

RENEW OUR PLEDGE

►► **Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, M.P** Foreign Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh

On this day, 46 years back, the greatest Bengalee of all time and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh in the early hours of March 26, 1971. People from all walks of life responded to his clarion call, participated in the War of Liberation and achieved victory on the 16 December 1971 to give us an independent Bangladesh. On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Independence and National Day, I convey my

heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to my compatriots living at home and abroad.

I recall the supreme sacrifices made by the 3 million martyrs. I also pay my deep respect to the two hundred thousand women who sacrificed their honour for our freedom. My sympathy goes to those families who lost their near and dear ones during the Liberation War. We also express our gratitude to the wounded freedom fighters.

I also pay my gratitude to people from all walks of life and especially the members of the

diplomatic front who, during and after our Liberation War, played a courageous role that created the ground for obtaining moral, financial and military support from the global community in favour of the Liberation War. Enormous contributions from our foreign friends have been written in golden letters in the history of our Liberation War—we are privileged to recognise their contribution and bestow honour as “Friends of Bangladesh”.

Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared 'Vision- 2021' (to

build a middle-income country by 2021) and 'Vision-2041' (to build a developed country by 2041) in line with the spirit of the liberation War and the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build a 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal). We have since then attained the status of a lower middle-income country and are on track to become a middle-income country well before 2021.

Bangladesh was acclaimed as a 'role model' for successfully achieving many of the 'Millennium Development

Goals' (MDGs). The 71st United Nations General Assembly last year adopted the 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs). Even before that, we had already started working to align our national plan in line with the agenda 2030. With Bangabandhu's daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the helm of affairs, Bangladesh will be on course to meet the objectives and targets under SDGs.

I thank all the members of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and our Missions abroad who have

been working with sincerity, dedication and commitment in achieving our foreign policy objectives and implementing development goals. I congratulate Bangladesh Diaspora in every corner of the world which is immensely contributing to the strengthening of the image of Bangladesh.

I may add that the Bangladesh Parliament on the 11th March 2017, has unanimously adopted a Resolution declar-

Bangladesh enjoying excellent relationship with



I'M CELEBRATING IN DHAKA WITH SOME TASTY RASGULLA. HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY TO ALL MY BANGLADESHI FRIENDS.

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On this day, in 1971, Bangladesh proclaimed her independence and through a 9-month bloody struggle, emerged as a sovereign nation on 16 December. Every year, on this occasion, we cherish a rare happy coincidence in the history of Bahrain and Bangladesh – that these two brotherly nations came out on the world map as independent nations on the same day and in the same year, 16 December 1971. This unique commonality has provided an extra thread further strengthening the special bond of friendship between our two countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relation in 1983, Bangladesh and Bahrain have been enjoying an excellent bilateral relationship based on our common values, shared perceptions and common religio-cultural customs and traditions. We have continuously endeavoured to exploit the immense potentials for its further expansion in various sectors.

On this happy occasion, I would like to convey my sincere greetings to the people of Bahrain and beloved Bangladeshi compatriots. We pray for the salvation of the departed souls of valiant freedom fighters who dedicated their lives for our freedom.

The father of our nation,



Maj. Gen. K.M. Mominur Rahman (Retd), Ambassador Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, the martyrs, the freedom fighters – all dreamt of a prosperous country.

Today, Bangladesh has emerged as a “development surprise” in terms of GDP growth and socio-economic parameters. We have proved the doomsayers wrong — and this was through our resilience, our determination, and our innovative and indomitable spirit as well as a combination of bold measures of the present government that have unleashed a growth trajectory and have taken us on the threshold of becoming a middle-income country.

Our development model is based on harnessing domestic resources and providing an enabling environment for foreign investment. During the last seven years, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in improving

infrastructure, power generation, communications and development of ports. The country's dream physical infrastructure project, the Padma Bridge (costing \$3 billion) is being built with our resources.

Although garments Bangladesh's prime export item, are diversifying our export products and Bangladesh is now producing everything from ships to chips.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that today women's advancement and their integration in the development process of Bangladesh are widely recognised and appreciated. Bangladesh ranks 6th among 142 countries in the Global Gender Gap report of 2014. We have made education free for girls through grade 12 and have plans to make it free up to the tertiary level. We are ranked seventh in terms of political empowerment of women. In the current national parliament, there are 70 women parliamentarians. And, you may know that our prime minister, opposition leader, deputy leader of the House and the speaker are all women.

Our achievement in the international arena is also commendable. The contribution of Bangladesh in addressing the climate change issue is being acclaimed by the world community. Bangladesh has become one of the largest contributors in peace keeping missions, under

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