved in student politics in Calcutta. In 1946, he became the General Secretary of Islamia College Students' Union. After the partition he was admitted into Dhaka University for studying Law. But he came forward to lead the movement against the differential conduct of university authorities about the reasonable rights and claims of the class four employees. As consequences, he was expelled from the Dhaka University in the year 1949. He could regain his studentship if wanted, by giving bond or fine. But he was dissenting to do that as it was an ignominious act and a kind of yield to injustice. So his student life inevitably came to the eventide at the post graduate level.

That was the time when Bangabandhu appeared to be a promising political leader. He was elected as one of the prominent Founder-Joint

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WE CRY EVEN ON HIS BIRTH DAY Momtazuddin Ahmed

If anybody anytime asks me or us, 'Who among your acquaintances is the greatest Bengali?' My instant answer will be, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Yes, he is Sheikh Mujib. He is Bangabandhu, he is a friend of Bangla.

Sequentially many names will glitter. The names of Rabindra Nath, Iswar chandra Biddyasagar, Netaji Subhas Chandra Basu, Kazi Nazrul Islam will come up. Perhaps similar such hundred names can be cited. But Bangabandhu will excel all of them.

Why is he the best? He alone has brought independence to a defeated nation. He alone has freed Bangla from two hundred fifty years of bondage. Who else shall we call the greatest other than him who achieved the independence of Bangladesh? Why shall we call him Bangabandhu? Because he alone is the friend. He alone is the emancipator. He is the best architect of freedom of Bangladesh. He embraced prison again and again fighting for freedom of Bangladesh. Faced with impending death, he like a fearless fighter spoke again and again of freedom of Bangladesh.

When at a student-people mammoth meeting held in Race Course field on 23 February, 1969 he was declared as Bangabandhu, people burst out in joy and enthusiasm. He accepted the title of Bangabandhu being overwhelmed with emotion and tears.



Bangabandhu with his parents

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the third child and first son of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman of an obscure village of Tungipara of Gopalganj district has since been known as Bangabandhu. Now the sky, the river, the woods everybody knows him as Bangabandhu. As long as there is Bangladesh and Bengalis, there will remain this tall and brave Bengali. This man born near the bank of river Madhumati was very kind and compassionate. He is so dear to everybody because of his enduring love which knew no bounds. He was the first born son in the lower middle class family of Tongibari. His parents waited in baited breath for his arrival in the family. Day and night this was the only prayer. And the child finally arrived. There was light and joy in the family with the arrival of the child. The mother fondly calls him 'Oh my son, where are you!' The father returns home by boat and seeing the child in river bank he is besieged with joy.

Mujib brings home his school fellows and tells his mother that they too are her children, asks her to feed them. The mother lovingly obliges the wish of her son and provides puffed rice with sugar. The son looks at her mother and tells her that she is the mother of Bangla.

After a much thought, the maternal grand father names the child Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The mother Sayera Begum not entirely sure about the name, asks her father if her child with that name will be famous all over the world.

The father emphatically answers that surely one day her son will be the greatest in the world. He tells her to know for sure the significance of the name Mujib. He who can explain all questions is called Mujibur of Rahmanur Rahim. 'Your son has answers of all questions in the country', father replies.

Mujib leaves his mother and familiar environment for school in Faridpur. But he hears the music from the flute of his friend Gopal back home. He asks Gopal, the son of a fisherman why his music turns him to weep. Gopal says, 'My friend, the rivers of Bengal weep, my paddy fields weep. I only hear the weeping of Bengal.'

Sheikh Mujib too hears Bengal weep. After leaving the village and the city he goes to Calcutta but the weeping of Bengal kept ringing in his ear. Bengal weeps because Bengal is under shackles. The crops, the jute, the dreams of farmers of Bengal is prisoner in the hands of foreigners. None of the wealth and prosperity is within the grasp of Bengal. Everything is looted by foreigners. Britain prospers out of the riches of Bengal which is impoverished and languishes in deprivation.

With great hope and dream Pakistan is born. But the misery and suffering of Bengal does not disappear. City after city in West Pakistan is built out of the looted wealth, the sale of jute of Bengal. The condition of destitution and distress of Bengal remains as bleak as ever.

There must be a remedy. There must be a protest against this plunder. Bangabandhu knew the path to stop this plunder. He launched movements one after another demanding the right of Bengali language and to stop exploitation. He had 21 points demand in 1954, 11 points and 6 points demand of 1966. It was Mujib's struggle for freedom of Bengal, for economic emancipation to win over poverty. Mujib was sent to prison again and again and he faced death time and again.

