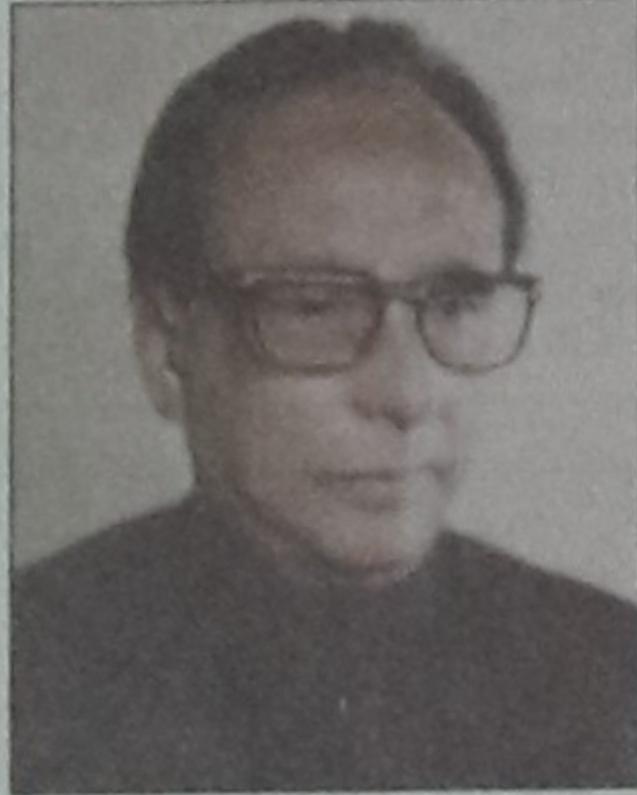


15 August National Mourning Day 2009

Special Supplement



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

Message

Today is the 15th August, the mourning day of Bangalee nation. On this day of 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all times and father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman embraced martyrdom. On his 34th death anniversary, I pay my deepest homage to the unfading memory of this great leader of the nation.

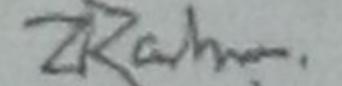
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of sovereign Bangladesh, is the undisputed leader of Bangalee nation who made immense contributions in achieving country's independence throughout his life. He led the nation in every movement including 52's Language Movement, 58's movement against Martial Law, 66's Six-Point Movement, 69's Mass Uprising and 70's General Election towards attaining democracy and establishing our rights. During the Pakistani regime, he was sent to jail for several times and had to face inhuman sufferings for the cause of self-independence of our people. His political foresightedness, indomitable courage, exquisite eloquence and able leadership inspired the people to take part in country's war of liberation. Responding to his clarion call, the declaration of independence on 26 March 1971, the countrymen participated in the War of Liberation and earned the long-cherished independence through nine-month long armed struggle. The name of Bangabandhu, therefore, is imprinted in letters of gold in the history of Bangladesh forever. I firmly believe, the contributions and life and works of Bangabandhu would surely inspire not only Bangalees but also all down-trodden and freedom-seeker people around the world.

August 15 is marked as a black-chapter and stigma in the history of Bangalee nation. On this day the father of the nation and his family members were brutally assassinated by a group of misguided armed personnel and conspirators. The loss of the nation due to this barbaric assassination is, indeed, irreparable. The whole nation is profoundly shocked and stunned with grief for this heinous incident.

The father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt a dream to transform our country into a Golden Bangla. But it is yet to be achieved. His daughter and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Sheikh Hasina has declared 'Vision 2021' to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu and to build an IT-based prosperous Bangladesh by 2021. I urge all countrymen, living in home and abroad, to work unitedly with a view to fulfilling this 'Vision' for the sake of the nation.

I pray for the salvation of the departed souls of father of the nation and his family members on this mourning day.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.


Md. Zillur Rahman

Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Muntasir Mamun

The inhabitants of Bangladesh had dreamt of a free land for long. Many individuals had sought to materialise this dream in the past. Many had spoken about that land during the first forty years of the last century. That plan was once again drawn during the partition of India.

Moulana Bhashani had spoken about an independent territory for the Bangalees during the decade of 1960s. But none could give complete shape to that dream. That dream was finally realized on 16 December 1971 under the leadership of a pure Bangalee-Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It was he who could erect for the Bangalees the geographic boundaries of a free state. Bangabandhu, Father of the Nation, or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman - in whatever name we may call him - his iconic figure looms large whenever we talk about Bangladesh. That is why, his name has become ingrained in our history and because of that we repeatedly reminisce about him.

Some information and proofs could be obtained about the long-drawn conspiracies of the villains of 1975 for seizing power. Khandakar Mostaque is an example. Evidence of the conspiratorial mentality of this principal villain in our history could be observed even before the liberation war. The frontline leaders of Awami League had visited Bangabandhu at his Dhanmondi residence on 25 March 1971 and asked him to remain cautious. Only Khandakar Mostaque was not seen there. After independence, he lobbied with Dr. Wazed Miah to become Foreign Minister with seniority. Later, in 1974, Dr. Wazed Miah saw after going to Khandakar Mostaque's residence that one Major Rashid was going out of the house after secret talks with him.

There has been much debate about the message of Sheikh Mujib broadcast by Mr. Hannan from Chittagong on 26 March 1971. Dr. Wazed Miah had written: "Bangabandhu's message was in a taped form. After transmitting that message from Dhaka's Baldah garden, that brave member of EPR had sought fresh orders by contacting Bangabandhu's residence over telephone. Bangabandhu then directed the EPR member via Mr. Golam Morshed to leave that place instantly after throwing the transmitter into the pond of Baldah garden."

I shall not go into the debate on whether this information was correct or not. I understand as an ordinary student of history that the country called Bangladesh was founded at the very start of March 1971 and that had happened at the directive of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir highlighted this in a very clear and logical manner in his essay titled 'Accountability of the State'. He wrote: "The 35 directives issued by Sheikh Mujib had laid the ground for all-out non-cooperation with the Pakistani state through resistance and rejection of its authority and complete cooperation of the Bangalee masses with their administration through establishment of a pro-people authority. — The Bangalee people had nurtured the thought of becoming the inhabitants of a separate, different and independent state in their bosom, head and heart even before the commencement of the war."

From the 1960s, Bangabandhu had two objectives. One of those was unambiguous, while another was unclear or something akin to a dream. The clear objective was to build up the Awami League, spread the organization throughout the country and establish a civil society by going to power on Awami League platform. There were infighting within the Awami League, which was natural for a big party. But Sheikh Mujib's organizational capacity was unique. He had the two qualities of tolerance and flexibility, which were needed for making the party bigger. I have even seen old people in remote rural areas, whose only possession was a tea-stall, who never got anything from the party, but had never left it after coming to the fold of Awami League at the behest of Sheikh Mujib. There are many more self-
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The Greatest Speech of the Greatest Bangalee A A M S Arefin Siddique

The speech that our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered 38 years ago was an amazing event in the context of theoretical application of communication science. An incredible manifestation of modern communication concepts could be observed in this historic speech by the greatest Bangalee of all times - Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu completed this timeless speech in 19 minutes by uttering between 58 and 60 words per minute. In broadcasting theory, 60 words per minute is considered to be an ideal. There were no annoying repetitions in the speech of 1,107 words. There were no unnecessary articulations - only the gist or core points. However, repetition at one or two places had reinforced the inner meaning of the speech.

The opening lines of a speech are considered to be very important. It is therefore said: 'There is nothing like a good beginning for a speech'. The communication theorists say, the audience orientation and recent happenings should be highlighted in the opening words. This reference to the audience found marvellous expression in this epoch-making speech by Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu had started his address like this: 'My dear brothers, I have come before you today with a heavy heart. All of you know and understand how hard we have tried. But it is a matter of sorrow that the streets of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur and Rajshahi have today become coloured with the blood of my brothers. Today, the people of Bangla want freedom, they want to live, the people of Bangla want their rights.' It was a highly effective introduction to the speech, which laid the foundation for the main address and provided indications to the audience regarding what was to follow.

If the contents of the speech is analysed, it is seen that it was basically a message about the emergence of a new state on the global map and a notification cum narrative on the winding up of the eastern region of the then Pakistani state as a natural progression.

The 7th March speech was the main mantra and theory for an independent Bangladesh. This address was like a war-cry during the nine months of the liberation war. Whether children or juvenile, young or old, everybody became excited after listening to this speech. This speech - articulated in Bangabandhu's own voice - not only united the 7 and a half crore Bangalees - it taught them the mantra of joining the liberation war. This address was a de-facto declaration of Bangladesh's independence.

The speech idioms' appropriate for mass communication were correctly applied in this speech. It was a dialogue between the people of Bangladesh and their undisputed leader on the eve of Bangladesh's birth. This fluent and extempore speech delivered in a lucid language and style was the principal document of our liberty. Bangabandhu quite adeptly adopted a conversational style while delivering this speech in order to attract the audience. He raised questions at different stages. Specifically, he posed five questions: 'What wrong have we done? What did we get? What R-T-C? With whom shall we sit? Shall we sit with those who had taken the blood of my people?' Proper application of the 'ask question, then answer' prescription had taken place for connecting with the audience. Logical use of the present tense refreshed the speech. Bangabandhu had also intermingled the past and future tenses quite beautifully in his speech for the sake of a conversational style.

Sentences naturally became shorter in those parts of the address where Bangabandhu gave orders, directives or warnings. The prescriptions of the communication theoreticians on making the declarative sentences shorter found reflection in Bangabandhu's speech. Some examples may be cited from the speech. For example, 'the employees will fetch their salaries on the 28th. Turn all your homes into fortresses. I say to the government employees: what I say has to be obeyed. As long as this country does not become free, no revenues-tax will be paid. Nobody will pay.'

An essential characteristic of a statesmanlike and authoritative speech is not only to familiarise the audience with future initiatives and work-plan, but also to motivate and inspire them to participate actively. Bangabandhu's words were inspirational: 'I call upon you to turn every home into fortresses, confront the enemy with whatever you have and close all roads for life even if I am not around to give orders.' The seven and a half crore people of Bangladesh had accepted these orders as more important than mere directives. A humanitarian outlook was a key feature of Bangabandhu's character. The 7 March speech had demonstrated that his liberal humanism did not diminish even while issuing stern warnings. While standing on the crossroads of life and death of a nation, he cautioned, 'We will starve them of food, we will deprive them of water.' But this was immediately followed by words of reassurance: 'You are my brothers - you stay in the barracks, nobody will tell you anything. But do not attempt to shoot at my heart.' This coexistence of hard and soft attributes could always be observed in the big heart of Bangabandhu.

