(3) 第3種郵便物認可

Bangladesh independence day

Building a 'Shonar Bangla'

Sheikh Hasina
PRIME MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Today is March 26, our National day when we celebrate our independence. At the very first hour on this day in 1971, the greatest Bangalee of a thousand years, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh. Under his undaunted leadership, the independence of our beloved motherland, Bangladesh, was achieved through a nine-month bloody war and the supreme sacrifices of 3 million martyrs, the agonies of 200,000 women and the sufferings of millions of people.

On this memorable day, I pay my deep respect to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the War of Liberation. I recall with deep gratitude the greatest hero of our national freedom struggle, Bangabandhu. I pay tributes to the four national leaders and the valiant freedom fighters. I recall with deep gratitude those who lost their near and dear ones, who were subjected to inhuman torture and repression, and the freedom-seeking people in achieving an independent and sovereign Bangladesh. I also recall the overt and covert support and cooperation of friendly foreign countries and their citizens in attaining our long-cherished independence.

On the occasion of our Independence and National Day, I convey my best wishes and congratulations to my countrymen as well as all Bangalees living abroad.

I call upon my countrymen to remain alert against the concocted evil activities of the antiliberation, communal, autocratic and identified reactionary forces. These forces are desperate to extend their claws and shed blood. Like the past, they are engaged in plotting designs, and hatching conspiracies to obstruct national progress and advancement. I urge the people to unite to resist their evil acts.

Independence earned through a bloody war is the noblest achievement in our national history. The sprit of the War of Liberation must be spread everywhere to make this glorious achievement meaningful and sustainable. Equally important is to ensure justice, good governance and a higher living standard for our people. To achieve these objectives we have to work with the highest sincerity and honesty, imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation and patriotism.

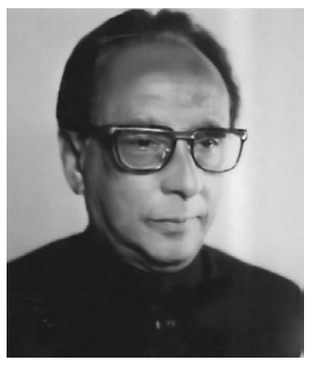
Our government is committed to establishing the values of the War of Liberation and fulfilling its election pledges. We are committed to building a "Shonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)" free from poverty, hunger and illiteracy as dreamed by Bangabandhu. Retaining the true history of the War of Liberation in our hearts, we must achieve the objective of "change" through building a Bangladesh free from corruption, malgovernance, terrorism, hunger and poverty.

I am looking forward to seeing the sprit of our Independence and National Day reflected in our all activities.

"Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu (May Bangladesh Live Forever)."

Bangladesh unites to realize prosperous, happy nation

Md. Zillur Rahman
PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH



On the occasion of our great Independence Day and National Day, I convey heartfelt greetings and felicitations to my countrymen at home and abroad.

Independence Day is a glorious day in our national life. We achieved our independence through a nine-month-long armed struggle and immense sacrifice of life. On this solemn day, I recall with the utmost respect and pay deep homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation who made the supreme sacrifice to achieve independence in 1971. I pray for the salvation of those immortal souls.

On this memorable day, I remember with profound respect the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed the country's independence on March 26, 1971. Responding to his clarion call, people from all walks of life participated in the War of Liberation and snatched independence. I also recall with deep respect the four national leaders, valiant freedom fighters and organizers who rendered their dedicated efforts and enthusiastic support that accelerated our great victory. The freedom fighters are regarded as the greatest sons of the soil and their supreme sacrifice will be ever remembered in the history of our independence.

One of the prime objectives of our hard-earned independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Bangabandhu's cherished dream was to turn the country into "Shonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)," which is yet to be fulfilled. Keeping that in mind, the government has been rendering untiring efforts to achieve the objectives of independence. With the span of time, we have made some significant progress in national and international arenas. Despite the progress, we have a long way to go to attain the cherished goals of independence. I believe the continuing democratic process and united efforts of all are imperative in this regard.

It is a matter of satisfaction that democracy has been re-established and the government has been formed through the ninth parliament. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu, has declared a "Charter for Change" vis-a-vis "Vision-2021." I am confident our country will become a happy and prosperous Shonar Bangla through turning Vision 2021 into a reality — inshallah.

On this great Independence Day, I urge all, living at home and abroad, to work together, imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation to expedite economic self-reliance and democratic advancement.

"Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever."

New era of democracy begins

Taro Aso
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-BANGLADESH PARLIAMENTARIANS' LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the auspicious occasion of the 38th anniversary of their independence.

Recently, H.E. Sheikh Hasina was elected as the new prime minister of Bangladesh, following the free, fair and peaceful general election held last December. This election was successfully carried out despite various challenges.

I conveyed my warm congratulations to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the telephone and was pleased that the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League dispatched an election observer mission to Bangladesh to support this historic event. I am convinced that this exemplifies that the consolidation of democracy in Bangladesh continues to make steady progress and symbolizes the true start of a new democratic Bangladesh.

I will continue to do my best to promote our friendly and cooperative relations with Bangladesh as well as the country's further development.

Liberation spirit lives on

Dr. Dipu Moni
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

To write about one's country is an extremely demanding task. To write about a people stretches the mind's reach. To write a message about Bangladesh on the day of its birth overwhelms the mind and soul. Its people, past, present and future invoke the finest, the best and the forever.

When Bangladesh entered the international comity of states on March 26, 1971, it proclaimed itself as a rightful member of that comity. It announced that it was born of pain and suffering, and a human struggle for liberation; that such liberation had come after its existence for thousands of years as a nation, now as an independent sovereign republic. It poured forth its identity, from its people, of a language and literature, of its music, culture and values, and gave to the world a distinct statehood hitherto unrecorded in the streams of history.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared the country to be "Shonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)." Its people claimed their rightful place among independent and sovereign states. The country spelled forth that it would be national, socialistic, democratic and secular, and would create a society free from exploitation, in which the rule of law, rule by and under the constitution, fundamental human rights and freedoms, equality and justice would prevail, and be secured for all of its citizens. It declared the supremacy of the will of its people so that it may prosper and make a full contribution to international peace and cooperation in keeping with the progressive aspirations of mankind.

In the 38 years since that date when it so proclaimed itself, the country has grown and evolved, stood the test of times, of encroachments and aberrations, of the forces that challenged it, its people's identity, its future and its leaders. The country has demonstrated repeatedly that its sovereign will and republican character may not be stayed, suspended or abrogated by any whim or extra-constitutional "doctrine of necessity." It has demonstrated its innermost and innate characteristics, of a state to be served by its people and in service of its people.

Bangabandhu's Shonar Bangla has restated its fundamental principles, that of a tolerant and peaceful society within and among a human fortress against detractors and bigots. The country spoke in elections Dec. 29, 2008, that it is the mistress of its destiny and of the kind of life it wishes to have, namely, a democratic and secular society, however harsh this path and process might be.

On this auspicious day, as minister of foreign affairs, it is my privilege and opportunity to call upon the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka and our missions abroad to dedicate themselves to nation building, consolidating statehood and projecting the real Bangladesh to the world. I recall with pride the role of our expatriates for their immense contribution in different spheres of our national life.

I particularly recognize and salute Bangladeshis living abroad, who, through their sweat and toil, have generated earnings and remitted their incomes, which in turn have met our valuable foreign exchange requirements. Our expatriate brothers and sisters are our real goodwill ambassadors who will speak and deliver our nation's pride and achievements.

I take the liberty and opportunity to reaffirm our purpose and will to achieve victory against hunger and poverty, and usher in a quality of life consistent with human dignity. The dream of Bangabandhu to achieve a Shonar Bangla is the task of every citizen. Under the leadership of our prime minister, Jono Netri Sheikh Hasina, the nation has resurrected itself to statehood, embodying and exercising a sovereign will toward the achievement of that dream. I congratulate and felicitate Bangladesh, and all of its people living at home and abroad.

Day to celebrate past and promise of future

Dr. Hasan Mahmud
STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

As we prepare to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh, let me convey my warmest greetings and congratulations to all our countrymen at home and abroad.

March 26 is a day to commemorate — to remember the dead and honor the living.

On this auspicious occasion, let me recall with deep gratitude the contribution of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his indomitable spirit — that transcended the boundaries of race and religion, of faiths and of frontiers — culminating in the freedom of our nation from the bondages of foreign occupation and economic oppression.

On this auspicious occasion, let me remember, without a doubt and with profound reverence, our valiant freedom fighters who laid down their lives at the altar of freedom without asking why or what they would get in return. Let me recall those who suffered most — the wounded and the tortured — together with their families. Words are not sufficient to venerate the supreme sacrifices these brave individuals — men and women — made for the sake of an ideal. Let me recognize this day that as a nation, or for that matter, as a government, we have done little to value the contribution that these individuals and families made to the country that we live in, and for that matter, to the flag that we fly today.

March 26 is a day to celebrate. This day is to celebrate the fulfillment of our promise in the offing for a thousand years and celebrate the renewal of that promise.

This day is to celebrate the promise of freedom and the birth of a nation. Let me congratulate the fighting spirit of my countrymen — constantly battling the merciless odds of nature and cruel intentions of vested interest groups.

Let me congratulate our expatriate community for their role in the development of our country. We salute the tireless efforts rendered by our expatriates — working far from home — for the betterment of lives here in Bangladesh.

March 26 is a day to unite once again for a cause.