Standing before the mausoleum of Suhrawardy in 1969 he said 'my country is no more East Pakistan but henceforth it will be known as Bangladesh'. The military rulers of Pakistan burst out in rage. They promised to hang Mujib. Mujib was fearless. 'Come death, But I still want independence of Bengal. Once we have shed blood, we are prepared to shed more blood to win independence of our homeland, by the grace of Allah. The struggle this time is for freedom, the struggle this time is for independence'. Washed in the blood of millions of Bengalis, Bangladesh has achieved independence. One hundred thousand Pakistani soldiers surrendered to accept a humiliating defeat.

Mujib was a prisoner in West Pakistan. He was ready to go to the grave. His only wish to his captors is, 'Please send the remains of my body after my death to my dear Bangladesh. I am the son of mother Bengal. My last resting place will be in its soil.'

So it happened. A few misled soldiers one Friday morning killed Mujib the friend of Bangla, the father of Bangla. Most of the members of his family were killed.

His dead body was taken to his birth place in Tungipara. He was buried at the feet of his grandfather resting near heaven.

The son of Tungipara is resting under the shelter of his parents. The greatest son of Bengal, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is lying there in eternal sleep. Day and night a melancholy tune is coming out of the flute of Gopal. Bengal is weeping.

The river of Bengal is weeping, the waves of Madhumati are weeping, Bengal is weeping on the death anniversary of Bangabandhu.

The river of Bengal is weeping, the trees are weeping, the waves of Madhumati river is weeping. Bengal is weeping on his birthday. We fight to save a flower. On his birth anniversary we take a solemn vow to translate his dream of a happy and prosperous Bangladesh into reality.

Translation: Abdul Hannan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH



Message

I pay my deep homage to the memory of the greatest Bangalee of thousand years, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking his 89th anniversary of birth and National Children Day. I also convey my best wishes to the children on the occasion. On this day in 1920, the father of the nation was born at Tungipara of Gopalganj district. His fondness for children knew no bound. That is why, the birthday of Bangabandhu has been declared as the National Children Day. On this auspicious day, I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and wish bright future of the budding leaders of our country, the children.

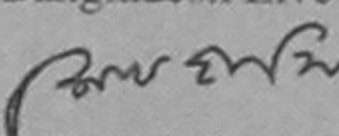
Bangabandhu gifted the Bangalee nation enchained for thousand years, the independence with his political wisdom and farsightedness. The grateful nation has embraced him as the Father of the Nation. The emergence of the Bangladesh state and the flourish of Bangalee nationhood have taken place under his undisputed leadership. He fought all along his life for the freedom and realisation of the rights of the repressed and exploited people.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his most of the family members was brutally assassinated on the 15th August in 1975 as part of conspiracies of the defeated forces of the Liberation War. After his assassination, the democratic advancement of the country has been obstructed and the right to vote and food taken away. The anti-liberation war criminals have been rehabilitated. The constitution has been mutilated and the history distorted so that the new generation cannot learn the true history of the War of Liberation.

But a proper national history is essential for building the nation's self-confidence and determining the future work-plan. Studying the biographies of the greatest men is also crucial for shaping the psyche of the future generation. The intellect and sacrifice of the agile political life of Bangabandhu will build up confidence among our children and juveniles and give them inspiration to make themselves as great men.

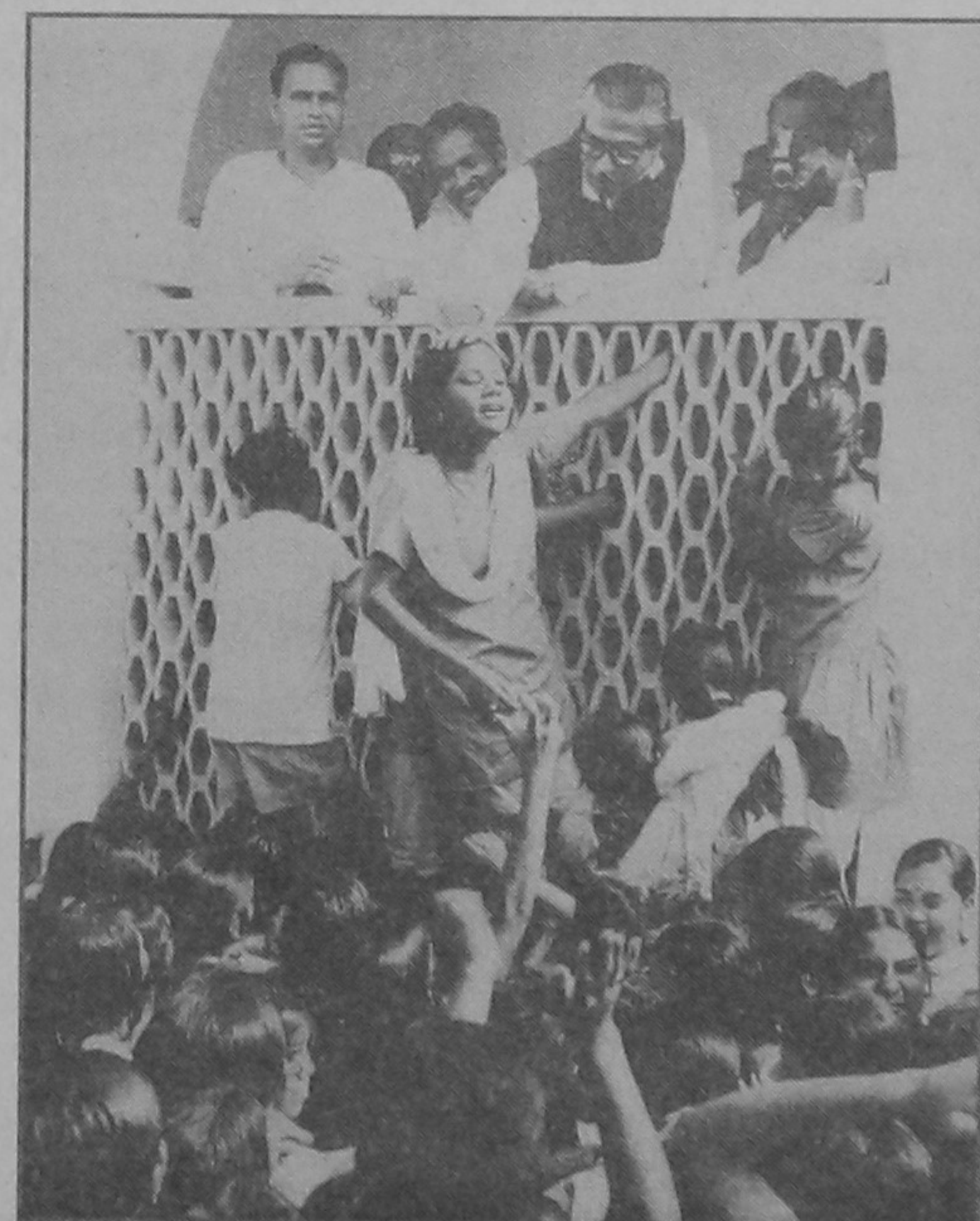
On the anniversary of birth of Bangabandhu and National Children Day, I would like to call upon all to come forward and build a 'Golden Bengal' as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for making our beloved Bangladesh a safe habitat for our children.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever


Sheikh Hasina

Humanity Is Fundamental Syed Azizul Haq

The progress of a nation is inseparably linked to the nourishment of children's mental faculties and cultural outlook. Moved by such thoughts, it is only natural for well-wishers of children to consider their welfare as the most fundamental. It is desirable for us to decipher the real meaning of children's welfare and how it could be materialised before we may have a clear perception about children. In this regard we may seek help from Rabindra Nath Tagore. His thoughts on unveiling child psychology are profoundly observant, based on comprehensive life-experiences and intensely philosophical. In the world of creation, only the human beings are complete. But he in his acute observation in the article 'Shristir Odhikar' says: 'Compared to other creations God has created human-child as more vulnerable and incomplete'. In his words God has created human-child as the weakest, incapacitated and helpless amongst all other creations. He



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman affectionately pats a school girl

views that for such reasons human beings remain active all their life to attain perfection. In other words they want to attain perfection in their life. This perpetual quest for perfection has made the human kind superior to other living beings. In the beginning of his article titled 'Banglabhasha-Parichaya', Rabindra Nath has given another explanation about the inadequacies of human-child and also about the yearning of humankind to achieve fulfillment in life. What is more significant in that article is that 'the main

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