

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

23 Falgun 1430  
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## Message

The 7th of March is an unforgettable day for the Bengali nation. Our great leader, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, crafted an extempore epic in his invigorated speech on 7 March 1971 at the historic Race Course Ground, now Shaheed Suhrawardy Udyan. On this occasion, I remember with most profound respect the greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We gratefully recall the four national leaders, 3 million martyrs in the great liberation war, 2 hundred thousand mothers and sisters, and countless brave freedom fighters - at the cost of whose supreme sacrifices we achieved independent sovereign Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and Bangladesh are inseparable, like beads in a string. He fought against the Pakistanis for 24 years, endured prison-tyranny-torture and led all the movements to protect the just rights of the people of East Bengal and to establish an independent land for them on the world map. For thousands of years, he was the boldest voice among the exploited and deprived Bengalis. Under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's leadership, the Awami League won an absolute majority in the 1970 elections. However, the Pakistanis did not hand over the responsibility of running the country to the Awami League and started pouring various disputes. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib called for a non-cooperation movement against the Pakistani rulers with all the people of Bangladesh. In his 7 March speech, he uttered our most cherished word, 'Freedom,' and guided the path of liberation through struggle. He spelled out the inevitable victory of the brave Bengalis in the last two words of his speech- 'Joi Bangla.'

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the legendary Poet of Politics, handed over the country's governance to the people through this speech. He also explained how power could be allocated for the welfare of all, instructed defensive or preventive warfare, and guided wartime government and economy in transition. That thunder in his voice reached the hearts of 7 crore Bengalis instantly. A British newspaper compared Bangabandhu's residence to 10 Downing Street in London. Even the Bengali chefs at the President's residence in Dhaka stopped cooking for Yahya Khan after listening to the 7 March speech. Till 25 March, all the people in the country ignored Yahya's rule and obeyed Sheikh Mujib's orders precisely as he said. He was arrested by Pakistani authorities that night. He formally announced the Declaration of Independence before he was arrested. The irresistible people of Bengal took up arms. They fought for nine months, defeated the Pakistanis on every front in the territory of Bangladesh, and confirmed victory in the war of independence on 16 December.

The first president of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, was freed from captivity in Pakistan, returned to the country on 10 January 1972, and devoted himself to rebuilding an independent Bangladesh according to his dream. He transformed the war-torn country into a Least Developed Country in just three and a half years. Unfortunately, on 15 August 1975, the allies of the defeated enemies of 1971 avenged their defeat by killing the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and his family members. They banned the 7 March speech and the 'Joi Bangla' slogan and tried to erase Mujib's name from history.

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After the Awami League assumed power in 1996, we repealed the indemnity ordinance brought by the murderer Mostak-Zia and started the trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation. Later, we formed the government four times in a row from 2009 and dedicated ourselves to the country's overall development following the ideals of the Father of the Nation. We established the rule of law in the country through the execution of the verdict of the murder of the Father of the nation. As a result, the nation was freed from shame. We enacted the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 2011, to include the historic 7th March speech in the Fifth Schedule of Article 150(2) of the Constitution. In 2013, this speech was included as one of the best wartime speeches of 2500 years published by Jacob F. Field in the book 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History'. On 30 October 2017, UNESCO recognized the speech as part of the 'World's Documentary Heritage'. Not only that, UNESCO commented that the Father of the Nation eventually declared the independence of Bangladesh through this speech. Global recognition of the historic 7 March speech of the Father of the Nation today is a rare honor and a memorial of glory for the Bengali nation. Based on the verdict of our High Court, the Cabinet Division issued a notification declaring 'Joi Bangla' as the national slogan.

As a result of the initiatives taken by our government, Bangladesh has been recognized as a role model for development in the world today. We have established Digital Bangladesh. In 2041, we will transform the country into a 'Smart Bangladesh.' I believe the 'Joi Bangla' slogan and Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech on 7 March will inspire the Bengalis to proceed with their heads high on the world stage.

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

  
**Sheikh Hasina**