

**'New Economic Thinking: Bangladesh 2030 and Beyond' Conference
Inaugural Ceremony**

Speech by

HE Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,
Dear Colleagues,
Diplomats,
DCCI Officials,
Business Leaders,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and a Very Good Morning to you all.

I welcome you at the inaugural ceremony of Conference entitled 'New Economic Thinking: Bangladesh 2030 and Beyond' organized by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the month of victory, I pay my deep homage to the memory of the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with reverence the 3 million martyrs and 200 thousand women who were dishonored during the war of liberation.

I would like to thank Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry for organizing this international conference to devise strategy to build a developed Bangladesh by 2041.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UK-based multi-national company Price Water House Coopers in a report said Bangladesh would become the 29th economy of the world by 2030 and 23rd by 2050.

To achieve this goal, desired employment opportunity would have to be created through sustainable economic development industrialization, trade expansion, boosting remittance, developing infrastructure and improving education and health care services.

Bangladesh would secure recognition of a poverty-free country by 2030. To fulfill this target, the present government's support is continuing in increasing investment, creation of employment opportunity and improvement of business environment, reduction of cost of doing business and setting up of priority-based industries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After assuring office in 2009, we have begun implementation of vision 2021. Bangladesh earned a GDP growth over 6% over the last several years and 7.11% growth last year.

We have taken massive programmes to implement the 7th five-year plan devised incorporating UN SDG 2030 and the goals of vision-2021.

The father of the nation has gifted us an independent country. The government has been striving hard to materialize the goals of providing square meals, Medicare service, education and shelter for every citizen.

Earlier, I declared that there would be no thatched houses in the country. We we can now hardly see any thatched house. The government is building houses for 2.80 lakh shelter-less people across the country under Ashrayan Project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The private sector is the driving force of economy. The government constituted Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee for developing private sector, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) for consolidating industrialization, PPP office for infrastructure development, time-befitting

industrial and export policies for public and private investment along with initiatives to ensure infrastructure facilities.

We are providing lucrative incentives to attract foreign investment. We have taken steps to build 100 Special Economic Zones across the country to attract domestic and foreign investment.

A high-tech park on 355 acres of land is being constructed at Kaliakoir with a target to employ 10 lakh people in IT sector by 2021 and exporting goods of 5 billion dollar a year.

I would like to assure you that our government's cooperation would continue to create business friendly environment for developing private sector through transparent management.

Dear Audience,

By 2041, our economy will be at the centre-stage of the regional economy of Asia. Local Supply Chain and Global Value Chain will play an important role in regional and sub-regional communication and connectivity.

I believe that our the economy pursued by us will usher-in new horizon of success creating a win win situation in improving sub-regional and international economic relations and expanding trade and commerce, and investment.

To achieve the SDGs by 2030, it is necessary to improve relation of mutual cooperation with neighboring friendly countries and international arena.

The access of Bangladeshi goods up to Europe will make the improved regional cooperation, international connectivity and trade and commerce easy and speedy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has earned remarkable success in achieving MDGs. Similarly Bangladesh wishes to emerge as a global role model of implementing SDGs achieving its targets by 2030.

Bangladesh will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its independence in 2041. I firmly believe that it will be a \$ 2.5 trillion economy and per capita income will be \$ 12,600 by 2041.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has been working with a far-reaching goal to ameliorate its standings on various indexes like Cost of Doing Business Index of World Bank, Global Competitive Index of World Economic Forum, UN Human Development Index, Global Innovation Index and Logistics Performance Index aimed at turning Bangladesh into a developed economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have managed to lower the poverty rate to 22.4% in 2015 from 40% in 2005 and per capita income rose to \$1466. The export earning rose to over \$34 billion in 2015-16 from a mere \$10.5 billion in 2005-06. The foreign currency reserve stands at \$32 billion. Ninety percent of our development project fund comes from internal resources.

Development of power and energy will strengthen the economy of Bangladesh. With commissioning of 105 new power plants during the last 7 and a half years, the electricity production capacity rises to 15000 MW. Nearly 78% population of the country has now under electricity coverage. Some 4.5 million solar home systems have been established at off-grid areas. According to our vision 2021, cent percent people will be brought under electricity coverage by 2021.

We have taken fast-track projects. Programmes have undertaken to construct deep sea port, nuclear power plant, coal-based power plants, metro-rail, inter-state rail track and LNG terminal. Work on launching Bangabandhu satellite and underground tunnel in the river Karnaphuli in progressing. Construction of the Padma Bridge is also progressing fast. I believe our economy will be bolstered further once these projects are implemented.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The required outline, innovative concept and necessary guidelines to face the challenges to achieve the development goals of 2041 will be highlighted in the conference. The strategic papers to be prepared will focus on the emerging prospects.

I am here quoting the Father of the Nation with regard to economic development. In an address to the nation on 15 December 1974, he said "The 16th December 1971 is the end of our political independence struggle and the beginning the war of economic freedom. This is a 'do or die' war. This struggle is more time-consuming and strenuous. But if we remain united and work hard, and we are in an honest path, victory is ours, InshaAllah".

This is the country of ours. We have to take the country towards advancement working together remaining above personal and vested interest. Let us come and work for our country to build a Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

With these few words, I declare the conference on 'New Economic Thinking: Bangladesh 2030 and Beyond' open.

Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.
Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.
