



July Uprising Day

5 August 2026



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PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
BANGABHABAN, DHAKA

21 Shrabon 1433
05 August 2026

Message

Today is the Great July Mass Uprising Day. An unforgettable and glorious day of victory in the history of Bangladesh's democratic journey. On this day in 2024, the prolonged discriminatory and fascist rule came to an end in the face of the united resistance of unarmed Students and the Masses. Confronted by overwhelming public outrage, the fascist government was compelled to flee the country, and the nation achieved a historic victory. On the second anniversary of this glorious achievement, I extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the valiant July Warriors and all patriotic citizens of the country.

I pay solemn tribute, with profound respect and gratitude, to Abu Sayed, Mugdho, Wasim, Yamin, Farhan, Nafis, Taim, Naima; the innocent little children Riya Gope and Ahad, and to the thousands of other heroic martyrs who laid down their lives in the Mass Uprising. I also convey my deepest respect and heartfelt sympathy to the July fighters who sustained grievous injuries, including the loss of limbs or eyesight, and were left permanently disabled. The nation will forever remember their extraordinary sacrifices, boundless courage and outstanding contributions as an enduring source of inspiration.

The July Mass Uprising was an irresistible outburst of deep-seated public resentment against one and a half decades of misrule, discrimination, rampant corruption, exploitation, enforced disappearances and killings, political partisanship; the denial of democracy, voting rights and freedom of expression, and widespread imprisonment and persecution. The conspiracy-driven false cases brought against former Prime Minister, 'Deshnetri' Begum Khaleda Zia, the unbearable hardship imposed upon her in prison; the countless fabricated cases and attacks directed against the leaders and activists of various political parties; the division of society along partisan lines; and the prevailing falsehood, injustice and arbitrary persecution and indiscriminate crackdowns had caused deep resentment to smoulder among the people like fire beneath the ashes. At the same time, the administration, law-enforcement agencies, the judiciary, the Election Commission, the healthcare and education systems, banks, insurance institutions and all other organs of the State had been weakened, rendered dysfunctional and alienated from the people. The State had been made fragile, subservient and controlled by mafia interests. These injustices steadily deepened public resentment and gave rise to a profound sense of indignation across the nation. Although the movement initially emerged from a demand for reform of the quota system, the brutal and indiscriminate killings transformed this long-suppressed discontent into an overwhelming nationwide mass uprising.

In this Mass Uprising, students and teachers from public and private universities, schools, colleges and madrasas; young people and political activists; workers, employees and professionals; parents, brothers, sisters, daughters, wives and mothers-people from all walks of life- spontaneously and collectively took to the streets with extraordinary courage, a spirit of resistance and a determination to make sacrifices. They are all July Warriors. Such a popular uprising is a rare occurrence in human history. The nation will forever remember the roles and contributions of the people, take pride in their courage and draw inspiration from their example.

I firmly believe that all powers in the Republic belong to the people-a truth that has once again been established through the Mass Uprising. To uphold the dignity of the martyrs' sacrifices, therefore, we must build a humane Bangladesh that belongs to the people, where fascist and authoritarian rule, as well as extremism, will never again find a place. Where discrimination, corruption, misrule and injustice will be brought to an end and voting rights, equality, human dignity, justice and fundamental rights will remain fully protected. Good governance, the public interest, necessary reforms and accountability will be ensured in every sphere of State governance.

I am confident that the State will ensure due recognition and honour for the martyred and injured July Warriors; the welfare of their families; proper medical treatment and rehabilitation for the injured; impartial, fair and expeditious trials for all killings and crimes against humanity committed during the July Mass Uprising.

Let us, inspired by the spirit of the Great July Mass Uprising, unite in building a new Bangladesh that is democratic, just, humane, free from discrimination, happy and prosperous. Let us work together to realize the dreams, ideals, hopes and aspirations of the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War of Independence and the July Mass Uprising.

May Almighty Allah grant us the strength and ability to lead our beloved Bangladesh toward the future with greater resolve on the path of peace, equality, progress and prosperity.

I pray for the divine forgiveness and eternal peace of the departed souls of all the martyrs of the July Mass Uprising.

Hafiz Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram



Immortal, Invincible July

Mahbub Ullah

Bangladesh is a land of mass upsurges. This timeline of uprisings followed a path shaped by the years 1952, 1962, 1969, 1971, 1990, and 2024. The great mass upsurge of 2024, enacted more than 33 years after the anti-Ershad uprising of 1990, will remain as a unique episode in the annals of our history.

The awakened masses of Bangladesh were puffed up with anger and sorrow due to almost 16-year-long misrule and mal-governance by Sheikh Hasina. She was getting away with everything despite holding questionable and seriously flawed elections one after another. Her conscience did not bite a bit in spite of committing these shameless



acts. Sheikh Hasina sought to make her seat of power permanent by capturing and politicising the important organs of the state like the armed forces, the intelligence agencies, the police force, and the bureaucracy. It appeared that the dark night of Sheikh Hasina's misrule would never come to an end. The country was proceeding on that path of prolonged autocratic rule. Her rule virtually became a reign of terror. Enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings, imprisonments and tortures, filing of cases and waging attacks became constant companion of the people. Houses of glass were built for instilling fear and dread. Patriotic citizens were kidnapped and kept in the narrow cells of these glass-houses in inhuman condition. The cellular prisons of Andaman were considered the worst symbol of British colonial repression. But these glass-houses were even worse than those prisons in terms of brutality of tortures. Some inconsiderate officers lacking conscience, who were working in Sheikh Hasina's intelligence agencies, assisted in keeping these secret detention centres operational. Even some military officers were not spared from this repression. However, a huge segment of the military did not have any connection with these.

Sheikh Hasina could sustain her fascist rule over a long period because the neighbouring India was extending blind support to her rule for a long time. India thinks there is no alternative to Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League (AL) in Bangladesh for serving her interests. In fact, the Awami League has become India's reliable partner for imposing its hegemony in Bangladesh. The independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh were surrendered as offerings on the pedestal of Indian hegemony by the AL. Bangladesh was sliced like pieces of pumpkin for providing corridor and connectivity to India in the name of transit. Sheikh Hasina herself said, India would remember forever what she gave to India. Her foreign minister Dr. Momen said, "The relationship between India and Bangladesh is like husband and wife". The economist A G Frank claimed towards the end of 1980s that India was like a regional imperialistic power. Since her independence in 1947, India has been playing the role of regional imperialist. The present Hindutva-adherent rulers of India have been vociferously speaking without any check about their project for creation of an undivided India.

Sheikh Hasina recruited some crooked people from among the rich-class of society for consolidating her autocratic rule. The vaults of commercial banks were flung open for these crooks. They indiscriminately siphoned off money kept in banks by the ordinary depositors, and laundered those abroad. We could know about the lavish use of this money outside the country from stories in the mass media. Not only that, 81 million dollars were smuggled out

Please Turn Over



After the July mass uprising, former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made her first public appearance after her release at the Armed Forces Day ceremony held at Senakunja.

From Self-Sacrifice to the Journey for Upholding National Pledge

The July Mass Uprising was not only a historic political event, it also opened up a new chapter for moral accountability and public welfare-oriented responsibility of the state. The clear directive of honourable prime minister Tarique Rahman has been that, as the mass upsurge was successful through self-sacrifices, therefore, those sacrifices have to be accorded due state honour, and the honour, security, and welfare of the families of martyrs and wounded July-fighters must be ensured. A responsible state never limits the sacrifices of its valiant sons to the pages of history only; rather, it makes their contributions everlasting through institutional recognition, legal protection, and sustainable welfare arrangements.



Protesting Students and Citizens at Ganabhaban on 5 August 2024

July Mass Upsurge: Lesson of History and Reawakening of a Nation

Ahmed Azam Khan MP

Today is August 5, the July Mass Upsurge Day. This day saw the culmination of 17 years of blood-drenched movement, achieved through the resolute and uncompromising leadership of Desh-Netri Begum Khaleda Zia, the charisma of Desh-Nayak Tarique Rahman, the conflagration arising from the irresistible struggle to unite the nation, resulting in the downfall of the then fascist regime. I recall with profound respect all martyrs who had sacrificed their lives during the uprising. I pray for the salvation of their departed souls and extend my sincere sympathy to the family members of the martyrs. I also express my deep sympathy for the wounded fighters of the July Upsurge, and recall with reverence their sacrifices, valour, and contributions. At the same time, I extend my sincere felicitations to the students and masses and lakhs of political leaders and workers who participated in the July Uprising, as well as all freedom-seeking people from various strata of society.

The backdrop of the July Mass Upsurge was not built in a single day. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had waged an unrelenting anti-fascist movement for long seventeen years in order to restore the voting rights of the people, establish rule of law and fundamental rights of the citizens; the July Mass Upsurge was the historic outcome of that long battle. The then acting chairman of BNP and current prime minister Tarique Rahman had presented a clear outline for building an accountable, humane, and discrimination-free Bangladesh through the 31-point action-plan. His farsighted leadership, BNP's relentless struggle over long seventeen years, and the unforgettable self-sacrifices of the students and masses converged at the same historic confluence resulting in the July Mass Upsurge, which has now become a unique symbol for national reawakening.



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

21 Shrabon 1433
05 August 2026

Message

For all those who cherish freedom and democracy, 5 August is a day of joy, a day of victory and a day of the restoration of democratic political rights. Exactly two years ago today, on 5 August 2024, the heroic students and people of this country secured a historic victory by bringing to an end more than one and a half decades of fascist rule.

In the face of the mass uprising, the fascist government was forced to flee the country. Bangladesh was freed from its grip. This blood-soaked day of the heroic students and people is being observed nationally as 'July Mass Uprising Day'.

For more than one and a half decades, in the struggle against fascism and for the restoration of the people's right to vote and their democratic rights, the BNP, other anti-fascist political parties, and the people of differing views had to endure limitless persecution and repression.

Countless people became victims of enforced disappearance, murder, abduction, assaults, false cases, torture and oppression. In leading this movement, the uncompromising leader of the nation, former Prime Minister late Begum Khaleda Zia, was also forced to spend years in the prison of the oppressors on false charges.

To silence the voices of those who stood for democracy, the fugitive autocrat, on its orders, established hundreds of secret detention centres across the country known as 'Aynaghar'. In the dark cells of these secret facilities, countless people were held in a state of endless uncertainty for months and even years. Many were disappeared forever. The whereabouts of many leaders and activists, including former BNP MP Ilias Ali and Commissioner Chowdhury Alam, remain unknown to this day.

The judiciary, the Election Commission and other constitutional and statutory institutions of the country had been rendered ineffective. The Constitution was disregarded, the people's voting rights were taken away, and elections were reduced to a farce. The country's politics, economy, education and healthcare systems were devastated, and Bangladesh was turned into a subservient state.

The banking sector was pushed to the brink of collapse, while irregularities, corruption, plunder and money laundering were normalised. A personality cult was established. Yet, in the end, it could not survive.

People from every walk of life- the heroic students, farmers, workers, rickshaw-pullers, day-labourers, garment workers, hotel and restaurant employees, transport workers, journalists, intellectuals, cultural activists, homemakers, women, children, and people from all sections of society-united and took to the streets during the July-August Mass Uprising of 2024.

Desperate to crush the uprising, the fascist government opened fire on pro-democracy citizens, killing people as though they were birds. It even fired upon the people from helicopters. Not even infants in their mothers' arms were spared from the reckless gunfire of the autocrats.

Standing before the guns of the autocrats, the outstretched chest of brave martyr Abu Sayed of Rangpur, martyr Wasim Akram of Chattogram, martyr Mugdho of Dhaka, and countless other courageous sons of this soil became enduring sources of inspiration for all who stood for democracy.

During the July-August Mass Uprising alone, thousands of people were martyred. At least 30,000 people were injured. Hundreds lost limbs and were permanently disabled, while many lost their eyesight for life.

The sacrifice of thousands of lives did not go in vain. Through the united movement of the pro-democracy people, the fascists fled Ganabhaban on 5 August. The so-called members of parliament fled the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament). The Chief Justice fled the Supreme Court. The Chief Khatib fled Baitul Mukarram. Ministers fled the Cabinet. The collaborators of fascism went into hiding. What happened in Bangladesh on 5 August was not only unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh, but also in the history of the world.

From 1971 to the present day, millions have made sacrifices at every turning point in the struggle for the country's independence and its defence, in movements against autocracy and fascism, and in the fight to restore democracy.

On this historic day, I remember with profound respect all the martyrs. By sacrificing their lives for the freedom, rights and dignity of the country and its people, they have left us in their debt. Bangladesh owes an enduring debt to every martyr's family. Now it is our turn to repay that debt.

Let our pledge be to honour that debt through our sincere efforts to build a just, self-reliant, democratic and humane Bangladesh by ensuring the political and economic empowerment of people and by establishing equality, human dignity and social justice.

An unprecedented national unity has been forged on the blood-soaked streets sanctified by the sacrifice of thousands of martyrs. It is our duty to preserve this unity at all costs. We will have differences of opinion on many issues and that is the beauty of democracy. But we must all remain vigilant to ensure that differences of thought and opinion never descend into hostility. Every political party, individual and group that stands on the side of democracy shares this responsibility.

Never again shall autocracy, fascism, extremism, or militancy take root in Bangladesh. Never again shall this country be allowed to become a subservient state. The national unity established on these fundamental principles remains unshaken and, Allah willing, shall endure.

The year 1971 was the war to achieve independence, while 2024 was the struggle to defend the freedom of the country and its people. Bangladesh has never forgotten the martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971 and it will never forget the martyrs of the Mass Uprising of 2024.

Tarique Rahman

We believe that the state has the highest responsibility for those who make supreme sacrifices in the nation's history. Based on this belief, the government has undertaken far-reaching steps grounded on the July Charter for preserving the memories of the martyrs of July Uprising, rehabilitation of July fighters, and ensuring socio-economic security of their families. These initiatives are not temporary assistance programs; rather, these are reflection of a long-term national pledge for displaying the state's gratitude, maintaining humane accountability, and preserving history for the future generation. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs established a department for achieving these objectives through coordinated planning, establishing required legal framework, and effective administrative management by discharging its responsibilities on a continuous basis.

Please Turn Over



Chhatra League cadres attacked female students

Legend of July
Hasan Hafiz

Calling July repeatedly
Where has Mugdha gone?
Come Mugdha, come home
The tyrant's eyes are red.

Come July, come, come
What does Mugdha want
He seeks people's freedom
That is the logic of his demand.

July, July, burning crimson
You devour and crush misrule
The throne was then trembling
Youthful force took up the reins.

How can we forget July
Where we found our dream's fulfilment?
July awakening showed a luminous path
We pledge to remember that always.
Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Immortal, Invincible July

of Bangladesh Bank itself. In short, it can be said that Sheikh Hasina and her associates broke the backbone of the country's banking and financial sector; and it will be very difficult for Bangladesh to recover from this quagmire in the near future. The



businessmen cohorts of Sheikh Hasina became known in the state-system of Bangladesh as oligarchs. There are examples of only a few countries in the world where people's money is shamelessly handed over to some chosen people. Taking this aspect into consideration, Sheikh Hasina's rule was not only fascism, 'mafia rule' would not be an overstatement for describing it. Sheikh Hasina herself was the mafia queen. As the mother of a mafia clan, she was its beneficiary as well. Failing to withdraw money in accordance with their requirements due to looting of banks, the hapless bank depositors are now trapped in abysmal misery.

It is impossible to narrate all the tales of lawlessness, depravity, tortures and repression during the rule of Sheikh Hasina. It often seemed that the dark night of misrule would never end. Then arrived July 2024. The quota reform movement was built up under the leadership of some students in the beginning of July. The student community sought elimination of discriminations through the quota reform movement. This specific demand of limited nature ultimately became a massive movement of huge social significance. The quota reform movement then transitioned into a movement for eradication of all



discriminations. The ascent of anti-discrimination stand became inevitable. Economic disparities had already reached an alarming level in the socio-economic milieu of Bangladesh. The Gini Coefficient or the index for measuring economic inequality had reached the mark of almost 0.50. This level of inequality is very dangerous, as such levels make social explosion inevitable. The mass-upsurge of 2024 was one such explosion. Bangladesh then became comparable to a volcano. Upsurges have taken place in this country over the ages like the eruption of volcanoes. As if, Bangladesh is a kind of volcano that remains dormant for some time and then suddenly becomes active. It spews out streams of lava and pools of fire. It is unfortunate that a large segment of the ruling class in Bangladesh could never understand this feature.

Another group played a despicable role in the attempt to make Sheikh Hasina's rule permanent. This group included some so-called cultural activists, artistes-litterateurs, and some accursed journalists. They created a narrative for prolonging Hasina's misrule. The nation was divided into those against and in favour of independence through this narrative. The spear of this narrative was geared towards eliminating a huge number patriotic people by labelling them as fundamentalists. Innocent people were killed in the name of finding militant hideouts.

The movement of students and youths was finally launched on 1 July 2024. It was noticeable that hundreds of students came



down to the streets at the very outset of the movement. It could be sensed that the movement would gradually intensify. In the meantime, a verdict of the High Court, which could be termed as 'in accordance with given order', enraged the student community. They could realize that the government was trying to sabotage their movement by using the High Court verdict in a conspiratorial manner.

The killings by police and RAB between 16 and 18 July reached a horrendous level. Therefore, the student community had no scope for proceeding towards any compromise. At this time, a false statement was issued in the name of quota reform movement leaders by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. Some leaders of the movement were also arrested by police and placed under the custody of detective branch. They were subjected to cruel physical torture in order to subjugate them. But the movement had reached such a height by that time that it was impossible to continue the detention of student leaders.

The then prime minister Sheikh Hasina (now sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal) made derogatory comments about the students who were participating in the quota reform movement during its first phase on 14 July. In her typically impetuous style, she remarked: "Why such hatred against the liberation war and freedom fighters? Even the grandchildren of freedom fighters would not get quota? Then would the grandchildren of Razakars get it? I put this question to the countrymen". On the day Sheikh Hasina made this remark, the students of Dhaka University assembled at the foot of Raju Sculpture on the campus at night by breaking open the gates of male and five female halls. The students raised slogans: "Who are you, who am I, Razakar, Razakar? Who said this, who said this, autocrat, autocrat".

Sheikh Hasina had no parallel in uttering objectionable comments. This became one of the principal reasons for her fall on 5 August 2024. On 15 July, the Chhatra League attacked the male and female students of the university on the vice-chancellor's compound of Dhaka University. The Chhatra League miscreants bloodied the innocent students on that day through indiscriminate beatings. This kind of indiscriminate attack on students by the students' front of a political party was never witnessed before on Dhaka University campus. The movement took a new turn due to insults hurled at students by labelling them as 'Razakars', as well as owing to barbaric attack by the Awami League's students' front on the campus. Curfew was then clamped to suppress the movement. The Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader warned: "Curfew means curfew, will shoot on sight". Members of the police force, BGB, and even a few army-men who were loyal to Sheikh Hasina resorted to indiscriminate firings that resulted in hundreds of deaths. Thousands of innocent civilians were also wounded as a result. Some of them became blind, some lost their limbs, or were bullet-hit in other parts of the body. Many of the injured continue to take treatment even two years after the mass-upsurge.



Some of the martyrdoms during the mass uprising of July 2024 glorified the uprising. A student of English department of Rangpur Begum Rokeya University named Abu Sayeed embraced martyrdom when he was fired upon from shot-gun by the police while he was standing with open arms on the road by raising his chest. Based on this, a graffiti was drawn in Dhaka city that stated: 'There is much storm in chest, shoot me if you can'. Abu Sayeed has now become an icon among those who embraced martyrdom. The countrymen would remember Abu Sayeed with great reverence and deep love as long as this soil and motherland remain.

The professor and poet Kazi Maruf has written a poignant poem on Abu Sayeed on the occasion of second anniversary of the mass uprising titled 'Oh brother, please call me sister now'. It touched my heart so much that I cannot help quoting it here:

Although monsoon has come to an end, it is not a monsoon story
Here in this Bangla the picture of Abu Sayeed's blood is etched.
From where did this youth come in this age of cronyism!
Wherefrom emerged such courageous cloud below the sky of autocracy?
What was my name
What was your name
Who was your father, in whose womb you were born?
The cries of that teenage girl brought rain, is she your sister Sumi?
We did not know these things before
Only saw the light of pledge that was following you,
Your open arms touched the horizon, the buttons were tight on a black shirt
You were an easy target for the bullets of the ruler,
Your eyes were gazing towards the sun
Did you know the autocrat would fear you?
Mother cries: my treasure come to my heart,
Father is stunned, mountain of pain in the chest,
Sumi cries: oh brother, please call me sister now!
Does the throne of God tremble at this cry?
Won't the shameless demon stop even after this?
I do not know where the throne of God is, when the judgement would take place.
But Abu Sayeed, you shall surely know, no autocrat has been forgiven in this land.

Similarly, the heroic and selfless sacrifices of hundreds of brave martyrs like Mir Mugdha, Farhan Fayyaz, and Shaheed Anas during the July Uprising reminds us of those immortal lines of Poet Alauddin Al-Azad about the martyrs of 1952: 'Bullets can only spill blood, not life or anything similar'.

Those who sacrificed their lives during the July Uprising knew that they would not return home. A teenage boy of class nine left behind a letter for mother, saying he could not remain selfish anymore. He sought forgiveness of his mother. I don't know whether that mother



can sleep now! A police official said, 'if one dies, another ten comes forward'. I wonder from where those youths, private university and madrasa students got such inspiration, so that the bayonets or bullets could not stop them? They became immortal by sacrificing their lives with an unflinching spirit.

It became impossible for Sheikh Hasina to hold on to power after so many supreme-sacrifices, heroic deaths, and spilling of blood. These happenings throughout the country including Dhaka shook the military cantonments as well. The views and outlook of soldiers and masses then coalesced to a single point.

July's Bangladesh
Abdul Hye Sikder

The endless July is drenched by my brother's blood –
You are the morning of freedom, you are Bangladesh.

You are my cyclone, tornado, typhoon,
You are my full-moon, salt of rice-plate in sunlight.
You are my luminous victory, song of refined paddy,
You are the campaign of light in infinite darkness.

The dawn's door opened by pouring the blood of thousand rivers,
The thieves were annihilated by destroying the donation-box.
July brought the whistling of magpie-robin in the cells of kidnapped July – you are Abu Sayeed – I salute thee forever.

July was there, shall always remain, and more July will arrive,
But none had seen before such an amazing month of July.
July brought back a free homeland, freedom was restored,
Buried the servitudes and all kinds of subjection.
The days of pride returned with one's own eye seeing the sky,
July is decorated now by the seven colours of dream.

The heartrending prayers of my mother on mat –
July – you are washed by the tears of my sister.
Bathed by my children's blood July never ends,
Bangladesh shall remain alive if July remains awake.

Please end the divisions through cohesion and unity –
July – you are our lone hope, you are Bangladesh.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed



During the climax of the mass uprising, the young military officers gave a clear message against continuing the repression on ordinary students and masses at a meeting held in the army headquarter on 3 August 2024. It contributed to the shaping of the army chief's stand on controlling the situation. As reported in national and international media including Reuters, the final decision to remove Sheikh Hasina from power was taken during consultations involving the armed forces on 4 and 5 August.

After much drama on 5 August, Sheikh Hasina took refuge in the land of her masters 'India' by leaving her seat of power. She is now residing in Delhi with the status of a guest of Indian government. From there, she is occasionally spewing vitriols against the security status of Bangladeshi state through speeches and statements. She used to say, 'Sheikh Hasina never flees'. That same Hasina had to flee in order to save her life in the face of relentless rage of the people. Several hundred Awami League leaders including former ministers have also fled to India alongside her. For them, India has become the motherland.

