



সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস-২০২৫ উপলক্ষে আমি বাংলাদেশ সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন। এই দিনে আমি মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আত্মত্যাগকারী সাতজন বীরশ্রেষ্ঠসহ সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সকল বীর শহিদদের স্মৃতির প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর বীরত্বগাথা জাতির ইতিহাসে এক পৌরবোদ্ধ অধ্যায়। ১৯৭১ সালের ২১ নভেম্বর পাকিস্তানি দখলদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সম্মিলিত পাল্টা আক্রমণ চূড়ান্ত বিজয়কে ত্বরান্বিত করে। মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর এই সম্মিলিত লড়াই দেশের সার্বভৌমত্বের ওপর যে কোনো আক্রমণ ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে প্রতিরোধে আমাদের সাহস ও প্রেরণা যোগায়।

সশস্ত্র বাহিনী আমাদের গর্ব ও আস্থার প্রতীক। স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষার পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন দুর্যোগ ও জাতীয় সংকট মোকাবিলা এবং জাতিগঠনমূলক কর্মকাণ্ডে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা রেখে চলেছে। ২০২৪ সালের ছাত্র-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থান পরবর্তী সময়ে সারা দেশে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাসহ দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর কার্যক্রম জনগণের প্রশংসা অর্জন করেছে। এছাড়া, জাতিসংঘ শান্তিরক্ষা মিশনে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর অংশগ্রহণ আন্তর্জাতিক পরিসরে দেশের মর্যাদা বৃদ্ধি করছে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ সর্বদা রাষ্ট্র ও নেতৃত্বের প্রতি পরিপূর্ণ অনুগত থেকে কঠোর অনুশীলন ও দেশপ্রেমের সমন্বয়ে নিজেদের পৌরব সমুন্নত রাখবেন।

আমি সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর উত্তরোত্তর সমৃদ্ধি এবং বাহিনীসমূহের সকল সদস্য ও তাঁদের পরিবারবর্গের অব্যাহত সুখ, শান্তি ও সমৃদ্ধি কামনা করছি।

মোঃ সাহাবুদ্দিন

রাষ্ট্রপতি ও সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সর্বাধিনায়ক

## ARMED FORCES DAY 2025 Special Supplement

### Armed Forces in the Liberation War

**ARMY:** Bangladesh Army's valiant role in the Liberation War of 1971 stands as an indelible chapter in the glorious history of Bangladesh. It was a time when the brave Bengali officers and soldiers of the then Pakistan Army, alongside civilians from all walks of life, courageously fought against the occupying forces of West Pakistan. The Bengali members of the Pakistan Army stood firmly against the brutalities and severe oppression inflicted on innocent and unarmed Bengalis during the 'Operation Searchlight' on March 25, 1971. 8 East Bengal in Chattogram, 4 East Bengal in Brahmanbaria, 1 East Bengal in Jashore, 2 East Bengal in Joydebpur and 3 East Bengal in Saidpur organized armed resistance. This resistance by the East Bengal Regiment marked the first decisive step towards the Great Liberation Struggle. Colonel (later General) M. A. G. Osmani (Retd) was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief by the Provisional Government of Bangladesh in 1971. The country was divided into eleven sectors, most of which were commanded by Army personnel. 'Z' Force, 'S' Force, and 'K' Force, three regular Brigades of the Army, were formed to expedite victory. Besides, the Directorate of Medical Services was also established. The synergy of common people joining the fight, coupled with the unified and strategic actions of the newly formed Bangladesh Army, injected fresh vigor into the Liberation War. The indomitable officers and soldiers of Bangladesh Army as well as civilians from all walks of life achieved victory against the Pakistan Army through determined operations in various regions of the country during the nine month long conflict. Tragically, 1,460 Army personnel including 55 officers, sacrificed their lives for the independence of Bangladesh. In recognition of the heroic role in the Liberation War, 03 members of the Army were awarded 'Bir Sreshtho,' 39 'Bir Uttom,' 90 'Bir Bikrom' and 167 'Bir Protik' gallantry awards.

**NAVY:** The indelible contribution of Bangladesh Navy during the Great Liberation War played a vital role in accelerating the final victory of the nation. Bangladesh Navy formally started its journey in July 1971, following the historic declaration at the Sector Commanders' Conference amidst the ongoing struggle against the Pakistani forces. During this period, a notable number of Bengali officers and sailors serving in Pakistan Navy left West Pakistan with life risk and joined the Liberation War, engaging in both direct and guerrilla warfare. At that time, several Bengali submariners who were undergoing training in France returned to the motherland and formed a formidable Naval Commando Unit Comprising young freedom fighters. These valiant commandos carried out the daring 'Operation Jackpot' in the country's major river ports, and sank around 26 enemy supply ships. Additionally, in 'Operation Hotpants', 49 brave sailors along with two gunboats, PADMA and PALASH, launched a strategic attack in the Poshur River near Khulna, destroying enemy warships and supply vessels, thereby severely disrupting the logistic chain of the occupying forces. Until the nation was fully liberated, these naval commandos continued to conduct numerous successful operations across the country. These bold and strategic operations left the enemy forces completely disoriented along the waterways. Many heroic members of the Navy embraced martyrdom in the course of the war. In recognition of their supreme sacrifice, Shaheed Ruhul Amin (ERA-I) was awarded the highest gallantry title – 'Bir Sreshtho.' Additionally, 05 naval personnel were awarded 'Bir Uttom,' 08 'Bir Bikrom' and 07 'Bir Protik.'

**AIR FORCE:** On 28 September 1971, despite limited resources, multiple drawbacks, and a difficult atmosphere of extreme adversity, Bangladesh Air Force made its historic debut under the name 'Kilo Flight' in Dimapur, Nagaland, India. On this day, Air Force was established under the name 'Kilo Flight' in Dimapur, Nagaland, India, with an Otter aircraft, a Dakota aircraft, an Alouette helicopter and 57 dedicated members including Bengali pilots, civilian pilots and technicians. The main architect of 'Kilo Flight' was Group Captain A K Khandker. 'Kilo Flight' was aptly named after his initials 'K'. Later, the operation was expertly commanded by Squadron Leader Sultan Mahmud. The fearless members of this newly formed force transformed three ordinary aircraft and helicopter into devastating fighter aircraft. Then, on the midnight of December 3, the brave fighter conducted a very successful air attack on the Eastern Refinery in Chattogram through an Otter aircraft and on the Godnail fuel depot in Narayanganj through an Alouette helicopter. Without any technology related to flying, with the help of only a compass and an altimeter, Kilo Flight conducted more than 50 successful air attacks on important installations of the Pakistani invading force. A total of 1,136 members of Bangladesh Air Force directly participated in the great Liberation War. In recognition of their outstanding contribution and heroic activities of Kilo Flight in the Liberation War, 01 member of Air Force was awarded 'Bir Sreshtho,' 06 'Bir Uttom,' 01 'Bir Bikrom' and 15 'Bir Protik' gallantry awards.



“সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৫” উপলক্ষে সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর সকল সদস্যকে আমি শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে জীবন উত্সর্গকারী সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যসহ সকল বীর শহিদদের প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধা জানাই।

আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যরাই প্রথম প্রতিরোধযুদ্ধে এগিয়ে আসেন এবং দীর্ঘদিন লড়াইয়ে নেতৃত্ব দেন। সেনা, নৌ ও বিমান বাহিনীর অকুতোভয় সদস্যরা ২১ নভেম্বর সম্মিলিতভাবে দখলদার বাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে পাল্টা আক্রমণের সূচনা করেন। মুক্তিবাহিনী, বিভিন্ন আধাসামরিক বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ ও দেশপ্রেমিক জনতা এই সমন্বিত আক্রমণে অংশ নেন। হানাদার বাহিনীকে পরাজিত করে ১৬ই ডিসেম্বর আমরা চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অর্জন করি। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে আমাদের অজযাত্রা ও বিজয়ের স্মারক হিসেবে প্রতি বছর ২১ নভেম্বর সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস পালন করা হয়।

ছাত্র-শ্রমিক-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানসহ বিভিন্ন প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলা, শিল্প কারখানায় নিরাপত্তা প্রদানসহ দেশের আইন-শৃঙ্খলা পরিষ্কৃতির নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও অস্ত্র উদ্ধারসহ সকল কার্যক্রমে বেসামরিক প্রশাসনকে সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য আমি সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যদের ধন্যবাদ জানাই। গত ১৫ মাসে জনগণের পাশে দাঁড়িয়ে সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যদের অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমের ফলে দেশের সার্বিক পরিষ্কৃতির উন্নয়নসহ সাম্প্রদায়িক সম্প্রীতি বজায় রাখা সম্ভব হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি, সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সদস্যগণ দেশের স্বাধীনতা ও সার্বভৌমত্ব রক্ষার পাশাপাশি জনগণের সাথে একত্রে কাজ করে যাবে।

আমি “সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৫” উপলক্ষে গৃহীত সকল কর্মসূচির সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



21<sup>st</sup> November is a significant day in the history of Bangladesh Armed Forces, resplendent in the glory of unity and sacrifice. On this day in 1971, the valiant members of our Army, Navy and Air Force along with the Freedom Fighters of Bangladesh launched a combined offensive against the Pakistani occupation forces from land, sea and air which accelerated the final victory on 16 December 1971. On this great day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to all members of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

Bangladesh achieved sovereignty, an independent map and a national flag by sacrificing millions of invaluable lives. The Armed Forces Day reminds us of those inspiring stories of selfless sacrifices, and revives the esprit-de-corps among the members of three services. On this special day, I pay homage to our greatest heroes who made supreme sacrifices for our independence. My special tribute to the valiant members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who laid down their lives during and after the Liberation War for the cause of our dear motherland. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls, and convey my heartfelt gratitude and empathy to the members of all the bereaved families.

The Armed Forces is a symbol of unity, strength and pride of our nation. Besides, the primary role of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, particularly Bangladesh Army are performing a wide variety of responsibilities including maintaining peace and stability in Chattogram Hill Tracts, national development activities, disaster management and assisting distressed people. Members of Bangladesh Army are deployed under 'In Aid to Civil Power' to maintain overall law and order in the country and are performing their duties with utmost professionalism. On this auspicious day, I like to thank the people of Bangladesh for keeping their trust on Bangladesh Army, and extending full support during all national development and disaster management activities. I like to mention with pleasure that our Armed Forces could earn the trust and respect of people beyond our borders.

Our Armed Forces personnel are also risking their lives every day to promote and sustain peace and stability in distant lands. Through our sincerity, dedication, relentless efforts and sheer professionalism, we have achieved our position as one of the top troops contributing countries in the United Nations which is a great accomplishment for all of us. Necessary steps are taken to modernize our Armed Force in order to achieve self-reliance utilizing our own manpower and indigenous technology. In the future, this efficient and active Bangladesh Army will continue to work dedicatedly with the firm conviction to play a more effective role as a symbol of the nation's trust, Insh'Allah.

On this auspicious day, I convey my heartfelt gratitude and felicitations to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces who bear the indomitable spirit of our Liberation War in their hearts. I also extend my thanks and gratitude to all who have worked at different levels for publishing the special supplement to national dailies to mark the Armed Forces Day-2025. I solicit the divine blessings for the continued progress and prosperity of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

May Allah bless us all.

WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN

General



The 21<sup>st</sup> November is an important reminder of the unwavering courage, unity, and sacrifice of our Armed Forces members, whose relentless commitment rendered our aspiration for independence into a reality. On this day in 1971, the combined assault of Army, Navy and Air Force, in conjunction with the resolute spirit of our people, accelerated the defeat of occupying forces. This action ultimately resulted in enemy's surrender and the establishment of a sovereign and independent Bangladesh.

As we observe the 'Armed Forces Day 2025', I pay my deepest homage to our brave martyrs and freedom fighters, whose ultimate sacrifices have enabled us to stand as an independent nation. I also pay my solemn tribute to Bir Sreshtho Shaheed Ruhul Amin, along with all the valiant martyrs of the Armed Forces, whose patriotism and devotion will continue to inspire future generations. I extend my deepest condolences to the injured freedom fighters and the families of the martyrs of our Liberation War.

Bangladesh Navy is dedicated to the protection of nation's sovereignty, preservation of territorial integrity, and upholding the maritime interests. In response to the evolving needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our three-dimensional navy is consistently modernising, integrating state-of-the-art equipment such as drones, helicopters, UAVs and warships, while striving for self-reliance. With the introduction of indigenous ships and craft, advanced surveillance, communication technologies and naval systems, BN has earned recognition as a professional navy in the region.

