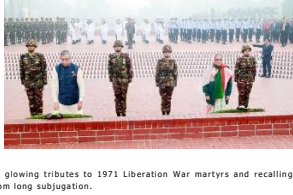




Bangladesh celebrates Victory Day with due respect



Bangladesh on December 16 celebrated the 53rd Victory Day by paying glowing tributes to 1971 Liberation War martyrs and recalling the glorious history, the nation scripted 52 years back by freeing the soil from long subjugation.

On December 16, 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent state under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the cost of the supreme sacrifices of three million people and the honour of nearly half a million women.

Marking the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial on the outskirts of Savar in the morning.

When the President and the Prime Minister left the National Memorial premises, people of all strata were allowed to pay their tributes to the 1971 martyrs by placing wreaths.

Patriotic songs and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's landmark March 7 speech were played through loudspeaker on the premises of the National Memorial.

Clad in green and red dresses including sharee and panjabee, people in massive number irrespective of gender and age thronged the memorial to place wreaths since the dawn and the stream of people continued till afternoon.

In the afternoon, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and his wife Dr Rebecca Sultana hosted a reception programme at Bangabhaban marking the Victory Day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana joined the reception on the lush green lawn of the Bangabhaban.

The Victory Day programmes taken at national level included a 31-gun salute, hoisting of the national flag atop all government, semi-government and private offices as well as offices of autonomous bodies across the country.

Receptions were hosted to freedom fighters and family members of martyrs at the city, district and upazila levels.

Special prayers were offered at mosques and other places of worship, seeking eternal peace in the souls of martyrs of the Liberation War and peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Similar programmes were organized at district and upazila levels as well as Bangladesh missions abroad, highlighting the significance of the day.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163535>

President Shahabuddin greets people on great Victory Day



President Mohammed Shahabuddin has greeted the countrymen living at home and abroad on the occasion of the 53rd Victory Day.

"Today is 16 December. Our great Victory Day. On this day in 1971, we achieved our long-cherished victory after a 16 struggle and a nine-month bloody war. It gave us a sovereign country, independent nationhood, a sacred constitution, our own map and a red-green flag. On this joyous day, I extend my sincere felicitations and warm greetings to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad," he said in a message on the great Victory Day.

The head of the state recalled with profound respect the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman alongside paying deep homage to the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifice in the War of Liberation for the cause of country's independence.

He remembered with gratitude the four national leaders, the heroic freedom fighters, two lakh oppressed women, the organizers and supporters of the Liberation War, foreign friends, war-wounded individuals and members of the martyrs' families including people of all walks of life who directly and indirectly contributed to the victory. The nation recalls their contributions with utmost respect, he added.

Independence is the greatest achievement of the Bengali nation, he said, adding that in its backdrop, there was a prolonged history of deprivation, sanguinary struggle and supreme sacrifice of country's people.

The dream journey of independence started with the great Language Movement in 1952, subsequently, came into reality on 26 March in 1971 through the proclamation of Independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, overcoming various ups and downs and staging long movement and agitation, he said.

The final victory was achieved under Bangabandhu's leadership and guidance on 16 December 1971 through a nine-month long armed war of liberation against Pakistani invading forces, he added.

"In order to deliver the benefits of independence at people's doorstep, we need to institutionalize our democracy which we attained through the sacrifice of millions of martyrs," he mentioned.

The President said the political parties will have to nurture the culture of mutual respect and tolerance of others' opinion.

He called upon all to contribute more from their respective positions in implementing the spirit and values of war of liberation and take the nation towards the path of development and prosperity.

"Let our country turn into 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and transform it as 'Smart Bangladesh' as declared by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina- this is my expectation on this great Victory Day," the President added.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163497>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets countrymen marking Victory Day



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has extended her heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the countrymen on the occasion of the 53rd Victory Day.

"I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the countrymen on the occasion of the month of victory. I recall with deep gratitude the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the Premier said in a message on the great Victory Day.

"Today is the 16th of December, our great Victory Day. This is one of the most glorious days in the national life of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has completed 52 years since her victory. Responding to the clarion call of the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangalee nation achieved ultimate victory on this day in 1971 after 23 years of intense political struggle and 9 months of blood-shedding War of Liberation," she said.

The Premier paid her tributes to four national leaders, three million martyrs, two hundred thousand dishonoured women of the War of Liberation, and the greatest sons of the soil - the Freedom Fighters - whose supreme sacrifices gifted us an independent, sovereign Bangladesh. She recalled with gratitude those foreign states and friends who had extended their support during the Liberation War.

Under the undaunted leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the Bangalee nation got prepared for independence through the Language Movement of 1948-'52, the Education Movement of 1962, the Six- Point Demand of 1966, the Eleven-Point Movement, and the Mass Uprising of 1969, she said.

The Awami League secured an absolute majority in Pakistan in the general elections of 1970, she said, adding that however, Pakistanis did not allow the Bangalee nation to assume power.

The Father of the Nation realized that the oppression, persecution, and deprivation meted out to the Bangalee nation would not be ended without achieving independence, she said.

Accordingly, on the historic 7 March of 1971, in front of a million people at the then Race Course Maidan firmly pronounced, 'The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence, she said, quoting Bangabandhu.

At the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, a country-wide non-cooperation movement began, she said. Preparation for waging an armed struggle also continued, she said, adding that on the fateful night of March 25 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces launched a brutal onslaught and committed genocide on the innocent and unarmed Bangladeshis.

In the early hours of March 26, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib declared the independence of Bangladesh, she said, adding that the formal War of Independence started.

The first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the President, Syed Nazrul Islam as the Vice President and Tajuddin Ahmad as the Prime Minister, was sworn in on April 17 at the historic Mujibnagar, she said.

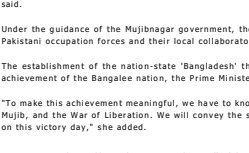
Under the guidance of the Mujibnagar government, the valiant freedom fighters earned their ultimate victory on December 16 by defeating Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators, Razakar, Al Badr, and Al Shams, she added.

The establishment of the nation-state 'Bangladesh' through the victory of the War of Liberation on December 16, 1971, was the greatest achievement of the Bangalee nation, the Prime Minister said.

"To make this achievement meaningful, we have to know and let people know about the Greatest Hero of Independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, and the War of Liberation. We will convey the spirit of the great liberation war from generation to generation; let this be our pledge on this victory day," she added.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163496>

President Shahabuddin hosts Victory Day reception at Bangabhaban



President Mohammed Shahabuddin and his wife Dr Rebecca Sultana hosted a reception programme at Bangabhaban on December 16, marking the country's 53rd Victory Day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana joined the reception on the lush green lawn of the Bangabhaban, presidential palace, in the afternoon.

Several hundred guests, including Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, attended the function.

Besides, cabinet members, advisers, state ministers, ambassadors and high commissioners of different countries, Supreme Court judges, chiefs of the three services, members of the parliament, war veterans from home and abroad, senior political leaders, academics, business community leaders, artists, valiant freedom fighters and families of gallantry award recipients and distinguished citizens attended the reception.

On the occasion, President Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cut a cake there on the occasion. They also exchanged greetings with the war-wounded freedom fighters and other dignitaries and guests at the function.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/president-hosts-reception-bangabhaban-3496306>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is victor of Bangladesh's 2nd liberation war: MJ Akbar



India's former State Minister for External Affairs and renowned author MJ Akbar has said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the victor of Bangladesh's second liberation war as she had liberated the country from dictatorship.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be honored as the liberator and as the leader of the (Bangladesh's) second liberation war," he told reporters at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on December 17.

The eminent author-journalist turned politician appeared in front of the media along with Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen after giving a keynote speech at a discussion, titled "Bangladesh's achievements in 52 years and its place in the region and beyond in the coming decades".

MJ Akbar said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not only turning Bangladesh as a success state but also building the country as a modern one based on principles and based on provable and visible success.

While delivering the keynote speech, MJ Akbar highlighted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's development efforts towards ensuring an inclusive growth and termed Bangladesh as the 'emerging power of Asia'.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation by delivering all "four dimensions" to turn Bangladesh as a modern state.

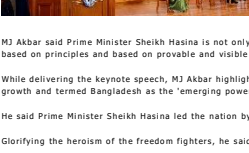
Glorifying the heroism of the freedom fighters, he said, freedom was not handed to Bangladesh, but Bangladesh earned it.

And today, he said, Bangladesh has become a nation of opportunities under the leadership of the able daughter of its founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen, Senior Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Masud Bin Momen and Rector of Foreign Service Academy Mashfee Binte Shams also spoke on the occasion.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163726>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sends gifts to Freedom Fighters on Victory Day



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted all the Freedom Fighters of the country on the occasion of the 53rd Victory Day.

Like the previous years, the Premier sent flowers, fruits and sweetmeats to the war-wounded freedom fighters at Martyred and War-wounded Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Centre (Muktijoddha Tower-1) on Gaznavi Road at Mohammadpur in the city as a mark of her good wishes for them.

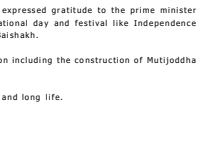
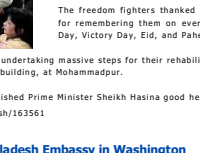
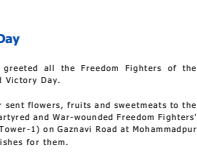
The freedom fighters thanked and expressed gratitude to the prime minister for remembering them on every national day and festival like Independence Day, Victory Day, Eid, and Pehela Baishakh.

They also expressed gratitude to the premier for undertaking massive steps for their rehabilitation including the construction of Muktijoddha Tower-1, a 13-storey residential and commercial building, at Mohammadpur.

The freedom fighters and their family members wished Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina good health and long life.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163561>

Great Victory Day celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on December 16 celebrated the 53rd Victory Day with a fresh vow to build a hunger-and-poverty-free happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and three million martyrs.

The day-long program of the Embassy included hoisting of the National Flag on the Chancery premises, placing of a floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu, reading out messages of the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, hosting a reception and cultural function and offering a special prayer.

Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA), US Department of State, Ms Afreen Akhter spoke as the Guest of Honour at the reception held at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy while Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran delivered the address of welcome.

Addressing the reception, Ms Afreen Akhter appreciated Bangladesh's remarkable progress since its independence and said the United States has been an important development partner in this journey. The progress that Bangladesh has made as a country has been truly remarkable, she said.

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary said it's incredible over the past 52 years, Bangladesh has lifted millions of people out of poverty. She also mentioned the deep economic relations between Bangladesh and the USA.

Referring to her visit to Bangladesh on various occasions, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary said in each visit, she is really reminded of the strength, resilience, and fortitude of the Bangladeshi people.

Those are the virtues that led to Bangladesh's liberation, and those are the virtues that will carry Bangladesh forward in its journey, she said.

Ambassador Imran, in his welcome remarks, recalled with profound respect the greatest Bengali of all time and the founding Father of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also paid deep homage to three million martyrs for their supreme sacrifices in the Liberation War.

He highlighted Bangladesh's tremendous progress that took place over the last 15 years under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

While talking about Bangladesh-US relationship, the Bangladesh Ambassador mentioned that the two countries have long-standing economic and commercial ties and said Bangladesh looks forward to work together closely with further engagements to take the relations to new heights.

Later, a colourful cultural function was held where embassy officials and their spouses as well as employees rendered patriotic songs first. The children of the officials and employees of the Mission and Bangladeshi artists in Washington Metro Area entered the audience by performing group dances on patriotic songs.

Ambassadors and diplomats from different countries, officials of the US government and members of Bangladeshi diaspora were present on the occasion.