

# National Day of Bangladesh

PUBLICITY



## Celebrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Independence



**Mohammed Shahabuddin**  
President of Bangladesh

26th March—The Great Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

On this day, I remember with profound respect the architect of our independent Bangladesh, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the fateful night of March 25, 1971, the invading forces of Pakistan unexpectedly attacked the unarmed Bangladesh. In the early hours of March 26, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman officially declared the Independence of Bangladesh. We achieved an independent and sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month long Liberation War under the able leadership of Bangabandhu. I recall with deep respect the millions of mar-

tyrs who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation. I recall with deep reverence our Four National Leaders, heroic freedom-fighters, organizers, supporters, foreign friends and people from all walks of life who made contributions to attain our right to self-determination and freedom movement.

Bangabandhu always cherished a dream of building a happy and prosperous country along with political freedom. The present government has been rendering untiring efforts in materializing the dream of Bangabandhu. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is moving towards the highway of development at an inexorable pace. We have achieved enormous success in various areas of socio-economic development including poverty alleviation, education, health, human resource development, women empowerment, lowering child and maternal mortality rates, elimination of gender discrimination and increase in life expectancy. Rate of poverty has been dropped whereas per capita income has increased. A huge number of landless and homeless people are being rehabilitated. The Padma Bridge, constructed by our own resources, the Kamafull tunnel and the Metrorail are having positive impact on our economy. Works of Payra Deep Sea Port, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's Third Terminal and Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant are also progressing uninterrupted. Bangladesh has already been elevated from a least developed country to a developing country. With the continuation of this sustained development process, Bangladesh will turn into a developed, smart and prosperous country in the world by 2041.

InshaAllah.

Government has been able to maintain the economic growth for timely and bold steps taken by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina despite the world economy is facing negative impact due to worldwide war and geo-political crisis. The economy has turned around as a result of various socio-economic and investment projects, programs and initiatives taken by the government to ensure sustainable and inclusive development.

Huge amount of remittances sent by expatriates has made an important contribution to keep the wheel of the economy rolling during this time. To deal with this crisis, we also have to be frugal in the use of resources and follow austerly in luxury. I hope, based on the unprecedented achievements of the government in the country's overall development activities and socio-economic indicators in the past years, we will be able to face these challenges in the days to come, InshaAllah.

The government has been consistent in upholding our foreign policy "Friendship to all, malice towards none" as enunciated by the Father of the Nation. Our achievement in the international arena, including the establishment of world peace, is also commendable. Despite being a densely populated country, Bangladesh has set a unique example of humanity in the world by sheltering more than one million of Rohingyas who have been tortured and forcibly deported from Myanmar. People of Bangladesh are peace loving. Bangladesh has witnessed the devastation of war and became the victim of genocide.

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**Sheikh Hasina**  
Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Today is the great Independence and National Day. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my sincere greetings and congratulations to all the Bangladeshi citizens living in the country and abroad.

I remember with the most profound respect the Greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose firm and far-sighted leadership we achieved independent-sovereign Bangladesh. I remember the four national leaders, three million martyrs of the liberation war and the self-sacrifice of two hundred thousand mothers and sisters. I pay my deep homage to all the fearless freedom fighters, including the war-wounded. I am grateful to all the friendly coun-

tries, organizations, institutions, and individuals, particularly the then Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, for their generous support during the War.

Young student leader Sheikh Mujib, who was studying in the Department of Law at Dhaka University, had dreamt of establishing a sovereign state in this land since the creation of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistanis' social, economic, and political discriminatory attitudes became clear day by day. Sheikh Mujib remained steadfast in defending the rights and dignity of the Bangali in return for any sacrifice. The two organizations of his far-reaching thoughts are the Chhatra League and the Awami League, where he was deeply involved from the beginning until the end of his life. From the language movement of 1952 to the victory of the United Front election of 1954, the anti-Ayub movement of 1962, six points of 1966, and the mass upsurge of 1969, these two organizations had an immense role in the struggles. In the face of public outrage, Ayub Khan was forced to repeal the Agartala conspiracy case. Sheikh Mujib became 'Bangabandhu' — the hope and aspiration of Bangali. On 5 December 1969, on the death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib declared, "From today, the name of this eastern part of Pakistan will be solely Bangladesh, instead of East Pakistan."