Apart from its core duties, Bangladesh Navy also plays a critical role in ensuring a stable law and order situation in designated areas and coastal regions to support civil administration. Navy also safeguards marine resources, combats smuggling and human trafficking, prevents illegal fishing activities and thereby contributes to the national economy. Furthermore, Chittagong Dry Dock Limited has established exceptional standards of professionalism, in the management of port operations at the New Mooring Container Terminal in Chittagong Port. Navy has also made significant contributions to disaster relief and humanitarian efforts, both domestically and internationally, by assisting affected communities. It recently dispatched immediate assistance to Myanmar in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake. Moreover, by participating in the United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh Navy consistently maintains extraordinary service standards, thereby enhancing country's international image in supporting global peace and stability.

On this solemn occasion, I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces. The courage and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel in securing our freedom will endure as a lasting symbol of inspiration. I also commend the efforts of the Armed Forces Division in publishing this special supplement, which underscores the significance and relevance of this day. I am confident that all members of the Armed Forces will pursue the commitment to serve our nation, guided by the spirit of 21<sup>st</sup> November. May Almighty Allah (SWT) bestow His divine blessings upon all of us.

M NAZMUL HASSAN

Admiral



21<sup>st</sup> November remains a glorious and defining milestone in the history of Bangladesh. On this day during the Liberation War, the valiant members of the Army, Navy and Air Force stood united with our people and launched a coordinated offensive against the occupying forces. Their patriotism, sacrifice and gallantry brought us ultimate victory and gifted us an independent and sovereign homeland under the proud red and green flag.

On this august occasion, I pay my deepest homage to all the brave freedom fighters whose supreme sacrifices paved the way for our independence. I solemnly recall the unparalleled courage of Bir Sreshtho Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman and the fearless members of the legendary Kilo Flight, whose contributions accelerated our long-awaited victory and laid the foundation of our beloved Air Force. Despite severe limitations in resources, the Kilo Flight heroes turned the tide of war through extraordinary courage, patriotism, tactical brilliance and successful strikes on the enemy. Their immortal legacy shall forever inspire generations of the Armed Forces to face any challenge with steadfast determination.

Born amid the flames of the Liberation War, Bangladesh Air Force today stands tall as a symbol of national pride and honour. Guided by its motto 'Banglar Akash Rakhibo Mukto' (Free shall we keep the sky of Bangladesh), the Air Force remains ever ready and committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of our skies. Since its inception, alongside its core responsibility of aerial defence, Bangladesh Air Force has tirelessly served the nation. During natural disasters, its personnel have carried out rescue operations, emergency evacuations, medical assistance and relief distribution using transport aircraft and helicopters. By extending support to the civil administration whenever required, the Air Force has also played a vital role in nation-building and humanitarian service. Despite limited resources, it has earned global recognition for its professionalism, patriotism and dedication. Through its continued contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh Air Force has also upheld its commitment to global peace.

Though our journey began in 1971 with limited manpower and equipment, our objective was always crystal clear: to defend the independence and sovereignty of our motherland. For a long period after independence, however, the strategic necessity of modernizing the Air Force did not receive adequate priority. As a result, it could not achieve its aspired objectives in time. When the indispensability of a modern Air Force was finally realised, international instability and economic challenges constrained progress. But today, the context has changed. The evolving geopolitical landscape has reshaped the vision of the entire nation. Now, both policymakers and the people at large recognise the necessity of a powerful, modern Air Force—one that safeguards sovereignty while contributing to national development. In this regard, Bangladesh Air Force is planning to modernize its fleet with modern Multi-Role Combat Aircraft, Attack Helicopters, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile and Long-Range Radars in the near future. Our mission is clear: to ensure the absolute sovereignty of national airspace, safeguard independence, protect territorial integrity and contribute to public security, while simultaneously enhancing our role in national development during peacetime. I firmly believe that in the days ahead, Bangladesh Air Force will establish itself as a modern, technologically advanced and highly proficient force in the global arena.

In the history of our Liberation War, Armed Forces Day stands as a remarkable day, reminding us of our sacred oath to defend the freedom and sovereignty of our motherland. I am delighted to learn that the Armed Forces Division is publishing a special supplement in the national dailies to commemorate this historic day. On this solemn occasion, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all members of our Armed Forces and their families. May Bangladesh Armed Forces continue their glorious march towards greater strength and prosperity. May Allah bless us all. Allah Hafez.

HASAN MAHMOOD KHAN

Air Chief Marshal