



পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী
FOREIGN MINISTER

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

16 December 2023

Today is our glorious victory day. On this day in 1971 we got our victory by defeating the occupying forces and achieved our independent and sovereign Bangladesh. On this auspicious day, I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitation to all the citizens of Bangladesh living both home and abroad.

At the outset, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under his dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership the people of this territory won their independence breaking the shackles of subjugation and deprivation of years. With deep respect, I recall the supreme sacrifice made by our war heroes, three million Martyrs, two hundred thousand mothers and sisters who lost their chastity and thousands of wounded freedom fighters. Nearly 10 million people of then East Pakistan had to take shelter in neighboring India and nearly half of the people of then East Pakistan were displaced from their homes. It's the spirit and support of the unarmed people of Bangladesh that resulted our victory. We are also thankful to India for assisting us in our War of Liberation.

Bangabandhu was not merely the leader of the Bengali Nation but also a forerunner in realizing the rights of the oppressed and deprived people of the world. Following his vision of a Sonar Bangla, his able daughter Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is determined to build a prosperous, knowledge-based Smart Bangladesh. As a result of her pragmatic initiatives Bangladesh has been transferred into a vibrant economy and a land of opportunity. Bangladesh's progress in various sectors including poverty alleviation, sustainable development, women empowerment, environmental protection and human resources development is enviable. The government has been working relentlessly to turn Bangladesh into a developed country by the year 2041.

The present government under the leadership of Prime minister Sheikh Hasina has done a remarkable job in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and economic repercussions of Russia-Ukraine war while keeping our economy on almost at full functionality. In combating COVID-19, governmental policies balanced lives and livelihoods, showcasing resilience by achieving a 6.1% growth rate in the last fiscal despite global economic disruptions. Today the country is often cited by the international community as a 'Role Model for Development'. The UK research institute, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) predicts that Bangladesh will rank among top 20 economies globally by 2040. This projection considers factors such as market size, economic growth, and potential across various sectors.

I hope that the Bangladeshi expatriates will participate and support on the ongoing advancement of the government. I extend my greetings to all the members of the Bangladesh Diaspora and also Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Missions abroad for their hard work.

On this historic day, let's make a renewed pledge to devote ourselves to work from our respective positions imbued with the spirit of Liberation War to build a 'Sonar Bangla' and also a better world for the future generations.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP