



15 August The National Mourning Day 2021



Special Supplement

Art & Design : Department of Films & Publications (DFP) ♦ Assistance : Press Information Department (PID), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting



پیرونده العزت الرحمن

 PRESIDENT
 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
 BANGLADESH

Message

Today is the National Mourning Day and the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. August 15 is regarded as a scandalous chapter in the history of the Bengali nation. On this fateful night of 1975, the undisputed leader and the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated at his Dhanmondi residence by a group of killers with the direct and indirect connivance of anti-liberation forces. His wife Bangamata Fazilatunnessa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel, and many of his close relatives were also killed along with Bangabandhu. Such a barbarous incident is rare not only in the history of Bangladesh but also in the history of the world. I, with a heavy heart, pay my deep homage to them and pray to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

Bangabandhu was a visionary leader of the Bengali Nation and the architect of our Independence. He led the nation at every struggle and democratic movements including the 'All-party State language Action Committee' formed to ensure the right to mother-tongue in 1948, the historic Language Movement in 1952, Juktafront Election in 1954, the movement against Martial Law in 1958, the movement against anti-people Education Commission in 1962, Six-Point Movement in 1966, Mass Uprising in 1969 and the General Elections in 1970 all of which were directed towards realizing Bangladesh' emancipation and their rights. For this, he had to embrace jail several times.

Bangabandhu was uncompromising on the question of the rights of the Bengali nation. He, even on the gallows, upheld the interest of Bangla and Bangalees. After long ups and downs, this great leader, ignoring the blood-curdling eyes of the then Pakistani rulers, delivered a historic speech on 07 March in 1971 before a mammoth gathering at the then Race Course Maidan, and thunderously uttered, "The struggle this time is the struggle for emancipation, the struggle this time is the struggle for Independence" which was, in fact, the call for Independence. In line with this historic speech, he finally declared the country's Independence on March 26, 1971 and subsequently we achieved victory through a nine-month-long armed war of liberation under his leadership. Bangabandhu and Bangladesh thus emerged as a unique entity to the people of Bangladesh. Though the assassins killed the Father of the Nation, they could not wipe out the principle and ideology of this great man. As long as Bangladesh exists, the name and fame of the Father of the Nation will remain ever shining in the mind of millions of Bangalees of our country.

Since his early age, Bangabandhu nurtured people's welfare in his mind and belief. Bangabandhu always stood by his land and people in all crises including the famine in the undivided Bengal in 1943, communal riots during the partition of 1947 and the catastrophic cyclone of 1970. Stepping at the threshold of twenty-first century, we are facing yet another critical time. Today the whole world including Bangladesh is fighting against the Corona pandemic. The Government of Bangladesh has been making all-out efforts to contain the Corona situation. To deal with this situation, people should extend a helping hand to the government. We have to follow the hygiene rules and be diligent so that others also follow them. The time has come for us to stand by the people of the country in this critical moment taking lessons from the ideals and the principles of Bangabandhu. And this will be the best endeavor to pay homage to Bangabandhu in the 'Mujibbarsho'.

Bangabandhu has struggled throughout his life for political independence as well as the economic emancipation of the people. His dream was to establish a 'Sonar Bangla' free from hunger and poverty. So, we, imbued with knowledge, have the pledge to make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous country through completing the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu. Only then we can show due respect to this great leader. The successful implementation of 'Vision-2021' to make Bangladesh a middle-income country by 2021, as announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is about to be completed. Huge activities are going on to implement the 'Vision 2041' to turn the country into a developed and prosperous one in 2041. I call upon all to work together for the implementation of these programs irrespective of party affiliation. On the National Mourning Day, let us transform our grief into strength and devote ourselves to build the 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

Joi Bangla.
 Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid

15 August Tragedy: Roadmap to Sonar Bangla

Mohammed Farashuddin

The barbaric assassination of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975 represents an epic tragedy. He embraced shahadat at the fair time but we the 85 million orphaned Bangladeshis lost the beacon and the reason for living. Following on the Newtonian Third Law of Motion "To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction", the brutality sprang an eternally forceful flow of kinetic energy. The energy has, after the dark period 1975-96, ushered in a new sunrise in the dauntless, innovative and patriotic eldest child of the father of the nation, Sheikh Hasina. So started the difficult but definitive nation building, the welfare state of Sonar Bangla.

In February 1969 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the trusted, resolute and undisputed leader came out of the jail of Pakistan Junta courtesy the volcanic uprising called the Ganaobhuttan against



Bangabandhu in eternal sleep

the ill famous Agartala case. The student-people throng at the then racecourse ground ordained the greatest Bangalee ever as Bangabandhu on 22 February 1969. Earlier, the Sheikh formulated and announced the six point programme on 5 February 1966 in Lahore, the citadel of the Pakistani aristocracy. The six point programme, the Magna Carta of the Bangalees contained, inter alia, the provisions for two-economy-one-country proposition and delineation of all subjects except external affairs and defence to the federating units including and particularly East Pakistan. Separate currencies, independent external trade relations, a paramilitary force of its own and exclusive rights on the foreign exchange earnings and revenue collection were also incorporated.

The rulers of Pakistan had by that time become mortally afraid of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and were convinced that the six point programme in the mould of the Lahore Resolution of 1940 meant a defacto Independent Bangladesh. The ferocity of the oppression and arrest / jailing kept on increasing the determination of Sheikh Mujib.

A vocal supporter of 'larke lenge pakistan' in the 1930s and early 1940s, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's disillusionment started because of the ruthless suppression of the language, culture and freedom of expression for the socio-economic rights. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his East Bengal accomplices, Khawaja Nazimuddin, Fazlur Rahman and others not only wanted Urdu to be the only state language of Pakistan but even conspired to write Bangla with Roman / Arabic alphabet. According to the language heroes Oli Ahad and Gazul Huq, Sheikh Mujib was the key organizer on March 11, 1948 of the thunderous picketing in front of the Secretariat Building in support of mother tongue Bangla as a state language.

The birth of Chatra League in March 1948 and of East Pakistan Awami Muslim League on 23rd June, 1949 provided the organizational framework for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to carry forward his struggle for the autonomy of the Bangalees. Mujib's now famous statement as a young member of the Pakistan National Assembly in 1955, "Honorable Speaker, I notice the people around call us East Pakistanees. Never so, we are from East Bengal which has a rich tradition, culture and heritage. You cannot change the name 'Bengal' without our consent (Sree Pranab Mukherjee, the President of the Republic of India : The Coalition Years). A reading between the lines reveals Mujibian way of initiating independence movement. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman concluded in 1947 that it would be difficult to stay with the "Mauras". The government of Pakistan appointed Aziz Ahmed of West Pakistan as the Chief Secretary of East

(Continued to the next page)



پیرونده العزت الرحمن

 PRIME MINISTER
 GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
 REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Message

The 15 August is our National Mourning Day. On this day in 1975, the Greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation, President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members was brutally assassinated.

Eighteen members of the Father of the Nation's family including Bangamata Fazilatunnessa Mujib, three sons—valiant Freedom Fighter Captain Sheikh Kamal, valiant Freedom Fighter Lieutenant Sheikh Jamal and 10-year old Sheikh Russel, two daughters-in-law Sultana Kamal and Rosy Jamal, brother Sheikh Abu Naser, youth leader valiant Freedom Fighter Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and his pregnant wife Arzu Moni, peasant leader valiant Freedom Fighter Abdur Rab Seraniat, daughter Baby Seraniat, son Arif Seraniat, nephew journalist Shaheed Seraniat, grandson Sukanta Babu, and Abdul Nayeem Khan Rintu, among others, were killed by the heinous killers on that fateful night. President's Military Secretary Brigadier General Jamil, on duty ASI of Special Branch of Police Siddiqur Rahman, army soldier Syed Mahbubul Haq were also murdered. Several members of a family died in the capital's Mohammadpur area by artillery shells fired by the killers on the day. On this National Mourning Day, I humbly remember all the martyrs of the 15 August and pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls.

Under the visionary and strong leadership of the Father of the Nation, the Bangalee Nation broke the shackles of subjugation and snatched away our great Independence. The anti-liberation clique killed Bangabandhu at a time when he was engaged in the struggle of building a Golden Bangladesh by reconstructing the war-ravaged country. Through the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the defeated forces of the Liberation War made abortive attempts to ruin the tradition, culture and advancement of the Bangalee Nation. The aim of the killers was to break the state structure of secular democratic Bangladesh and foil our hard-earned Independence. The anti-liberation forces involved in the carnage initiated the politics of killing, coup and conspiracy in the country right after the 15 August 1975. They also imposed the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib murder by promulgating Indemnity Ordinance.

Ziaur Rahman illegally took over the state power, promulgated Martial Law, killed democracy and tailored the Constitution. He rewarded the killers of the Father of the Nation and gave them jobs in the Bangladesh missions abroad. He gave nationality to the anti-liberation war criminals, made them partners in the state power, and rehabilitated them politically and socially by giving them lucrative business. The subsequent illegal military government and the BNP-Jamaat alliance government followed the same path.

Bangladesh Awami League assumed the state power after 21 years winning the general elections on 12 June 1996. A new horizon of socio-economic development was started in the country in this five-year period (1996-2001) overcoming the obstacles of the past. We initiated the trial of Bangabandhu murder case. But after coming to power in 2001, the BNP-Jamaat alliance government stopped this trial.

The countrymen voted Awami League to power again in the 9th parliamentary elections on 29 December 2008. Overcoming the stalemate left by the previous BNP-Jamaat government, and global economic recession, we put the country on a firm economic footing. During the past twelve and a half years, we have achieved desired advancement in every sector. Bangladesh has become a 'role model' of socio-economic development in the world. We have been celebrating the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation and the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. During this period, Bangladesh has attained the status of developing nation. Amidst Covid pandemic, we have been able to keep our economy on the right track. Our government has relentlessly been working to turn Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041.

We have completed execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case. Hopefully, names of those who were behind the conspiracy to assassinate the Father of the Nation will also come out one day. The trial of the killers of four national leaders has also been completed. The verdicts of the cases against the war criminals of 1971 are being executed. Our government has been following 'zero tolerance' policy to uproot militancy-terrorism. The path of grabbing state power illegally and unconstitutionally has been stopped through the 15th amendment to the Constitution. The killers were able to murder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib but they could not kill his dreams and ideals. Unitedly, we have to remain prepared to resist any conspiracy and evil-attempt by the anti-liberation communal group, and anti-development and anti-democracy forces.

Let's turn the grief of the loss of Bangabandhu into strength. Let's build a non-communal, hunger-poverty free prosperous Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation through reflecting the glory and ideals of the long struggling life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in our actions; this should be our solemn pledge on this National Mourning Day.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
 May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

Bangabandhu— The Eternal Source of Our Inspirations

Dr. Atiur Rahman

August is the month of mourning. It is also our month of resolve. On August 15, 1975, our Father of the Nation was physically snatched away by the devils. The nation was stunned. We were overwhelmed by deep darkness from all sides. His precious Bangladesh started 'traveling on the back of a strange camel' in the opposite direction of the spirit of the liberation war. This was a blatant attack on the root of Bengali nationalism. Certainly, the heart of Bangladesh was bullet-ridden. And then those traitors started telling the people that Bangabandhu was nobody.

In response, poet Mahadev Saha wrote:
 "They say you are nobody, but the two hundred and fifty rivers of Bangladesh say,
 You are this Bengal's rivers, Bengal's green fields
 You are the song of this Charyapada, you are the Bangla alphabet,
 They say you are nobody, but upon hearing your footsteps
 The hisas of Padma start dancing;
 They say you are nobody, but Rabindranath's songs
 And Nazrul's 'Rebel' poem say,
 You are the heart of Bangladesh."
 (Mahadev Saha, "This name is eternal"). (Translation author).

Can someone really erase the all-encompassing namesake of Bangladesh from the Bengalis' hearts? Of course not! Our grief has transformed into defiance. We have made Bangabandhu our constant companion and source of inspiration as we move forward with our heads held high to build our nation.

The whole world is now being ravaged by COVID-19. Bangladesh has not been spared. Both infections and deaths are piling up in our country. Bangladesh is trying hard to address the threats to lives and livelihoods. Sorrows abound. Deaths multiply. Yet, life moves on. We still carry inside us the dreams implanted by Bangabandhu. We are not standing still, and neither is Bangabandhu's daughter, our Premier. Despite the loss of her family, she has transformed her sorrows into strength and continues to drive a vibrant Bangladesh forward. In the face of any disaster, she often repeats these words: "who could understand the pains of losing one's loved ones better than me? Even then I am not sitting idle. I have plunged into the struggle of life, thinking about the needs of the people of my country."

Mujib is My Morning Bird, My Earliest Lesson

Mahadev Saha

Mujib is my morning bird, my earliest lesson
 My soothing riverbanks overflowing in the rains;
 My maiden star rising in the evening sky,
 Reflected in thirteen hundred river-flows of Bengal;
 Mujib is my sweetest lyric in my Bangla tongue,
 Beginner's lesson for all children, their first lexicon.
 Mujib is my Champa-bower vibrant in arresting smells,
 Mujib is my fiery lyre, my blissful Shantiniketan.
 Solemn morning walk in February, heroic walk in March,
 Mujib is my long history of winning independence.
 My tears rolling down the cheeks of all mothers-martyr,
 All fruits and flowers of twelve months in Bangla year.
 Mystic tune of all shepherds, thrills of Bhatiali songs,
 Noblest and closest to me, my nearest and dearest one,
 Undying name in my notebook, time's finest poetic creation,
 Mujib is my classic epic, Mujib is the Father of my Nation.

Translated by Mohammad Nurul Huda



Historical speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7 March 1971 at Racecourse Ground

(Continued to the next page)