

Defence Services Command and Staff College Graduation Ceremony

Speech

Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Excellencies,
Chiefs of Army, Navy & Air Force,
Commandant of Defence Services Command and
Staff College Graduating Officers,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum

I am happy to be amongst you on this occasion of certificate awarding ceremony of the Defence Services Command and Staff College.

In this month of remembrance of our glorious language movement, I recall with great gratitude the brave language martyrs, whose blood had established the honour of our mother-tongue.

I also pay deep homage to the memory of one the pioneers of great language movement, the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under his undaunted leadership we earned our independence.

I pray to Allah, the most merciful, for the salvation of their departed souls.

Obtaining a 'PSC' degree from the renowned Defence Services Command and Staff College 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.

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. During our previous tenure in 1996-2001, we established a number of institutions, including National Defence College, MIST and Armed Forces Medical College.

With the passage of time, Defence Services Command and Staff College has been acclaimed in the international arena as a unique military educational institution.

It is a matter of pride that from the inception this College has successfully completed 39 Staff Courses for the Army, 33 Courses for the Navy and 35 Courses for the Air Force.

A total of 860 officers from the armed forces of our 37 friendly countries of the globe have also obtained 'PSC' degree from this College.

All these graduates are discharging important responsibilities in the defence structure of their own countries. I congratulate the Commandant and faculty members of the Staff College for this success.

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.

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.

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 and other nation-building activities.

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 imbued with the same 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.

You will be happy to know that our government has taken up projects to extend infrastructural facilities of Defence Services Command and Staff College. Under the projects the construction works of a multistoried residential complex has already been commissioned and the construction of academic building will be completed very soon.

I firmly believe, the implementation of the project will increase the training capability of Staff College.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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's main objective is to boost up the living standard of the common people through establishing good governance at every sphere of the national life. We never compromised with irregularities and corruptions. All out measures have been undertaken to establish rule of law. Transparency and accountability are being ensured through spreading

digital technology at every sphere. We have taken the policy of 'zero tolerance' on militancy and terrorism.

We want to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country before 2021. We have been achieving 6.2 percent GDP growth for the last 6 years. Our per capita income has risen to USD 1,190. The poverty rate downed to 24 percent and we are hopeful to lower it at 14 percent by the next five years. Nearly 50 million people have been elevated to middle income group. Bangladesh fares better in most of the economic indices not only in South Asia but also among many developed nations. Our ultimate target is to turn Bangladesh into a developed nation by 2041. We have to work together from our respective positions to achieve the target.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the graduating officers and their spouses once again, and wish them progression and sustained success in their careers.

May Allah help us to protect our independence and sovereignty, and to achieve progress and advancement.

Thank you all, once again.

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

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