

# **Independence and National Day - Children-Juvenile Rally**

Speech by

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Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmair Rahim

His Excellency King of Bhutan,  
Colleagues,  
Parliament Members,  
Diplomats,  
Dear children and,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and Very Good morning to you all.

I welcome you all at this children-juvenile national rally organised on the occasion of the National and Independence Day. I congratulate the countrymen on the auspicious occasion.

I recall with the deep gratitude the great leader of our independence struggle, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. My homage goes to four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman. I also pay my deep respect to the 3 million martyrs and 200 thousand women, who lost their innocence in the War of Liberation. I extend my best wishes to the heroes of the War of Liberation.

On March the 7th in 1971, the Father of the Nation at a mammoth rally at the then Race Course Maidan declared: The struggle for this time is struggle for freedom, the struggle for this time is the struggle for independence.

The Pakistani occupation forces launched genocide on the March 25th and went to 32 Dhanmondi house to arrest Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Before being arrested, Bangabandhu proclaimed the Independence of Bangladesh through the wireless of then EPR at the first hour of March the 26th in 1971. Responding his call, the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh had launched war against the Pakistani army.

After a 9-month bloody war, we earned the final victory on December the 16th in 1971.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The children are the future statesmen of the nation. Today's children are the future architect of building a country. That is why they would have to give the opportunity to grow up in a proper and conducive environment.

Growing the children as ideal citizens is the best investment. This is not only true for the family, but also for the society and the country.

If we are able to build a generation equipped with proper education, knowledge and wisdom, the subsequent generation will follow the suit.

This responsibility goes to the elders. The responsibility lies with those who have the ability. We have to work for the greater interest of the nation forgetting the petty personal interests for ensuring the welfare of the country.

40 years have been elapsed since our independence. Still today, many children have to work hard for their livelihood. Many are being dropped out in the middle of their studies. The children are used for different criminal activities.

We have to stop this practice. We do not want children are grown up with malnutrition and without care. We want every child finishes his/her study and after that they get their profession as per their choices.

Our government has taken up various steps to materialise the objective. Cent percent school-going age children will be brought to school by this year. We have the target to free the country from illiteracy by the year 2014. To achieve the goal, we are distributing free books among the students up to secondary level, providing stipends and other perks for the poor.

But it is not possible for the government alone to accomplish the gigantic task. The society in a whole should come forward to achieve the target.

The sense of nationalism would have to be inoculated in the hearts of our children to build them as honest, able and patriotic citizens.

They have to let know about our glorious history of our liberation struggle, war of liberation and the tales of our thousand years' tradition and culture. They would have to let know about our national heroes, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. And Only then, they would be able to work for the country and its people as ideal and patriotic citizens of the country.

Dear children,

I congratulate you all who took part in the march-past and physical exercise. You have to bear this jubilation and energy all along your lives.

The Golden Jubilee of our Independence will be celebrated in 2021. We want to build Bangladesh as a country free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy by that time.

Those who are children and juvenile now will be grown up by that time. Your assistance is essential to build of our dream country. You have to get prepared to achieve this objective.

You should be attentive in your studies. You should abide by your teachers and elders' guidance. My special request to you of all to be sensitive to the mentally and physically-challenged children, and the poor around you. Extend your help towards them.

Dear children,

You know, I had a younger brother like you. His name was Sheikh Russel. He was assassinated along with my father, mother and 17 other family members on the fateful night of August 15th in 1975. The killers did not spare my innocent brother from their brutality.

When I come among you, I find him among you. I want you would take revenge of the killing by establishing Bangladesh as a golden Bangla.

Dear children,

I am glad to see your jubilation and synergy. Observing your determination in your faces, I am convinced that Bangladesh would once stand high in the comity of nations.

We liberated our country in lieu of 3 million sons of our soil. We are the ancestors of heroes. People of this country live through struggling against the nature. The people of this country can not remain downtrodden economically.

On this auspicious day of our independence, I urge all to come forward to work together to build a Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. We want to build a Bangladesh which will be an ideal abode for the children; which will be developed and prosperous.

I again extend my greetings of Independence and National to you all. Thank you.

Khoda Hafez

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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