

## **Message**

On this glorious occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, I express my heartfelt congratulations and warm greetings to expatriate Bangladeshi nationals living in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Let us, on this historic day join together to pay our deep homage to the three million martyrs who had laid down their lives for securing a long cherished dream of a nationhood of our own and a place in the world map.

On this happy occasion I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Australia for her unequivocal support during our War of Liberation. Australia was the first developed country to recognize Bangladesh after its independence. W.A. S Ouderland, an Australian citizen was the only foreign national to receive a gallantry award for his valiant role in our freedom struggle. The library of the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra has been dedicated to the memory of this great friend of Bangladesh.

On this historic day I pay my highest respect to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all other leaders who have led the Nation to achieve our Independence through a glorious War of Liberation in 1971. I salute and pay my deep homage to all the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices and presented us the Independent Bangladesh. My respect is to all those millions of people who withstood all the sufferings yet supported the War of Liberation. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all those foreign nationals who contributed in our War of Liberation in various ways.

On this day I would urge upon all the members of Bangladesh Community to continue their valuable support to accelerate the socio-economic developments of our beloved motherland, and with your continued support I sincerely believe, Bangladesh will find its place as a dignified, democratic and secular country in the world.

Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury (Retd) 26 March 2013