

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী  
FOREIGN MINISTER



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
DHAKA

17 March 2016

### Message

Today is 17 March, the 96<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of the greatest Bengali of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and National Children's Day.

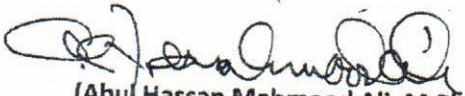
This day we remember with great reverence the greatest endowment of the Bengali nationhood, without whom the very existence of this country could not be imagined, who gave us the dream of a "Golden Bengal"- Sonar Bangla and then led from the front facing all odds to realise that dream. I, therefore, express my profound tribute to Bangabandhu on this day. At the same time, I also convey my heartiest greetings to our compatriots, especially the children and the young generation, for whom the day is dedicated and who are lucky to have been born in an independent Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu was so simple in celebrating his birthday that he never cut a cake on his birthday, nor there were any special dishes or arrangements to celebrate the day. On this day he would meet the children who used to come from different parts of the city to greet him with flowers. They also used to sing for Bangabandhu and he spent most of the day with them. For Bangabandhu's unflinching love and affection for children the birthday of Bangabandhu, the 17<sup>th</sup> March, is observed as the National Children's Day symbolizing the dreams of millions of the children of the country.

Bangabandhu fought his entire life against the exploitation and oppression. At a young age he understood the need and importance of having self-identity and dignity. From a young student leader he transformed into an extraordinarily visionary and charismatic leader. In order to establish the just cause of Bengali nation, during the 23 years of Pakistani period he passed 12 years in jail and 10 years under strict surveillance of the powerful political and military establishment of Pakistan. Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her consecutive second term, is pledge bound to place Bangladesh in her rightful place in the comity of nations through inclusive and sustainable development, stability, progress and over all well-being of the people.

Observance of the birthday of the Father of the Nation as National Children's Day gives us an opportunity to express our commitment to the nation building process from a very tender age. I urge all children, youth and their parents to take oath on this day to learn from the life, struggle and teachings of Bangabandhu and our greatest achievement- the Liberation War. We renew our pledge to work unitedly under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to translate Bangabandhu's dream of a Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal) into a reality.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

  
(Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P)