SUPPLEMENT

Special Supplement Art & Design : Department of Films & Publications (DFP) Assistance : Press Information Department (PID), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting بمسطالة الأهات التجنيد بن والدوالكان التحذيد PRIME MINISTER PRESIDENT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH BANGLADESH BANGABHABAN, DHAKA 12 Chaitra 1430 26 March 2024 12 Chaitra 1430 26 March 2024 Message Message Today is the great Independence and National Day. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my sincere greetings and congratulations to all the Bangladeshi citizens living 26th March-The Great Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. On this 26March auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to my in the country and abroad. fellow countrymen living at home and abroad. I remember with the most profound respect the Greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose firm and far-sighted On this day, I remember with profound respect the architect of our independent Bangladesh, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu leadership we achieved independent- sovereign Bangladesh. I remember the four national leaders, three million martyrs of the liberation war and the self- sacrifice of Independence and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the fateful night of March 25, 1971, the invading forces of Pakistan unexpectedly attacked the unarmed Bangalees. In the early two hundred thousand mothers and sisters. I pay my deep homage to all the fearless freedom fighters, including the war-wounded. I am grateful to all the friendly hours of March 26, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman countries, organizations, institutions, and individuals, particularly the then Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, for their generous support during the War. officially declared the Independence of Bangladesh. We achieved an independent and sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month long Liberation War under the able leadership of Bangabandhu. I recall with deep respect the millions of Young student leader Sheikh Mujib, who was studying in the Department of Law at **National Day** martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation. I recall with deep reverence our Four National Leaders, heroic freedom-fighters, organizers, supporters, foreign friends and people from all walks of life who made contributions to attain our right to self-determination and freedom movement. of Bangabandhu always cherished a dream of building a happy and prosperous country along with political freedom. The present government has been Bangladesh movement of 1962, six points of 1966, and the mass upsurge of 1969, these rendering untiring efforts in materializing the dream of Bangabandhu. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is moving Khan was forced to repeal the Agartala conspiracy case. Sheikh Mujib became 'Bangabandhu'- the hope and aspiration of Bangali. On 5 December 1969, on the death towards the highway of development at an inexorable pace. We have achieved 2024 enormous success in various areas of socio-economic development including poverty alleviation, education, health, human resource development, women empowerment, lowering child and maternal mortality rates, elimination of instead of East Pakistan." gender discrimination and increase in life expectancy. Rate of poverty has been The Awami League, led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, won a single majority in the National Assembly in the elections of 1970. However, the Pak-military junta started dropped whereas per capita income has increased. A huge number of landless and procrastinating without transferring power. Sheikh Mujib called for a non-cooperation movement and, in his historic speech on March 7, gave a clear outline of the goal of liberation from the long 23 years of rule and exploitation. On 23 March, the flag emblazoned with the map of Bangladesh was hoisted all over the country. At midnight homeless people are being rehabilitated. The Padma Bridge, constructed by our 26th March, The Day of Veneration own resources, the Karnafuli tunnel and the Metrorail are having positive impact on our economy. Works of Payra Deep Sea Port, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's Third Terminal and Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant are also progressing Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury (Manik) uninterruptedly. Bangladesh has already been elevated from a least developed country to a developing country. With the continuation of this sustained development process, Bangladesh will turn into a developed, smart and

prosperous country in the world by 2041, InshaAllah. Government has been able to maintain the economic growth for timely and bold steps taken by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina despite the world economy is facing negative impact due to worldwide war and geo-political crisis. The economy has turned around as a result of various socio-economic and investment projects, programs and initiatives taken by the government to ensure ustainable and inclusive development.

Huge amount of remittances sent by expatriates has made an important contribution to keep the wheel of the economy rolling during this time. To deal with this crisis, we also have to be frugal in the use of resources and follow austerity in luxury. I hope, based on the unprecedented achievements of the government in the country's overall development activities and socio-economic indicators in the past years, we will be able to face these challenges in the days to ome, InshaAlla

The government has been consistent in upholding our foreign policy "Friendship to all, malice towards none" as enunciated by the Father of the Nation. Our achievement in the international arena, including the establishment of world peace, is also commendable. Despite being a densely populated country, Bangladesh has set a unique example of humanity in the world by sheltering more than one million of Rohingyas who have been tortured and forcibly deported from Myanmar. People of Bangladesh are peace loving. Bangladesh has witnessed the devastation of war and became the victim of genocide. We want no nore war in the world. We condemn the genocide going on in the world including Palestine. Bangladesh believes in a peaceful solution to this problem. I call upon the United Nations and the international community to take effective measures for solution to Rohingya problem and to stop war taking place around the world including Palestine

