Today is 17 March—the Birth Centenary of the Greatest Bengali of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children’s Day. We are now celebrating the ‘Mujib Year’ in commemoration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation with many at home and abroad, which is a rare occasion in our history.

On this historic day, I recall with profound reverence, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who steered our epic struggle for freedom. The life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is an example of supreme sacrifice and struggle for ensuring rights of Bengali people. His political ideologies reflected his belief in humanity, empowering people, ensuring socio-economic freedom, establishing democracy, peace and rights of the oppressed people all across the world. During the year-long celebration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, it will be possible to uphold the ideology and achievements of the Father of the Nation in a much wider range in the international arena.

On this glorious day, I call upon the people of Bangladesh to take extra care for the children to build positive mindset. We celebrate the day every year with the intention of inspiring the new generation of our country to learn the significance and spirit of the War of Liberation from the life and struggle of Bangabandhu. This will encourage them to work for the welfare of nation and the country from their early age.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been working relentlessly to turn Bangladesh into an upper middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. Today the country is often cited by the international community as a “Role Model for Development.” As per ADB, among the 45 Asia-Pacific countries, Bangladesh achieved highest GDP growth rate last year and it was 8.15%.

I congratulate all the officials of our Missions abroad and Bangladeshi Diaspora for celebrating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation with meaningful events. Let us work unitedly to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh to ensure a bright future for our children.

I pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his Birth Centenary.

**Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.**
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP