

26th March 2021 Golden Jubilee of Independence Bangladesh



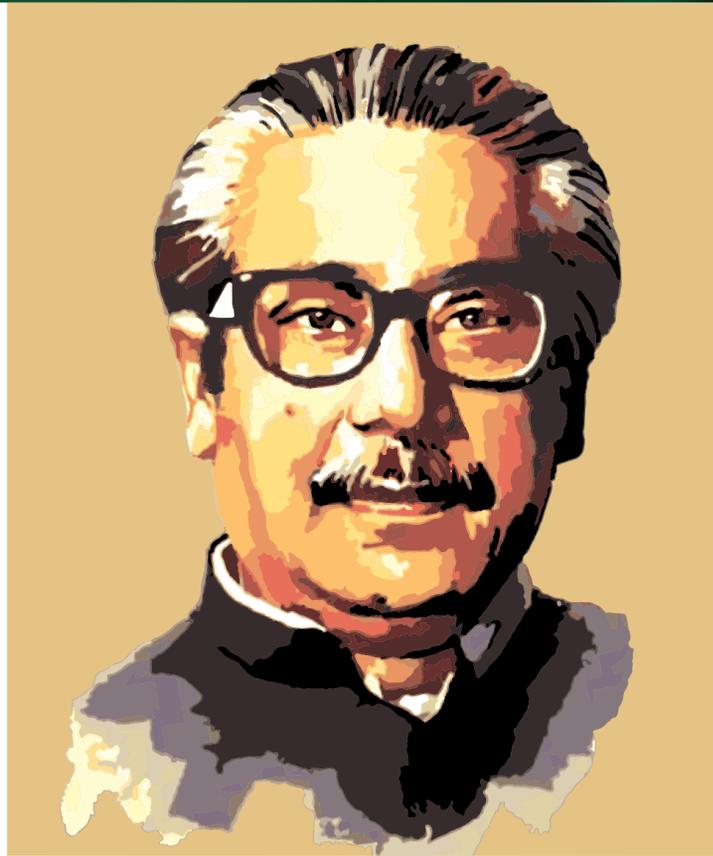
H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid
Hon'ble President of
Bangladesh

Today is 26th March, our Independence and National Day. This year we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

On this historic day, I remember with profound respect the architect of our independent Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the fateful night of March 25, 1971, the invading forces of Pakistan suddenly attacked the unarmed Bangalees. 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. I recall with deep respect the millions of martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation and we achieved our Independence for their supreme sacrifice. I also recall with deep reverence our Four National Leaders, valiant 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.

We have achieved our great Independence through huge sacrifices. Bangabandhu always cherished a dream of building a happy and prosperous country along with attaining political emancipation. The present government has been rendering untiring efforts in materializing that dream of Bangabandhu. Today, 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 resources development, women empowerment, reduction of child and maternal mortality rates, elimination of gender discrimination and increase in average life expectancy. Rate of poverty has been dropped. Per capita income has tripled over the past decade. The Padma Bridge, being constructed by our own resources, is now completely visible. Works on Metro Rail, Payra Deep Sea Port, Karnafuli Tunnel, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's Third Terminal and Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant are also progressing uninterruptedly. In various indicators of economic and social development, Bangladesh has been able to surpass not only the neighboring countries of South Asia, but also many developed countries.

Despite the negative impact of the Corona pandemic on the world economy, due to the timely and courageous steps taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been able to maintain the economic growth by countering the effects of Corona. Huge amount of remittances sent by expatriate Bangladeshis has made an important contribution to keep the wheel of the economy rolling during this time. The government has announced 23 stimulus packages worth taka 1 lakh 24 thousand crore to keep the wheel of economy rolling. Arrangements have also been made to provide COVID-19 vaccine. Bangladesh ranks first in South Asia and 20th in the world in the 'COVID Resilience Ranking' compiled by the US news agency Bloomberg for successful handling of corona pandemic, economic revival and maintaining normal livelihoods. Through this, Bangladesh's image has been upheld around the world.



**Father of the Nation of Bangladesh
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**
(March 17, 1920- August 15, 1975)

Dreamt of Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)-an exploitation-deprivation free and a just society

Recently, Bangladesh has received the final recommendation from the United Nations to her emergence from a least developed country to a developing one. It is a unique gift for the nation at the juncture of 'Mujibbarsho' and the 'Golden Jubilee' of our Independence. Bangladesh will turn into a developed and prosperous country in the world by 2041 by ensuring continuation of current development process, Insha Allah.

In pursuing our diplomatic objectives, the government has been consistent in upholding the principle of "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 millions of Rohingyas who have been tortured and forcibly deported from Myanmar. Accommodation has been provided with all kinds of facilities in Bhasanchar for the Rohingyas. Bangladesh believes in a peaceful solution to this problem. I call upon the United Nations and the international community, including Myanmar, to take early and effective measures for permanent solution to this problem.

In order to achieve the desired goal of Independence, we must ensure people-oriented and sustainable development, good governance, social justice, transparency and accountability. Forbearance, human rights and rule of law have to be consolidated for institutionalizing democracy. National Parliament will have to be turned into the centre of hopes and aspirations of the people. The ruling party as well as the opposition should play a constructive role in this regard in the parliament.

Bangabandhu is the source of eternal inspiration for the Bengali nation. The government has extended the period of 'Mujibbarsho' till December 16, 2021 to celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation grandiosely at home and abroad. On the eve of 'Mujibbarsho' and the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, with the joint efforts of all, may our beloved motherland become a developed country free from hunger and poverty - this is my expectation on the great Independence Day.

Joi Bangla.
Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.



H.E. Sheikh Hasina
Hon'ble Prime Minister of
Bangladesh

Today is the 26th March- our great Independence Day. Bangladesh completes 50 years today since its independence. I extend my heartiest greetings to the countrymen and expatriate Bangladeshis on the occasion of the golden jubilee of great independence.

The 26 March is the day of establishing self-identity of our nation. It's the day of breaking the shackles of subjugation. On this Independence Day, I recall with deep gratitude the Greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose undisputed leadership we have earned our independence. I pay my tributes to four national leaders, three million martyrs and two hundred thousand dishonoured women of the War of Liberation. My homage goes to all the valiant freedom fighters, including the wounded ones. I extend my sympathies to those who had lost their near and dear ones, and were subjected to brutal torture during the Liberation War. I recall with gratitude our foreign friends who had extended their support during our liberation war.

On the occasion of the golden jubilee of independence, colorful programs have been chalked out from 26 March 2021 to 16 December 2021 and the period from 17 March 2020 to 16 December 2021 is being celebrated as 'Mujib Year' marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. In the wake of corona virus pandemic, the Golden Jubilee of Independence and the 'Mujib Year' are being celebrated avoiding public gathering following the protocols of hygiene.

The Bangalee nation had fought against oppression and deprivation of Pakistani rulers' for long 23 years under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib. They were compelled to hold general elections in 1970. Bangladesh Awami League led by Bangabandhu won absolute majority in the elections. But the Pakistani rulers adopted repressive measures instead of handing over power to the majority party representatives. Calling for independence at the then Racecourse Ground on 7 March 1971 Bangabandhu declared, "The struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation; the struggle this time is the struggle for independence, Joi Bangla." He instructed the Bangalee Nation to resist the enemies.

The Pakistani occupation forces unleashed a sudden attack and started massacring innocent and unarmed Bangalees on the fateful night of 25 March 1971. They killed thousands of people in different places, including Dhaka. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formally proclaimed the Independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of 26 March 1971. Bangabandhu's proclamation was spread all over the country through telegrams, tele-printers and EPR wireless. The international media also had circulated Bangabandhu's proclamation of Independence. The first Government of Bangladesh took oath on 17 April 1971 in Mujibnagar with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice President, Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister, Capt. M Mansur Ali and AHM Kamaruzzaman as ministers. The resistance war against the occupying forces began. After a 9-month of blood-shedding liberation war, the final victory was achieved on 16 December.

In the 50 years since independence what we have achieved has been achieved by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League. In just three and a half years of his government, he rebuilt the war-ravaged country. Destroyed roads, bridges, culverts, railways, ports were rebuilt to revive the economy. In 1975, the GDP growth rate exceeded 7%. Bangladesh gained recognition from 116 countries and got the memberships of 27 international organizations.

Our constitution was made on the basis of the spirit of the liberation war under his direction within just 10 months. In just three and a half years, he took war-torn Bangladesh to the list of least developed country. While Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was advancing to build an exploitation-deprivation-free non-communal democratic 'Sonar Bangla' overcoming all obstacles, the anti-liberation forces brutally killed him along with most of his family members on 15 August 1975.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the development and progress of Bangladesh came to a halt. The politics of killing, coup and conspiracy started in our beloved motherland. The assassins and their accomplices promulgated the 'Indemnity Ordinance' to block the trial of this heinous murder in the history.

Getting the public mandate in 1996, Bangladesh Awami League formed the government after long 21 years. After assuming the office, we took the initiatives to establish Bangladesh as a self-respectful in the comity of nations. Through the introduction of social safety-net programs, poor and marginalized people are brought under government allowances. We made the country self-sufficient in food production with special emphasis on agricultural production. The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was signed with India in 1996. We signed the historic Peace Accord in 1997 with the aim of establishing peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. By repealing the 'Indemnity Ordinance', we started the trial of Bangabandhu's assassination.

Forming government in 2009 in consecutive three-terms, Bangladesh Awami League has relentlessly been working to improve the fate of the people inspired by the spirit of the great liberation war. We are implementing the unfinished works of the Father of the Nation. Today, Bangladesh is self-reliant in food production. The poverty rate has come down from 42.5% to 20.5% in the last 12 years. Our sovereign rights over a vast area in the Bay of Bengal have been established through the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes with Myanmar and India. The implementation of the Bangladesh-India Land Boundary Agreement has put an end to the protracted inhuman life of the enclave people. The nation has become free from stigma by executing the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case. The trial of war criminals continues and the verdict is being executed.

We have formulated the Second Perspective Plan for 2021-2041 and adopted the 8th Five Year Plan. We have started the implementation of 100-year 'Delta Plan 2100' for the first time in the world. Today, the benefits of 'Digital Bangladesh' have been expanded from urban to remote village level.

On the occasion of 'Mujib Year', some 8 hundred 92 thousand homeless people are being provided houses. 70 thousand houses have already been handed over. Another 50 thousand houses are under construction. A total of 9 lakh 98 thousand 346 families have been provided accommodation since 1996. The civic facilities of the city are being delivered to every village. 99% people are taken under electricity coverage. To keep the economy going offsetting the impacts of Coronavirus, we have so far announced 23 stimulus packages worth Tk 1.24 lakh crore, which is 4.44% of our GDP.

The independence earned through supreme sacrifices of millions of people is the greatest achievement of Bangalee Nation. To ensure that the achievement remains meaningful, all have to know the true history of our great Liberation War and respect the spirit of independence. The spirit of the Liberation War has to be propagated from generation to generations.

The persistent efforts of the last 12 years of the Bangladesh Awami League government have brought the final recommendations for Bangladesh to become a dignified developing country on the eve of the Golden Jubilee of Independence. This is a huge achievement for us.

Under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, the brave Bangalees liberated the country through the war of liberation within just nine months. I firmly believe that if this trend of development continues, Bangladesh will soon be established as a developed-prosperous country in the world, InshaAllah.

Let us take oath on this auspicious occasion of the golden jubilee of independence- imbued with the spirit of the Great War of Liberation, we all together will build hunger-poverty-illiteracy-free Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.



Fiscal discipline, prudent macro-economic management

Resilient export, remittance flows, stable economy

McKinsey & Company
Fast-growing sourcing destination, emerging manufacturing and distribution hub, expanding consumption economy.

'Next 11' and 'Frontier 5' Economy

JPMorgan Chase
4th growing economically active population

23rd largest economy, by 2030

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE & RANKING

MACRO-ECONOMY

72.9% Literacy, aged 15+ years (2019, UNESCO)

98% children of both sex (6-10 years) enrolled in primary school (2020)
84.75%: 2010
80.38%: 2005

Life expectancy 72.6 Years

Free Education for Girls in government schools and colleges up to graduation

50th in gender equality globally (WEF Gender Gap Report, 2020)
.... most gender equal in South Asia

SOCIAL & HUMAN CAPITAL, SKILL

INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, SERVICE

Top Ranking Country in UN Peacekeeping mission

97th Peaceful Country out of 163 countries, Third most Peaceful Country in South Asia [Global Peace Index (GPI) 2020]

7th in Women Political Empowerment [2019]

Poverty rate 20.5% To eradicate absolute poverty by 2021

4th in growth in economically active population [JPMorgan Chase]

INFRASTRUCTURE, CONNECTIVITY, POWER & ENERGY

99% Bangladeshi households access electricity including solar (2020)

24,982 MW (installed) electricity generation capacity

Going Nuclear
Nuclear power plants [2x1,200 MW] to be operational by 2023

Going Renewable
A largest solar nation globally 6 million+ solar household systems installed [2019]

Connected Land
Mega infrastructure projects (6.9 Km) Padma River Bridge, Metro-rail, Elevated Expressway altering connectivity, economic landscape, supply chains

Going Digital @Grassroots

Launched the first Bangladeshi geo-stationary communications **Satellite**, operated by Bangladesh

32nd most attractive off-shore destination globally; **10th** best IT outsourcing hub in Asia (A T Kearney, 2019)

90% Annual Development Programmes (ADP) goods, services sourced online [https://cptu.gov.bd 2019]

Electricity production per capita-512 kw/h[2020]

100th in Global Logistic Performance Index [WB, 2018]

112.73 million active internet subscribers (2020) aims **100%** internet connectivity by 2021

260+ million e-Commerce market (2020) targets to reach \$3.0b by 2023

2nd largest pool of IT-freelancer community, globally (Oxford Internet Institute 2019)

8,500 digital centers

1.3 million tech professionals

10,000 tech entrepreneurs

US\$ 865 billion GDP (PPP) [2020, est]

trillion dollar economy (PPP)
i.e. **30th** largest economy globally by 2022 [PWC]

Forex Reserve US\$ 43.82 billion [upto February FY 2020-21]

Remittance inflow US\$ 18.20 billion [FY 2019-20]

US\$ 33.60 billion Exports [FY 2019-20]

US\$ 46.24 billion Imports [FY 2019-20] [Bangladesh Bank]

Decade-long macro-economic stability strong, visionary political leadership steering economy

2008-18: Bangladesh economic grew @ 188%. GDP grew @ 8.13% [2018-19]

105th out of 141 countries in competitiveness [WEF Global Competitiveness report, 2019] Scored an all-time high of **52.12** out of 100 points

US\$ 2,064 per Capita GDP (nominal)
US\$ 5,139 Per Capita GDP (PPP) [2020, est.]

31.75% of GDP as (gross) Investment [2020] almost all sectors open to FDI

23.63% of GDP from domestic pvt. Investment [2020]

34th out of 74 emerging economies [inclusive development Index, IMF, 2018]

39th most valued 'national brand' globally [Brand Finance Plc, UK, 2020]

100 Economic Zones (30,000 hectares) open for resilient industrialization by 2030

28 Hi-tech Parks -4 Operational

48% population to be in urban space, by 2030

Bangladesh GDP, globally (2020): 35th largest (nominally), 29th (PPP)

Only 5 countries, including Bangladesh of the **45** Least Developed Countries grew @ 7% or higher: 2017 (UNCTAD)

9th largest Mobile market globally [GSMA 2019]

Registered freelancers: 6,50,000+ [2nd highest in world]

Year	Per Capita GDP (US\$)
2017-18	\$1,675
2018-19	\$1,909
2019-20	\$2,064

2nd largest Global Apparel Manufacturer: net apparel export revenue **US\$ 27.47 billion** Apparel exports [2020] (83% of total export earning)

Highest **90** LEED-certi-fied 'green' Apparel factories in Bangladesh, globally
500+ more factories in pipeline for lead certification

9 out of **10** leading global 'green' factories in Bangladesh

Self-sufficient in animal protein (meat, milk, egg) production [2019]

Stress-tolerant Rice varieties developed cultivated on **more than 80% land**, accounting for **91%** of total rice production

Magical HILSA (Fish)

- 3rd largest in inland fish production
- 5th largest in aquaculture production
- 11th in marine fish production, globally [FAO, 2018]

- 1st largest in jute production
- 3rd largest in rice production
- 3rd largest vegetable producer, globally
- 4th in goat production
- 7th in mango production
- 7th in potato cultivation
- 7th in guava production
- 8th in horticulture [FAO, 2018]

Bangladesh-Republic of Korea

- Bangladesh shares common values, democratic principles & a similar aspiration for development with its time-tested friend-the Republic of Korea.
- Both have similar elements in the history of struggle for establishing democracy & upholding the dignity of respective mother languages.
- Globally, both are working closely to uphold global peace & security, promote trade & investment & address the adverse effects of climate change.
- Korea is the largest investor in Bangladesh's apparel sector & the 5th largest in FDI.
- More than 200 Korean companies are already operating in Bangladesh.
- Potential sectors for investment – ICT, construction, light-engineering, leather, power & energy.