We must ensure people-oriented and sustainable development, good governance, social justice, transparency and accountability; in order to achieve the desired goal of Independence. Forbearance, human rights and rule of law have to be olidated for institutionalizing democracy. It is our sacred duty to ensure a safe, happy, beautiful and prosperous Bangladesh for the new generation. By assassinating Bangabandhu on 15 August 1975, anti-liberation forces tried to erase his policy, ideology as well as to stop the trend of development and progress of the country forever. But the Bengali is a nation of heroes. Nothing could suppress the Bangalees. Bangabandhu has become the conqueror of death. Death has not dissipated him but has made him brighter and more glorious in the minds of Bangalees. Present and future generation have to understand that the way they are treading forward today is paved by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The path shown by him will be the step of development and progress in the future as well. To expedite the progress of the country, let the nation embrace the spirit of the liberation war and the ideals of the Father of the Nation and move forward in building 'Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)' dreamt by Bangabandhu- this is my expectation on the great Independence Day.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Joi Bangla.

26th March is destined to be remembered through eternity for being the day Bangladesh assumed sovereign status. By his impregnable declaration, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the indubitable leader of the Bengalis, proclaimed independence of Bangladesh with impeccable authority. His declaration was in mimpeachable conformity with the principles of international law, insofar as he, as the elected leader of the people, had popular mandate to do so

A land of hope and glory thereby emerged in the world atlas. His declaration was followed by 9 months war, fought by the Bangladeshi freedom fighters, to rout every occupying Pakistani soldier, in adherence to Bangabandhu's directives. Simultaneously, the Pakistani army of occupation unleashed a harrowing spree of genocide to thwart Bengali people's aspiration.

The grandiose that stemmed from the declaration of 26th March, could not be achieved in a day; it was the ual and cumulative outcome of Bangabandhu's perseverant struggle of two decades to secure freedom for the people of East Bengal. The trail he followed was extremely hazardous. He was subjected to persecution and ents of various kind, was held in custody for a substantial length of time

History gives us to believe that with commencement of the 2nd Great War, the British Raj solicited help of the Indian people. The Indians, in turn, availed the opportunity to put further weight to their demand for independence; 'Quit India' slogan, coupled with positive acts, turned out to be invincible. Although the British rulers made no commitment, it did, nevertheless, become apparent that they would leave India after the cessation of the armed hostilities. In anticipation of such an eventuality, leaders of Indian Muslim League congregated in Lahore and adopted a resolution, tabled by Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq, demanding creation of independent states in Muslim majority provinces of India. The resolution unambiguously contemplated advent of more than one Muslim state, yet, notwithstanding the unequivocal envision, leaders in the north-western India, under the cunning leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, succeeded to crucify that fundamental stipulation which ruminated emanation of more than one independent state. Consequently, one ingle state, Pakistan was brought into being on 14th August 1947. Subsequent events proved that the West Pakistani leaders were steered by grotesque motives in abrogating the theme of more than one independent state with the repulsive motive of keeping East Bengal under subjugation. Their masqueraded ploy surfaced with unveiled posture when Govern General Muhammad Ali Jinnah explicitly declared that Urdu would be the state language of Pakistan. His annunciation ignited wide spread fury. Several people, who took to the streets to denounce Jinnah's bizarre exposition, were shot dead by the rulers. The people of East Bengal had no qualm to realise that they were plunged into servitude by the leaders in the west wing. Young Sheikh Mujibur Rahman like a guardian angel, showed up to salvage of the Bengalis. Very young though at that time, he was, nevertheless, endowed with infinity of wisdom, vision, fortitude and patriotism. He wasted no time to rise to the occasion with unhindered determination to get East Bengal out of Pakistani colonial yoke.

