

16 December

## THE GLORIOUS VICTORY DAY

## Special Supplement

PRESIDENT  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

## Message

December 16 is our Victory Day, a glorious and memorable one in the history of the Bangali nation. On this very day in 1971, we achieved ultimate victory through a nine-month long war of liberation. On this occasion, I extend my sincere felicitations and warm congratulations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

The undisputed leader of the Bangali, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the historic independence on 26 March in 1971 and it came true through a nine-month long armed struggle. Today, I recall with profound respect, the greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose boundless sacrifices and uncompromising and charismatic leadership contributed to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state in world atlas. I pay my deep homage to the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifice in the war of liberation for the cause of country's independence. I also extend my deep gratitude to the organizers and supporters and the people from all strata who directly and indirectly made meaningful contributions to our war of liberation.

The importance and significance of great Victory Day is boundless in our national history. On the one hand victory has given us our own identity and on the other hand it has elevated us to world arena as an independent nation. But it is an irony that the path of development and the practice of democratic norms were not functioning smoothly all the time. The emergence of military democracy and undemocratic government came into being after the flourishing of democratic pluralism. Democratic government has now been established in the country through a long struggle and various ups and downs. The country is now marching towards development and progress. With the formulation of appropriate planning and making its best implementation, Bangladesh has achieved manifold successes both at home and abroad. The rate of poverty has come down. The mega project of Padma Bridge is underway by our own resources. It is heartening to note that Bangladesh is now being considered as a role-model in the world community for flourishing democracy, empowering women, expansion of women education, strengthening local government, development of agriculture, health and education; ensuring food security, developing power and energy, thriving information technology and ICT etc. The government has successfully attained the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now providing its continued efforts to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Our foreign policy is being exercised in accordance with the principle of 'Friendship to all, malice towards none' as adopted by the Father of the Nation. It is my firm conviction that, in light of this policy, our bilateral and multilateral relations with other nations would be further deepened and widened in the days to come. Along with establishing world peace, Bangladesh's efforts in mitigating negative impact of global climate change and environmental technology are being appreciated by the world community transcending domestic boundary. It is a matter of pride that our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded with 'Planet 50-50 Champion' and 'Agent of Change' this year by the respective UN bodies for her outstanding contributions in empowering women. I believe that it is also a great achievement for Bangali nation.

We are working hard to make our hard-earned independence more meaningful. The government has set 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' for transforming Bangladesh into a developed country. I am hopeful that we would be able to materialize the vision within the stipulated time by utilizing our huge human resources and information technology, Insha-Allah. On the eve of our great victory day, I call upon my fellow countrymen irrespective of party affiliation: let us contribute to the nation from our respective positions to realize the spirit of war of liberation.

On the occasion of great Victory Day, I hope that the coordinated efforts of everybody will turn Bangladesh into a hunger and poverty free prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangla) as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid

Under their rule included Sena dynasty coming from Karnataka of the Deccan (from the end of 11th century to the beginning of 13th century), rule of Turkish and Afghan Sultanate (1204-1575), Subhadra and Nawabi rule of the Mughal (1576-1756), rule of British East India Company (1757-1857), of British Raj (1858-1847), and finally, Pakistani rule (1947-1971).

The medieval period of Bengal was the rule of outsider Muslims which spanned over 550 years. There were two worth mentioning aspects of the Muslim rule, (one) Bangla language, literature and culture received patronisation from Muslim rulers, particularly from Muslim sultante, (two) internally divided various areas were brought under the same geographical entity which was vitally important to found a state in course of time.

Though the influence of Buddhist, Brahmin and Islamic culture in shaping up the Bangali psyche was evident all along, during this time a tolerant and harmonious culture was developed in the Bangali life imbued by the liberal Islamic philosophy or Sufism preached by Sufis and Saini and 'vaishnabah' and 'Bhaktibad' of Shri Chaitanya (1486-1533), Kabir, Nanak etc from which it inherited a non communal and liberal culture.

The Bangali culture, literature, and language are immensely significant in creating separate Bangali national identity and independent state. The rhythmic literature 'Chorajpad' authored by Buddhist intellectuals during 8th and 9th centuries to the bilingual 'Puthi' literature written in

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

## Victory of Bangali Nationhood

Dr. Harun-or-Rashid

16 December is our glorious Victory Day, 45 years ago on this auspicious day 93 thousand Pakistani occupation army led by General Niazi surrendered to the joint command of the freedom fighters and the Indian allied forces at the historic Race Course (now Suhrawardy Udyan). Victory of the Bangalis following the 9 month long armed struggle for freedom was thus achieved against the Pakistani occupation forces. This victory was achieved as a result of the untiring and relentless struggle under the leadership of none other than the greatest Bangali of all time, legend of our history, architect of independent Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Is the victory of 16 December merely a victory achieved in 9 months freedom struggle or its perspective is spread over a broader horizon? What is the significance of 16 December victory? In one word, the War of Liberation of 1971 and the victory that followed were the culmination of the long historical process of setting up of the Bangali nationhood and national struggle that spread over thousand years.

Bangali nationhood is a mixture of various human races. Today's Bangladesh is only the part of that widespread areas of India where the Bangalis lived in ancient period. In course of time following various hurdles, ups and downs, addition and deletion there has been a gradual transformation from Banga to Bangali then to Bangala or Bangla. Suba Bangla, Nizamat, Bengal, East Bengal, then to East Pakistan through uniting in a single geographic entity, finally an independent Bangladesh.

During the Pala dynasty of 400 years following its establishment in the 8th century though there was never a probability of emergence of a separate Bangali political entity, this did not get normal course to flourish attributing to the foreign rule particularly to the colonial intrusions and interventions. Following the Pala dynasty the foreign colonial powers that brought Bengal

The importance and significance of great Victory Day is boundless in our national history. On the one hand victory has given us our own identity and on the other hand it has elevated us to world arena as an independent nation. But it is an irony that the path of development and the practice of democratic norms were not functioning smoothly all the time. The emergence of military democracy and undemocratic government came into being after the flourishing of democratic pluralism. Democratic government has now been established in the country through a long struggle and various ups and downs. The country is now marching towards development and progress. With the formulation of appropriate planning and making its best implementation, Bangladesh has achieved manifold successes both at home and abroad. The rate of poverty has come down. The mega project of Padma Bridge is underway by our own resources. It is heartening to note that Bangladesh is now being considered as a role-model in the world community for flourishing democracy, empowering women, expansion of women education, strengthening local government, development of agriculture, health and education; ensuring food security, developing power and energy, thriving information technology and ICT etc. The government has successfully attained the targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now providing its continued efforts to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Our foreign policy is being exercised in accordance with the principle of 'Friendship to all, malice towards none' as adopted by the Father of the Nation. It is my firm conviction that, in light of this policy, our bilateral and multilateral relations with other nations would be further deepened and widened in the days to come. Along with establishing world peace, Bangladesh's efforts in mitigating negative impact of global climate change and environmental technology are being appreciated by the world community transcending domestic boundary. It is a matter of pride that our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded with 'Planet 50-50 Champion' and 'Agent of Change' this year by the respective UN bodies for her outstanding contributions in empowering women. I believe that it is also a great achievement for Bangali nation.

We are working hard to make our hard-earned independence more meaningful. The government has set 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' for transforming Bangladesh into a developed country. I am hopeful that we would be able to materialize the vision within the stipulated time by utilizing our huge human resources and information technology, Insha-Allah. On the eve of our great victory day, I call upon my fellow countrymen irrespective of party affiliation: let us contribute to the nation from our respective positions to realize the spirit of war of liberation.

On the occasion of great Victory Day, I hope that the coordinated efforts of everybody will turn Bangladesh into a hunger and poverty free prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangla) as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Dr. Harun-or-Rashid

(Continued to the next page)

PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

## Message

Today is the 16 December, the Great Victory Day. This is the day of greatest pride for the Bangalis. Responding to the call of the greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangalis achieved the ultimate victory on this day in 1971 after a 23-year intense political struggle and a 9-month bloody war against the Pakistani occupation forces.

I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitations to the countrymen at home and abroad on the occasion of the 45th Victory Day. On this glorious day, I pay my deep homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with gratitude the four national leaders and three million martyrs, who sacrificed their lives and two hundred thousand women, who lost their innocence for the cause of our independence.

Bangali nation got prepared for independence waging the Language Movement of 1952, the Education Movement of 1962, the 6-point Demand of 1966, 11-point Maitraitia and the Mass Upset of 1971 and the unending struggle of the people of the then Awami League to attain an overwhelming majority in the general election of 1970 through which Bangali nation's aspiration for independence got legal basis. Bangabandhu realised that the oppression, persecution and deprivation meted out to the Bangali nation would not be ended without achieving the independence. Ultimately, on the historic 7 March, 1971, Bangabandhu in front of a million of people at the then Race Course Maidan declared that, "This time the struggle is for our freedom, this time the struggle is for the independence". Virtually, from that day, the final phase had begun for achieving an independent Bangladesh. The nationwide non-cooperation movement commenced at the directives of Bangabandhu as part of the final preparations of the Liberation War.

On the fateful night of 25 March, 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces launched a brutal onslaught and massacred the innocent and unarmed Bangalis. The Father of the Nation declared independence of Bangladesh in the early hours of 26 March, 1971 resulting in the formal War of Independence.

On 10 April, 1971, the proclamation of independence was announced by the elected people's representatives and the first Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice-President and Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister. This government was sworn-in on 17 April, 1971 at the historic Muijibnagar in Meherpur and led the war of independence. The heroic freedom fighters with the help of the allied forces achieved the victory on 16 December, 1971 by defeating Pakistani occupation forces. The nation ultimately earned an independent country. The heroism and patriotism of the Bangali nation created a new history in the world.

As Bangabandhu had engaged himself in the struggle to build a "Golden Bangladesh" reconstructing the war-ravaged country, the anti-liberation forces in collusion with the war criminals assassinated Bangabandhu along with his family members. Through the heinous killing of 15 August, 1975, the assassins initiated the politics of killings, coup and conspiracy and obstructed the process to try the killers of Bangabandhu through promulgating Indemnity Ordinance. They ruined the democracy by declaring Martial Law and formed an illegal government. They defaced the Constitution and gagged the press freedom.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.

Democracy was established after a long struggle and sacrifices in 1996. Bangladesh is now the 'Role Model' in socio-economic development in the world. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous one by 2041, Insha-Allah.