



HIGH COMMISSIONER

High Commission for the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
57 Culgoa Circuit, O'Malley
ACT 2606, Australia.

16 December 2016

Message

On the joyous occasion of the great Victory Day of Bangladesh, I convey my heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings to all Bangladeshi expatriates living in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand.

I pay my deep homage and profound tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose dynamic and visionary leadership we earned our independence in 1971. I recall the supreme sacrifice of our valiant freedom fighters, and pay my tribute to 3 million martyrs and two hundred thousand women who lost their honour in the war of independence. I also recall with gratitude our foreign friends, and in particular, Mr. W.A.S. Ouderland, BP of Australia who extended their support and assistance for the cause of our independence.

Bangladesh's steady progress and advancement in almost every sector of our socio-economic life is matter of surprise for the global community. For us, it is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to see our country considered a role model for many developing countries. Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is moving resolutely towards a becoming a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous nation by 2041. Despite internal and external challenges, Bangladesh continues to achieving significant progress in all economic and social sectors including, education, agriculture, health, infrastructure, rural and urban development energy, information technology, poverty alleviation, women empowerment, law and order and foreign relations.

It is noteworthy to mention that Bangladesh is the second fastest growing major economy in 2016 with a GDP growth of 7.1%. With a foreign currency reserve of US\$ 32 billion, Bangladesh is now well confident to invest in mega projects. We have also attracted concentration of the world in non-conventional business sectors such as pharmaceuticals, IT, ship-building, light-engineering, ceramics to name a few. Today, Bangladesh is a leading IT outsourcing country; we have also emerged as a shipbuilding country with remarkable export of cargo vessels, ferries to many European countries.

I would like to congratulate our diaspora in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand for actively promoting and projecting the positive image of Bangladesh. I gratefully acknowledge your immense contribution in strengthening and deepening our bilateral relations with these countries and building bridges of friendship and understanding with their people.

Today, let us make a renewed pledge to devote ourselves, imbued with sprit of war of liberation, to build and transform our country into "Sonar Bangla", as dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman.

May Allah be with us.

Kazi Imtiaz Hossain