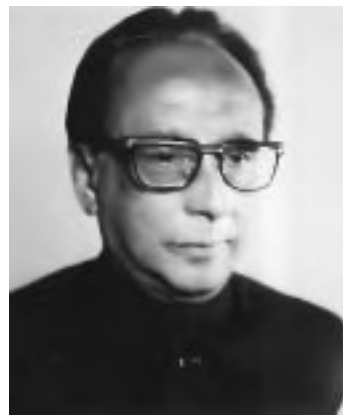


# Bangladesh independence day

## With profound respect

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



On the occasion of the great Independence and National Day, I convey my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the countrymen living at home and abroad. The historic Independence Day is a glorious day in our national life. We achieved our Independence through a nine-month-long armed struggle and immense sacrifices of lives. On this solemn day, I recall with utmost respect and pay my deep homage to the martyrs of the liberation war who made supreme sacrifices for achieving the 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 this 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 sup-

port that accelerated our great victory. I also remember Shere-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haq, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani for their immense contributions toward inspiring our people at various stages of struggle.

One of the prime objectives of our hard-earned independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Keeping that in mind, the government has been rendering untiring efforts in materializing the objectives of independence. With the span of time, we have achieved some significant progress both in the national and international arena. Despite attaining progress, we have to go a long way to achieve the cherished goals

of independence.

I believe concerted efforts from all are imperative in this regard. It is a matter of satisfaction that the people of our country are democracy-loving. Without the institution of democracy, the overall development is not possible to attain. Tolerance, fortitude and respect for others' opinions are the preconditions for a blooming democracy. Therefore, we must maintain patience, forbearance at all levels and be respectful of others' views in a democratic pluralism. Let us make our National Parliament as a center of excellence in solving our national issues and a place of discussion. I am confident that all, irrespective of party affiliation, will play responsible roles in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our common people.

On this great Independence Day, I urge all, living at home and abroad, to work unitedly imbued with the spirit of the war of liberation to expedite economic self-reliance and democratic advancement as we are committed to building a respectful, happy and prosperous Bangladesh for our next generation.

May the Almighty be with us. Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

## Earning the ultimate victory

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



I convey my heartfelt greetings to my countrymen as well as to all expatriate Bangladeshis on the occasion of the great Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh through the then wireless of EPR in the first hour of March 26, 1971, when Pakistani occupation forces launched genocide on unarmed Bangladeshis on the fatal night of March 25, 1971. After a nine-month, bloody war under the brave and dauntless leadership of Bangabandhu, we earned the ultimate victory of independence on Dec. 16.

On this glorious day, I pay my deep homage to the 3 million heroic Bangladeshis who sacrificed their lives and 200,000 women who lost their innocence in the War of Liberation.

I recall with deep gratitude the great leader of our liberation struggle, the greatest Bangalee of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also pay my humble tribute to the four national leaders and the

valiant freedom fighters, who had led and fought against the Pakistani occupation army to free our beloved motherland.

I extend my sympathies to those who had lost their near and dear ones and were subjected to brutal torture and subjugation during the war. I recall with gratitude our foreign friends who had extended their wholehearted support and cooperation for the cause of our liberation.

On the eve of our Independence Day, I urge countrymen to remain alert against the conspiracies of antidemocratic and antiprogress forces. The defeated antiliberation, communal and identified reactionary forces are set to undo the democratic and development process of our beloved country, at a time, when our government had executed the verdict of Bangabandhu's assassination case and is going to start the trial of the war criminals.

In this situation, I urge countrymen to remain united and prepare themselves to foil all ill-designed plots against the government and the people.

The independence earned through huge bloodbath and sacrifice is our people's greatest achievement. To ensure that this achievement remains meaningful, the spirit of our great liberation war should be reached to every nook and corner of the country. It is by cherishing the true history of our liberation war close to our hearts, we would have to go ahead in achieving the objective of the "Charter of Change" by building a Bangladesh free of corruption, mal-governance, terrorism, hunger and poverty.

