

**To Mark the Completion of
Four Years of the Present Government**

Address to the Nation

By

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina

Honourable Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka, Friday, 28 Poush 1419, 11 January 2013

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Dear countrymen,

Assalamu Alaikum.

- The present government elected by you with a huge mandate has completed its four years on January 6 last.
- I thank you and convey my gratitude to you for keeping confidence and trust in the Awami League, the pro-liberation forces, and idea of Vision 2021 and Digital Bangladesh in the polls of December 29, 2008.
- After four years, we can proudly say that despite multifarious adversities and limitations, we have been able to meet most of the pledges made before election.
- We achieved more success than the targets in some areas too.
- Taking you with us, our forward march will continue in the days ahead.
- Despite the global economic recession, the country's economy is now founded on a strong footing. All the macroeconomic indicators are showing positive trends.
- International agencies, including the United Nations, have lauded socio-economic advancement in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is now a role model of development in the world.
- On behalf of the people of Bangladesh, I presented "People's Empowerment and Development Model" in the UN General Assembly in 2011 in a bid for global peace. The 193 member states of the UN passed the proposal in the last month.
- Our proposal "Culture of Peace" presented in 2011 was also passed this year.
- At the initiative of my daughter Saima Hossain Putul to create "Autism Awareness" across the globe, we presented another proposal at the UN General Assembly in the last year. It was adopted by the General Assembly in the last month.
- It is a rare honor for Bangladesh.

- The Bangalee nation stood with their heads high as a nation of heroes in the world in 1971. After 41 years, Bangladesh has again been appreciated in the international arena.
- I congratulate the people for this.
- In this pleasant time of the nation, I recall the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had been steadfast in realizing the rights of the Bangalee nation even after suffering imprisonment-oppression-repression-torture for 24 years.
- Under his unequivocal leadership, the Bangalee nation achieved the independence through the Liberation War.
- I recall with profound pain 18 members of my family, including my mother, father and three brothers, and all martyrs who fell victims to the history's most heinous carnage on August 15 in 1975.
- I recall four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamaruzzaman - who were brutally killed in a solitary prison cell on November 3, 1975.
- I recall three million martyrs, in exchange of whose lives we earned independence, a sovereign territory, a red-green flag and our own national anthem.
- I express my profound respect towards the best sons of the soil, the freedom fighters.
- I convey my sympathy to two lakh mothers and sisters, who were dishonored by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War in 1971, and the wounded freedom fighters.
- I recall the leaders and workers of Awami League, including Ivy Rahman, who were killed in a barbaric grenade attack on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21 in 2004.
- I recall 22 thousand leaders and activists of the Awami League, including former finance minister Shah AMS Kibriya, MP, and labour leader Ahsanullah Master, MP, and the innocent people who fell victims to murder, killing, repression and misrule of BNP-Jamaat alliance.
- I recall those who sacrificed their lives in the Bangalees' movement for vote and bread since the Language Movement of 1952.

Dear countrymen,

- You can remember that when we assumed office on January 6, 2009, an extreme miserable condition was prevailing in the country.
- There was panic and fearfulness everywhere. The prices of foodstuff were skyrocketing. Public life was devastated by loadshedding. Businessmen and investors were in panic. Farmer brothers and sisters could not afford arranging irrigation, fertilizers and seeds for high prices. The people were passing their days amid serious insecurity. Human rights were jeopardized. There was no scope for freedom of expression.
- There were financial crisis and recession in the international arena. Prices of all commodities, including food items, were rising.

- We faced an acid test after forming the government. Hence on the first day, we held a meeting of the cabinet and determined our immediate, short-term, mid-term and long-term programmes. Then started the government's extensive activities.
- The government worked tirelessly in the last four years. You have extended all-out cooperation. The country progressed fast. Development has taken place in every family.
- We have achieved 6.5 percent of growth on average despite global economic recession.
- 2,040,000 manpower have been employed abroad in four years. It was 1,000,000 during the four years of the previous government.
- Nearly 48 billion US dollar has been received as remittance in four years. It is four times higher than the same period of the previous government.
- The export earning has increased at 24.30 billion US dollar from 14.11 billion US dollar between last fiscal year and 2008.
- Our foreign currency reserve has reached at 13.11 billion US dollar. It is the highest reserve in the history of Bangladesh. It was 3.88 billion US dollar in 2006 during the BNP government.
- The income of Speaker, Members of the Cabinet and the government officials have been brought under tax net.
- The revenue collection has been doubled in four years. As a result, we could be able to spend more money in development programmes. The socio-economic development has been expedited.
- We have allocated Taka 550 billion to Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the current fiscal year that was Taka 220 billion in 2008.
- Nearly 3.82 billion US dollar came as foreign investment in four years. It was 1.87 billion US dollar during the same period of the previous government.
- Different international organizations termed economic advancement of Bangladesh as a huge achievement. The organizations praised economic management of the government.
- Bangladesh is now in top five countries of the world in terms of achieving long-term growth. Bangladesh has been seen as future growth-engine.

Dear countrymen,

- We have taken firm stand against corruption.
- Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has been strengthened.
- The ACC is now working independently.
- The ACC has been summoning Ministers, Advisers, MPs, Secretaries for investigation and able to interrogate them frequently for filing cases. Was it even imaginable during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government? The countrymen, you will judge it.
- The persons involved in embezzlement of money of Hallmark and Destiny have been arrested to eradicate irregularities. The drive against irregularities and corruption is going on and it will continue.

- We have framed Anti-money Laundering Act to check misuse of money.
- The Securities and Exchange Commission has been restructured to propel capital market.
- Presently, the trial of war criminals-anti liberation elements has been become a mass demand. Every people of Bangladesh including children-adolescence-youth-elderly person and all mother-sister want trial of war criminals.
- BNP has come out to save war criminals ignoring the demand. They are creating anarchy. Jamaat has chosen path of destruction.
- BNP's unity with the war criminals is not new. Their founder Ziaur Rahman had formed illegal martial law government in 1975. After that, he had started rehabilitation of the war criminals- anti-liberation elements. He had freed them from the jail. He had brought back many of them in the country and gave them citizenship. He had established them in politics and appointed as Prime Minister, Advisers and Ministers.
- The trial of the war criminals, who violated dignity of mother-sister, killed intellectuals, looted, set fire and committed torture from house to house of Bangalees, will be held on soil of Bangladesh despite all conspiracies and ill attempts of BNP-Jamaat. I want cooperation from all of you, countrymen, want your blessings.

Dear countrymen,

- The trial against 6,041 personnel of 57 units has been completed on charge of committing BDR mutiny and 5,926 have got imprisonment in different durations.
- The trial of 850 personnel, charged for committing murders and different criminal offence, has been continued. The trial will be completed in a speedy manner. Inshallah.
- The trial of the 21st August grenade attack and 10 trucks arms haul cases are in the final stage.

Dear countrymen,

- Right to Information Act, Whistle Blower Protection Act and Human Rights Commission have been formed to establish good governance.
- Nearly 41,000 helpless poor people are getting legal support under government finance.
- Seventy-one judges at upper court and 125 judges in lower court have been appointed to reduce backlog of cases.
- The judicial department has been working with full freedom in establishing justice.
- The public administration has been made efficient and accountable.
- We have framed domestic violence resistance and protection law to protect women rights.
- We have extended maternity leave to six months from four months.
- Women and children trafficking have been stopped. Acid violence has been reduced.
- Law and order situation of the country have been improved.
- Eid-Durgapuja-Buddhapurnima-Christmas has been celebrated as universal festival.

- A record number of 110,000 Muslims performed Holy Hajj in 2012.
- Gazette on vested property has already been published and the tribunal and district committees have started work aimed at handing over the properties.
- Minimum wage for workers in Readymade Garments (RMGs) and other industrial sectors was almost doubled to protect their interest.

Dear countrymen,

- In the light of Defence Policy framed in 1974 under the directives of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, modernization and restructuring work of the Armed Forces under "Forces Goal-2030" has been implementing.
- Fourth generation tank, self propelled gun, weapon locating rudder, modern helicopter and armed recovery vehicles have been purchased.
- We've purchased Maritime petrol aircrafts, helicopters, frigates, corvette large petrol crafts and hydrographic survey ships. Special force has been formed.
- Missile (from land to sky) has been added to the Air Force and new Biman base has been set up in Cox's Bazar. Works on Bangabandhu Aeronautical Centre at Kurmitola are progressing fast.
- We have modernized police force too. Thirty three thousand police members have been appointed. Posts of Sub Inspector (SI) and Town Sub Inspector (SI) have been upgraded to class-II from class-III and post of inspector has been upgraded to class-I. Helicopter has been purchased to make law enforcement agencies dynamic.
- 2,235 posts in Ansar and VDP have been created.
- Bangladesh has now become the highest peacekeepers sending country in the UN peacekeeping missions.
- Our women police are now engaged in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Fire Service Department has been strengthened by introducing modern technology for firefighting management and post-earthquake rescue. Works are on to set up fire station in each upazila.
- Sustainable socio-economic development is not possible if the country lagged behind in the field of technology. So, we have fixed the goal to make a "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021 in our electoral pledge.
- Application of information technology has been ensured in all economic activities including banking sector, service sector, education, health and agriculture. People of all ages accepted the technology.
- Internet service and information service centre have been introduced in each union and 40 lakh rural people are getting the e-service every month.
- Internet speed has been increased and internet expenditure has been reduced.
- Internet subscribers have been increased to seven fold to eight crore.
- Ten crore mobile SIMs are now being used in Bangladesh
- 3G mobile phone has been launched. Subscribers are getting improved digital services including video call.

- Bangladesh's sovereign rights have been established on 111,631 square kilometer on the Bay after the maritime victory against Myanmar.
- We have so far set up 54 power plants to generate 3,845 MW electricity. Highest 6,350 MW electricity has been supplied. The generation capacity has been increased to 8,525 MW.
- Another 26 power plants with the capacity to generate 5,287 MW electricity are being set up.
- Agreement has been signed with Russia to set up a nuclear power plant to generate 1,000 MW electricity.
- We are encouraging solar power production.
- Work has been started to set up coal and gas-based big power plants.
- 500 MW power would be imported from India soon.
- We always give importance to education.
- Free 270 million books have been distributed with free of cost. 7.8 million students are being given stipends.
- 26,200 primary schools were nationalized and jobs of 0.14 million teachers were simplified.
- Posts of the teachers at government secondary schools have been upgraded into class-II from class-III.
- Bangladesh has achieved success in sports sector.
- Bangladeshi tigers clinched the series in one day international cricket against West Indies.
- Steps have been taken to develop the quality of football and others sports.
- Inter-school football tournament has been launched.
- Rural people are getting healthcare facilities through 15,000 community clinics and union healthcare centers aimed at reaching healthcare facilities to doorsteps of all.
- Doctors and health providers have been appointed.
- Hospital beds have been increased.
- Steps have been taken to ensure cardiac, burn unit, cancer, kidney and children treatments.
- 7.5 million people both from public and private sector were employed.
- Social safety net has been created through "One House One Farm", old age allowance, dowry allowance, maternity allowance, freedom fighter allowance, disabled allowance, VGD, VGF, test relief, food for work programme. The steps helped decrease country's rate of poverty by 10 percent.
- Rural economy has been geared up.
- We have restarted the closed jute mills. Export of jute and jute goods increased. Jute's genome sequence has been invented.
- Fish production has been increased by 20 percent. Fishermen were distributed ID cards.
- Afforestation has been increased by 13.28 percent to face climate change risks.

- A total of 34 million tonnes of food grains were produced, while special incentives were given to farmers to produce pulses, spices, oilseeds and vegetables. Bangladesh is now almost at the brink of attaining food sufficiency as steps were taken to ensure food and nutritional securities both.
- Roads, pools and bridges are being extensively constructed in order to improve the communication systems. New rail lines are also being constructed with the introduction of new rail services in different routes.
- Substantial improvements have already been made at Chittagong and Mongla seaports as well as other land ports across the country.
- River routes have been enlivened through dredging and it would continue in future.
- Steps have been taken to improve the quality of utility services including supply of electricity, gas and water as well as easing traffic congestions, water logging and sewerage in capital Dhaka, where inhabitants are growing everyday. The city has also been given a major touch of beautification.
- Meantime, the Banani Flyover has been opened to traffic, while Mirpur-Airport Road Flyover, Gulistan-Jatrabari Flyover and Banani-Kuril Flyover are awaiting for finishing touches. Steps are also underway to build more flyovers and the Airport-Jatrabari elevated expressway.
- A number of by-pass roads have been constructed.
- Hatijheel project work has just been completed and it has brightened the beauty of the city.
- The second water treatment plant having capacity of 225 million liter per day has been made operational at Syedabad in the city recently.
- An identical water treatment plant will also be built in city's Khilkheta area at an estimated cost of Taka 52 billion.
- Steps have been taken to launch dredging in the river Buriganga, Balu, Turag, Pungli and Dhaleshwari.
- An agreement has already been signed with Japan to introduce metro-rail system.

Dear countrymen,

- BNP, while in power, could not be able to hold a single credible election in a free and fair manner. Instead, they set a record of massive vote rigging and terrorism during the by- polls in Magura and Mipur in capital Dhaka.
- They resorted to major poll-rigging during February 15, 1996 Jatiya Sangsad elections and paved ways for Col. Rashid and Major Huda, two killers of the Father of the Nation, to become parliament members.
- And they passed the Caretaker Government System in that controversial parliament, but the people rejected the entire parliament.
- The BNP government had to step down under a major mass upsurge on March 30, 1996.
- BNP again did the same thing in 2006.
- They published a national voter list with 12.3 million fake voters in the list. A controversial person was made Chief Election Commissioner.

- They formed the Caretaker Government with a party loyal as its Chief Advisor, who was happened to be the then President.
- Their motive was clear to people to grab the power through vote manipulation.
- The people got together against BNP's all misdeeds and manipulation, raised protests and forged strong movement against them.
- Advisors after Advisors were appointed, much of who resigned after they repeatedly failed to conduct a credible national election.
- At one stage, the then President, Iajuddin Ahmed, announced the State of Emergency in the country.
- As a result, the 1/11 came into being.
- Troops were mobilized across the country.
- Basic human rights were engraved.
- Arrests and harassment at mass scales began with teachers, students, business people and political leaders were put into custody.
- Hat-bazars were bulldozed at rural and urban areas, while businesses were targeted to cause harms. The people got fed up with such a situation.
- A three-month Caretaker Government held the power for almost two years and made further attempts to stick to the power forever.
- Fake cases were lodged in order to implement their "minus two formula".
- Tortures continued by the intelligence agencies.
- Bangladesh nationals at home and broad staged waves of strong protests.
- The caretaker Government was forced to declare elections as pressures mounted internationally and domestically.
- Democracy returned through general elections.
- One thing you all must keep in mind that the persons who were active to implement the so called "minus two formula" are still active and they want to show off their existence whenever they get scopes.
- I would also urge the people of the country to pay special attention to another issue - Bangladesh has never seen a peaceful transfer of state power since the gruesome killing of August 15, 1975.
- Only Awami League government had, however, handed over power peacefully to caretaker government in July 15, 2001.
- It is Awami League that believes in peoples' empowerment.
- In last four years, the country has witnessed 5,509 credible elections, including 14 parliamentary by elections, several city corporation elections as well as Upazila, Poursabha and Union Parishad polls under direct supervision of the Election Commission.
- With the elections, 14 parliament members, 57,373 chairmen and members in 4,421 union parishads, 1,443 chairmen and vice chairmen in 481 Upazilas, 3,782 Mayors and Councilors in 282 pourasabhas, as well as four Mayors and 171 Councilors in four city corporations got elected.

- In addition to it, 307 more local government representatives were elected in by-election during the period. Finally, a total of 63,194 peoples' representatives got elected under the present government.
- Every election was free, fair and neutral and there was no allegation in this regard.
- Our candidates also were defeated in different elections, including local government and parliamentary by-elections, but the government did not interfere at all and we have accepted the people's mandate.
- Such peaceful elections were never held in the past during the regimes of other governments.
- The main objective of our government is to ensure the people's right to vote for protecting constitutional right of the people.
- The transparency and accountability of the government can be ensured in such a way.
- Consequently, the people will get proper service from the government and people's right would be ensured.
- The government has strengthened the election commission.
- It was for the first time in Bangladesh that the honorable President formed a search-committee based on the opinions after discussion with all the parties while there was no obligation in this regard.
- He formed Election Commission as per the recommendations of the search committee.
- Financial autonomy of the Election Commission has been ensured. The manpower has been increased as per demand of the commission. The election offices have been launched in districts and upazilas.
- Administration and law enforcement agencies worked under the Election Commission during the election.
- Appointment and transfer happened as per the order of the Election Commission.
- Free and fair working environment has already been created at the Election Commission.
- The people's voting right is always ensured by the party, which faces repression toward protecting the voting rights of the people in movements and sacrifice their lives.
- People will elect the government whoever they like.
- People should be conscious, as nobody would be able to snatch their constitutional rights in future.

Conscious countrymen,

- We had liberated the country under the leadership of the Father of the Nation.
- He started work for economic emancipation of the country.
- The anti-liberation forces stopped him in the midway.
- We have been implementing "Vision 2021" for completing the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu.

- The world now says that the huge development works of the present government are taking Bangladesh in the way of prosperity.
- We will establish digital Bangladesh, which will be free from poverty and hunger, a prosperous, non-communal and peaceful one through the development works. Inshallah.
- We need continuation of the government to achieve the goal.

Dear Countrymen,

- You can give us that chance. It will help us to continue the bright potential of the economic emancipation of Bangladesh.
- I urge the opposition to avoid conflict. Don't try to save the war criminals, as the nation will never forgive you.
- Come forward and we all work together with the spirit of Liberation War for building a prosperous and enormously potential Bangladesh.
- Build a "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

Dear Countrymen,

- Let us build a beautiful Bangladesh for our future generation.
- I wish your success and you too pray for us.

Khoda Hafez.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu.

Long Live Bangladesh.

...