The Awami League, led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, won

a single majority in the National Assembly in the elections of 1970. However, the Pak-military junta started procrastinating without transferring power. Sheikh Mujib called for a non-cooperation movement and, in his historic speech on March 7, gave a clear outline of the goal of liberation from the long 23 years of rule and exploitation. On 23 March, the flag emblazoned with the map of Bangladesh was hoisted all over the country. At midnight on 25 March, Pakistani troops started killing unarmed Bangali in the name of 'Operation Search Light.' Pak junta arrested Sheikh Mujib at an early hour on 26 March. He made the official declaration of independence before he was arrested. The Bangali leader of the people was imprisoned in the Mianwali jail in Pakistan and subjected to inhumane torture. At the call of the Father of the Nation, the freedom-loving people of Bengal, inspired by the slogan 'Joy Bangla', started fighting, taking up arms for the liberation of the motherland. On 17 April, the Mujibnagar government swore in designating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice President, Tajuddin Ahmad as Prime Minister, Captain M Mansur Ali, and AHM Kamaruzzaman as Ministers. After a long 9-month armed struggle, independent sovereign Bangladesh was liberated on 16 December 1971 with the help of the allied forces.

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### Congratulations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the Occasion of Their Independence Day

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# National Day of Bangladesh

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## Celebrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Independence



**Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP**  
Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

Today is 26th March, the Great Independence and National Day. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my sincere greetings and congratulations to all Bangladeshis living in the country and abroad.

On this historic day, I remember with deep respect the greatest Bangali of all time, the great architect of our independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose visionary leadership the Bangali nation broke the shackles of subjugation and achieved independent sovereign Bangladesh. I respectfully remember the three million martyrs, two hundred thousand mothers and sisters and all the freedom fighters of our Liberation war — who made supreme sacrifice for the motherland. I also pay tribute to the members of the diplomatic corps who played an active role in gaining support and assistance of the international community for Bangladesh during

and after the Liberation war.

Bangabandhu was the undisputed great leader of the Bengali nation. He led us to achieve freedom through a long struggle. The seeds of development were planted in this country by the hands of Bangabandhu. He took the leadership of war-torn Bangladesh and completed the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country in just three and a half years. But the Enemies of the country killed him and thwarted the progress of the country. Although the progress of the country was temporarily disrupted due to the plot of the conspirators, the country is now moving forward at an unstopable speed under the leadership of Bangabandhu's able daughter, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Today, Bangladesh is recognized as a 'Role Model for Development' in the world. I wish active participation and all-out cooperation of expatriate Bangladeshis in the on going progress of building a developed, prosperous 'Smart Bangladesh' in the light of the 'Vision 2041' given by Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina.

I extend my greetings to the officials and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh missions abroad who are working for the country's interests and shining the image of Bangladesh in the international arena. Being imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War, we all will work together from our respective positions to realize Bangabandhu's dream of 'Sonar Bangla' — let's this be our pledge today.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu. May Bangladesh Live Forever.

**Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP**



**ASO Taro**  
President of the Japan-Bangladesh  
Parliamentary Friendship League

On the occasion of the Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Government and the people of Bangladesh on behalf of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League.

I am pleased to see that since Japan and Bangladesh elevated the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" last April, bilateral cooperation has deepened in all aspects, including the launching of the negotiations for Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The Parliamentary Friendship League will continue to contribute to the strengthening of the relationship with Bangladesh as a strategic partner.

I would like to conclude my message by wishing further prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

**ASO Taro**



**Shahabuddin Ahmed**  
Ambassador of Bangladesh

On this auspicious day, I extend warm greetings to you all. Today, I remember with profound respect our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also recall the contribution and supreme sacrifices of our four national leaders, valiant martyrs and freedom fighters, and support of our foreign friends.

