

**Inauguration Ceremony of
School-cum-Cyclone shelter Centres at Amtoli, Barguna
Video Conferencing**

Address by

Her Excellency **Sheikh Hasina**
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Gonobhaban, Dhaka, Tuesday, 29 Posh 1422, 12 January, 2016

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

His Royal Highness Prince Turki Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, King Abdullah Humanitarian and Charitable Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Badar Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Members of the Board of Trustees, King Abdullah Humanitarian and Charitable Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Hon'able State Minister for Finance and Planning,
His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali al Madani, President, Islamic Development Bank.
Members of Royal delegation of Saudi Arabia and Delegation from Islamic Development Bank,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum,

I welcome you all at the inauguration ceremony of School-cum-cyclone shelters at Amtoli upazila in the district of Barguna under Fael Khair Program with the financial assistance of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Humanitarian and Charitable Foundation.

On behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep homage to the magnanimous soul, late King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz who generously contributed a grant amounting US\$ 130 million to the cyclone (SIDR) affected people of the coastal belt of Bangladesh and intended to keep his name undisclosed till his death.

This is my pleasure to mention that under Fael Khair Program, the donation is being utilized for the construction of 173 School-cum-cyclone shelters in the South-Western region of the country. Apart from providing sustainable emergency shelter during calamities, the buildings are also used as modern schools. As a result, the schools are playing vital role for spreading the light of education among the people of remote areas of coastal belt.

One of the key components of the program is to create employment opportunities through restoring the livelihoods of disaster afflicted farmers, fishermen and business holders by providing agricultural inputs and small scale interest free loans. The program is thus contributing to the poverty alleviation and social development of the country. On the whole, the program has contributed to build the adaptability and preparedness of the people to combat the adverse impact of global climate change.

Following the steps of the program, we have undertaken a number of projects to build multipurpose cyclone shelter centres with our own finance and the help of other development partners. On this auspicious occasion of inauguration ceremony, I would like to thank IDB president and his team for implementation the program successfully.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formed Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) in 1972 to reduce disaster risk Bangabandhu introduced mud-made fort in the coastal area, which was known as 'Mujib Fort'. Those Forts are still being used as the shelter centres during cyclone and tidal surge.

We are always ready to build a safe and disaster adapted nation for future generation through attaching disaster risk reduction activities in every development program. Our government has introduced Disaster Management Act-2012, National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2015 and Cyclone Shelter Centres Construction, Maintenance and Management Policy-2011. We introduced Permanent Orders-2010 on disaster.

Our government has given priority to use information technology on disaster danger signal system, increasing mass awareness regarding disaster, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, feedback, loss assessment, rehabilitation, reforming and so on.

I urge all including different donor agencies, private companies, members of civil society and every walk of life to come forward alongside government to set up an efficient and effective disaster management structure.

Dear audience,

At present Bangladesh is world's one of the prospective and emerging country of economy. The growth rate was 6.51% in last fiscal while it was 6.2% on average during the previous five years. Bangladesh has stood the 5th position in the world economy for achieving more growth rate. There are very few countries in the world which have earned over 6% growth rate for a long period. We expect that the rate will surpass 7% in this fiscal.

Our government's prospective development policy is playing effective role to increase overall growth rate and upgrade countrymen's living standard. Bangladesh has achieved praiseworthy success in different sectors at world's human development index. We have declined poverty rate at 22.4% from 41.5%. The extreme poverty rate reduced to 7.9% now.

Bangladesh has achieved most of the MDGs by now and steadily moving ahead towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I believe that this project will strengthen the capacity of the government in mid and long-term disaster risk management.

Our government will make effective utilization of these school-cum-cyclone shelter centres by running them properly. I urge the local community and administration to take best care and ensure the optimum utilization of these establishments for the greater interest and long term benefit of the people.

The contribution of Saudi Arabia's great King late Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz will be meaningful if only that purpose is fulfilled. May his departed soul stay on peace.

I along with His Royal Highness Prince Turki Bin Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud am declaring the School-cum-cyclone shelter centres open at Amtoli upazila in the district of Barguna under Fael Khair Program.

Thank you all once again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.