

Bangladesh independence day

Bangladesh honors its heroes by keeping their ideals alive



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

galee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also pay my humble tribute to the four national leaders — Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Najrul Islam, Capt. M. Monsur Ali and A.H.M. Kamrujjaman — who led the war under the directive of Bangabandhu. I pay homage to the valiant freedom fighters, and my sincere sympathies go to the wounded war veterans.

My sympathies also go to those who 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 extended their wholehearted support and cooperation for the cause of our liberation. On our Independence Day, I urge my countrymen to remain alert against the conspiracies of antidemocratic forces. The defeated antiliberation, communal and identified reactionary forces are out to undo the democratic and development process of our beloved country as our government has taken steps to start the trial of war criminals.

I urge my countrymen to foil all ill-designed plots against the country and the people. The independence earned through huge bloodshed and sacrifice is our greatest achievement. To make this achievement meaningful, we have to devote ourselves in nation-building activities, imbued with the spirit of our great War of Liberation. By cherishing the true history of the liberation war close to our hearts, we have to go ahead in achieving the objective of the "charter of change." The new generation has to be enlightened with the true history of our liberation war.

We have been striving hard



Father of the Nation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

to establish Bangladesh as a poverty-, hunger- and illiteracy-free, progressive and democratic country by 2021, the Golden Jubilee of our independence.

I call upon every Bangalee to join this noble endeavor with the utmost sincerity, honesty and dedication, inspired with the spirit of patriotism.

With our united efforts, *inshallah*, we would surely achieve our "Golden Bangladesh" as envisioned by the Fa-

Nation works to realize vision of 'Golden Bangla'

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

On the occasion of our 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 long-cherished independence through a nine-month-long armed struggle and the supreme sacrifices of millions. On this solemn day, I pay my deep homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives in the War of Liberation in 1971. I pray to the Almighty for the salvation of those departed immortal souls.

On this very memorable day, I recall with profound respect the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed our country's independence on March 26, 1971. Responding to

his clarion call courageous people from all walks of life participated in the war and achieved victory through armed struggle.

I also recall with deep respect our four national



leaders: valiant freedom fighters and organizers who rendered their dedicated efforts and enthusiastic support that accelerated the achievement of our victory.

I also remember with deep respect the contributions of the late Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul

Haque, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani toward inspiring our people at various stages of the struggle. The contributions of those valiant sons of the soil would be ever written in the history of our independence.

One of the prime objectives of our hard-earned independence was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. Keeping that in mind, the government is rendering untiring efforts in materializing the objectives of independence.

With the span of time, we have achieved some significant progress in the fields of agriculture, education, health, rural infrastructure, communication, ICT, youth, women and children, women empowerment, etc.

The government is also very sincere to establishing the rule of law and human rights in the country, and institutionalizing democracy. Our achievement

in the international arena is also notable. Despite attaining progress, we have a long way to go to achieve the desired 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 achieving the institutionalization of democracy, overall development is hard to attain. Tolerance, fortitude and respect for other's opinions are the preconditions for a flourishing democracy.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance to maintain patience, forbearance at all levels and to be respectful of other's opinions in a democratic pluralism. Let us make our national parliament a center of excellence in solving our national issues through discussion.

I am confident, all, irrespective of party affiliation, would play a responsible role in

fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our common people by playing their due role.

The present government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has declared "Vision 2021" with a view to attaining the "Golden Bangla" dreamed of by Bangabandhu. I believe people from all strata of life would contribute to build an IT-based happy and prosperous Bangladesh by materializing the "vision" at the Golden Jubilee of Independence in 2021.

On this 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.

I convey my heartiest greetings to my countrymen as well as to all expatriate Bangalees on the occasion of the great Independence and National Day 2011.

The greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh through the wireless of the then EPR at the first hour of March 26, 1971, when Pakistani occupation forces launched genocide on unarmed Bangalees on the fatal night of March 25, 1971. With the proclamation, a sovereign, independent state, Bangladesh came into being on the world map.

After nine months of bloody war under the brave and dauntless leadership of Bangabandhu, we earned the ultimate victory Dec. 16, 1971. On this glorious day, I pay homage to the 3 million heroic sons, who sacrificed their lives, and the 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 Ban-

ther of the Nation. Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu, May Bangladesh Live Forever



Getting acquainted: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets Prime Minister Naoto Kan during her stay Nov. 29, 2010, at the official residence in Tokyo.

Economic, social progress transforms Bangladesh

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

Today is the historic Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. Forty years ago, on this day, Bangabandhu

Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, declared Bangladesh an independent and sovereign country. This declaration marked the culmination of our epic struggle for an independent entity.

On this great day, I extend my warmest felicitations and greetings to all Bangladesh nationals living at home and abroad.

I recall with profound respect our undisputed leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and our four national leaders, Sayed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, M. Mansur Ali and A.H.M. Kamaruzzaman who steered our heroic War of Liberation.

I pay deep tributes to the valiant freedom fighters and the martyrs whose sacrifices have led us to our independence. I also salute those brave women, the "biranganas," who were subjected to heinous form of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Since our independence in 1971, Bangladesh has evolved significantly.

We have established a tolerant, pluralistic and egalitarian society, an inclusive democracy and gained recognition from the world community.

Bangladesh today is one of the 11 emerging economies in the world, after Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). Bangladesh is a role model

for fighting poverty and extremism, empowering women, disaster management and in coping with the challenges posed by global climate change.

For more than two decades, Bangladesh has been a frontline contributor to U.N. peacekeeping missions across the globe.

After the historic December elections in 2008, which brought the democratic and secular forces to office with a sweeping majority in parliament, Bangladesh is now witnessing rapid transformation under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Our country is making remarkable strides in various sectors.

Its impressive achievement particularly in the social sector continues to receive recognition in the international community.

The winning of the MDG Award by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the 65th UNGA for achieving targeted reduction in infant mortality is a testimony in this regard.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced Vision 2021 to transform Bangladesh into a Digital Bangladesh and to graduate Bangladesh to a middle-income country by the time we will be celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our independence. Our government has also taken various steps to implement these goals.

Needless to say, in this onerous task, Bangladesh would need the support of the international community, including members of our diaspora. The government under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to establish the values and aspirations of the war of independence. Af-

Strong bonds of friendship draw countries ever closer

Taro Aso
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-BANGLADESH PARLIAMENTARIANS' LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the

auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of its independence. And may I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the government of Bangladesh for its warmest remarks of sympathy, and generous offer of disaster assistance during our country's current difficult situation caused by the Tohoku Pacific Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Ever since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, Japan and Bangladesh have consistently built close friendly relations. Both countries share a strong and stable bond based on mutual interest, confidence, and the spirit of cooperation. As foreign minister I paid an official visit to Bangladesh in July 2006, and since 2008, I have sought to promote the

friendship between Japan and Bangladesh as president of the fine, old Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League.

As can be seen from examples such as the official working visit to Japan of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina last year, the enhancement of the bilateral relationship centering on economic exchanges is gathering momentum. Bangladesh's economy is continuing to progress at the high annual growth rate of 6 percent in recent years and against this backdrop, more Japanese companies are entering the country's market. I am pleased that the two countries' economic relationship is steadily developing.

In 2012, the two countries will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League will continue to cooperate for the enhancement of amicable bilateral relations as well as the further development of Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that the two countries will further strengthen their friendly bond in the period ahead.

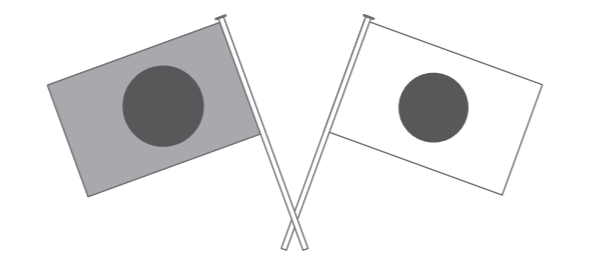
In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the people of Bangladesh for their health and prosperity.

and ensure good governance. The government remains committed to bring the alleged war criminals to justice, and I would like to reiterate

Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Congratulations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the 40th Anniversary of Their Independence Day



Our Deepest Sympathy to the People of Japan, and Best Wishes to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবস উপলক্ষে সবাইকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা on the 40th Anniversary of the Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bangladesh independence day

Economic, social progress

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erate that the initiative stems from our policy to establish the rule of law and end the culture of impunity, and in no way an act of vendetta.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to all, including the international community, that the trial would be carried out in line with international standards.

On foreign policy issues, the government has been consistent in pursuing the policy in line with the motto "friendship to all and malice toward none" as envisioned by the Father of the Nation.

Bangladesh enjoys excellent relations with the outside world due to our principled position. Bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the friendly countries, including our neighbors, have expanded in depth and dimension, and I hope that they will be improved further in the coming

days.

Bangladesh is happy to be one of the hosts of the ICC, and this also manifests the credibility and credentials Bangladesh enjoys among the international community.

Bangladesh's election to a large number of U.N. and international bodies bears the testimony of the trust Bangladesh continues to enjoy in the comity of nations.

I wish to highlight here that our diaspora comprises an important element in our foreign policy objectives.

The government is committed to ensure their all-out welfare. Despite serious logistical and economic constraints, the government, under special directives from Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, recently took swift action, not only to repatriate thousands of Bangladesh nationals but also to ensure the welfare of those who were distressed following

political upheavals in some countries.

More importantly, we have been able to address the situation promptly with the assistance of the international community without compromising our bilateral relations with the affected countries. I wish to thank all the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our missions abroad who have devoted themselves to achieving our foreign policy goals.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Bangladesh diaspora who are immensely contributing to the buoyancy of the economy of their country of origin as well as to their host countries.

On this great day, let us renew our commitment to turn Bangladesh into a country free from poverty, free of hunger and extremism. I urge all our citizens, including our diaspora, to come forward to achieve this goal.

Joy Bangla. Joy Bangabandhu.

Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan
AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. On this great occasion, I express my deep reverence to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I also convey my heartiest felicitations and warm greetings to the prime minister of Japan, Mr. Naoto Kan.

On this auspicious occasion, we recall with the deepest veneration the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who, by virtue of his charismatic leadership and profound patriotism, led our nation to independence in 1971.

We recall with the deepest respect the supreme sacrifice our valiant martyrs and freedom fighters made for our lib-



eration. We pay our most sincere tribute to the selfless leaders, organizers and supporters of our War of Liberation in 1971. I take this opportunity also to congratulate our nationals living in Japan who are making important contributions to the economies of Bangladesh and Japan, and our bilateral relations.

We are observing the occasion in a totally different atmosphere, in a solemn and subdued manner, than we envisaged even two weeks ago. We are deeply shocked and grieved by the immense loss of life and massive destruction inflicted by the deadly earthquake and giant tsunami that hit Japan on March 11. We pray for the salvation and eternal peace of those thousands who lost their lives, and convey our deepest condolences to the survivors of this enormous tragedy. We hope and pray that the great people of Japan will be able to overcome this huge calamity by virtue of their patience, forbearance, resilience and vigor,

and rebuild their lives soon.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister and foreign minister of Bangladesh expressed their deepest sympathy and support on behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh soon after the earthquake. The Cabinet and the National Parliament also adopted proposals of condolence.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also conveyed to the Japanese ambassador in Dhaka our offer to send a rescue team, relief materials, etc. A C-130 flight with necessary relief items is expected to arrive in Japan anytime.

Moreover, this embassy organized March 15 a one-minute silence and special prayer for the eternal peace for the departed souls, and a quick recovery from the current difficulties. Earlier March 15, the embassy sent a rescue team, including members of the Bangladesh community, to Sendai and rescued 52 Bangladesh nationals. The members of the Bangladesh community are al-

so taking part in voluntary activities to mitigate the sufferings of our Japanese friends by standing beside them during these trying hours. The mission operates almost round the clock to coordinate efforts by our government, the host government and the Bangladesh community in Japan to meet the challenges of the disaster.

Let me share with you that the government of Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of the Father of the Nation, is making tremendous progress in achieving food autarky, women's empowerment, poverty alleviation and other socioeconomic development, including an IT-based e-governance in pursuance of the Vision 2021 for a digitized Bangladesh.

It is in recognition of this very success that Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded the UNMDG Award last year. The government has taken measures to end the energy shortfalls by the year 2013. Our liberal economic policies and the recent unfaltering annual growth have steadied us on course to becoming a middle-income country by this decade while attracting international attention as one of the "Next Eleven" and "Frontier Five" emerging economies. The foundation of Bangladesh-Japan bilateral relations was laid by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through his historic visit to Japan in March 1973.

The visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Japan last year added fresh momentum to our existing excellent bilateral relations.

The visit was successful in generating remarkable enthusiasm among Japanese entrepreneurs about Bangladesh as a potential destination for trade and investment. The joint statement signed by the two prime ministers raised the profile of our bilateral relations a notch higher as it envisioned the future course of action leading to an EPA. Japan's pledge for enhanced assistance for our infrastructure development was deeply appreciated by the people of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh-Japan friendship remains rooted in a united vision of a peaceful and stable global order and peace. In this context, Bangladesh supports Japan in its expanded role in the U.N. reform process. Japan is our most important development partner, and its wide-ranging economic and technical assistance have helped Bangladesh achieve its present healthy growth rate. I believe Bangladesh and Japan would be able to further deepen and strengthen the relations by opening up new vistas for trade and commerce, investment.

To conclude, I again express our deep sympathy, solidarity and support for the people of Japan, and convey that we will steadfastly remain at their side and extend all our cooperation. May the Bangladesh-Japan friendship live long.

Bangladesh stands by its friend, partner Japan in its hour of need

*Our Deepest Sympathy to
the People of Japan,
and Best Wishes to
the People's Republic of Bangladesh*



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**Congratulations
on the 40th Anniversary of
the Independence of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh**

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