

**DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
GRADUATION CEREMONY**

SPEECH By

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

My Colleagues in the Cabinet, Advisers and Members of the Parliament,
Chiefs of three services,
Commandant of Defence Services Command and Staff College,
Excellencies,
Graduating Officers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assallamu Alaikum.

I am very happy to be amongst you on this occasion of certificate awarding ceremony of the Defence Services Command and Staff College. Obtaining a 'PSC' degree from this renowned institution is indeed a matter of great pride for any member of the armed forces. I extend my sincere greetings and felicitations to all graduates of this course.

In this month of remembrance of our glorious language movement, I recall with reverence those fearless and brave martyrs whose blood had established the honour of our mother-tongue. I pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls. Their noble self-sacrifice would remain forever a source of inspiration for preserving our independence and sovereignty. I also respectfully remember the one of the architects of language movement, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose untiring self sacrifice and dynamic leadership led to the birth of our beloved Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the independence through the war of liberation, the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave special emphasis to buildup a disciplined and professional Armed Forces for Bangladesh. In line of that, this College was established for the higher training of our Armed Forces Officers.

With the passage of time, this institution has been acclaimed in the international arena as a unique military educational institution. We feel proud of this. During our previous tenure in 1996-2001, we established a number of institutions, including National Defence College, MIST and Armed Forces Medical College.

Dear Graduating Officers,

This day is undoubtedly a memorable one in your life. You have successfully completed this important military course by dint of hard work and perseverance. The knowledge you accumulated through this training would be helpful in discharging your

professional responsibilities and in facing any challenge in future. I wish continuous success in your professional career.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The armed forces are the symbol of our independence and sovereignty. Alongside discharging the noble responsibility of protecting our freedom, the members of our patriotic armed forces are also making significant contributions to the fields of tackling natural disasters, construction of infrastructures, socio-economic development, maintaining law and order in aid of civil administration.

Not only inside the country, members of our Armed Forces have also earned name and fame in foreign lands by their honesty, dedication and professional efficiency. Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces are contributing significantly for restoring democracy, social development, health and education in various countries under the emblem of UN mission. Their success has brightened the image of Bangladesh.

In the backdrop of the changed security scenario in the present day world, role of the armed forces has become multi-dimensional. This should be reflected realistically in the education and training programmes of the armed forces.

I believe, the Defence Services Command and Staff College has attached due importance to this issue in their training curricula.

Bangladesh believes in the peaceful resolution of all bilateral, regional and international disputes in all corners of the globe. The basic principle of our foreign policy is: 'Friendship with all and malice towards none on the basis of equality'. We are committed to international peace and security. Our standpoint against all kinds of terrorism is very clear. Our armed forces must move forward being imbued with that ideal.

Our resources are limited. Our intention is to build up a strong, efficient and modern armed force within the available resources. We need to emphasize on advanced training and exercise to attain our aim. During my first tenure in office, I took initiative to expand the armed forces and established a number of units following the Defence Policy 1974 framed by the Father of Nation. During our immediate past tenure, we implemented various development programmes under the Forces Goal 2030. We continued the development process and we are committed to doing whatever necessary for the development and welfare of the armed forces.

Our government always wants to run the country as servant not as master. We did not spare anybody in regard to corruption and irregularities, and established rule of law at every sphere of the society. We have eradicated militancy and terrorism. We got your cooperation in serving the country.

We have been working to turn the country into a middle income one by 2021 and made remarkable progress towards the goal. Our per capital income has been surged to 1044 US dollars. Our foreign currency reserve surpassed 18 billion dollar mark. We achieved a sustained GDP growth over 6 percent braving global recession and various odds. We would turn Bangladesh into a developed country by the year 2041, Insha Allah. Dear Graduating Officers from Abroad,

We have very warm and friendly ties with your countries. We are hopeful that these ties would be deepened through your participation at this Staff College. I firmly believe, you have certainly, formed positive impressions about the people and culture of this land while studying here. Your stay at this college must have been pleasant and enjoyable. I hope that as our goodwill ambassadors, you will convey the good wishes of

our simple and hospitable people to your government, the armed forces and your countrymen.

I would like to congratulate the spouses of the graduating officers. You are also a part of their successes as you made valuable sacrifice and cooperation for them. Our contribution for the development and empowerment of women is well recognised worldwide.

Finally, I once again congratulate you and wish a progression and sustained success in your careers. May Allah help us to protect our independence and sovereignty, and achieve progress and prosperity.

Thank you all, once again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.