

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

24 Agrahayan 1428
09 December 2021

Message

On the solemn occasion of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and the Prevention of this Crime, as well as the 73rd anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Bangladesh joins the international community in paying deep homage to the victims of genocide throughout the history of the world.

A country that went through unspeakable traumatic horrors of the worst form of genocide in 1971, Bangladesh is firmly committed to preventing genocide and crimes against humanity anywhere in the world. On the horrific night of 25 March 1971, the brutal occupying forces of Pakistan unleashed atrocities and mass killings on the innocent unarmed civilian population of erstwhile East Pakistan. The legitimate demand of Bangalis for self-determination was repeatedly denied, and their ethnopolitical identity was seriously threatened. The clarion call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the 7th March 1971 united the Bangalis to stand against oppression and fight for independence. In 1971, three million innocent people were brutally killed, and two hundred thousand mothers and sisters were abused during the nine-month-long Liberation War. To pay tribute to the innocent victims of the genocide of 1971, Bangladesh observes 25 March, the darkest chapter in the history of the nation, as 'Genocide Day.'

The painful experience of genocide, persecution, suffering, displacement, and torture that we endured in 1971 constantly haunts us and motivates us to seek global peace and justice. That is why we provided temporary shelters to around 1.1 million Forcibly displaced Myanmar Nationals, who have been unfortunate victims of systematic persecution, violence, and atrocities in their motherland. These desperate people want to return to their homeland. It is a sacred duty of the international community to help them realize their legitimate right to return to their own land. At the same time, the decades-long culture of impunity must be addressed through justice and accountability.

On this solemn occasion, as we pay homage to the victims of genocide, let us show genuine political will and translate our commitment to "*never again*" into reality. Let us seize every opportunity to prevent genocide and similar atrocities to build a peaceful society.

**Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.**

Sheikh Hasina