

Bangladesh independence day

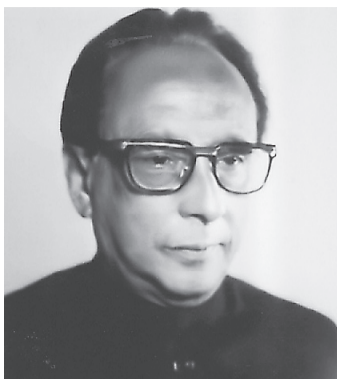
Democracy leads the way forward

Md. Zillur Rahman
PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH

March 26 is our great independence and national day. On this day, I convey my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the fellow 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 nine month's long armed struggle and supreme sacrifices of millions of people. 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 souls.

On this very memorable day, I recall with profound respect, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who proclaimed the country's independence in the early hours of March 26, 1971. Responding to his clarion call, the people from all walks of life participated in the war of liberation 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 contribution of the late Sher-E-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haque, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, who inspired our people at various stages for attaining the country's sovereignty. The contributions of those valiant sons of the soil would be forever written in the

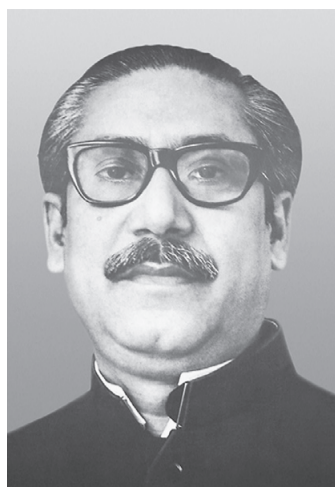
history of our independence.

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, information and communication technologies (ICT), small and medium-size enterprises, youth and sports, women and children, women's empowerment, etc., at the national level. At the same time, we have also attained notable advancements in corporate sectors, including the area of ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramic and shipbuilding industry. The government is also very sincere to establish the Rule of Law and human rights in the country. Our achievements in the international arena are also praiseworthy. Yet, we have to go a long way for achieving the desired goals of independence and building a happy and

prosperous Bangladesh. I believe concerted efforts from all strata irrespective of party affiliation are imperative in this regard.

The people of our country are democracy-loving. Without making democracy institutionalized, the overall development is hard to attain. Tolerance, fortitude and respect of others' 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 to others' opinions in a democratic pluralism. Let us make our Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) as a center of excellence in solving our national issues through discussion. I am confident that everybody irrespective of party affiliation will play responsible roles in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our common people by playing their due roles.

The present government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has declared Vision 2021 with a view to attaining Golden Bangla, dreamed by Bangabandhu. I believe people



Father of the Nation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

from all strata of life will contribute to build an IT-based happy and prosperous Bangladesh by materializing the Vision in 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 of the country. May the almighty be with us.
Khoda Hafez. May Bangladesh live forever.

Celebrating the birth of a nation as it strives to develop further

Sheikh Hasina
PRIME MINISTER 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 Bangladesh.

March 26 is a glorious day in our national life. On this great day, I pay my deep homage to the 3 million martyrs and 200,000 women who lost their innocence in the war of liberation in 1971.

I recall with deep gratitude the great leader of our liberation struggle, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose dynamic leadership we earned our great independence.

I also pay my humble tributes to four national leaders and the valiant freedom fighters, who fought against the Pakistani occupation forces to free our beloved motherland.

I extend my sympathies 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 whole-hearted support and cooperation for the cause of our liberation.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of March 26, 1971, after the occupation forces launched a sudden attack on the innocent and unarmed Bangladeshis on the black night of March 25, 1971.



Bangabandhu's proclamation was spread all over the country through telegrams, teletypewriters and EPR wireless. At each and every district and subdivision, the Awami League's leaders and workers publicized the declaration widely through microphones. The international media also circulated Bangabandhu's proclamation of independence. Under the brave and dauntless leadership of Bangabandhu, we earned the ultimate victory on the Dec. 16, 1971, after a bloody nine-month war.

The independence earned through the 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 extended to every nook and corner of the country. Cherishing the true history of the liberation war close to our hearts, we would have to go ahead in achieving the objectives of the Charter of Change, by building a Bangladesh free from corruption, mal-

governance, terrorism, hunger and poverty.

The present Awami League government has been implementing huge development program in all sectors, including agriculture, education, health, law and order, information technology, energy and power and communications. The defeated anti-liberation, communal and identified reactionary forces are trying to undo the democratic and development process of our beloved country at a time when our government has executed the verdict of Bangabandhu's assassination case and is holding the trial of the war criminals. On this auspicious day of our independence, I urge the countrymen to remain united to foil the ill-designed plots of the anti-democratic and anti-liberation forces against the government and the people.

We have been striving hard to establish Bangladesh as poverty-, hunger- and illiteracy-free, a modern, digital Bangladesh by the golden jubilee year of our independence through implementing the Vision 2021. I hope that all citizens of our country would engage themselves with their utmost sincerity, honesty and dedication to build Bangladesh as a prosperous and prestigious country in the comity of nations.

I am confident that Insha-Allah, with our united effort, we would surely achieve our golden Bangladesh as envisioned by the Father of the Nation.

Joy Bangla.
Joy Bangabandhu.
May Bangladesh live forever.

Becoming a role model for the world

Dr. Dipu Moni
FOREIGN MINISTER OF BANGLADESH

Today, March 26, Bangladesh celebrates its 41st anniversary of independence and sovereignty. It is the fourth such occasion on which I am privileged to address my countrymen as foreign minister.

The Bangalee nation has traveled a long distance from its painful birth, from the sacrifices made by its men and women, young and old, as a nation united by the common cause of exercising sovereign statehood. In the wake of the assumption of

responsibility as a government by people's representatives under a free and fair election a little over three years ago, the Awami League government, together with the 14-party alliance, has made giant strides toward fulfilling our dreams. Most significantly, we have vigorously pursued the four fundamental principles of our constitution and of our state policy.

We have launched our pursuit of building a Sonar Bangla. We are able to envisage a middle-income, digital, knowledge-based Vision of Bangladesh in 2021. We have demonstrated intent and ability to forge partnerships with our neighbors and far beyond. We are deeply involved in the process of multilateral

ism, through global and regional commitments. We are involved in social and economic restructuring through the empowerment of women and children; we have embarked on fashioning inter-generational equity; we continue to address ourselves to cooperating with developing countries in the framework of a global economic and political order.

We continue, with new attention and new measures, to serve our men and women who work abroad, now numbering about 8 million, and increasing every year, whose contribution to our economy and welfare has provided us with a new dimension of the sovereign state that they represent. Our ever evolving



Monument: The National Martyrs' Memorial near Dhaka is the symbol of the valor and sacrifice of those who were killed in the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971. EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

policy to serve our expatriate workers has brought about hope for a better future for their welfare than just the contribution that they render to the quality of

life we enjoy within the country.

Bangladesh is now a role model for fighting poverty and extremism, empowering women, disaster management and in coping with the challenges posed by global warming and climate change. Bangladesh is often cited as one of the 11 emerging economies of the world. It has achieved remarkable success and recognition in the social sector. The winning of the MDG award for achieving targeted reduction in infant mortality and the U.N. South-South Award for the use of modern technology in the development of women and child health by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bears testimony in this regard.

I take this opportunity to thank all our officials and staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our missions abroad who have devoted themselves to achieving our foreign policy objectives. I also congratulate the Bangladesh diaspora who has lent buoyancy of the economy of the country of origin as well as to the host countries.

No message, at this stage of our national life, can be complete without invoking the source of our inspiration, namely, the inspiration imbued by Bangabandhu, the Father of our Bangalee Nation, our four national leaders who, in his absence, led us during the nine months to our ultimate victory,

Marking the 40th anniversary of Japan-Bangladesh ties

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 41st anniversary of the country's independence.

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 spirit of cooperation.

I myself paid an official visit to Bangladesh in July 2006 as then foreign minister, and since 2008, I have sought to promote the friendship between Japan and Bangladesh as the president of the fine old Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' League.

Bangladesh, which calls Japan "a true friend," is an important country for Japan. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami last March, Bangladesh contributed monetary donations and relief supplies, and Bangladeshi people residing in Japan offered

much help through volunteer activities. In my capacity as the president of the parliamentarians' league, may I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the assistance.

On the occasion of the official working visit to Japan of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010, leaders on both sides agreed on the enhancement of bilateral trade and investment, which built momentum for Japanese companies to further raise the interest of investment to Bangladesh. Bangladesh's economy is continuing to progress at a high annual growth rate of 6 percent in recent years. Against this backdrop, the number of Japanese companies entering the country's market has more than doubled in the last five years, and exports from Bangladesh to Japan have doubled in the last three years. I am pleased that the two countries' economic relationship is steadily developing.

