



Embassy of Bangladesh Ankara



Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman:

A snapshot of a glorious day in the history of Bangladesh.



10 January 1972 is the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On this momentous day in 1972, Bangabandhu returned home-his newly independent and sovereign motherland-after 9 months and 15 days imprisonment in Mianwali Jail in Pakistan.

This year the Homecoming Day entails special significance as it beautifully corresponds to the birth centenary of Bangabandhu (born in 17 March, 1920), as well as the Golden Jubilee of the Independence Day & National Day (26 March 1971) and Victory Day of Bangladesh (16

December 1971). The joint commemoration and celebration of these historic monumental moments this year are therefore most special, festive and joyful. Recognizing the great significance of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu, Bangladesh Government has declared Mujib Year from 17 March 2020 to 16 December 2021 and commemorating it nationally along with the UNESCO.

The sacrifice and contribution of Bangabandhu for our independence is incomparable. Visionary Bangabandhu valiantly led the nation in every single movement inter alia the 1952-Language Movement, 1954-Jukta Front Election, 1966-Six-Point Movement, 1969 Mass Upsurge and the General Election of 1970 where Awami League led by Bangabandhu won a landslide victory with absolute majority. Pakistani rulers however were reluctant to hand over power. The whole nation revolted. On March 07, 1971 Bangabandhu delivered a historic speech at the Racecourse Maidan (currently Suhrawardy Udyan). At the mammoth gathering, he declared in his thunderous voice, 'The Struggle this time is a Struggle for Emancipation. The Struggle this time is a Struggle for Independence'. The Pakistani occupation forces launched a brutal killing mission (Operation Search Light) on the innocent Bangalees in the dark of 25 March 1971. Bangabandhu declared Independence in the early hours of 26th March 1971. Just after the declaration of Independence, Bangabandhu was arrested from his Dhanmondi residence (at road no. 32) in Dhaka and subsequently was sent to solitary confinement in a jail in Punjab. He was subjected to inhuman torture in the jail where he had been counting his days for being executed any time, after his death sentence was pronounced in a farcical trial. Even learning assuredly that death is imminent, he continued to bear the indomitable spirit of the Bangalee nation. Bangabandhu remained firm and steadfast in his goals. While in jail Bangabandhu's most famous utterance was "I will say, while going to the gallows, I am a Bangalee, Bangladesh is my country and Bangla is my language. Joy Bangla". He was indeed the source of indomitable spirit of the freedom fighters. Under his undisputed leadership, the Bangalee nation achieved the ultimate victory on 16 December 1971 with the ultimate sacrifice of 3 million people and honor of two hundred thousand women. The defeated Pakistani rulers were compelled under world pressure to free Bangabandhu. The Father of the Nation returned to Independent Bangladesh on 10th January 1972.

Bangabandhu was welcomed by millions at the Racecourse Maidan (currently Suhrawardy Udyan). Overwhelmed with emotions, he said, 'The dream of my life has been fulfilled today. My Sonar Bangla is now free and a sovereign State has been emerged'. On the historic day of 10 January 1972 the Bangalee Nation got back Bangabandhu. The Victory of the nine month long War of Liberation attained its fulfillment.