

**Bangabandhu...** (Continued from previous page)

'What for is my birthday celebration? Come, please come near me'. It was not like the invitation from a mere person; it was like the call of the sea. Everyone came forward with a reverent and soft mind. They placed floral bouquets in the hands of the beloved leader. They put floral wreaths around his neck. At that time, Bangabandhu wore Lungi and a white Panjabi - fitting image of an accomplished Bangla.

The assembled admirers included the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Chowdhury, student leaders, political adviser Tofail Ahmed, eminent citizens and the activists of different Awami League branches in Dhaka city.

The Awami Sechchhasebak Bahini also saluted Bangabandhu on his birthday. On their behalf, he was garlanded by the Bahini-chief and member of constituent assembly Mr. Abdur Razzak, and the head of city unit of Awami Sechchhasebak Bahini Mr. Fazlur Rahman. They presented a boat made of silver to the Father of the Nation.

Bangladesh Jubo Sangha presented a booklet to Bangabandhu published on the occasion of his birthday. At that moment those who stood on the first floor while holding the railing were little Russel, his affectionate mother Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, eldest brother Lt. Sheikh Kamal, second brother Sheikh Jamal, eldest sister Sheikh Hasina, second sister Sheikh Rehana and other dear ones.

After this, the assembled people offered prayer to the All merciful seeking long life and wellbeing of the Father of the Nation. Bangabandhu also participated in this Munajat (prayer).

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League published a beautiful greetings card on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birthday. The morning dailies of Dhaka brought out special issues on the occasion. [Dainik Bangla, 18 March 1972]

1973

**My Only Dream is to Bring Smiles in the Faces of Bangla's People: Bangabandhu on Birthday**

Yesterday Saturday was the 53rd birth anniversary of Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A tide of spectators started to proceed towards Ganabhaban since the morning to congratulate Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu sought love, blessings and good wishes from this tide of masses.

News transmitted by ENA says, while he was felicitated and garlanded by the audiences, the Father of the Nation said in an emotional voice, 'I have nothing to seek from you except love and blessing'. He said that this would be his provender during periods of crises. That would strengthen his resolve to build a happy, prosperous Bangla of Gold despite numerous hindrances.

He told the people assembled at the Ganabhaban that now his only dream and aspiration was to bring smiles to the faces of crores of repressed citizens of Bangladesh, to make them happy and contented.

The Prime Minister talked to them in an informal mood and enquired about their wellbeing.

Later, he climbed down and went to a cage on the lawn. A beautiful peacock was being kept inside the cage. He gave the peacock food with his own hand and joined the accompanying journalists in jests and laughter. Ignoring all protocols, formalities and security arrangements, the people's Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman mixed freely and frankly with all. His face was lit with joy at the sight of his beloved citizens.

**Message of Felicitations by the President :** The President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury congratulated Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his fifty-third birth anniversary and prayed for the country's prosperity.

The president hoped that Bangabandhu would remain healthy for serving the nation and prayed for his good health.

**Felicitations by the Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions :** The chiefs of different diplomatic missions stationed in Bangladesh extended greetings and felicitations to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday Saturday.

According to this news transmitted by BSS and BPI, they met Bangabandhu in a group at Ganabhaban yesterday evening led by the dean of the diplomatic corps Indian High Commissioner Sri Subimal Datta and congratulated him individually as well as on behalf of their respective countries' governments. They wished long and happy life for the Prime Minister and continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister talked to them informally for around one hour and offered them tea. Later, he came down with them to walk on the green lawn of Ganabhaban and viewed the birds, peacocks, deer and other animals kept in the cages. [Dainik Bangla, 18 March 1973]

1974

**Bangabandhu's Birthday Observed**

**Pledge to Build an Exploitation-free Bangla of Gold**

**Staff Reporter :** The 54th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed throughout the country yesterday Sunday. The day was observed through discussion meetings, milads and other programmes under the auspices of Bangladesh Awami League, Chhatra League, Sramik League, Krishak League, Awami Jubo League, different political, student, labour and cultural institutions. Prayers were offered in these programmes seeking long and healthy life of Bangabandhu. Pledges were made to implement his life's ideals through building an exploitation-free socialist Bangla of gold.

It may be noted that the leaders of political parties, students, workers, peasants and the shelterless paid their respect to him after going to his Dhanmondi residence.

Bangabandhu could not meet them as he was sick. All segments of the people placed flower bouquets on a table kept in the veranda of the house as a mark of respect for Bangabandhu.

A 54-pound cake was presented to Bangabandhu on behalf of Dhaka City Awami League on his 54th birth anniversary. The workers of City Awami League went to Bangabandhu's residence in a procession led by the Dhaka city Awami League president Gazi Golam Mostafa. Besides, the Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Mazharul Islam presented a book written by him titled 'Bangabandhu'. Dr. Islam also presented a copy of the book to Begum Mujib.

People belonging to various organizations paid tribute to their beloved leader by carrying huge portraits of Bangabandhu in processions. This picture could be observed throughout the day yesterday.

Those who met him by going to his residence yesterday included the president of Bangladesh Awami League AHM Kamruzzaman, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil, members of the cabinet, state ministers, members of parliament, the leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh and NAP Muzaffar.

**Discussion Meeting in Awami League Office :** Prayers were offered for swift recovery of Bangabandhu from illness and a vow was made to build a happy and prosperous Bangla of gold as dreamt by Bangabandhu at a discussion organized on the premises of

Bangladesh Awami League on the occasion of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth anniversary yesterday. Renowned scientist Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda, Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Mazharul Islam, Comrade Moni Singh of Communist Party of Bangladesh, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Awami League Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, organizing secretary Mr. Abdur Razzak et al delivered speeches by paying respect to the long sacrifices, forbearance and ideal of struggles of Bangabandhu.

In his address, Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda mentioned the life's struggles and ideals of Bangabandhu and said his birthday would be fruitful if the country could be infused anew with his ideals. He said, the country cannot tread the path of progress and advancement without peace and discipline. He urged the students and youth community to come forward in this respect.

Explaining the life's ideals of Bangabandhu, Dr. Mazharul Islam said that he had motivated the nation with the spirit of nationalism, democracy and socialism by creating a non-communal outlook in the country. Each of his steps in the path of this movement was correct. He generated a new philosophy by combining two opposite ideals of democracy and socialism in the state policy. He opined that this philosophy could be implemented through sacrifices.

In his address, Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmad urged the youth community to build the country by becoming imbued with the ideals of Bangabandhu. For this, the youth community should uphold honesty and justice.

Comrade Moni Singh in his speech called for increasing production in factories and farms by rising above individual and group interests in order to materialize the dream of Bangabandhu. Recalling the struggling life of Bangabandhu, he said that Bangabandhu was an enigma, a legend and a unique history.

Mr. Abdur Razzak urged everybody to take oath for ensuring food, clothing, education and healthcare of the masses.

Mahfil, Quran Khwani were organized. Prayers were offered in mosques and different places of worship seeking long life of Bangabandhu and progress, prosperity of the country and its people. Special programmes were broadcast by Bangladesh Betar and Television.

All segments of population including the national political party Krishak Sramik Awami League, different peasant, workers and student organizations extended their greetings to Bangabandhu by going to his residence on the occasion of the Father of the Nation's birthday. They wished Bangabandhu a long life. He was profusely garlanded.

Floods of processions descended on the roads leading to Dhanmondi road-32 since 6 a.m. of Monday dawn.

Vice-President Syed Nazrul Islam, members of the cabinet including Prime Minister Mr. Monsur Ali, state ministers, political leaders, educationists, and intellectuals met Bangabandhu by going to his residence and garlanded him profusely. The chief of now-defunct Communist Party of Bangladesh Sri Moni Singh, Motia Chowdhury, Pankaj Bhattacharya of NAP etc. also met Bangabandhu.

