

# Meeting with NDC Commandant, faculties, staff members and Participants of NDC and War Course

Speech by

**HE Sheikh Hasina**

Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Commandant, National Defence College, Faculties, Staff Officers,  
Course Members of NDC and AFWC 2013,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

Assalamu Alaikum.

I welcome you all at this august gathering.

December is the month of victory. The Bangalee nation earned ultimate victory on December the 16th in 1971 after a 9-month war of liberation.

I pay my homage respect to the greatest Bangalee of all time, 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 the two hundred thousand mothers and sisters of the soil who lost their modesty. I extend my sympathy to the war-wounded freedom fighters and the members of the martyred families.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on the eve of successful completion of the hectic and challenging National Defence Course and Armed Forces War Course.

I am very happy to know that 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 this problem.

We live in a globalised multi-polar world. Continuously improving technologies are increasing connections among all the people, providing solutions and sometimes naturally creating adverse effects also.

We have ensured legitimate safeguards in light of national security concerns but also successfully encouraged effective use of technology.

The main objectives of our liberation war were to establish democracy, 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.

Dear course members,

Before 1996, there was no institution for the higher training of senior and junior officers of armed forces in the country. We established the National Defence College during our last tenure. This institution has turned into an internationally reputed training institution. It's indeed a matter of pride for us.

Our armed forces were established 42 years ago from now in the battle field of liberation war. Our patriotic armed forces always were with the people to meet their hopes and aspirations. I hope, you will do the same in future.

We have been working to establish professional and well-trained armed forces. We have allocated increased money for the armed forces in the national budgets.

The present government procured equipments including fourth generation tank MBT-2000, self-propelled missiles, Radar, APC for the army. Modern helicopters have been purchased for army aviation. MIG-29, C-130 aircraft, Mi171 helicopters and surface to surface missile system have been added to the Air Force. For Navy, modern frigate and vessels were procured to meet the newer challenges.

We have been working to increase our participation in the UN peacekeeping mission.

Dear participants,

The strategic geographic 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 worked to create a most favorable environment for our development.

We see improvement in the security situation from individual to state level. However there remain serious challenges in ensuring continuing growth and development. I believe with your just completed courses you will be better prepared to tackle these challenges.

Dear Foreign Friends,

During your year long stay in Bangladesh you have gained valuable experience and understanding. You have lived, worked and made friends among Bangladeshis and foreign officials. I hope you are satisfied with the traditional Bangladeshi hospitality.

I hope that you have gained 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 of constitutionalism, rule of law, political control and human rights among the course members from the militaries and the bureaucracies.

What you have achieved in National Defence College, I hope, you will work to spread the same cooperation across our country and also among our friendly countries.

Dear Members of the Armed Forces,

Bangladesh is proud of its Armed Forces. Our armed forces were born during the war of liberation.

We have ensured that our Armed Forces will have access to latest technologies and equipment. Adequate training facilities have been established and operationalised. The Armed Forces members have always worked with integrity, commitment and diligence to help the people in times of natural and other calamities and disasters; they have implemented strategic infrastructure projects and worked generally at very high standards at both home and abroad.

They have earned very good reputation internally as well as internationally. I hope this partnership between the people and the Armed Forces will gather strength with the passage of time.

I am confident that the Armed Forces will continue to maintain its high standards in its efforts, efficiency and professionalism.

Dear All,

I am happy to note that the National Defence College is dedicated to train the operational and strategic leaders from home and abroad, from militaries to civil services to the

policy makers from democratic and constitutional perspectives. They are contributing to the promotion of a culture of accountability and transparency.

It is hoped that with their knowledge, will and commitment they will usher in stability, development and empowerment of the people.

Best wish to you all again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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