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প্ৰেছিডেণ্ট
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH
DHAKA.

21 Shrabon 1432
05 August 2025

Message

Today is the historic July Uprising Day. On this day in 2024, students, workers, and the people united in collective resistance against the discriminatory state system and fascist misrule and achieved a decisive victory. On the anniversary of this historic achievement, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the freedom-loving students-people of the country.

I pay deep homage to all the martyrs of the July Uprising who made the ultimate sacrifice in the struggle to free our country from authoritarian misrule. I pray for the eternal salvation of the departed souls. I remember with profound gratitude the sacrifices and contribution of all the brave July fighters who were injured, became disabled, or lost their eyesight in the uprising. Ensuring justice for the families of the martyrs and the injured is a sacred responsibility of the state. The state remains committed to fulfilling this responsibility.

The July Uprising was an outburst of the youth and the masses against longstanding deprivation, misrule, corruption, looting, enforced disappearances, killings, abductions, the denial of voting rights, and all forms of oppression and tyranny. The core aim of the July Uprising was to dismantle this discriminatory fascist system, restore democracy, empower the people, and ensure freedom of expression. To build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, the fascist roots must be uprooted, and the spirit of July must be fully realized.

Following the July Uprising, the state has embarked on an extensive reform process. Through these reforms, the hopes and aspirations of the uprising will be reflected, and a new Bangladesh, based on justice and equality, will emerge through a true democratic transition - this is my sincere expectation on this day.

I wish all the programs undertaken on the occasion of July Uprising Day a grand success.

Md. Shababuddin
Mohammed Shahabuddin

Historic August 5: Triumph and Pledge

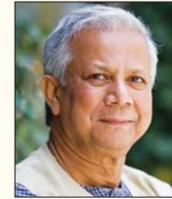
Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD

The July Mass-Upsurge Day falls on August 5. State-sponsored repression and political authoritarianism were finally nullified on that historic day. On this day in 2024, the Awami League chief and the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign and flee the country after resigning from the post of prime minister. I recall with reverence those students and citizens who embraced martyrdom or were injured during that uprising on the occasion of the first anniversary of July Mass-Upsurge. The launching of the creation of a new Bangladesh could materialise because of their self-sacrifice.



Although the anti-discrimination movement by students and the July Revolution of 2024 occurred within a short period of time, its social and political contexts were quite long and its impact in far-reaching. And although the movement found expression on the streets, its spirit and stimulus were carried by the common people for a long time. In the final stage, people belonging to all classes participated in it in various ways. They had only one goal - to oust the undemocratic and anti-people regime.

Please Turn Over



চীফ অ্যাডভাইসার
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

21 Shrabon 1432
05 August 2025

Message

Today marks an unforgettable chapter in the history of Bangladesh. It was on this very day, one year ago, that the July Uprising reached its triumph, liberating our beloved nation from the grip of long-standing fascist rule. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Bangladesh whose united struggle brought about this historic achievement.

On this solemn day, I remember with deep reverence the brave youth, workers, labourers, and professionals who sacrificed their lives while confronting the fascist forces. My profound respect goes to every martyr of the uprising. I remember with deep gratitude all the July warriors who were injured, permanently disabled and even lost their eyesight. The nation shall forever honour their sacrifice.

The July Uprising was a collective eruption against sixteen years of oppressive authoritarian misrule. At its core, it was a fight to establish a new system free from discrimination, corruption, and tyranny. The goal was to restore democracy and return the country to the hands of its people. Since assuming responsibility, the Interim Government has undertaken extensive reform efforts across all sectors of the state to fulfill these aspirations. The trials related to the July killings are progressing swiftly. Measures have been initiated to preserve the memory of the July martyrs and rehabilitate the injured July fighters. To accelerate our democratic journey, dialogue continues with political parties and stakeholders on necessary reforms, including the political and electoral systems. The Interim Government is committed to restoring the state power to the people through a peaceful, fair, and transparent election, as part of a sustainable political solution.

July rekindled our hope - a hope for a just, equal, and corruption-free Bangladesh. The sacrifice of thousands has gifted us this rare opportunity for national reform, and we must protect it at any cost. The fallen autocrats and their self-serving allies remain active, conspiring to derail our progress. Let us stand united beyond all divisions to confront and defeat these threats. Together, we will build a Bangladesh where tyranny will never rise again.

Professor Muhammad Yunus
Professor Muhammad Yunus



Political Legacy of July-Upsurge

Faruk Wasif

The earth takes one year to revolve around the sun. We also have crossed a whole year since the 36th July of 2024. But have we been able to tread this path by keeping the July fighters and martyrs at the centre? Even in September last year, many corpses of those martyrs were lying unclaimed. This number was over 120. The inevitable question therefore comes to one's mind: Would the July Upsurge of the masses itself turn out to be unclaimed at a juncture of time?

Two things can be hazardous for the inheritors of July. These are: capturing its ownership, or making it heirless. This catastrophic damage was done with regard to the history and spirit of the liberation war. The Awami League had immediately seized the ownership of the liberation war in 1972. However, seizing the ownership of history is one of the

fundamental traits of fascism. The result was lethal. The ordinary freedom fighters belonging to ordinary households then moved away after losing all hope. An opportunity was thereby created for a class of liberation-war merchants for grabbing the achievements unduly. It is therefore urgent for the Bangladesh that was reborn last July to remain alert about it.

We have seen in 1971 how the Bangladesh Revolution was renamed as liberation war. It then became independence war, and lastly the independence struggle. An incident of victory does not automatically become a revolution. It is termed a revolution only when the fight continues even after the triumph is visible, the goals of the struggle are achieved one after another, and fundamental changes are brought about in the condition of the country and its people through sustained endeavours and efforts. The July phenomenon is now passing through many ups and downs; it is keeping itself alive by tackling multifarious enemies at different bends. Sometimes, surviving by holding one's head high is victory. History would laugh if this survival is called a success.

Games are also being played centring on the narratives about July. I am apprehensive that the game itself may turn into dust if it is overplayed. Many people like me were embarrassed after watching a documentary via an international media outlet on the July killings. We certainly felt reassured by witnessing evidence of the liability of fugitive murderer Sheikh Hasina in the genocide. Side by side, we were embarrassed when a student-leader belonging to a

July group of students and masses was presented as the spokesperson of the July Upsurge. The contribution of that student-leader and his organization was not at all small; rather, they contributed to many aspects of resistance. However, those who were visible before the nation at that time as the backbone of the uprising - in launching the movement and making it popular - why were they omitted?



The Awami League and their foreign mentors have repeatedly tried to say that the July Mass-Upsurge was a rightist conspiracy. But question can be raised: Who were absent from that uprising? In fact, the rightists, the leftists and the centrists - all were present in it. The majority were those who did not care about this doctrine-based labelling. The main student-leaders of the July movement did not belong to any political structure; they also did not give any doctrinaire shape to their views. So, can they be called rightists? Or, is it okay if the main political party of the country is labelled as rightist? It should be remembered that just as among the student-leaders, those who led that party and faced repression during fascist rule were formerly leftists. The madrasa students were also present in that movement in huge numbers, similar to the boys and girls of the private universities. The sky has many colours. But considering only one colour or trend by omitting other colours implies a biased approach. Similarly, viewing a fragment as the whole also displays a serious problem in outlook, which is jokingly termed as elephant-blind.

July was not linked to any doctrine. Rather, attempts to hoist the flag of doctrine-based approach or conflict were made in subsequent days. And those were not a part of the mainstream narratives of July. July would not carry the legacy of those fallacious assaults.

Badruddin Umar speaks the truth most of the time. His insights regarding the July Uprising are also exceptional. He describes the July Mass-Upsurge in Bangladesh as more widespread than all other historic movements and uprisings in this subcontinent. He said, its strength and expanse surpassed even the mass-upsurge of

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Historic August 5: Triumph and Pledge

Historically, the memorable revolutions or mass-upsurges were usually organized by political parties or leaders. Examples include the Russian revolution, the French revolution, Islamic revolution of Iran, the anti-Ayub mass upsurge of 1969 and the anti-Ershad uprising of 1990 in our own



country. However, the recent anti-discrimination movement was an exception in many respects. The non-political young pupils were at the helm of the July Revolution of students and masses. A brilliant generation of youths had initiated this July Uprising. The movement proved that our youth community are very conscious and united on the question of social justice. It was the young students who announced the programmes, and the opposition political parties participated in those after expressing their solidarity.



This movement was not confined to the mere demand for reforming the quota system in government jobs. Rather, it was an ethical protest on the question of equality. People from all strata of the country's population participated in this movement phase by phase. The participation of people belonging to all religions, races, colours, professions and gender made this revolution historically significant. The movement could spread from the towns to the villages all over the country within a short time. Therefore,

this mass-upsurge once again proved that the country had to be prioritised above everything else. While touching on the far-reaching impact of the July Upsurge during his address before the General Assembly of the United Nations on 27 September 2024, the honourable Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus rightly said: 'The anti-discrimination movement of Bangladesh will continue to inspire people at various corners of the globe in the coming days to stand up for freedom and justice.'



This new Bangladesh has been achieved in exchange for the blood of numerous known and unknown heroes like Abu Sayed, Shanto, Mugdho, and Farhan Faiyaz. The six-year-old Ria Gope was shot dead while in the lap of her father on the rooftop of their house; the auto-rickshaw driver Rony, the milk-seller teenage boy Mobarak were also killed. The nation does not want the reemergence of another autocrat in the new Bangladesh that was achieved in exchange for their self-sacrifices. We all shall have to make sure that the blood of the valiant martyrs and the tears of their mothers do not go in vain. Let us make a pledge on the occasion of the first anniversary of July Mass-Upsurge to uphold the freedom of speech of all citizens and effectively ensure all fundamental rights of citizens including the security of their lives and properties. □

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Political Legacy of July-Upsurge

1969 against the military rule of Ayub Khan during the Pakistani era. This success belongs to the masses, but the student-leadership must be saluted for acting as the guide of the common people.



This nation and land also deserve a felicitation. About 95 percent of this country's population speak the same language. The religious faith of 90 percent citizens of this country is the same. Even those who are not Muslims despite being Bangalis share almost similar basic philosophy of life, family values, food-habit, and economic processes. That is why the people of flat terrains and coastal belts of Bangladesh embrace death together and fight collectively. For us, this is a huge cultural capital. Its humane expression as observed during the July Uprising amazed the bearers of fascism and its allies to their own peril. That is why, they are unable to understand the new Bangladesh. For this reason, they will commit further mistakes and remain vulnerable to more attrition.



The martyrs of the language movement can be counted with two fingers. The number of deaths during the last three months of the urban-centred mass-upsurge of 1990 did not cross the figure of 50. No notable martyrdoms had taken place then with the exception of Dr. Milton and Jihad during the previous week prior to Ershad's fall. But the number of deaths during the last 14 days of July and the first 5 days of August 2024 crossed 15 hundred; and the number of wounded was over 20 thousand. It showed the degree of valour and self-sacrificing attitude that our children displayed while combating a monster! During all previous movements of political parties, the agitators at least took up some improvised rifles and cocktails for confronting the police. But this time, unarmed protesters like Abu Sayed, gentle souls like Mugdho, innocents like Ria Gope, sentimental boys like Wasim, marginalised ones like Torua, and beloved children like Farhan had to embrace martyrdom. This kind of epic-like supreme sacrifices by rickshaw-peddlers and workers alike are not witnessed except during war situations. One picture showed three teenagers advancing cautiously in an alleyway. The police and



gun-wielding activists of Chhatra League were at the alley's end. But those freedom fighters did not turn back. They did not surrender their lane or campus to those monsters. They perished, but did not give up even an inch of their soil.

We shall have to keep on telling these stories after wiping our tears. The 180 million people of Bangladesh have 180 stories regarding this monsoon revolution. The authorities must listen to all these stories. The martyrs must not be allowed to be forgotten. A revolutionary decision has been taken for converting the Ganobhaban into a museum of monsoon revolution. But this museum should not exhibit mere memories, or showcase only pictures and bullet-cartridges. It should depict a history that was alive; it should become an investigative researcher of the genocide that was committed; it should play the part of an ever-vigilant sentinel of the martyrs, and the guardsman of history.

We knew that the government, the students and masses, and the struggling political parties would be made to remain busy in many ways. Ditches of distrust would be dug around all the parties and groups. Many smokescreens would be created for diverting attention from the main issue – the restructuring of the state and the uprooting of fascism. So be it. But

whenever the fear of losing our way emerges, whenever our feet get entangled in the trap of divisiveness, whenever our progress becomes stuck in the quicksand of greed, we should remember the boy who lost his feet, that brother who lost his eye, or those martyrs who now sleep in graves like the paddy-seeds of revolution. There is no room for making any mistake, and there is absolutely no scope for forgetting!

The present youth populace of Bangladesh outnumbers the nation's 1971 population. A majority of these youths belong to the rising middle-class households. These highly educated first-generation youths carry our hope. The conflict is now between the rising middle-class and the established middle-class who were allies of fascism and autocracy. This conflict is between a pro-Bangladesh collective identify encompassing the liberal and non-communal segments versus the looters-mafias-murderers who espouse subcontinental fascism. This conflict is between the old and the new. Bangladesh has become more mature now compared to last July after emerging from the labour of a second birth. The struggle of Bangladesh is



for justice and honour, freedom of life and speech. The meaning of sovereignty cannot be comprehended without the existence of a democratic and just society.

Therefore, there cannot be any compromise or reconciliation between the state-ambition of July and that of fascism. We should not become oblivious of our surroundings while keeping our attention fixed on the red eyes of the bull. We should not turn our friends into enemies. At the same time, the friction that is being generated due to political imbalances should be resolved properly. Usually, the victors in any mass movement or uprising rule the country. However, it is quite true that the July leadership was not the main political powerhouse then, nor is it even now. But if the major parties do not carry forward the true legacy of July, then serious problems would crop up in our political trajectory. July would then face the risk of becoming another revolution that was snatched away.

Bangladesh has caused a geo-political earthquake in South Asia. Unrealistic efforts may now be made to trigger a counter-tsunami. But the currents of blood do not flow backward. The path of democracy is what remains before Bangladesh. Bangladesh will advance on that path even if there are traps. But we must not downplay our national interest anymore while catering to partisan interests. We should not sell our homes and doors to quench the greed for a window of power. July must not be made an unclaimed phenomenon. That would be a betrayal with the supreme sacrifices made by thousands of martyrs. History has never pardoned any traitor at any juncture of time. □

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