Message

March 25 is the most dreadful day in the life of the Bangalee Nation. On this day in 1971, one of the most horrific and brutal genocides of the world history took place in Bangladesh.

On the Day of Genocide, I pay my deep homage to the Greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also pay rich tributes to the four national leaders, martyred freedom fighters of the Liberation War and those dishonoured women whose supreme sacrifices have given us Independence. I extend my sympathy to the wounded freedom fighters and the members of martyr’s families.

The Bangalee Nation under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fought against the oppression and deprivation of the Pakistani rulers for 23 long years. Awami League led by the Father of the Nation secured an absolute majority winning 167 of the 169 seats of East Bengal in the General Elections of 1970. But the Pakistani rulers refused to hand over power to the Bangalees. 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.”

Yahya Khan, the president of Pakistan, began to waste time in the name of negotiations and assembled troops in East Bengal. On 25 March, Yahya Khan went to Pakistan secretly giving the order of genocide in the name of Operation Search Light. The Pakistani occupation forces began massacre of innocent and unarmed Bengalis on that black night. Only in nine months, Pakistani forces and their local collaborators- Rajakar, Al-Badar and Al-Shams killed three million people all over the country. Two lakhs women were violated. Thousands of homes were set fire and looted. Nearly one crore people were driven out of their homes and they took refuge in India. More than three crore people were displaced internally.

The government of Bangladesh Awami League decided to observe 25 March as ‘Genocide Day’. On 11 March 2017 the National Parliament unanimously passed a proposal to observe the day and the Cabinet on 20 March approved the proposal to observe 25 March as “Genocide Day”.

The government of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman framed the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 for the trial of the war criminals. Under the law, trial of many offenders had begun. But assuming to power illegally Ziaur Rahman stopped the trial of the war criminals and released them. Not only that, he made the war criminals partner of the state power. Later, Khaleda Zia also made Nizami-Mujahid, the two notorious collaborators of the genocide, cabinet members allowing them to hoist national flag in their vehicles and houses.

The Awami League government has been conducting the war crimes trial since assuming to power in 2009. Some of the verdicts of the trial have already been executed. The trial of the war criminals will go on. We have taken all-out initiatives to achieve international recognition of genocide of 1971 in Bangladesh.

The observance of 25 March as ‘Genocide Day’ will be regarded as nation’s memorial of eternal respect and testimony to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

Let us get united with the spirit of the great War of Liberation and build a hunger-poverty free happy-prosperous Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

I wish all the programmes of Genocide Day a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina