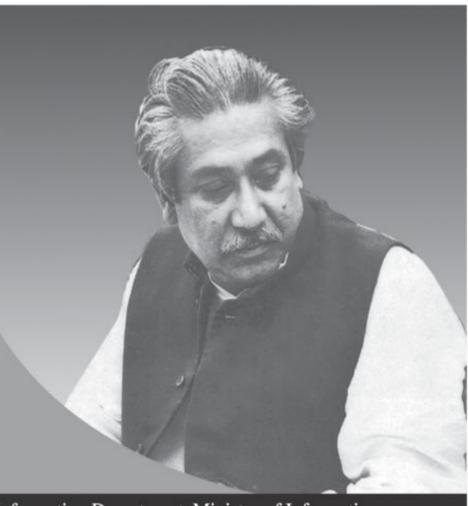




# 15 August National Mourning Day



Special Supplement

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



**PRESIDENT  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH**

### Message

Today is tragic 15 August, National Mourning Day and the 42nd martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangali of all time and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his wife, sons, daughters-in-law and near and dear ones embraced martyrdom. With heavy heart, I pay my deep homage to them. I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed souls on this Mourning Day.

The 15 August, 1975 is regarded as a disgraceful chapter in the history of the Bangali. On this fateful night, the undisputed leader and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated at his residence by a group of killers with the connivance of anti-liberation forces. His wife Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib, sons namely Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel and some near and dear ones were also assassinated along with Bangabandhu. This barbarous occurrence was rare not only in the history of Bangladesh but also in the history of the world. The anti-liberation forces wanted to reinstate the defeated forces by annihilating the ideals of the war of liberation through the massacre.

Bangabandhu, a visionary leader and the prime mover of independence, led the nation at every struggle and democratic movement including the historic Language Movement in 1952, Juktafront Election in 1954, movement against Martial Law in 1958, Six-Point Movement in 1966, Mass Uprising in 1969 and the General Elections in 1970 which all were directed towards attaining the right to self-determination. Bangabandhu never compromised on the question of the rights of our people. He upheld the interest of Bangali and Bangladesh even at the gallows. Crossing manifold acclivities and declivities, the great leader finally declared country's independence on March 26, 1971 and the Bangali achieved ultimate victory through a nine month long armed struggle under his leadership. The world renowned Newsweek Magazine of its 5 April, 1971 issue termed Bangabandhu as a "Poet of Politics" which marked the firm conviction and deep reverence by the world community to the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In his belief, Father of the Nation always nourished the well-being of Bangla, Bangali and Bangladesh. He was the harbinger of freedom of the Bangali. For his outstanding contributions, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh thus emerged as a unique symbol to the people of Bangladesh. Though the assassins killed Father of the Nation, they could not wipe out the principle and ideals of this great man. I am confident that the name and fame of Father of the Nation will remain ever shining in the mind of millions of Bangalis so long as the country and its people will stay alive.

Bangabandhu, throughout his life, struggled for independence along with people's economic emancipation. He dreamt of building "Sonar Bangla" (Golden Bangla) free from hunger and poverty. Enriching with knowledge and prudence, therefore, it is our utmost responsibility to build our country a happy and prosperous one by completing the unfinished task of Bangabandhu and in this way we can pay our deep tribute to the immortal soul of the soil.

Bangladesh has embarked upon a remarkable journey towards development and prosperity. In every aspect of socio-economic indicator, Bangladesh has attained impressive achievements and is now marching ahead with attaining continuous growth, raising per capita income, implementing mega project like the Padma Bridge by own resources. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu, has set 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' in order to transform Bangladesh into a prosperous and developed country. With the concerted efforts from all, I am confident that Bangladesh would be a developed one by 2041, Insha Allah.

On the National Mourning Day, let us translate our grief into strength and devote ourselves to build "Sonar Bangla" (Golden Bangla) as dreamt by Father of the Nation.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*Md. Abdul Hamid*  
**Md. Abdul Hamid**

## An Outline of the Economic Philosophy of Father of the Nation

**Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin**

The long path of seizing the sun of freedom for Bangladesh was at times full of struggles, sometimes bloody and at other times razor-sharp with the intensity of non-cooperation. This political and administrative movement for liberation was conducted under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and in his name. However rugged the path of triumph might have been, the unambiguous ideal of achieving economic emancipation lay above everything else with unwavering assurance. The resolve to build a Bangla of gold by bringing smiles to the distressed humanity in a welfare state was the economic philosophy of Sheikh Mujib. It is not known to me whether any other country in the world was born with such an assured ideal for achieving economic freedom or climbing the ladder of prosperity. Bangabandhu had said in his 7 March speech, considered as the greatest poem of his politics, ".....The struggle this time is for our freedom.....". While speaking about freedom, he certainly implied economic freedom.

The main and lone economic philosophy of the Father of the Nation was the constitutional right of meeting the basic needs of the people including food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. These rights were included in articles 13, 14 and 15 of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in accordance with Bangabandhu's intense desire. Article 15 of the constitution ensured the people's right to food, clothing, shelter, healthcare services, employment and social security. Article 14 speaks about the freedom from exploitation of the peasants, labourers, and backward working classes. Article 16 of the constitution states, "The State shall adopt effective measures to bring about a radical transformation in the rural areas through the promotion of an agricultural revolution, the provision of rural electrification, the development of cottage and other industries and the improvement of education, communications and public health, in those areas, so as progressively to remove the disparity in the standards of living between the urban and the rural areas". Alongside other citizens, the constitution has granted equal constitutional status to the disabled and autistic segments of population in all matters instead of showing mere pity and kindness.



By voluntarily leaving the post of the president of People's Republic of Bangladesh and appointing himself as the republic's Prime Minister, the Father of the Nation was enterprising and determined enough to invest the state resources for the overall welfare of the disadvantaged people through the public sector within the setting of a welfare state. But the people expected that their undisputed beloved leader would usher in a tide of prosperity overnight by bringing forth Aladin's magic lamp. But mostly a realist, Sheikh Mujib defined the pathway of Bangladesh's economy in the short, medium and long term based on the policies for survival, commencement of affluence and the climbing of the ladder of prosperity.

### Struggle for Survival:

The defeated and fleeing Pakistani forces destroyed all kinds of infrastructure, industries, mills-factories, educational and financial institutions as much as they could in order to turn war-ravaged Bangladesh into a graveyard. The task of reviving, rebuilding and in some cases reactivating the economy through reforms from these destructions was started from the very first day. Sheikh Mujib and his government also started to import and distribute food and essential commodities through state initiative for a short period. The state-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) was established for importing food, edible oil, sugar, kerosene, pulses etc. The Consumers' Supplies Corporation (COSCOR) was launched to distribute commodities essential for day to day living throughout the country. Statutory and in some instances rectified rationing system were introduced in accordance with clear-cut directives of the Father of the Nation. Compared to other countries that achieved independence through armed struggles, the fatalities in liberated Bangladesh were comparatively less; this was a big proof of the initial successes of the farsighted economic policies pursued by the Father of the Nation. The war-wounded freedom fighters were sent to different friendly countries including East Germany for their treatment and rehabilitation. The deadly mines planted by the defeated and fleeing Pakistani forces were deactivated with the assistance of the Soviet Union. The

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**PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**



### Message

The 15 August is the National Mourning Day. On this day in 1975, the greatest Bangali 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.

Eighteen members of the family along with Bangabandhu's wife Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib, three sons- Captain Sheikh Kamal, Lieutenant Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel- two Daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Naser, peasant leader Abdur Rab Serniabat, youth leader Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and his wife Arzu Moni, Baby Serniabat, Sukanta Babu, Arif and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu were killed on that fateful night. Bangabandhu's Military Secretary Colonel Jamil was also killed. Some members of a family at Mohammadpur in the capital were also killed by artillery shells fired by the killers on the same day.

On this day, I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the souls of all martyrs of the 15 August, including the Father of the Nation.

Under the dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation, the people of this territory brought the reddish sun of the independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. The Bangalis have gotten their own nation-state, flag and national anthem.

But Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed at a time when he had undertaken an arduous task of building a Golden Bangladesh reconstructing the war-ravaged country and unifying the whole nation. The defeated forces of the Liberation War made abortive attempts to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangali nation. Their aim was to destroy the secular democratic fabric of Bangladesh.

The anti-liberation forces linked to the carnage initiated the politics of assassination, coup and conspiracy. The trial of Bangabandhu's brutal assassination was blocked through promulgation of indemnity ordinance.

Ziaur Rahman usurped the state power and promulgated Martial Law suspending the constitution and overthrowing the people's elected government. The killers of the Father of the Nation were rewarded and given jobs at the Bangladesh missions abroad. The anti-liberation elements were given nationality. They were made partners of the state power and rehabilitated politically and socially. The subsequent government of BNP Jamaat alliance had followed the same path.

Winning the general elections on 12 June 1996, Bangladesh Awami League assumed state power after long 21 years. A new horizon of development was initiated during the 5-year tenure overcoming the obstacles of the past. The country once deficient in food production became self-sufficient. This period was a 'golden era' for the countrymen. We had initiated the trial of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib killing case. But after taking over state power, BNP-Jamaat government stopped the trial.

The people of the county made Awami League victorious again in the 29 December general elections in 2008. Overcoming the stagnancy left by the previous BNP-Jamaat government and global economic recession, we have put the country on firm economic footing. Rejecting BNP-Jamaat's conspiracy to foil the general elections on 5 January 2014, people upheld the constitutional process by casting their votes. Bangladesh Awami League formed the government again and continued the work of development.

During the last eight and a half years, we have achieved desired advancement in every sector. Bangladesh is now a 'role model' of socio-economic development. We shall turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country before 2021 and a developed one by 2041, Insha Allah.

We have executed the verdict of the Bangabandhu killing case. The trial of the killers of four national leaders has been completed. The verdicts of the cases against war criminals are being executed. Our government is following 'zero tolerance' policy to uproot militancy-terrorism. The path of grabbing state power unconstitutionally has been stopped by passing 15th amendment to the constitution by the Parliament. We have to remain ready to resist any ill-attempt by the anti-liberation communal group and anti-development-democracy forces.

The killers were able to assassinate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman but they could not erase his dreams and ideals. Let us come and turn the grief of the loss of Bangabandhu into strength. Let us engage ourselves holding Bangabandhu's philosophy in building a non-communal, hunger-illiteracy-free and happy-prosperous Bangladesh and establish the Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. That is our solemn pledge on the National Mourning Day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

*Sheikh Hasina*  
**Sheikh Hasina**

## Bangabandhu: A Dreamer for the Suffering People

**Selina Hossain**

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, had just come back from the Pakistan prison on 10 January 1972. He went straight to Suhrawardy Uddayan from the Dhaka Airport. Hundreds of thousands of people were awaiting his return. He went up the podium. There he started his speech. At one stage he said, "You also know that I was ordered to be hanged. A grave was also dug for me beside my cell. I am a Muslim. I know a Muslim dies only once. That is why, I decided that I would not give in to them. Before going to the gallows, I would say: I am a Bangalee, my country is Bangladesh and Bangla is my language. Joy Bangla (May Bangla achieve victory). My colleagues requested me to leave the country before being arrested by the West Pakistani soldiers on the night of 25 March 1971. I then told them I would not leave my land throwing the seven and a half crore people into the mouth of danger. If I have to die, I will die here. Bangla is dearer to me than my life. Tajuddin and my other colleagues then burst into tears".

Such was his political, socio-economic and cultural feeling regarding his own national identity and the mass people's identity. No modern state of the world can exist outside its own identity. Only a state that is subservient to the imperialistic powers chains up its self-identity. Bangabandhu was uncompromising about his national identity. In the very face of the Pakistan Government he said, "Don't call my land East Pakistan, call it East Bengal. If you want to call it East Pakistan, arrange a general election of the Bangalees". He clearly said in a meeting arranged on the occasion of Suhrawardy's death anniversary that the

name of the country would be Bangladesh.

Even before the achievement of the independence he fixed the name of the country. In his speeches all over the country he always spoke about the common people's rights. He made people aware of the fundamental truth of living as human beings with dignity.

He was behind the bars during the Language Movement in 1952. He has written in his *Unfinished Memoirs*: "My cabin had a window facing the ward. I asked them to come after 1 o'clock at night.... Nobody minded it because only a few would turn up at that time of the night. The police lay silent because they knew I would not escape. The intelligence officer dozed off at one corner. We talked on the corridor and I asked them to constitute an all-party council for movement. .... A conspiracy is again going on to suppress the demand for the Bangla Language. If no protest is raised now, the Muslim League will get their proposal for Urdu passed in the central Legislative Assembly. Mr. Nazimuddin has not only spoken for making Urdu the only state language but he has also put forward many new arguments. .... In that discussion there it was decided that 21 February would be observed as the State Language Day and in a meeting a Council



for movement would be constituted. One member of the Student League would be the convener of the State Language Movement Council. The public opinion should begin to be created from the very beginning of February. I further said that, "I would also start a hunger strike from 16 February demanding my own release".

He took the dignity of the mother language as a political right. The pride of the mother language is shattered if a nation is deprived of this right. Today the life-sacrificing day 21 February is the 'International Mother Language Day' in the world forum. The UNESCO has declared this day to be observed all over the world. A modern state wants to see its achievement in the world heritage. Bangladesh has won that achievement. Bangabandhu's contribution to this achievement is worth remembering.

Secularism was one of the tenets of his life-philosophy. He took his position against communal ideology from his student life. This is a fundamental condition in the definition of any modern state. During the Kolkata communal riot in 1946, he engaged himself in distributing relief materials in the riot-torn areas. He stood by the distressed humanity. The eminent Indian economist Bhabatosh Datta was a teacher of Islamia College from 1943. In his book *The 1960s* he reminisced about the riot time and wrote: "We had a proof of how much the students of Islamia College had done for us during the bloody communal riot in 1946. The road from Baliganj to Islamia College was strewn with dangers. Our students helped us cross this road. They waited near Baliganj and took us to the college on the Wellesley Street. Again they helped us go back in the same way. Here I gratefully remember those muslim students of Islamia College who helped us cross the dangerous area. One of those students was Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

He risked his life during the 1964 Bangali-Bihari riot. His life was endangered during the terrible violence in Narayanganj. He was giving away the leaflets with the words "Stand up to Defend East Pakistan" published by him as a member of the anti-riot committee. Bangabandhu was the convener of the Riot Protest Committee. For circulating the 'Stand up to Defend East Pakistan' (Continued to the next page)