

**Platinum Jubilee of Rotary International District 3280,  
Bangladesh and handing over Rotary Peace Award 2013**

Speech By

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina

Honorable Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Saturday, 25 Jaistha 1420, 08 June 2013

---

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Past President of Rotary International Mr Bhichai Rattakul,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Rotarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Assallamu Alaikum.

I would like to congratulate the rotarians of the country at the Platinum Jubilee of the Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh.

Rotary International was established in 1905 with a view to render humanitarian services to the people and encourage goodwill and peace across the world. Over 1.2 million rotarians worldwide are mostly wealthy and well-established in the society and have been expanding services to the mankind. They are contributing to ameliorating the sorrows and sufferings of the neglected and needy section of the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The politics of the greatest Bangalee of all time, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to realize the socio-economic and political rights of the common people. He was the indomitable leader of the world's freedom-lovers, oppressed people and workers. He struggled throughout his life for establishing peace, tranquility, friendship, freedom and democracy. In achieving these goals he faced imprisonment and oppression.

The independent Bangladesh was established through the Liberation War under the able leadership of the Father of the Nation. He then spread his ideals of friendship towards all, malice towards none and peaceful coexistence worldwide to establish a lasting peace in the world. For his great role in establishing peace across the world, the world Peace Council awarded him Joliot-Curie Peace Prize in 1973.

Following the footprint of the Father of the Nation I have also been putting relentless effort to establish global peace. As president of Bangladesh Awami League which has developed based on the ideals of the Father of the Nation, I have been pursuing the leaders and workers of the party to follow peaceful paths for restoring rights of the people.

The World has now been engaging with sustainable development. I strongly believe that it can only be established through ensuring global peace. With this commitment, I on behalf of the people of Bangladesh presented "People's Empowerment and Development" model in the UN General Assembly in 2011 in the bid to achieve global peace. The 193 member states of the UN passed the proposal in last December.

In the model I identified eradication of poverty and hunger, reduction of inequality, mitigation of deprivation, inclusion of excluded people, acceleration of human development and elimination of terrorism are the six mutually reinforcing peace multipliers to achieve world peace.

Today's Rotary Peace Award would be a boost to our peace building initiatives. It is an honor to the people of the country. The recognition of the Rotary International to our peace effort will inspire us to establish and maintain peace at home and in abroad.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At home, we have given top priority to poverty alleviation. We thus have ensured overall development of villages. Each and every village is now the focal point of the development and contributing to the national economy.

We have maintained economic growth rate of about 6.5 percent on average. Despite the global economic meltdown, healthy growth in the export earnings, remittance inflow and foreign currency reserve are being maintained. The poverty has reduced rapidly. Per capita income and purchasing power of the people have been increased substantially. We have ensured the healthcare facilities of the rural people by setting up community clinics. The rural people are now getting ICT services at the Union Information and Service Centers.

We have implemented huge development work to improve education sector and expedite human resources development. We have ensured tremendous development in the agriculture sector. We have ensured food and nutrition security to the poor and low-income people. We have taken initiatives to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

We have consolidated the democracy. We are attaching priority to maintain communal harmony. We have brought the war criminals to the justice to establish peace in the society.

The rotarians would participate to our initiatives to the welfare and development of the people and the country. I know, rotarians are engaged in education development and humanitarian services. I would like to request them to take coordinated efforts to ensure optimum benefits to the people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our goal is to establish a poverty-free hunger-free prosperous Bangladesh by 2021. Through this achievement, we will build golden Bengal (Sonar Bangla) as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

I request the people of all walks of life including the rotarians imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War to participate in our epoch-making initiatives.

Thank you.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.