West Pakistani foray were not confined only to linguistic and cultural arena of the Bengali people; their colonial paws were expanded over the economic threshold of East Bengal. Those were the days when Pakistani economy devolved round the money earned by exporting jute, produced in East Bengal, demand for which spiralled during and after the Korean war, allowing Pakistani exchequer to hit the roof. Yet, most of the money were spent to construct massive dams, create cities, set up industries, medical and educational facilities in the western wing. A handful of West Pakistani tycoons reduced most of the Bengali people to virtual serfdom. They were in exclusive ownership of the banks and other financial institutions. The central bank was governed by them. Large part of the country's budget went to the defence forces, where presence of the Bengalis were trivial. Colonial stature of the West Pakistani rulers became more conspicuous when the country was brought inder military rule in 1958: army rule was synonymous with rule by the West Pakistanis. Ignominious passivity of the Pakistani authorities in the wake of a devastating cyclone, described by Henry Kissinger, as 'the greatest disaster of the century' (Source: White House Years, by Henry Kissinger), which pushed the People of East Bengal to a state of cataclysm in November 1970, unveiled the colonial character of the Pakistanis. Media, out the world, castigated Pakistani leaders for failing to mitigate the affliction of the Bengali people by providing accommodation, supplying food, medications and rendering essential services they desperately needed. The betrayed people of East Bengal, in utter despair, felt that enough was enough, and voted for the party of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the ensuing election in 1970, crediting him with a landslide



Dhaka University, had dreamt of establishing a sovereign state in this land since the creation of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistanis' social, economic, and political discriminatory attitudes became clear day by day. Sheikh Mujib remained steadfast in defending the rights and dignity of the Bangali in return for any sacrifice. The two organizations of his far-reaching thoughts are the Chhatra League and the Awami League, where he was deeply involved from the beginning until the end of his life. From the language movement of 1952 to the victory of the United Front election of 1954, the anti- Ayub organizations had an immense role in the struggles. In the face of public outrage, Ayub anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Bangabandhu Sheith Mujib declared, "From today, the name of this eastern part of Pakistan will be solely Bangladesh,

on 25 March, Pakistani troops started killing unarmed Bangali in the name of 'Operation Search Light.' Pak junta arrested Sheikh Mujib at an early hour on 26 March. He made the official declaration of independence before he was arrested. The Bangali leader of the people was imprisoned in the Mianwali jail in Pakistan and subjected to inhumane torture. At the call of the Father of the Nation, the freedom-loving people of Bengal, inspired by the slogan 'Joy Bangla', started fighting, taking up arms for the liberation of the motherland. On 17 April, the Mujibnagar sovernment swore in designating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice President, Tajuddin Ahmad as Prime Minister, Captain M Mansur Ali, and AHM Kamaruzzaman as Ministers. After a long 9-month armed struggle, independent sovereign Bangladesh was liberated on 16 December 1971 with the help of the allied forces.

Father of the Bangali Nation, President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was released from Pakistan, returned to his beloved independent motherland on 10 January 1972, and devoted himself to rebuild the war-ravaged country. With the help of allies, though there was an empty treasury, he rehabilitated the displaced people, restored and developed the infrastructure, and put the production sector and the economy on a solid foundation. He approved a constitution within 9 months of independence. The GDP growth rate surpassed 9% during Bangabandhu's tenure. Bangladesh gained ecognition from 123 countries and membership in 27 international organ through his diplomatic efforts. But our misfortune is that the defeated anti-independence clique of 1971 continues to conspire against him. Incumbent President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was martyred along with his most of the family members on 15 August 1975 by the brutal bullet of the assassins. The murderous Mostaq-Zia and their successors illegally seized power and established a dictatorship in the country

After long 21 years, the Bangladesh Awami League won the people's mandate and got the responsibility of running the government in 1996. We took on the mission of uplifting the living standard of the poor by introducing social safety-net programs turning the country into self-sufficient in food production; setting up community clinics to provide primary health care to marginalized people; building houses for homeless people by taking shelter projects; and making mobile phones and computer technology readily available. Our government signed a 30-year Ganges water-sharing agreement with India. To establish peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, we signed the istoric peace agreement and repatriated the refugees who had taken refuge in India to Bangladesh. We strengthened the local government system and announced the wom development policy. The Awami League government provided approval for launching privately-owned television channels. We started the trial for killing the Father of the Nation by repealing the Indemnity Ordinance; established the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law, and human rights; and re-established the liberation war values in the country by preventing distortion of history. Our government's 1996-2001 term was a journey towards a brighter future of golden chapter breaking the shackle of backwardness, underdevelopment, and poverty.

The Bangladesh Awami League has been running the government since 2009 with the people's unwavering support in all the national elections. 'Digital Bangladesh' is now reality. We have already transformed Bangladesh into a developing country by implementing Vision-2021. Our government opened the door to the blue economy by establishing sovereignty over the vast sea area. Implementing the land boundary greement with India ended the enclaves' long-standing misery. We inaugurated 100 oridges and 100 roads and highways in a single day. We brought 100 percent of people under electricity coverage. We have constructed the Padma Bridge with our own fund. Bangabandhu satellite-1 into space, Metrorail, Matarbari Power Project, Rooppur Nuclear Power Station, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under Karnaphuli river, Elevated Expressway are some examples of our capacity. We have formulated the 'Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100' for our future generation. To build 'Smart Bangladesh', We are implementing the Second Perspective Plan 'Vision-2041' for the next 20 years.

We established the rule of law in the country by enforcing the verdict on trial against the killers of the Father of the Nation and the war criminals against humanity. ed the Records of Proceedings of 'Agartala Conspiracy Case' (4 Volumes)' filed by Pakistani rulers against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in 1968 and the Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman' (14 Volumes) including 'The Unfinished Memories', 'The Prison Diaries', and 'New China 1952'. I believe that by reading these books, the new generation will clearly understand the firm footprints of the Father of the Nation in the istory of independence.



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AAMS Arefin Siddique

Humanity was at the core of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's educational philosophy Throughout his life, he preached the message of being initiated into the education of loving humanity. Endowed and enhanced by the deep faith in the inherent love and compassion of human consciousness, Bangabandhu believed the most magnificent artistic form in the world existed in the act of cherishing humanity itself. In his speech broadcasted on radio and television, marking the first nniversary of Bangladesh's independence, he urged the students who had valiantly contributed to the liberation struggle to persist in their endeavors towards achieving the objectives of our revolution. He further added, "To achieve a revolution in our education system, I am going to stablish an Education Commission tasked with formulating a strategic plan." (Ittefaq, March 27, 1972).

The initial five chapters of the report from the Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission, established on July 26, 1972, contain an exposition of Bangabandhu's educational philosophy. Bangabandhu shared his thoughts on the education system in detail with Dr. Muhammad Kudrat-e-Khuda and other members of the commission and advised them to prepare a report in light of the four national principles enshrined in our constitution.

In the first section of the commission report, in paragraph 1.5, it is stated that, "In order to achieve rapid transformation and progress in a society plagued by prolonged oppression and deprivation, education must be utilized as a special tool. In the interest of creating a socialist democratic society, it is necessary to ensure the proper use of national talent by establishing parity of opportunity and facilities for education according to the aptitude and talent of all citizens. Simultaneously, there's a need to cultivate diverse vocational skills essential for constructing a progressive and democratic society. It's imperative to foster a scientific, idealistic, and socially progressive mindset conducive to eradicating superstitions, malpractices, and corruption. To achieve this, it's crucial to ensure that every citizen of the country has the opportunity to attain a basic standard of education." (The Report of Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission, p.4)

In all of Bangabandhu's speeches, delivered both at home and abroad, we find direct educational content, or the entire speech becomes a necessary subject of study for us. In fact, all of Bangabandhu's speeches serve as educational resources for the new generation.Bangabandhu's constant stream of thoughts on education reminds us of Rabindranath Tagore's verse written fourteen years ago, "I will go on proclaiming victory. This is my salutation."In the same vein as Bangabandhu guided us to triumph in our significant Liberation War with the rallying cry "Joy Bangla," he also directed his efforts towards the noble goal of fostering an educated and cultured nation. Through various means, he addressed his views on the education system of newly independent Bangladesh, offered guidance, and endeavored to shape the trajectory of education until his death.

In the sky of Bengal, the rise of the luminary political star, the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a beacon of justice, intellect, wisdom, and foresight, resulted in the birth of an independent, sovereign, democratic state of Bangladesh. The struggle for liberation led by Bangabandhu was fundamentally an educational movement.

The depth of Bangabandhu's contemplation on education can be discerned from the speech he delivered to the nation on October 28, 1970, during the Pakistan election campaign, broadcasted through radio and television. On that day he told, "There can be no better investment for a country than investing in education to build a sound social system. The statistics on the decline in the number of primary schools in Bangladesh since 1947 are a frightening truth. 80% of our population is More than 1 million illiterate people are increasing every year. More that n half of the children of the nation is being deprived of primary education. Only 18% of boys and 6% of girls are receiving primary education. We believe that at least 4% of the national income should be spent on education. The salaries of teachers in colleges and schools, especially primary schools, need to be increased significantly. Illiteracy must be eradicated."

A crash course program should be started to provide compulsory, non-formal primary education to five-year-old children. The door to secondary education should be kept open for all classes.New miversities, including medical and technical universities, should be established quickly. Attention should be paid to ensuring that poverty does not become a curse for meritorious students to pursue higher education. Effective measures should be taken immediately so that Bangla and Urdu can take the place of English in all spheres of life. We need to create an atmosphere of encouragement for the development and advancement of regional languages." (Now-defunct The Daily Azad, October 29, It is noteworthy that when referring to primary schools after the year of Pakistan's stablishment in 1947, Bangabandhu referred to this region as Bangladesh. On December 5, 1969, Bangabandhu declared that "from now on, the name of the eastern province of Pakistan will be Bangladesh, replacing East Pakistan." (Ittefaq, December 6, 1969).

Bangabandhu emerged as the undisputed leader of all of Pakistan in the 1970 general election, but due to the conspiracy and betrayal of Yahya-Bhutto, the barbaric Pakistani invading forces launched a genocide on the unarmed and sleeping Bengalis on the night of March 25, 1971. Then, in the early hours of March 26, 1971, Bangabandhu declared the independence of Bangladesh.

We achieved victory on December 16, 1971, in exchange for the blood of three million martyrs after a nine-month-long liberation war marked by bloodshed. On January 10, 1972, Bangabandhu returned home after being released from a Pakistani jail.

Upon his return, Bangabandhu took the oath as the Prime Minister of the Republic on January 12. His primary focus was on the formulation of the Constitution of Bangladesh, which ultimately came into effect on December 16 1972. The following commitment regarding education was made on behalf of the state in Article 17 of the Constitution

"The State shall adopt effective measures for the purpose of - (a) establishing a uniform, mass oriented and universal system of education and extending free and compulsory education to all children to such stage as may be determined by law; (b) relating education to the needs of society and producing properly trained and motivated citizens to serve those needs; (c) removing illiteracy within such time as may be determined by law."

Bangabandhu, as a young political leader, visited China in October 1952 as a member of the Pakistan delegation to the Asian and Pacific Regional Peace Conference. During his tenure as the Labour Minister of East Bengal, he visited China again in 1957 as the leader of the Pakistan Parliamentary Party. He was amazed at the unprecedented development of China in such a short time after the Chinese Revolution in 1949.

Bangabandhu's insights on education are evident in the accounts he penned following his 1952 visit to China during his incarceration. In his book 'The New China I Saw', Bangabandhu wrote, "From there I went to the university. It was a huge university. The education system there is no longer designed to create clerks like in our country. Arrangements have been made to provide education in agriculture, education, industry, engineering and technical education. There I met Professor Mr. Halim of the university. He also has a Chinese name; I don't remember it. The man knows English. I talked to him for about an hour

He explained their compulsory education system, where every child attends school with the government covering all expenses. Schools are even established for farmers and near every industrial center. Adults are educated during their free time, with separate programs for their children. He took pride in the fact that within a mere four years, they had succeeded in educating 30% of the population. "In 10 years," he proclaimed proudly, "you won't find a single illiterate person in China!" The current literacy rate in China is 99.83%, which is continuously growing at an annual rate of 0.018%

Bangabandhu further wrote, "I was really fascinated to see one thing. In each country, there is a different type of 'vested interest group' (privileged class). For example, in our country (meaning Pakistan), the wealthy landowners are the 'privileged class', in other countries, the industrialists are the 'privileged class'. But in the new China, I saw that the children belong to the 'privileged class'. This privileged class enjoys various benefits from the government. The New China government has mandated that every child must attend school. A specific dress code is enforced, requiring children to and they must wear the designated uniform. Those who are unable to afford it are instructed to notify the government, and government will provide assistance.

New China has created a new race of people. Just imagine where New China will stand in 15 to 20 years when these individuals, having completed their education, become a significant part of the country's workforce and contribute to its development. (The New China I Saw, pp-59-60).

The response to this inquiry is manifested in the current reality, as Bangabandhu astutely documented in different ections of the book. Following his visit to China in 1957, Bangabandhu remarked, "Asian countries can take pride in China's swift advancement" (Now-defunct The Daily Azad, July 15, 1957).

After independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman undertook the nationalization of approximately 37,000 primary schools in 1973. Despite severe shortages in essentials such as food, clothing, and healthcare, he gave top priority to children's education. Following in his footsteps, Bangabandhu's daughter, Sheikh Hasina, nationalized around 26,000 non-government primary schools in 2013.On February 4, 1974, during the first national congress of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League (the youth front of Bangladesh Awami League), Bangabandhu urged the youth to step forward for the betterment of the nation. He stated, "Promise me, you will combat corruption. Why do you allow theft and plunder to occur in the country? Why can't you prevent it where I am with you? However, I implore you, do not engage in 'foul play'."

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman emphasized, "Today's youth will shape tomorrow's leadership. Hence, they must be ready for this responsibility. Their mindset and direction must be appropriate, and there must be sistency in their words and deeds." (Ittefaq, February 6, 1974). Calling for self-discipline, courage, self-criticism, and self-sacrifice, Bangabandhu said, "I want to see the emergence of a self-purified youth force in Bangladesh."

In this context, four lines from the poem "Adarsha Chele" (Ideal Boy) written by Kusumkumari Das (1875-1948), the mother of poet Jibanananda Das, can be mentioned. The poem appeared in her poetry collection "Kabita Mukul" (Flowering Buds of Poetry), which was published in 1896. These lines reflect a similar aspiration for the youth as that of Bangaba mdhu

"When will our country have the son

Who will be a man not of word but action?

The Awami League government believes in the philosophy of upgrading the fate of the people. We are running our government through immediate, short, medium, and long-term plans to uplift the living standard of ordinary people and develop the ntry. Moreover, we regularly mo nitor the implementatio on progress of our election manifesto. Due to these reasons, people's trust and strong support for Awami League continues.

On this very occasion of Independence Day and National Day, being imbued with the spirit of our great Liberation War, let us take the oath to build developed-prosperous al smart 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib.

> Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu May Bangladesh Live Forever. Van EN San Sheikh Hasina

Strong, with a smile, intense at heart

His pledge to be human sets him apart. "

The poem's two additional lines, "One must embody true humanity while being human" and "If you embody 'humanity', then the country will prosper," essentially call for self-purification. This aligns perfectly with the core principle of Bangabandhu's educational philosophy.

The dream of creating Bangabandhu's Golden People is an unimaginable inspiration for us. When Bangabandhu was sworn in on January 3, 1971, beneath the open sky at the Racecourse Maidan in Ramna, alongside the elected members of the National and Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan, he perhaps had anticipated that they would not have the opportunity to take their oaths on the floor of the National Assembly. Even amid those challenging circumstances, Bangabandhu, addressing the unprecedented crowd, emphasized the paramount importance of education. He announced that the Awami League would ensure arrangements for teachers and low-paid employees to lead dignified lives. In the context of his pledge to prioritize a people-centric education system, Bangabandhu asserted, "Any educational system that does not serve the welfare of the people must be abolished." He vehemently called for the repeal of the Dhaka University Ordinance. (Ittefaq, January 4, 1970)

There was a total of six universities in Bangladesh. With a population of over seventy million people, the number of universities in the country was merely inadequate. Bangabandhu always had concerns about higher education in the country, and autonomous governance of universities close to his heart.

On the first Victory Day of the country, standing amidst a massive crowd at Suhrawardy Udyan, Bangabandhu proclaimed the enactment of Bangladesh's constitution, effective from December 16, 1972. On that historic day, he announced within the thunderous applause that all colonial laws, including the notorious ordinances created by Pakistan, were abolished with immediate effect (December 16, 1972). Addressing the gathering, Bangabandhu further stated, "No other country in history has been able to draft a constitution in such a short time after independence. The Awami League government, within just 10 months, has adopted a new constitution, creating a new history'

On February 15, 1973, Bangabandhu's administration issued the Dhaka University Ordinance 1973, granting full autonomy to the oldest university in Bangladesh and allowing it to operate in a democratic manner. Similarly, Rajshahi, Chittagong, and Jahangirnagar University were also included in this democratic order."

The directive, comprising sixty-one fundamental principles, offers comprehensive guidance on various facets including administration, education, research, sports, cultural dialogue, residential amenities, library services, and more, mirroring Bangabandhu's democratic educational ideology. It has ensured that every university has an uninterrupted opportunity to evolve into a hub of enlightened discourse.

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was also careful to ensure that the teachers and students of the six universities at that time did not face any bureaucratic or administrative complications or financial crisis. On February 15, 1973, another gazette published an order to establish the University Grants Commission.

Bangabandhu appointed academics as the chairman and members of the newly formed commission. He also chose teachers to be the first and second education ministers and education secretary of the Bangladesh government. He had expressed his desire to appoint Professor Anisujjaman as the third education secretary, but before Professor Anisujjaman could return from abroad and meet with Bangabandhu, Bangabandhu and his family were assassinated on the cursed 15th of August of 1975.

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