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Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi delivered a video message to the leadership and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the main event marking the birth centenary of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the Bangladesh nation on 17 March 2020, held at Dhaka's historic Suhrawardy Udyan. Hon'ble Prime Minister was scheduled to visit Dhaka to participate in the celebrations at the invitation of Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina. However, the visit could not take place in view of the Corona Virus outbreak.

In his address, Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's consistent support for an inclusive, modern and progressive Bangladesh in line with the vision of 'Bangabandhu'. He spoke about the courage of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his fight against an unjust and brutal regime which committed genocide against his people. His vision for a prosperous Bangladesh has been validated today as the country's economy is among the fastest growing economies in the world with commendable progress made in the social economic indices. Bangladesh exemplifies the important role that leadership plays in the course that a country chooses to take. The developmental and inclusive policies of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has guided the Government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister HE Sheikh Hasina as a growth model for other countries in the region.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi emphasised the strong, strategic and historic relations between India and Bangladesh which have been inspired by a shared heritage of progressive and forward looking intellectuals and personalities who have shaped both nations. He stated that both countries have made significant progress in resolving many complex land and maritime border issues through a pragmatic and mutually beneficial people-centric approach. Today, Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in the region and the largest developmental partner in the world. India looks forward to continue to develop these links to achieve greater integration and inter-dependence between both countries.

Brunei Darussalam, 18 March 2020