

শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

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Message

The 10th January of 1972 is one of the Red Letter Days in the chronology of the liberation struggle of Bangalee nation. On this day, the greatest Bangalee of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned to independent Bangladesh after over nine and a half months' confinement in a Pakistani jail.

Bangladesh Awami League earned absolute majority in the 1970 elections under the leadership of the Father of the Nation. But the Pakistani military junta continued to cling to power ignoring the people's mandate staging various farces. Bangalee nation was subjected to history's inhuman massacre. Aiming at an ultimate goal to free the Bangalee nation, the Father of the Nation in his address at the then historic Racecourse Maidan on the 7th March in 1971 declared, "This time the struggle is for our freedom, this time the struggle is for the independence". The Pakistani occupation forces launched brutal attack on innocent Bangalees on the 25th of March in 1971 and carried out massacre. The Father of the Nation declared Independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of the 26th March.

The Father of the Nation was arrested and sent to a lonely jail in Pakistan. Bangabandhu was subjected to inhuman torture in the Pakistani jail where he had been counting moments for execution of his death sentence pronounced in a farcical trial. In the face of death sentence, Bangabandhu rejoiced the spirit of Bangalee nation. He was the inspiration of the freedom fighters. Under his charismatic leadership, Bangalee nation earned the ultimate victory after 9-month of bloody war. The defeated Pakistani rulers had finally been compelled to free Bangabandhu from the jail. The Father of the Nation returned to the independent Bangladesh on the 10th January in 1972. On his return, he delivered a historic speech where he narrated the inhuman torture of the Pakistani military junta. The Bangalee Nation got back the Father of the Nation and their victory attained the fulfillment through his freedom.

After his return, Bangabandhu had devoted all his efforts to rebuild the war-ravaged Bangladesh. His heroic leadership ensured immediate withdrawal of the Indian allied forces from Bangladesh's soil. Responding to his call, various international organizations, including the UN and the friendly countries, quickly gave recognition to Bangladesh. The country earned the membership of the OIC in 1974. Bangladesh soon made its strong position in the comity of nations under the leadership of Bangabandhu.

The assassins halted the march-forward of Bangladesh through killing Bangabandhu along with most of his family members on August 15 in 1975. The armed usurpers marred democracy, defaced the constitution and halted the trend of progress and development.

The democracy has been reestablished after protracted struggles and sacrifices. A positive change has been brought in the people's living standard. Per capita income has been raised to USD 1,314. Forex reserve surpassed USD 27 billion. Bangladesh is now a model in the fields of agriculture, education, healthcare, communication, ICT, industrialization, trade and commerce and other socio-economic fronts. We have reestablished the spirit of the Liberation War through the 15th amendment to the Constitution. It sealed off usurping power through any unconstitutional means and ensured the hope and aspiration of the people.

Let us come and build a hunger and poverty free, prosperous, non-communal, peaceful Bangladesh being imbued with the spirit of liberation war. Let us build a "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by the Father of the Nation where there will be no difference between the rich and the poor, and equal opportunity of prosperity will be available for all.

We should take a fresh vow on the homecoming day of the Father of the Nation so that no evil force could disrupt the ongoing march of our progress and development.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina