

## **Graduation Ceremony of NDC and AFW Course-2015**

Speech by

**HE Sheikh Hasina**

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

NDC, Mirpur Cantonment, Saturday, 5 Poush 1422, 19 December 2015

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### **Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

Dear Colleagues,  
Chiefs of Staffs of the three Services,  
Diplomats,  
Commandant, National Defence College, Faculties, Staff Officers,  
Course Members of NDC and AFWC 2015,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

### **Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.**

I welcome you at the Graduation Ceremony of NDC and AFW Course-2015.

December is the month of victory. I pay my homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. With profound respect, I remember our four national leaders. With deep gratitude, I also recall the sacrifices made by three million martyrs, and two hundred thousand mothers and sisters who lost their modesty. I extend my sympathy to the war-wounded freedom fighters and the members of the martyred families. My felicitations go to the freedom fighters.

### **Dear Course Members,**

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on the successful completion of the National Defence Course and Armed Forces War Course through a one-year long arduous and challenging journey.

You learned different aspects of a state, including socio-political culture, economy, international relations and national security. You have also studied problems of governance and different solutions to these problems.

We live in a globalised multi-centric world. Technologies are increasing connections among all the people, providing solutions while sometimes creating stresses and tensions through its abuse. Specially, militants and terrorists spread their claws to undermine humanism. I hope that this course has made you more capable to face any annoying situation.

The main objective of our liberation war was to establish a democratic, exploitation free, secular and just society. Braving various odds, we have been trying hard to ensure these principles in our politics, economy and governance systems.

Before 1996, there was no institution for the higher training of senior and mid-ranking officers of Armed Forces in the country. We established the National Defence College during my debut tenure in the Government. Today, this institution has turned into an internationally reputed military educational organization. It is indeed a matter of pride for us.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our Armed Forces were born in the battlefield of our liberation war. Our patriotic Armed Forces always sided with the people to meet their hopes and aspirations. They have always worked with integrity, commitment and diligence to help the people in times of natural and man-made disasters, developing infrastructures and bringing global peace. They have earned

laurel both internally as well as internationally. I hope this partnership between the people and the Armed Forces will be cemented further with the passage of time.

**Dear Participants,**

The strategic location of Bangladesh made it an important 'actor' in the global politics. Bangladesh is playing a major role in promoting regional integration. As our domestic policies have proved to be effective in human development and economic empowerment of the people in general, our foreign policy has effectively contributed to create the most favorable environment for our development.

Guided by the enduring foreign policy principle promoted by Bangabandhu - Friendship to all and malice to none - Bangladesh has consistently championed peace, tolerance, nonviolence and human development.

**Dear Graduates,**

We are living in a more interdependent world where any incident, either positive or negative, affects the global community. The developing countries have to merge with the policy designs of the international community and therefore remain extremely vulnerable to shocks originating from the developed world. It is a must that the developing countries forge increasing security and economic relations among themselves to diversify and strengthen their economy and national security.

We aimed at developing an integrated regional economy. I am happy to say that today we see the beginning of the implementation of that vision. In last 7 years, the South Asian region has seen substantial progress on security issues, bilateral relations and multi-lateral cooperation.

**Dear Foreign Friends,**

During your year long stay in Bangladesh you have gained valuable experience and understanding on our country. You have lived, worked and made friends among the Bangladeshis and other foreign course members. I hope that you have developed empathy and appreciation for Bangladesh and will act as our valuable ambassadors at your respective positions.

I am happy to know that the college is actively promoting democratic values, rule of law, political culture and human rights among the course members. I hope you will work to spread the same message across our nation-states.

**Dear Members of the Armed Forces**

Bangladesh is proud of its Armed Forces. Over the years, my government has ensured that our Armed Forces have access to latest technologies and equipment. Adequate training facilities have been established and institutionalized. National Defence College, being the strategic asset of the country, always remains in our focus. My government is very keen for the capacity building of this institution. A project to build an annex structure of the College, costing 132.35 crore taka is already under process. We have also advised to increase the civil service participation in the National Defence Course with a view to widening the scope of civil-military relationship and attain the objectives of the College.

**Dear All,**

National Defence College is dedicated to train the operational and strategic leaders from home and abroad, from militaries to civil services officers and the policy makers on democratic and constitutional imperatives. They are contributing to the promotion of a culture of accountability and transparency. The officials have been carrying out high responsibilities in their respective services.

It is hoped that with their knowledge, will and commitment, they will steer the national efforts towards stability, development and empowerment of the people. I hope that through your actions, our goal of attaining global peace and security will be greatly enhanced.

Ex-graduates from this institution have been honoring the positions of cabinet secretary, Services Chiefs and Chief of Police. These days, successful businessmen of the

country, members of parliament, media personalities, social elites etc are showing greater interest to earn fellowship from this institution.

I would like to urge the National Defence College to keep up its standard and upgrade its curriculums regularly to remain relevant under the changed global scenario.

I thank the Commandant and members of the faculty and staff of NDC for their excellent standard of professionalism. I wish good luck for the success of this institution and pledge my government's full support for all times to come.

My sincere thanks to all who, through their presence, glorified this occasion.

Best wish to you all again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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