

DEFENCE SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
GRADUATION CEREMONY

Speech by

H.E. Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Cabinet colleagues and Members of the Parliament,
Chiefs of three services,
Commandant of Staff College,
Excellencies,
Graduating Officers,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum.

I am very 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 reverence those fearless and brave martyrs whose blood had established the honour of our mother-tongue. I also pay homage to Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, one of the pioneers of Language Movement. I pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of their departed souls.

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the independence through the war of liberation, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave special emphasis to build up a disciplined and professional armed forces. 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.

It is a matter of pride that from the inception, this college has successfully completed 36 staff courses for the Army, 30 courses for the Navy and 32 courses for the Air Force. A total of 720 officers from the armed forces of our 34 friendly countries have also obtained 'PSC' degree from this college. All these graduates have been 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.

I am delighted to learn that for the first time in the history of our Armed Forces, a female officer of Bangladesh Air Force has successfully been graduated in the recently completed Staff

Course. My special greetings go to her. Mentionable that inclusion of female officers in our armed forces was initiated during the last tenure of our government.

Dear graduating Officers,

This is undoubtedly a memorable day 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,

It is a great pleasure to have you among us. I hope you have enjoyed your stay in this beautiful country. As our goodwill ambassadors, please convey our good wishes 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, maintaining law and order in aid of civil power etc.

Not only inside the country, members of our Armed Forces have also earned reputation 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.

You will be happy to know that the present government has taken up a project to extend infrastructural facilities of Defence Services Command and Staff College. Under this project the construction works of a multi-storey academic and residential complex have already begun.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At last, 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.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.