Our government has been striving hard to establish Bangladesh as a poverty-, hunger-, and illiteracy-free Digital Bangladesh by 2021, the Golden Jubilee year of our independence. For the success of the noble endeavor, I call upon all people wherever they may be to join us with their utmost sincerity, honesty and dedication. I am confident that, Insha'Allah, with our united efforts, we would surely achieve our "Golden Bangladesh" as envisioned by the Father of the Nation.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

## Winning global trust

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



Thirty-nine years ago on this day, the Father of our Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh to be an independent and sovereign state.

In the wake of that Declaration of Independence, the Provisional Government of Bangladesh, formed from among her elected representatives, led an armed struggle to defeat the Pakistani occupation forces and claimed our rightful place in the international comity of states.

However, as any historian would remind us, the Declaration of Independence was itself the culmination of a historic struggle for national liberation through the expression of our people's will to affirm the national, secular, socialist, democratic and republican character of our state. I take great pride and joy in joining my fellow countrymen in Bangladesh and around the world in celebrating March 26, 2010, the 39th anniversary of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh.

On this historic day I pay the highest tributes to the great four national leaders who, in the absence of Bangabandhu, led our country to freedom, our valiant freedom fighters, countless martyrs and the entire population who enabled us to win our freedom.

I pay homage to the valor and sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of Bangalee women and men who were tortured and violated during the war. I take this opportunity to inform our people that the war criminals of 1971 will be brought to justice through due process of law. And that, in this regard, over the past year we have obtained significant support from the international community to hold trials of such war criminals through our relentless diplomacy. Our objective to end the culture of impunity has already achieved significant success in that we have concluded the trial of Bangabandhu's killers and obtained assurances for the return of fugitive convicted killers from the countries where they are resident.

We have, in the past year, also won the confidence of the world by reiterating our position and taking effective steps to free Bangladesh soil of terrorists.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is determined to vindicate the values and aspirations of our sovereignty. While the central focus of our foreign policy has been to maintain friendly relations with all nations of the world, we have as an elected government, upon assuming responsibility following the freest and fairest election in our history, reiterated that we are a country which has chosen to live under the Rule of Law and the Constitution; strengthen democracy and human rights; promote good governance and

public accountability; practice inclusion, pluralism, secularism; and avail every opportunity to be an equal partner with 21st-century democratic states.

Our commitment to initiate action to support every vulnerable section of our society including ethnic minorities, women and children and those without access to resources and opportunities has been the hallmark of our journey to our high ideals and aspirations. Our people and the international community have vested confidence in our efforts to enable an environment conducive to the functioning of an independent judiciary.

We take pride that Bangladesh has emerged as a major actor in global peacekeeping and peace-building at the U.N. Human Rights Council, as president of the Conference on Disarmament and a key policymaker in major U.N. social and economic bodies including the ECOSOC, UNICEF and the very challenging global climate change negotiations.

We also wish to share that Bangladesh has made substantive progress in the quality of its relations with its neighbors big and small, bilaterally, regionally and globally. We believe that this will be a continuing process befitting our national interests.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has outlined 21st century objectives in our development paradigm and committed ourselves to achieve a "digital" and a middle-income country by 2021, the 50th anniversary of our independence. It is not insignificant that we are on the threshold of an e-administration already and harbor every conviction that the people of Bangladesh will have access to its administration in geometric progression.

Today, I thank all at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our 59 Bangladesh missions abroad, who have in the past year dedicated themselves to secure so many of our foreign policy objectives, contributed to our nation-building process and enhanced Bangladesh's standing internationally. I now ask you to realize all our undertakings, bilateral and multilateral, for "real peace and real development."

On this day, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Bangalee expatriates who are our good will and people's ambassadors for their extraordinary commitment and contribution to every sphere of our national life. Without their sweat, toil, love and the material and emotional support they have given for our country, including the remittances they make, our national hopes for realizing Vision 2021 would remain unfulfilled.

On our Independence and National Day, let us felicitate each other, at home and abroad and renew our commitment to achieve freedom from want, hunger and prejudice, and strive to attain a land of peace and harmony as envisaged by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu in his Sonar Bangla.

Joy Bangla  
Joy Bangabandhu

## Vision 2021 makes steady progress as government reforms bear fruit

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 39th anniversary of her independence.

Japan and Bangladesh have built a strong and stable relationship based on mutual interests, confidence and spirit of cooperation. Last year, Seiko Hashimoto, then state secretary for foreign affairs, visited Bangladesh and Dr. Hasan Mahmud, special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, and Abdul Hamid Advocate, speaker of the National Parliament, visited Japan from Bangladesh. Through these high-level exchanges, we reaffirmed and renewed our friendly relationship and developed further cooperation between our two countries.

I am pleased to note that under the leadership of Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the government of Bangladesh is strongly implementing important initiatives for reform and making steady progress, including 100 percent enrollment into primary education under Vision 2021, which envisages that Bangladesh will become a middle-income country by 2020-2021.

I will continue to exercise my best efforts to promote our friendly and cooperative relations as well as further development of Bangladesh.



## Bangladesh plays vital role in global peace

Manzurul Hauque  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

On the happy occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the National and Independence Day of Bangladesh, I express my deep reverence to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I also convey my

heartiest felicitations and warm greetings to His Excellency Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and the government and people of Japan.

On this auspicious occasion, I, on behalf of my fellow countrymen, pay my deepest tribute to the 3 million martyrs of our liberation war who sacrificed their precious lives. I also express my profound esteem to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for his visionary leadership paving the road for achieving our much cherished independence. I al-

so would like to pay my deep homage to the valiant freedom fighters for their heroic contributions in securing our independence.

The government of Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of the Father of the Nation, has made tremendous contributions in achieving food autarky, women's empowerment, poverty alleviation and other socioeconomic development. The government has already taken measures to increase substantially the amount of power in the national grid while declaring a "power for all" program in the near future.

In keeping up with the Vision 2021 policy, a digitalized Bangladesh as well as IT based e-governance is being planned for greater accommodation of growth and employment generation. While energy security and a safe environment remain the key to government policies, our liberal economic policies helped achieve unfaltering annual growth on course to becoming

a middle-income country within a decade.

The foundation of Bangladesh-Japan bilateral relations was laid when the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman paid a historic visit to Japan in March 1973 following Japan's recognition of Bangladesh immediately after our liberation. Bangladesh and Japan enjoy friendly, warm and mutually beneficial relations that have been proven instrumental for a united vision of a peaceful and stable global order.

In this context, Bangladesh supports Japan in its expanded role in the U.N. reform process. Japan is our most important development partner. I believe Bangladesh and Japan can embark upon relations at a much higher pace and depth and build a new horizon of bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and commerce, investment, educational and technical exchanges, human resource development, environment protection, infrastructure development and other socioeconomic de-

velopment. Both countries have engaged in dialogue over activating the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League to oversee and promote bilateral cooperation.

Although bilateral trade and investment is yet to reach its full potential, Bangladesh's exports to Japan grew steadily to \$203 million in the 2008-09 fiscal year from its previous 2007-08 fiscal year (\$173 million), while more trade contracts in the garments and textiles sectors are expected. Leading telecom and textile and apparel giants have pledged to make investment and trade deals in Bangladesh's thriving apparel and IT industry. I sincerely hope that the government of Japan will continue its economic assistance in the years to come.

Finally, I express my sincere gratitude to the government and people of Japan for extending their unstinted support to promote and expand the ties between Japan and Bangladesh.

May Bangladesh-Japan friendship live long.

**Congratulations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Their Independence Day**

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