Let this March 26, 2009, be the day to unite to deliver Bangladesh from the clutches of poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and ignorance. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government and my ministry will always be with you.

Friendship based on mutual good will, confidence

Ashraf ud-Doula
AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

On the happy occasion of the 38th anniversary of the National and Independence Day of Bangladesh, I express my deep reverence to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I also convey my heartiest felicitations and warm greetings to Prime Minister Taro Aso, who is president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League, as well as to all Bangladeshis living in Japan.

On this occasion, the nation recalls with profound esteem the lifelong sacrifice and contribution of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving the nation's long-cherished dream of independence. We also remember with reverence the great contributions of the leading lights of our struggle for independence. We owe too, our deepest tribute to the 3 million martyrs of the War of Liberation who sacrificed their precious lives to secure a future of dignity and prosperity for posterity.

This year's National and Independence Day is specially significant in that it comes in the wake of a general election held in the country in December 2008, in which the people gave an unprecedented massive mandate to the Awami League led by H.E. Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu, electing her prime minister for a second term. The people's overwhelming verdict was also an expression of their support to her manifesto of change and "Vision 2021" for building an ICT-driven, information-based, happy and prosperous Bangladesh by 2021, the 50th anniversary of its independence. The nation is clearly set on a course to achieving the MDG targets by 2015 while the recommencement of democracy will accelerate the country's development.

Internationally, the successful general election has enhanced Bangladesh's liberal democratic credentials, including in Japan. Prime Minister Aso's telephone conversation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her inauguration manifested mutual good will and deep relations. We continue to pursue proactive roles for global peace and development, and are the largest troop contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations. We also remain unequivocally against international terrorism and human rights violations as party to related U.N. conventions and the UNHRC.

The Bangladesh-Japan friendship has historic connections. It was initiated by Bangabandhu's official visit to Japan in 1973, as the prime minister of a free and independent Bangladesh. Since then the relations have developed steadily and satisfactorily. A Shahid Minar (Language Martyrs Memorial) at Ikebukuro Park in Tokyo embodies the good will between the two peoples. Bangladesh works closely with Japan to promote global peace and supports Japan's permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council. They also exchange regular visits, including at the highest level. Prime Minister Aso visited Bangladesh in 2006 when he was foreign minister. As the most important development partner Japan's assistance has had a visible socio-economic impact in Bangladesh.

The volume of bilateral trade and investment is yet to reach its full potential. However, joint and new efforts may substantially raise the level for mutual gains. Bangladesh offers enhanced investment support services, incentives, a large market, inexpensive workforce and quality export products as evidenced in JETRO studies recognizing the country as having the lowest cost of doing business and capable of supplying IT products for Japan. Big businesses like NTT DoCoMo, UNIQLO, SEIYU, Ito Yokado, NITORI and Mitsubishi have started or are negotiating to do business in Bangladesh.

Over 10,000 Bangladeshis are engaged in various occupations in Japan, contributing to the economies and promoting friendship between the two countries. The Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan, recently celebrated its second anniversary, marking steady progress. Admirably, community members always express solidarity at moments of national crisis, including the recent tragic incidents at the Bangladesh Rifles headquarters at Pilkhana, Dhaka. They are recognized as an indispensable asset in constructing a bridge of friendship and good will between our two countries.

Since the last National and Independence Day, Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, State Foreign Affairs Secretary Seiko Hashimoto and a delegation of distinguished ladies led by the wife of former Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura visited Bangladesh. Besides, Bangladesh received prestigious cultural and press awards, and good Japanese media coverage, including Independence and National Day supplements. A $440 million ODA package and cool earth partnership with Bangladesh were signed, and Japan indicated its willingness to assist in the Padma Bridge project. Happily, we have procured a piece of land in Tokyo for building embassy premises.

The Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League actively promotes mutual friendship, including the regular dispatch of observer teams to our general elections. Prime Minister Aso assumed the office of president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League last year, expressing the confidence of Japan in Bangladesh's potential.

I am personally grateful to Prime Minister Aso for receiving me in his office March 24 to convey his felicitations on the eve of our Independence and National Day.

Finally, I extend the warm greetings of the government and people of Bangladesh to the government and people of Japan. I also express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan for all the support offered to me and the Embassy of Bangladesh in discharging our responsibilities.

May the Bangladesh-Japan friendship live long.

Congratulations
to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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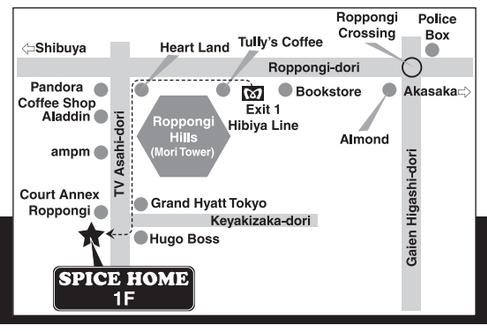

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