Sheikh Hasina destroyed all state institutions and economic system by remaining in power for a long time. It will take a lot of time to make these stand on their own feet again. There is no alternative to national unity if national independence, sovereignty, and democracy are to be made safe in Bangladesh and the country is to be protected from the clutches of hegemony. Differences of opinion in politics should be resolved through dialogue. It should be remembered that Awami League is the common enemy of all the members of parliament, which was constituted through a democratic and peaceful election held on 12 February 2026. Everybody should keep this in mind. The politics of disunity and division would amount to betrayal with the blood of martyrs. Our collective pledge on the second anniversary of the July Uprising should be: We shall not indulge in any kind of disunity and division. □

Writer: National Professor and political thinker

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

July Mass Upsurge: Lesson of History and Reawakening of a Nation

Historic Steps taken by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs for Upholding the Prestige of July Mass Upsurge

Paying respect to the July martyrs and ensuring the welfare of the wounded is not merely an official responsibility, it is the highest moral commitment of the state. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs is working tirelessly for discharging this historic responsibility. The ministry has undertaken multifaceted legal and administrative initiatives for giving institutional shape to the spirit of July mass upsurge and for



standing beside the families of the martyred and the wounded. The department was launched as a 'special cell' of the cabinet division on 27 October 2024, which was brought under the Ministry of Liberation War affairs on 31 December 2024. A notification for amending the 'Allocation of Business' of the ministry was issued on 17 February 2025, and then the 'July Mass Upsurge Department' was formally established on 28 April 2025. A guideline has been prepared for providing better treatment to the July fighters at home and abroad. At the same time, an ordinance was promulgated on 17 June 2025 for providing legal protection. Finally, 'The Welfare and Rehabilitation of Martyrs' Families and July Fighters Act, 2026' was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad on 10 April 2026, which was gazetted along with rules.

Till now, 843 martyrs and 14,387 July fighters have been enlisted through gazettes after intensive and minute scrutiny cum verification. Among the gazetted July fighters, 990 belong to the 'A-category', 1418 in 'B-category', and 11,979 in 'C-category'. Work is now in progress for inclusion of those who could not be enlisted previously due to various reasons.

Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Families of Martyrs

For ensuring financial security and welfare of the martyred families, savings certificates worth Taka 30 lakh have been allotted to each family. An amount of Taka 250 crore 11 lakh 56 thousand have already been spent for providing savings certificates and allowances to all the families of martyrs. For the wounded July fighters, lumpsum grants of Taka 5 lakh per head were made to those belonging to 'A-category', Taka 3 lakh per head to those belonging to 'B-category', and Taka 1 lakh to those belonging to 'C-category'. Besides, those belonging to 'A-category' are receiving monthly allowance of Taka 20 thousand per head, those belonging to 'B-category' Taka 15 thousand, and those belonging to 'C-category' Taka 10 thousand per head.



Free Medical Treatment and Assistance from the State

The wounded July fighters are receiving free medical treatment from all government hospitals, medical colleges and specialised hospitals at district and upazila levels on a priority basis. Arrangements have been made to send complicated cases to specialised hospitals of other countries including Thailand, Singapore, and Russia as per the honourable prime minister's directive for better treatment. As many as 154 July fighters have been sent abroad till now for treatment. Of them, 115 have returned after receiving treatment in Thailand, and 39 are under treatment there. In short, the Government of Bangladesh has spent Taka 1,006 crore 55 lakh 77 thousand 642 till now for providing grants, savings certificates, monthly allowances, and medical treatment to the families of the martyrs and July fighters.

Tomorrow's Pledge and Preservation of History

Alongside providing financial assistance, opportunities are being created for the July fighters who have become permanently disabled to lead a self-reliant life by providing



Injured July movement activist



them information-technology-based training in accordance with their aptitude. At the same time, steps have been taken for preserving the memories of the martyred as well as their heroic tales through objective record-keeping. July Monuments have been built in all districts, and the tombs of the martyred have been preserved.

We are advancing today on the path of building a prosperous and self-reliant Bangladesh by treading the heroic trail of the great declarer of independence Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, the life-long struggles of the uncompromising Desh-Netri Begum Khaleda Zia, and the farsighted ideal 'Bangladesh First' of the statesman cum prime minister Tarique Rahman. The spirit of July Mass Upsurge, and the infinite sacrifices of the July martyrs and valiant fighters will continue to show us the path, which will act as a driving force for establishing an egalitarian and just Bangladesh.

May the July Mass Upsurge become immortal; I pay my deep respect to the valiant martyrs and fighters of July. □

(The writer is the Minister for Liberation War Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.)

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed



Students and citizens at the Central Shaheed Minar