



Newsletter

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Anti-liberation forces and killers of Bangabandhu hatch conspiracies: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the “ghosts” of anti-liberation forces and killers of Bangabandhu were still on the loose and hatching conspiracies to thwart peace and progress.

She was addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League on 31 August at the Gono Bhaban, marking the National Mourning Day.



“The opportunists tried to spread falsehood and instigate people by taking the advantage of social media, a contribution of the Awami League,” she said.

Sheikh Hasina said a section of civil society members raised a hue and cry as the government took appropriate action against the instigators. “But everyone should keep in mind that the government would never compromise or succumb to any pressure on the question of ethics,” she said. The Prime Minister urged the Chhatra League leaders not to hanker for party posts.

She said the killers of Bangabandhu not only killed him, but also tried to erase the country's history. But they failed as Bangabandhu and the history of Bangladesh were very much connected to the common people.

Urging the BCL leaders to learn from the life of Bangabandhu and Bangamata, Sheikh Hasina said she was not afraid of death threats as several attempts had been made on her life in the past.

Anarchy by students of public univs unacceptable: Says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said any anarchic activity by public university students is not at all acceptable as they are availing of the education facility with public money.

“Indiscipline is not acceptable. If anyone wants to get education from any public institution, he has to abide by the rules and regulations of that educational institution and act accordingly. That's what we want from the students as does the nation,” she said.

The PM was speaking at a programme marking the inauguration of “March 7 Bhaban”, a newly constructed residential building for female students inside Ruqayyah Hall of Dhaka University on 1 September 2018.

She said the government has formed Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship Trust putting emphasis on research works because no country can move forward without giving proper attention to research.



About the Dhaka University, Sheikh Hasina said all the movements that gave something to the country and its people had started from this university.

Earlier, the premier opened the March 7 Bhaban by unveiling its plaque. She also visited the museum in the building and signed the visitors' book.

The 11-storey building has been built at a cost of Tk 88 crore. The high-rise, which will accommodate 1,000 students, has an administrative block, service block and a museum.

Prime Minister briefs journalists at Gono Bhaban on the outcomes of Bimstec

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said EVMs should not be imposed hurriedly as the machines need to be introduced on a limited scale in national elections.

“Many countries have the EVM system. I was always and am still in favour of it. Yes, it's right that it shouldn't be imposed hastily as it's a matter of practice. We'll have to examine it,” she said while addressing a press conference at the Gono Bhaban.

The press conference was arranged to brief the media about the outcomes of her just-concluded visit to Nepal for attending the 4th Bimstec summit.

The prime minister said the introduction of electronic voting machine (EVM) is part of the government's “Digital Bangladesh” vision as it is a new technology.

She said BNP does not want the EVM system as it will not be able to apply their vote-rigging technique with the machines in place.

Sheikh Hasina said there is no doubt that the next general election, slated for December, will be free and fair. “We're not here to rig votes,” she said.

Sheikh Hasina also welcomed the move of Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and others to form an alliance.

About BNP's demand for the release of party chief Khaleda Zia, she said, "The government has nothing to do with it ... she [Khaleda] has either to go to court or seek clemency from the president."

The prime minister said she will neither take any step for bringing BNP to the elections nor obstruct it from joining the polls.

Regarding the unelected polls-time government or caretaker government, the prime minister said Bangladesh has a bad experience about it. Bangladesh will follow the system practised in India and Britain.

Sheikh Hasina said this system had been incorporated in the 1972 constitution of the country and it has been reincorporated in the charter after a High Court verdict.

As per the constitution, the election will be held three months before completion of the five-year term, she said.

In the constitution, the PM said, it has been made mandatory to sit in sessions of parliament after every 60 days except the three-month period of the election time.



On Rohingya issue, the Prime Minister said Myanmar has done a terrible thing by resorting to falsehood releasing fake photos over Rohingya issue.

The PM visited Nepal on August 30 and 31 to attend the two-day summit of Bimstec, a seven-nation economic bloc of South Asia and Southeast Asia.

66% support Sheikh Hasina: Finds US-based IRI survey on Bangladesh

Around 66 percent of the respondents support Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the PM, according to a survey by the International Republican Institute (IRI). It also found that 64 percent of them have favourable opinions for the Awami League-led government.