I convey my deep reverence to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan. I also extend warm greetings to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, his government and the people of Japan.

The Father of the Nation's historic visit to Japan in 1973 laid the solid foundation for steadfast and lasting relations between the two countries. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina followed her father's legacy and further strengthened the bilateral rela-

tionship. During her official visit to Japan in April last year, nine agreements/MoU's were signed along with a joint statement on 'Strategic Partnership' which was elevated from the 'Comprehensive Partnership' signed in 2014. Trade and investment are also increasing with many Japanese companies showing interest in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is ready to serve as a bridge between South Asia and South-east Asia.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister, in her fourth consecutive term, has provided the leadership and vision in leading Bangladesh steadily and strongly. Bangladesh is progressing rapidly to become a 'developing country' and transforming into a technologically advanced, modern, knowledge-based 'Smart Bangladesh.'

We believe that Japan, a trusted friend and an important develop-

ment partner, will support us in this endeavor. I am confident that the relations between the two countries will continue to grow stronger and deeper in the coming days.

Joi Bangla!  
Joi Bangabandhu!  
Long live Bangladesh-Japan Friendship

**Shahabuddin Ahmed**

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on the occasion of  
Their Independence Day

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# National Day of Bangladesh

PUBLICITY



## Celebrating the 53rd Anniversary of Independence

### President's message

Continued from Page 8

We want no more war in the world. We condemn the genocide going on in the world including Palestine. Bangladesh believes in a peaceful solution to this problem. I call upon the United Nations and the international community to take effective measures for solution to Rohingya problem and to stop war taking place around the world including Palestine.

We must ensure people-oriented and sustainable development, good governance, social justice, transparency and accountability, in order to achieve the desired goal of Independence. Forbearance, human rights and rule of law have to be consolidated

ed for institutionalizing democracy. It is our sacred duty to ensure a safe, happy, beautiful and prosperous Bangladesh for the new generation. By assassinating Bangabandhu on 15 August 1975, anti-liberation forces tried to erase his policy, ideology as well as to stop the trend of development and progress of the country forever. But the Bengali is a nation of heroes. Nothing could suppress the Bangalees. Bangabandhu has become the conqueror of death. Death has not dissipated him but has made him brighter and more glorious in the minds of Bangalees. Present and future generation have to understand that the way they are treading forward today is paved by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The path shown by him will

### Prime Minister's message

Continued from Page 8

Father of the Bangali Nation, President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was released from Pakistan, returned to his beloved independent motherland on 10 January 1972, and devoted himself to rebuild the war-ravaged country. With the help of allies, though there was an empty treasury, he rehabilitated the displaced people, restored and developed the infrastructure, and put the production sector and the economy on a solid foundation. He approved a constitution within 9 months of independence. The GDP growth rate surpassed 9% during Bangabandhu's tenure. Bangladesh gained recognition from 123 countries and membership in 27 international organizations through his diplomatic efforts. But our misfortune is that the defeated anti-independence clique of 1971 continues to conspire against him. Incumbent President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was martyred along with his most of the family members on 15 August 1975 by the brutal bullet of the assassins. The murderous Mostaq-Zia and their successors illegally seized power and established a dictatorship in the country.

After long 21 years, the Bangladesh Awami League won the people's mandate and got the responsibility of running the government in 1996. We took on the mission of uplifting the living standard of the poor by introducing social safety-net programs; turning the country into self-sufficient in food production; setting up community clinics to provide primary health care to marginalized people; building houses for homeless people by taking shelter projects; and making mobile phones and computer tech-

nology readily available. Our government signed a 30-year Ganges water-sharing agreement with India. To establish peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, we signed the historic peace agreement and repatriated the refugees who had taken refuge in India to Bangladesh. We strengthened the local government system and announced the woman development policy. The Awami League government provided approval for launching privately-owned television channels. We started the trial for killing the Father of the Nation by repealing the Indemnity Ordinance; established the independence of the judiciary, the rule of law, and human rights; and re-established the liberation war values in the country by preventing distortion of history. Our government's 1996-2001 term was a journey towards a brighter future of golden chapter breaking the shackles of backwardness, underdevelopment, and poverty.

The Bangladesh Awami League has been running the government since 2009 with the people's unwavering support in all the national elections. 'Digital Bangladesh' is now reality. We have already transformed Bangladesh into a developing country by implementing Vision-2021. Our government opened the door to the blue economy by establishing sovereignty over the vast sea area. Implementing the land boundary agreement with India ended the enclaves' long-standing misery. We inaugurated 100 bridges and 100 roads and highways in a single day. We brought 100 percent of people under electricity coverage. We have constructed the Padma Bridge with our own fund. Bangabandhu satellite-1 into space, Mitroram, Matarbari Power Project, Rooppur Nuclear Power Station, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under Karnaphuli river, Elevated Expressway are

some examples of our capacity. We have formulated the 'Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100' for our future generation. To build 'Smart Bangladesh', we are implementing the Second Perspective Plan 'Vision-2041' for the next 20 years.

We established the rule of law in the country by enforcing the verdict on trial against the killers of the Father of the Nation and the war criminals against humanity. We published the Records of Proceedings of 'Agartala Conspiracy Case' (4 Volumes) filed by Pakistani rulers against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib in 1968 and the 'Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman' (14 Volumes) including 'The Unfinished Memories', 'The Prison Diaries', and 'New China 1952'. I believe that by reading these books, the new generation will clearly understand the firm footprints of the Father of the Nation in the history of independence.

The Awami League government believes in the philosophy of upgrading the fate of the people. We are running our government through immediate, short, medium, and long-term plans to uplift the liv-

ing standard of ordinary people and develop the country. Moreover, we regularly monitor the implementation progress of our election manifesto. Due to these reasons, people's trust and strong support for Awami League continues.

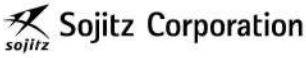
On this very occasion of Independence Day and National Day, being imbued with the spirit of our great Liberation War, let us take the oath to build developed-prosperous non-communal smart 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

### Congratulations and Best Wishes

Sojitz Corporation extends its sincere congratulations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the anniversary of their independence



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CONGRATULATIONS to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of Their Independence Day



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## BUSINESS

# BOJ's Jan. meet discussed policy management of negative rate lifting

**T**OKYO (Jiji Press) — Bank of Japan policymakers at their meeting in January proactively discussed its monetary policy management after the end of the central bank's negative interest rate policy, minutes of the meeting showed Monday.

The BOJ's Policy Board decided last week to end the policy of applying an interest rate of minus 0.1% on part of commercial financial institutions' current account deposits at the central bank, marking its first interest rate hike in about 17 years. The board also decided to scrap the yield curve control regime, which called for guiding the yields on 10-year Japanese government bonds to around zero.

As to the BOJ's new short-term interest rate target after the termination

of the negative rate policy, one Policy Board member said at the Jan. 22-23 meeting that the bank would encourage the unsecured overnight call rate, the key short-term interbank lending rate, to move "in a range of zero to 0.1%," the minutes showed.

Some members said that the BOJ would continue JGB purchases regardless of whether the yield curve control framework is terminated, indicating that a system to prevent a spike in long-term interest rates should be in place after the abolition of the yield curve control, according to the minutes.

At last week's meeting, the Policy Board decided to nudge the unsecured overnight call rate to around zero to 0.1% and continue buying massive amounts of JGBs for the time being, while scrapping the yield curve control

framework, including the application of the negative interest rate on some current account deposits. The yield curve control was the pillar of the BOJ's ultraeasy monetary policy.

At the Jan. 22-23 meeting, Policy Board members agreed on the importance of the BOJ organizing its "basic thinking" on points it should take into account when changing its policy and on its policy conduct thereafter, in light of the growing likelihood of the central bank's 2% consumer inflation target being met, the minutes showed.

### Kanda warns against speculation

**Bloomberg** Japan's top currency official warned against speculation in the foreign exchange market and said authorities were ready and prepared to take action

if needed.

"The current weakening of the yen is not in line with fundamentals and is clearly driven by speculation," vice finance minister for international affairs Masato Kanda told reporters Monday. "We will take appropriate action against excessive fluctuations, without ruling out any options."

The yen strengthened against the dollar as Kanda spoke, reaching 151.10 from 151.40 immediately beforehand.

Kanda's warnings on the currency were his first since February and his longest salvo in months.

### The currency has been trading

around 150-151 per dollar since the Bank of Japan raised interest rates last week for the first time since 2007, with Gov. Kazuo Ueda emphasizing that financial conditions will remain easy.

# Luxury industry feels effects of China slowdown

**Bloomberg**

Fears of a slowdown among Chinese shoppers have dogged the luxury industry for the better part of a year. Last week, the scale of the problem hit home for one of fashion's biggest but most exposed brands, Gucci.

French group Kering SA saw \$9 billion wiped off its market value after warning that sales of the Italian label's products in China have slumped this quarter. The slowdown is also starting to show up in other corners of the luxury industry.

A separate report showed Swiss watch exports to the country — a leading destination for high-end timepieces — tumbled last month. Analysts, meanwhile, are predicting China's luxury demand will cool further this year.

The spate of sobering news provides the latest evidence that an anticipated surge in spending by well-heeled Chinese freed from the world's strictest COVID-19 lockdowns is failing to materialize. While some luxury companies are managing the

fallout better than others, the rest could be forced to rethink how they do business in China — starting with Kering.

"I haven't bought any Gucci bags myself for years," said Wu Xiaofang, a 34-year-old banker living in Shanghai who was once so enamored with the brand she bought three bags during a trip to Italy in 2016. "The new designs are bad."

Wu is among a generation of Chinese luxury shoppers that has grown more selective about where to spend its cash. Rising unemployment and a property downturn have hurt consumer confidence, while deflationary pressures are fueling concern about growth in one of the world's largest consumer markets.

The bar to entice Chinese shoppers has therefore risen. Gucci has seen a significant drop in Chinese online sales in recent months — including from its official website and e-commerce platform on Tmall, said a person familiar with the situation who asked not to be identified discussing confidential matters.

# Apple's Cook tells China forum that artificial intelligence key for climate battle

**Bloomberg**

Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said artificial intelligence is an essential tool for helping businesses reduce their carbon footprint, as he joined a climate change dialog Sunday at the China Development Forum.

Cook took part in a discussion at the annual Beijing event as the culmination of a week of public displays of

his company's commitment to China. He earlier met Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and announced plans to invest further in Apple's supply chain, stores and research in the country.

Apple has set some of the most ambitious targets among its peers for reducing its carbon footprint — with the Apple Watch touted as its first carbon neutral product. Cook focused on that theme in his remarks and for much of

his visit.

"We are making great progress, we are not there yet, and the road ahead requires more innovation," Cook said of the company's environmental goals. Apple is pouring substantial investment and resources into its AI development, not least because it has been surpassed by more aggressive competitors like OpenAI with its ChatGPT.

AI "provides an enormous toolkit for

every company that's wishing to be carbon neutral or to lower their emissions by a substantial amount," the 63-year-old CEO said. It can help businesses calculate an individual person's carbon footprint, identify materials available for recovery and offer strategies for recycling.

Like Apple, China's leading tech companies are racing to get ahead in the AI contest, however. U.S. trade sanctions have curbed their access to the best semiconductors for the task, made by

Nvidia Corp.

The Apple chief returned to the CDF at a time when Beijing wants to show it is open for business. Cook was also one of the marquee names on last year's list of participants, which was the first time the event was held in-person after three years of COVID-19 isolation. He spoke with China Premier Li Qiang and other CEOs of international corporations following Li's opening speech.



Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks at the China Development Forum in Beijing on Sunday.