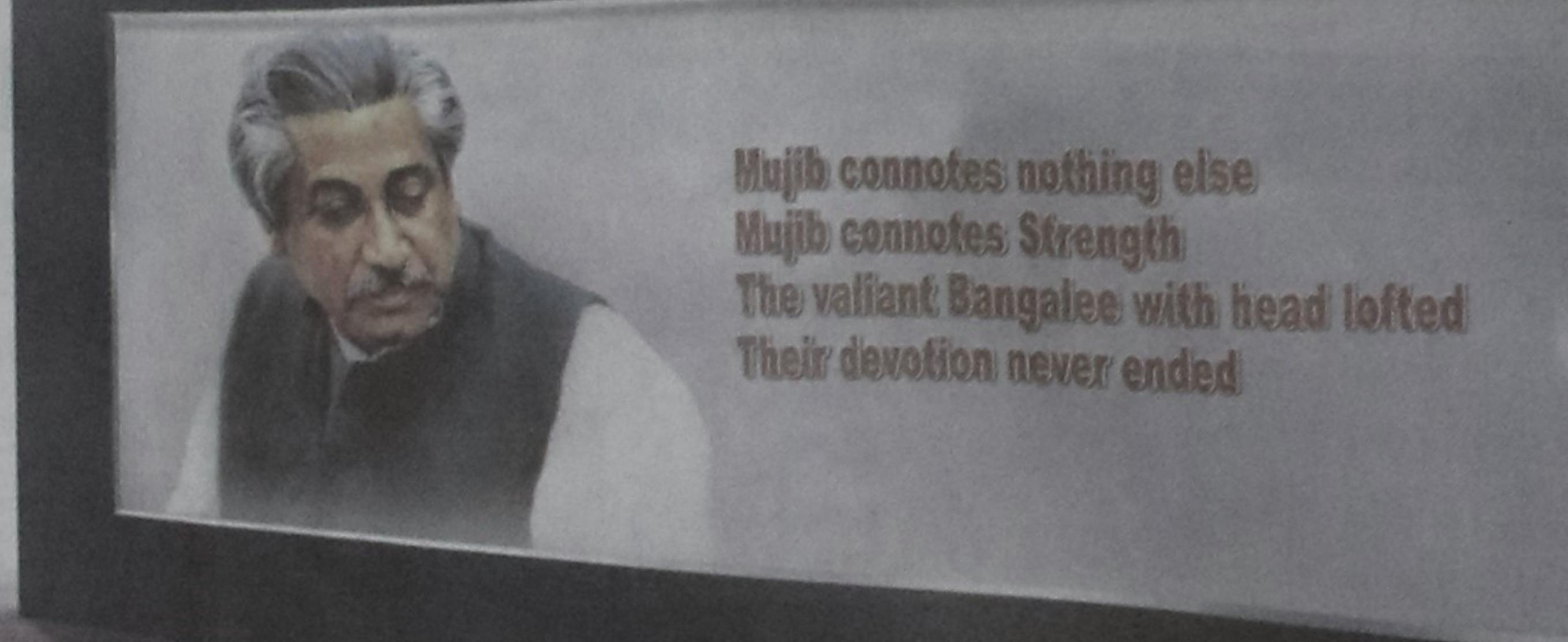
The speech was an informative one, because it incorporated appropriate facts. The audience were tremendously inspired because of the sharpness of its logic. In Bangabandhu's words: 'The arms which were purchased with my money for protecting the country from attacks by external enemies are now being used against the poor, sad and suffering people of my country. Bullets are being fired on their chests. We are the majority in Pakistan, whenever we Bangalees tried to go to power, they pounced upon us.' This kind of powerful argument in such simple words was a natural attribute of Bangabandhu's address. Mention is made today about the expansion or repetition of the introductory words in the middle of an speech in order to increase its effectiveness. This aspect has also found amazing expression in Bangabandhu's speech. Towards the middle of the address, he said, 'I told him, Mr. Yahya Khan, you are the President of Pakistan, come to Dhaka and see how our poor, our Bangali people have been mowed down by your bullets, how the laps of our mothers have been emptied, how my people have been slaughtered! You come, see for yourself and then judge.'

Bangabandhu followed properly the rules of 'put the

attributes first' while making references to quotations. He made comments after mentioning the source first. For example, 'Mr. Bhutto said, he would not go,' or, 'Yahya Khan took over the government. He said, he would give constitution, democracy to the country, we accepted.'

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Mujib connotes nothing else
Mujib connotes Strength
The valiant Bangalee with head lofted
Their devotion never ended

Art & Design : Department of Films & Publications • Assistance : Press Information Department, Ministry of Information



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Message

The 15th August, a grief-stricken day for the Bangalee nation, is our National Mourning Day. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with his family members, was assassinated in one of the most barbaric carnages in the human history. Even the expectant mother and the underage children were not spared from the brutality of the killers.

Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lt. Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, Farmer leader Abdur Rob Serniabat, Youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were also killed on the fateful night. On the day of National Mourning, I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs of the 15th August.

The people of this territory snatched the glowing sun of the Independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We got our own nation-state and the pride of self-identity.

But Bangabandhu was killed when he had devoted himself to the arduous task of building a Golden Bangla reconstructing the war-ravaged independent country and unifying the whole nation. The defeated forces of the Liberation War made an abortive effort to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee nation. Their target was to destroy the non-communal democratic formation of Bangladesh.

The anti-liberation forces linked to the carnage initiated the politics of assassination, coup and conspiracy. Martial Law has been promulgated suspending the constitution and overthrowing the government elected by the people. Military ruler Zia established stratocracy and destroyed democracy. The trial of the case for Bangabandhu's killing was blocked by promulgation of black laws and the killers of the Father of the Nation were rewarded.

The peoples' right to franchise was established in 1996 through sacrifices of the lives of hundreds of martyrs. Awami League got the opportunity to run the country through people's verdict.

The Awami League government achieved tremendous success in building a welfare society, imbued with the spirit of Liberation War, through signing the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty, self-sufficiency in food, poverty alleviation, unprecedented success in mass education and empowerment of women. People got back their lost confidence and trust.

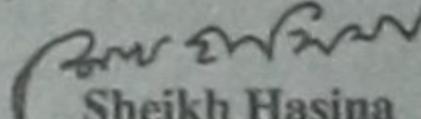
The nation was unfortunate that BNP-Jamaat alliance, with assuming the state power through rigged elections in 2001, undid the achievements and established kleptocracy. The wheel of development had been totally stopped. The 2001-06 period was a black chapter of the country's history to ruin the spirit of Liberation War, democracy and democratic institutions. The main objective of the then government was to annihilate the opposition political forces, especially Awami League, and establish one-party rule in the country. As part of the design, a heinous attempt was made to kill me with a grenade attack on my rally on the 21st of August in 2004. By the grace of the Almighty Allah, I was saved but 24 leaders and workers of Awami League, including Ivy Rahman, were killed in the attack.

Even then, the Bangalees remained undaunted. The people made Awami League victorious again with unprecedented mandate in the December 2008 elections. The present government has been working hard to build Digital Bangladesh to materialise the charter of change. We are marching forward to establish a modern Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty by 2021, which is the golden jubilee of Independence. Steps have been taken to uphold the spirit of the liberation war through holding trial of the war criminals. Measures have also been taken to implement the verdict of the Bangabandhu killing case and accelerate the trial of the killers of four national leaders. We must win in the struggle to establish an economically solvent democratic and non-communal Bangladesh which will be totally free from hunger, illiteracy and poverty.

The killers could have killed Bangabandhu but they could not kill his dream and ideals. The 14 crore people of this country have been nurturing in their hearts the ideals of sacrifice of Bangabandhu. This is our source of strength.

Let us join together under the canopy of truth and justice, and against falsehood and injustice. Let us march forward with bold steps in the struggle to build a Golden Bangla by turning the grief of the eternal loss of the Father of the Nation into strength. Insha Allah victory is ours.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever


Sheikh Hasina

In Remembrance of Bangabandhu Father of the Nation Rahat Khan

Today, August 15 is the day of mourning, the day to mark the thirty fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this day, some armed soldiers alienated from the Bangladesh armed forces and hired by enemy countries and who were hated anti-liberation elements of this country attacked Bangabandhu's house at 32 Dhanmondi and brutally killed the architect and founder of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Those devils also brutally killed Bangabandhu's daughters-in-law, only brother Sheikh Naser, Bangabandhu's sister's husband Agriculture Minister Abdur Rob Serniabat and daughter Begum Arzu Moni, upcoming politician Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, Begum Arzu Moni, Colonel Jamil Security in-charge of Bangabandhu, Police officer on-duty and many more. As luck would have it, Bangabandhu's two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana escaped the conspiratorial and monstrous killing as they were abroad at that time. But the conspiracy to kill the two daughters of Bangabandhu and their heirs very much exists even today as it was on August 15, 1975.

Terribly frightened by such awful killings, child Russel was in hiding in a room to save his life. The killers, however, tricked him to come out of the room when they falsely assured to take him to his mother. Soon after the killers burst into laughter as they brush-fired little Russel. Those devils also brutally killed Bangabandhu's daughters-in-law, only brother Sheikh Naser, Bangabandhu's sister's husband Agriculture Minister Abdur Rob Serniabat and daughter Begum Arzu Moni, Begum Arzu Moni, Colonel Jamil Security in-charge of Bangabandhu, Police officer on-duty and many more. As luck would have it, Bangabandhu's two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana escaped the conspiratorial and monstrous killing as they were abroad at that time. But the conspiracy to kill the two daughters of Bangabandhu and their heirs very much exists even today as it was on August 15, 1975.

This hellish killing of Bangabandhu's family and of his close relatives enacted on August 15, 1975 dumbfounded the conscientious people of the

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