**Processions after Processions :** Besides, the students, workers and the activists of Krishak Sramik Awami League came in processions with trucks and buses from suburban and industrial areas like Tongi, Joydebpur, Narayanganj, Tejgaon, etc. The processionists expressed their joy and euphoria by playing instruments. Besides, a spontaneous tide of people's processions flowed towards Dhanmondi road-32 from various neighbourhoods of the capital city since morning. There were colourful posters, festoons, and Bangabandhu's portrait in the hands of the processionists; they raised sky-rending slogans: 'Wherever Bangabandhu goes, we are there; one leader, one country: Bangabandhu Bangladesh'; there were innumerable floral bouquets and wreaths.

**Tide Arises from the Sea of People :** Around 8.30 in the morning, the stretch of Mirpur road from Asad Gate to New Market became a huge and vibrant sea of people. At one stage, normal flow of traffic on Mirpur road was blocked. All Gulistan-bound transports were diverted at Dhanmondi road-27 and Mirpur-bound transports had to move via Satmasjid road from near Science Laboratory crossing for some time.

**Chhatra League-Chhatra Union :** The female students carried baskets of offerings in their hands in the joint procession of Chhatra League and Chhatra Union originating from the university area. There were flower petals in those colourful baskets. The petals were showered from the baskets in the direction of Bangabandhu after reaching Bangabandhu's residence, the focus of their attention. Flowers were showered towards the Father of the Nation in a continuous manner.

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury and student leaders were at the forefront of the procession. The procession carried Bangabandhu's portrait and many placards.

Bangabandhu accepted these greetings and love by standing at the gate of his residence. The Vice-Chancellor and student leaders put a floral garland around his neck. Bangabandhu stayed on at the gate after the presentation of garland till the slogan-chanting procession left.

**Awami Jubo League :** Bangladesh Awami Jubo League went in a procession to greet Bangabandhu on his birthday. This lively procession of the leaders and the Member of Parliament Abdul Quddus Makhan led the procession.

workers of this organization made the whole path resonant with slogans. The general secretary of the organization Syed Ahmad and the Member of Parliament Abdul Quddus Makhan led the procession.

Bangabandhu stood on the veranda as soon as the procession reached the premises of Bangabandhu's residence. He waved his hands as a response to the greetings. The whole place then reverberated with slogans.

The leaders and workers of Jubo League garlanded Bangabandhu profusely. They showered flower petals on him.

**Greetings in Response to Good Wishes :** Bangabandhu responded to the felicitations of the euphoric masses sometimes by coming to the compound, sometimes by standing on the gateway by waving his hand in a habitual manner. He wore his traditional dress of white Pyjama and Panjabi. When the place became abnormally crowded - especially when it became difficult to see him because of the jostlings, Bangabandhu stood on the rooftop of the house. Standing on the rooftop, he responded to the felicitations of the cheering crowd by waving his hand. The people burst out in euphoria on seeing Bangabandhu. The students, workers and masses sometimes danced to the tune of drums. Begum Mujib and other members of the family observed this scene by standing beside Bangabandhu on the rooftop.

Dhanmondi road-32 was filled with the crowds until around 10. Dhanmondi was resonant with the euphoric sounds of the surging people.

**Others :** The president of the central executive committee of Sramik League Mr. Abdur Rahman MP garlanded Bangabandhu at ten in the morning Monday on behalf of Jatiya Sramik League. A milad mahfil and meeting was organized yesterday at the Tongi regional office of Jatiya Sramik League through the joint initiatives of regional Sramik League, Tongi thana BAKSAL, Tongi thana Jubo League and Chhatra League. Kazi Mozammel Haque chaired the meeting.

Notable among other organizations that observed Bangabandhu's birthday were: Bangladesh Hawkers' League, Sadharan Bima Employees' Union, Jiban Bima Employees' Union, Bangladesh Directorate (3rd) Employees Samity, Dhaka Ration Shop Malik Samity, Arambag Girls' High School, Bangladesh Bank Karmachari Federation, Kaptanbazaar Byabshayi Samity, Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Prakton Samorik Karmachari Bohumukhi Samabay Samity Ltd., Chander Haat Kendriya Sangsad, Bangladesh Betar Officers' Sangsad, BRTC Karmachari Sangsad, Intermediate Technical College, Natun Paltan Line High School and many other organizations.

**Abahani Krira Chakra :** The president of Abahani Krira Chakra Sheikh Kamal and the general secretary Mr. Harunor Rashid garlanded the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Monday evening on the occasion of Bangabandhu's fifty-fifth birthday. BSS delivered this news. [Dainik Bangla, 18 March 1975]

**Greetings from the Indian President and Prime Minister**

The Indian President Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad extended his sincere greetings and felicitations on the occasion of 55th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In a message sent to Bangabandhu, the Indian President wished good health and happiness of Bangabandhu and progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Bangladesh.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi: In a similar message of greetings and felicitations, the Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi wished a long and successful life for Bangabandhu. This news was obtained through the courtesy of BSS and BPI. [Daily Ittefaq, 19 March 1975]

**Compilation: Media Archive of Press Information Department**

Translation: *Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed*



**Dhaka City Awami League :** Prayers were offered for the long life of Bangabandhu at a Milad programme organized by the Dhaka city Awami League at its office yesterday.

After this, various speakers including its president pledged to implement Bangabandhu's ideals at a discussion meeting chaired by Gazi Golam Mostafa. A cultural programme was organized on behalf of the women's branch of Bangladesh Awami League.

**Chhatra League :** Pladges were made to materialize the dream of Bangabandhu at a discussion meeting held under the auspices of Bangladesh Chhatra League at its Mirpur Road office yesterday morning. Presided over by the president of the organization Monirul Haque Chowdhury, commerce minister Khandakar Moshtaq Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Professor Abul Fazal, land reforms minister Molla Jalaluddin, senior vice-president of Bangladesh Awami League Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmad, Khandakar Ilias et al addressed the discussion meeting.

In his speech, Professor Abul Fazal said, Bangabandhu was a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of seven and a half crore people. He called for implementation of Bangabandhu's ideals. He gave advice for eradicating corruption from the social structure as well as to eliminate the tendency of adopting unfair means in examinations.

Besides, separate discussion meetings were also arranged by Bangladesh Hawkers' League, Krishak League and Jatiya Sramik League to show respect to Bangabandhu.

The land reforms minister Molla Jalaluddin was the chief guest in the discussion meeting arranged by National Hawkers' League at the Islamic Academy. The Chief Whip of the parliamentary party of Awami League Shah Moazzem Hossain and hawkers' leaders addressed it.

The president of Krishak League Mr. Badal Rashid presided over the discussion meeting organized by it, where he himself as well as the agriculture secretary of Awami League Rahmat Ali delivered speeches.

Besides, calls were made to follow the ideals of Bangabandhu at a discussion meeting arranged by Gopalganj Bangabandhu Padak Parishad at the residence of land reforms minister Molla Jalaluddin yesterday morning. The food minister Sri Phani Majumdar was the chief guest in the meeting. In his presidential address, Molla Jalal informed that a gold medal would be awarded on behalf of the parishad for the best article published till 17 March on the 'philosophy of life' of Bangabandhu. [Dainik Bangla, 18 March 1974]

1975

**Fresh Pledge on Bangabandhu's Birthday for Building the Country**

**Staff Reporter :** The countrymen observed the 55th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday Monday with a renewed inspirational pledge to build the country. The countrymen again expressed their resolute confidence anew on the leadership of Bangabandhu. They declared their solidarity for the success of Bangabandhu's second revolution. The countrymen wished a healthy, elegant and long life for Bangabandhu. They prayed for progress, prosperity, happiness and peace of the country and the nation.

All segments of the population extended birthday greetings to Bangabandhu. They garlanded him with floral wreaths, showered petals of flowers. Processions after processions went to Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi road-32 residence. The roads resonated with slogans, the drums of band-parties, the dances of joy. Bangabandhu was presented with memorabilia and mementos.

People went to Bangabandhu's residence and the Ganabhaban for extending their greetings. Bangabandhu smilingly replied to their gesture by waving his hands; he accepted their greetings, love, and expressed hope for the wellbeing of his beloved people.

The national flag was hoisted atop all government and private buildings. The newspapers published various essays on Bangabandhu's life and ideals, and brought out special issues. Discussion meetings, photographic exhibitions were held. Milad

**Prayer**

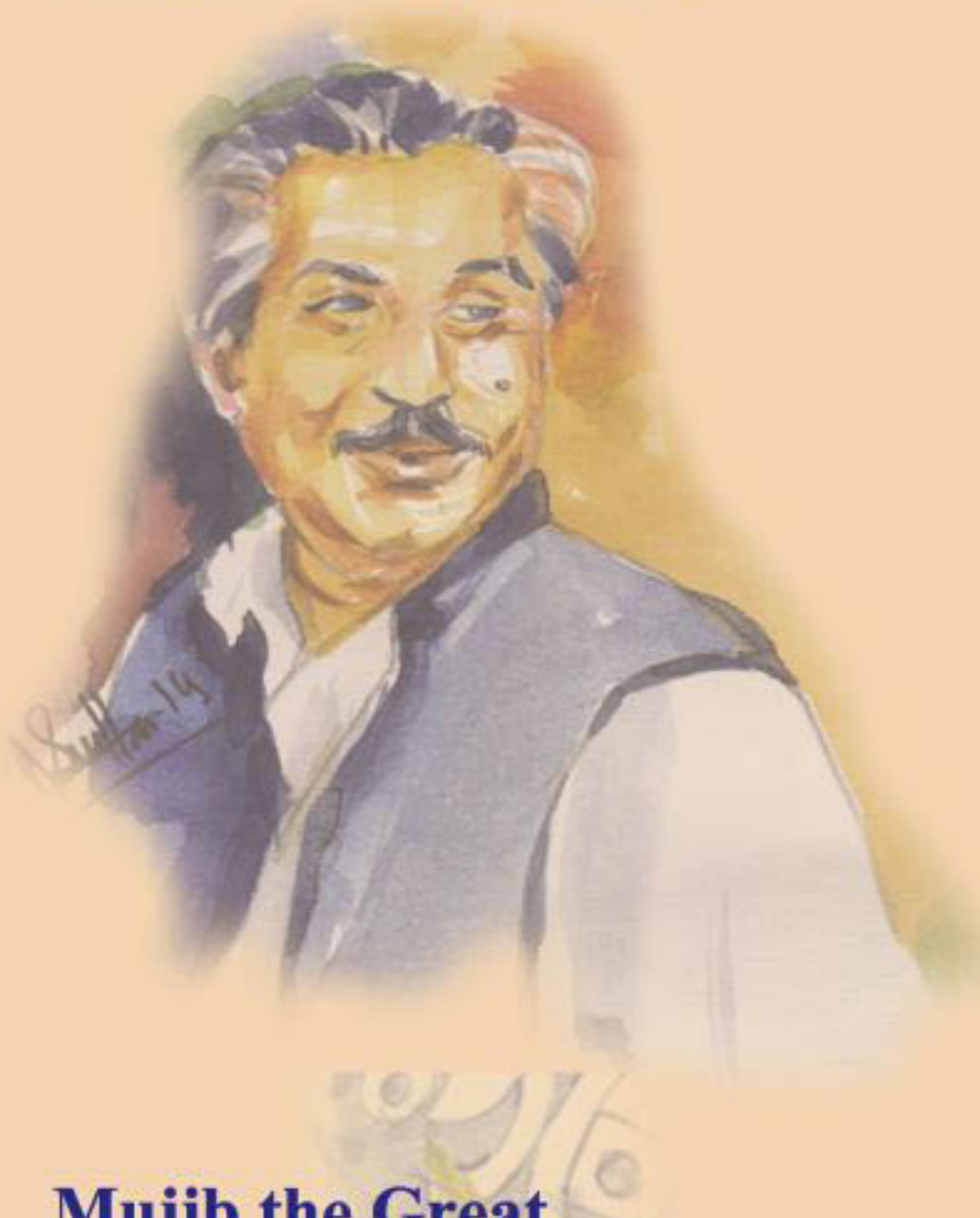
Nirmalendu Goon

I have insulted you much.  
This time I have come with bowed head  
At your doorstep.  
Putting on my head your soft hand of forgiveness  
You only offered affection and blessing.

Pretending to forget you  
So many days and nights have elapsed.  
So you drifted brightly on the dusty road,  
You laughed on the waves of hidden Prana;  
O' the child-loving soul.

Tearing the darkness of a blind sky,  
O' thunder you please come back  
Crushing all hesitations of the Prana,  
Mingling inside the depths of a Veena  
Please compose the melody of infinity.

Translation: *Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed*



**Mujib the Great**

Sukumar Barua

Your life is a roaring success  
And a success story it is,  
You made the supreme sacrifice  
For our dear Bangladesh nice.  
Here's the prince whom  
We dreamt of thousands of years,  
The liberator of the motherland  
Having no like or equal.  
His thunderous speech  
Roused the heroic Bangalis  
The inimical army  
Took to their heels  
At the end of a bloody war.  
The hidden killers of the dark  
Will remain in the dark forever,  
You'll remain in memoriam clear  
Of our sweet motherland dear.

Translation : *Saera Habib*

**Today is Your Birthday**

Alam Talukder

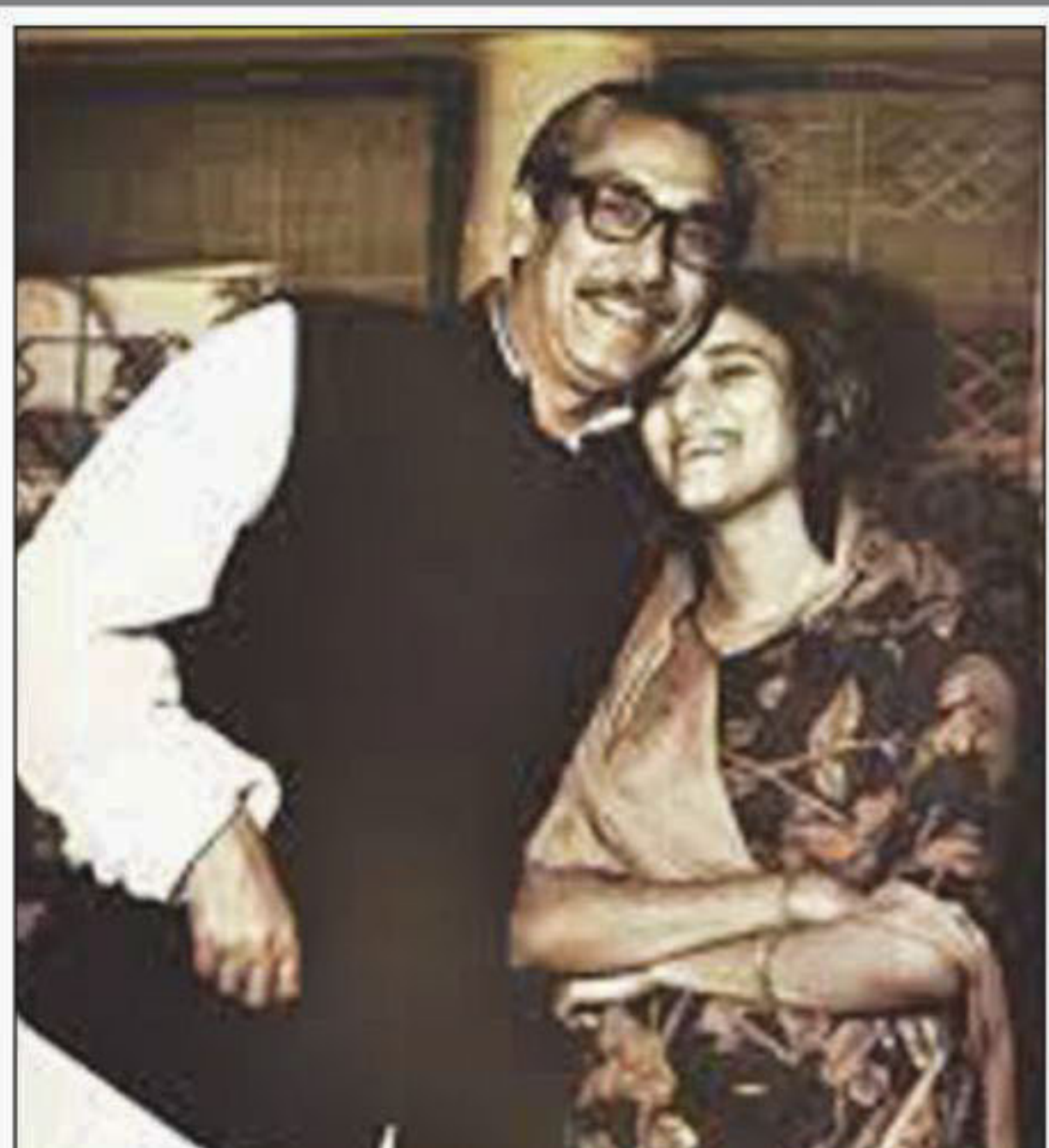
The green of trees looks further green  
As today is your birthday  
Light twinkles in trees after trees  
As today is your birthday.  
The gentle breeze informs us  
Today is your birthday,  
Birds with their sweet songs tell us  
Today is your birthday,  
The lead news of all the dailies reads  
Today is your birthday,  
Hills-rivers-seas inform us  
Today is your birthday,  
The vast liberal sky indicates that  
Today is your birthday,  
Everyone knows, the world knows  
Today is your birthday,  
So we find in every direction  
An action-inspiring happy day,  
Everyone speaks in the same pace:  
Bangabandhu's birthday  
A very very good day  
That brings smiles and pleasures forever.

Translation: *Munshi Jalal Uddin*

**Your Birthday...**

(Continued from previous page)

heads. Bangabandhu, you also turned 37 thousand primary schools into government schools for child education. You framed laws for children. You believed that 'only children deserve to get whatever best mankind has to give'. After the First World War innumerable children lost their parents and became helpless and shelterless. Such an extraordinary statement was made for the children of the world at the Convention of the League of Nations held in Geneva in 1924. You thought on this statement deeply and utilized it for the children of your country. Bangabandhu, many years have passed since you died. Still the people of the world cannot be right. Children have to lower their heads under the fence of the barbed wire in order to cross the border. They have to flee from their own country in order to survive. Ilan's dead body floats to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The people of the entire world gaze at the baby Ilan. Bangabandhu, children all over the world are being oppressed. We are also victims of that oppression. Some beastly people of this country are killing children. They are behaving like giants with children. Still we believe that this situation will change. We shall grow up in a healthy and beautiful environment. We know that evil sabotage cannot last long. People of awakened



conscience must come forward to stop it. You have left such noble thoughts behind you for us. You are present in the hearts of the Bangalis, in the life-span of Bangladesh. Your name will last as long as the land of Bangladesh lasts. Your strength and courage will remain mixed everywhere in Bangladesh and the statement 'Only children deserve to get whatever best mankind has to give' will resound in your thunderous voice. This message will stay in our bosom. We shall convey this message to all who will come to Bangladesh after us and take the helm of the country. 'Pankhiraz' (king of birds) boats will float. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is with the children of her country with this immortal message. She will take us to the desired goal.

When March comes, stories of the Liberation War start. Bangabandhu, we are growing up hearing these stories. There is the 7 March in our history. We have the 17 March, your birthday. There is the 25 March, the mass killing day. This is the day on which our Bangali heroes turned into soldiers. We have 26 March, our Independence Day. Your birthday gets mixed with the history of our liberation.

Besides, your birthday falls in spring, the king of all seasons. The spring wind spreads the fragrance of your birthday. It keeps our days enlightened. Your birthday is the National Children's Day in today's Bangladesh. May the National Children's Day be a day of victory. May the lamp of well-being keep burning before the children.

Translation: *M. Jahurul Islam*