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

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

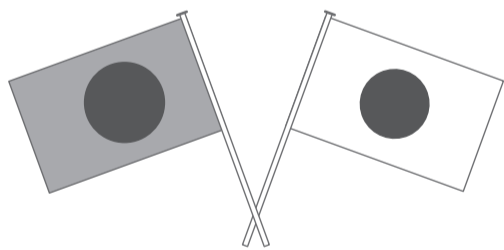
the martyrs who laid down their lives, our Freedom Fighters, who risked their lives against a modern, ruthless and genocidal army. I recall their cause and contribution in the great struggle for our independence and statehood. With the entire nation, I also recall, with the highest regard, those who suffered in silence, moved from shelter to shelter within the country, or took refuge across the border in India, without assurances of food or money on their person, and to those who lost their closest relatives and friends. I take the opportunity to remind ourselves that their will and aspirations embodied in our constitution will provide the basis of all our endeavors.
Joy Bangla.
Joy Bangabandhu.

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on the 41st Anniversary of
the Independence of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh



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on the 41st Anniversary of the Independence of
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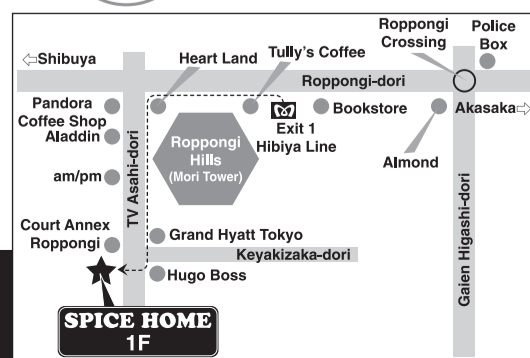
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to the People's Republic of Bangladesh
On Their Independence Day

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Bangladesh independence day



Nature: Located in the vast delta on the Bay of Bengal, covering parts of Bangladesh and India, the Sundarbans is the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

Gratitude for Japan's 40 years of steady, continuous assistance

Dr. Jiban Ranjan Majumder
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF
BANGLADESH

On the auspicious occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan and the 41st anniversary of our great independence and national day, I would like to express my deep reverence to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I would also like to convey, on behalf of the government as well as people of Bangladesh, our heartiest felicitations and warm greetings to Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and the people of Japan.



On this auspicious occasion, we recall with the deepest veneration the Father of the Nation and the greatest Bangalee of all time, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who, by virtue of his visionary 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 liberation. We pay our most sincere tribute to the selfless leaders, organizers and supporters of our war of liberation in 1971. I also take the opportunity to congratulate Bangladesh diaspora living in Japan on this great day and laud their immense contribution to the economic development of Bangladesh and our bilateral cooperation through their hard work, innovation and dedication.

On this day, I also deeply recall the great contribution from our friends in Japan for their invaluable contribution during

our war of liberation. I express our deep admiration for Japan, who recognized Bangladesh as early as Feb. 10, 1972, just immediately after the liberation war and profoundly recall the historic visit of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu in 1973 that laid the foundation of our bilateral relations. The visit by our Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Japan in November 2010 further added momentum to raising the level of our bilateral cooperation to a new height. During the March 11 disaster in Japan last year, the government as well as people of Bangladesh stood by our friends in Japan and contributed in all possible forms and manner.

At the onset of our 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, I would also like to extend our profound gratitude for Japan's continuous and steady development assistance, its entrepreneurs and investors' growing interest for Bangladesh. I would like to stress here that under the visionary leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has achieved a steady growth rate of 6.5 percent, keeping a modest credit rating at the backdrop of the prolonged global economic crises.

To conclude, I would urge the Japanese business leadership to further strengthen the bilateral trade and investment. Meanwhile, I forward with the deepest sense of love and compassion our solidarity with the distressed humanitarian aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake that vanquished so many precious lives, leaving behind a memory that so profoundly characterizes and intimately resonates in every part of Bangladesh.

May the Bangladesh-Japan friendship live long.



Relaxation: Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh is known for the world's longest unbroken 125 km of natural sandy beach. EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

Congratulations on the 41st Anniversary of the Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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