

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

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Message

Today is the 16th December- our glorious Victory Day. On this day in 1971 we snatched the victory by defeating the occupying Pakistani forces and achieved long-cherished independent and sovereign Bangladesh. On this happy moment, I congratulate all the citizens of Bangladesh living at home and abroad.

On this auspicious day, I recall with deep reverence the Greatest Bengali of all time, the Architect of Independent Bangladesh Father of the Nation, *Bangabandhu* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with deep respect our four Martyred National Leaders and the 3 million fallen heroes of the soil whose great sacrifices led to independent and sovereign Bangladesh. I recall with profound respect the two hundred thousand mothers and sisters who lost their dignity in the path of achieving this beloved country. I also pay my respect to the injured freedom fighters and the members of the martyrs' families. Deep gratitude to those foreign friendly countries and persons whose moral, financial and military assistances were a great contributor to our Liberation War.

On his return on 10th of January 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started anew the rebuilding work of war-torn Bangladesh with the help of own resources and the help of the friendly countries taking along his countrymen. On 15th August 1975, he was killed along with most of his family members by some conspirators who opposed our independence. His two daughters luckily survived this attack as they were travelling abroad. Then on the spirit of our Liberation War was denigrated- Bangladesh lost its way and moved on wrong path.

While in exile, Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina was elected as the President of Bangladesh Awami League and returned to her country on 17 May 1981. Taking the masses with her she waged her struggle to establish the rights of the people for "food and vote". People brought her to power in 1996, second time in 2009 and was re-elected in 2014 which enabled her to take Bangladesh on the path of development that was the dream of her father. Bangladesh is now on the super highway of development and it is the time to only move forward. Because of her successive achievements in recent years Bangladesh has become a "development wonder".

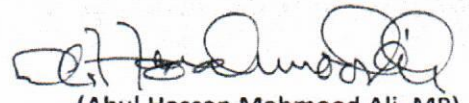
A number of awards and recognition have come along for this "development wonder" that has enabled Bangladesh to reach a place of dignity in the comity of nations. This year on the margins of the 71st UNGA in New York, the **UN Women** and **Global Partnership Forum** recognized Hon'ble Prime Minister for her prudent leadership in transforming a nation through empowering the women and including them in mainstream of development and awarded "Planet 50-50 Champion" and "Agent of Change"

respectively. Adviser of Hon'ble Prime Minister for ICT Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed received "ICT for Development" for successfully utilizing ICT into the development strategy for the people under "Digital Bangladesh".

The relationship and cooperation with our neighbouring and other friendly countries have not only deepened and widened but also has attained new heights. Bangladesh has continued her great strides at the world stage. The Foreign Policy as enunciated by Father of the Nation "**Friendship to all malice towards none**" should be duly practiced to preserve and uphold our national interest and image. I urge all officers and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions abroad to intimately and diligently work with this motto.

Our beloved leader and Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working untiringly to implement her 'Vision-2021' to present us a Middle-Income Country on the Golden Jubilee of our Independence and also to transform the country in to a modern and developed one by 2041. On this Victory Day, we should all vow to work from our respective positions to assist her in reaching these goals.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.



(Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP)