



BANGLADESH
INDEPENDENCE DAY
26 MARCH



THE
DAILY **tribune**

Celebrating Independence

Patriotism fills the air as Bangladesh celebrates Independence Day



People's Republic of Bangladesh is set to celebrate the 49th Independence and National Day today vowing afresh to take the country towards prosperity with the Liberation War spirit.

On March 26, 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence and thus a new nation was born.

After the nine-month War of Liberation with the supreme sacrifices of three million people, Bangladesh achieved its cherished independence on December 16, 1971. The day is a public holiday.

Different sociocultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes on the occasion. National anthem 'Amar Sonar Bangla' will be sung simulta-

neously across the country and Bangladesh missions abroad. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lead the nation in singing the national anthem at the main programme of 'Jatiya Shishu Kishore Samabesh', scheduled to be held at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The President and the Prime Minister will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar in the morning.

The national flag will be hoisted atop government and private buildings while the government and semi-government buildings and other public places will be illuminated on the auspicious occasion.

National dailies will bring out special supplements while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private radio stations and television channels will air



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PRESIDENT ABDUL HAMID

special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Special prayers will be offered at all mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship across the country seeking divine blessings for the eternal peace of the departed souls of Father of the Nation, four national leaders, martyrs of the War of Liberation and all other patriotic sons of the soil.

Improved diets will be served to the inmates of hospitals, jails, old homes and other public institutions to mark the day.

Different political parties as well as socio-cultural and professional organisations have drawn elaborate programmes to observe the

day in a befitting manner.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, the President said, "Democracy and development complements each other. Jatiya Sangsad and the government have started the new journey after the eleventh parliamentary election. Collective initiative is necessary to implement the development ideas of the government and make the parliament meaningful."

He called upon all to work together imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and democratic values to make the hard-earned independence more meaningful.

In her message, the Prime

Minister said, "The independence earned through supreme sacrifices of millions of people is the greatest achievement of the Bangalee nation. To ensure that this achievement remains meaningful, all have to know the history of our great Liberation War and retain the spirit of independence. The spirit of the Liberation War has to be passed on to generation to generations," she said.

She called upon all to come up and uphold the development and democratic spree being imbued with the spirit of the freedom struggle. "Let's engage ourselves in the welfare of the country and the nation. Let's build a hunger-poverty-free and happy, prosperous Sonar Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation."

A Day To Cherish

Today is 26th March, the Independence Day of Bangladesh. On the occasion of our great Independence and National Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

On this historic day, I recall with profound respect the architect of our independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I pay my deep homage to the martyrs and valiant sons of the soil, who made the supreme sacrifice in the war of liberation. I also recall with deep reverence our four National Leaders, valiant freedom-fighters, organizers, supporters, our foreign friends and people from all walks of life who made immense contributions to attain our right to self-determination and the war of liberation. The contributions of all would be written in golden letters in the history of our independence forever.

We have achieved our hard-earned independence through huge sacrifices. Bangabandhu always cherished a dream of building a happy and prosperous country along with achieving political emancipation. Immediately after the independence, he had taken all out steps in rebuilding the economy of the war-ravaged country. Keeping that in mind, the present Government has been rendering untiring efforts in materializing the dream of Bangabandhu. After long struggle Bangladesh is now moving towards development and prosperity. Besides, the overall development, the implementation of mega projects like Padma Bridge, Metro Rail and Nuclear Power Plant are going on. With the launching of Bangabandhu Satellite, we have cemented our place in the space. We are dreaming of a developed Bangladesh by the year 2041. Bangladesh is now being branded as a role model for outstanding success in



socio-economic development.

In pursuing our diplomatic objectives, the government has been con-

sistent in upholding the principle of "Friendship to all, malice towards none" as enunciated by Father of the Nation. Our achievement in international arena also commendable. Our expatriate Bangladeshis have also been making significant contributions to our national economy through sending their hard-earned remittances. Nevertheless, we have to go a long way for achieving the desired goals of independence. We must ensure good governance, social justice, transparency and accountability to make the development people oriented and sustainable.

Democracy and development complements each other. Jatiya Sangsad and the government have started the new journey after the eleventh parliamentary election. Collective initiative is necessary to implement the development ideas of the government and make the parliament meaningful. I hope that National Parliament

would be the centre of hopes and aspirations of the people. For this, the ruling party as well as the opposition would have to play constructive role. Present Government has set 'Vision 2021' and 'Vision 2041' respectively to materialize Bangabandhu's dream of transforming Bangladesh into 'Sonar Bangla'. Sincere and collective efforts are imperative to implement the programmes.

Imbued with the spirit of war of liberation and democratic values, let us work together irrespective of party affiliation to make our hard-earned independence more meaningful. Let this be the pledge on the Independence and National Day.

Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Adul Hamid
President
People's Republic
of Bangladesh