The Washington-based organisation conducted the survey between April 10 and May 21 this year. IRI collected data using a multi-stage stratified probability sample through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by division, by district, and by urban and rural locations.

Majority people of the country have said the country is marching ahead in the right direction under the leadership of PM Hasina, while a sense of high optimism is vindicated over the current economic situation, said IRI, a non-profit and non-partisan organisation, which is committed to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide.

The 33-page survey titled "National Survey of Bangladesh Public Opinion" said a staggering 62 percent people believe the country is going ahead on the right path, and as many as 69 percent people are satisfied with the current state of the economy.

On a similar note, the survey said an overwhelming support is evident in the government's effort to ensure public security, given that around 68 percent people are satisfied with current security situation. It added that 57 percent people believe the security situation will improve in the coming days.

PM administers oath for Rajshahi, Sylhet Mayors

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administered the oath for Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporations Mayors. Awami League mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton secured victory in Rajshahi, while BNP's Ariful Haque Chowdhury won in Sylhet.



Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina said democracy was established on a strong base in the country as her government ensured people's voting rights.

She called upon the newly elected public representatives to work properly for the overall development of their respective areas.

She assured the mayors and councillors, irrespective of their political affiliations, of extending her all-out cooperation to them.

PM opens 787 Dreamliner "Akashbeena"

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the employees of Biman Bangladesh Airlines to work with maximum integrity to brighten the image of the airlines as well as the country.

The PM made the call while inaugurating the operation of the newly inducted 787 Dreamliner "Akashbeena" to Biman's fleet at the VVIP lounge of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on 5 September.



Sheikh Hasina also asked the officials concerned to give extra attention to security issues.

In the recent past, she mentioned, some countries imposed sanctions on Bangladesh (cargo ban). "One country withdrew its sanction as security at our airports has improved," she said.

Briefly describing various government efforts to improve the service of the airlines, the Prime Minister said the government had reached a purchase agreement with Canada to acquire another three Dash-8 Bombardier aircrafts, aiming at increasing domestic connectivity.

"Akashbeena" is equipped with an in-flight entertainment system and onboard Wifi. Biman will allocate 10MB of free Wifi to each passenger, and they can buy more data if required.

The Dreamliner is a long-haul, mid-size, wide-bodied and twin-engine aircraft. It has the capacity of 271 seats and comes with state-of-the-art technology.

PM unveils new book on Bangabandhu

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said a new book based on Pakistan Intelligence Branch reports on Bangabandhu would provide people with a great opportunity to know about him elaborately.

"To me, it's a diamond from a coalmine. We have been able to find a diamond mine inside the coalmine," she said.

The PM was speaking at the publication ceremony of the first edition of "Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" at the Gono Bhaban on 8 September.

Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam chaired the function while Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan took part in the discussion.

Sheikh Hasina, the elder daughter of Bangabandhu, said the book is a priceless store of information.

"The IB [Intelligent Branch] reports are against Bangabandhu. There's nothing in favour of him, everything is against him. Why have we published these reports? ... With this publication, people will know each and every activity, move and speech of the Father of the Nation from 1948 to 1971. There is so much information there," she said.



The PM also said the IB reports would give the readers, researchers ... and others an opportunity to find out the most valuable information about Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu Memorial Trust is funding the publication. Hakkani Publishers will publish the book in 14 volumes.

The book also contains different information on the country's War of Liberation and the founding of the Awami League, letters written to Bangabandhu by his party leaders and workers, relatives and speeches delivered by him at different meetings and public rallies.

Take steps against Myanmar: PM asks international community

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the international community to come up with effective steps to force Myanmar to take back their over one million forcibly displaced nationals living in Bangladesh as per the agreements signed between the two countries.

"Bangladesh and Myanmar have inked bilateral agreements for the safe and permanent repatriation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. To continue the pressure on Myanmar for implementing the agreements, I urge the international community to take specific effective steps," she said.

The PM said this while inaugurating the Regional Hub of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Dhaka at Radisson Hotel on 9 September.

This IsDB Regional Hub will cover 19 countries like Singapore, Australia, Thailand and India.

She said Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) had given an instruction to stand beside the oppressed people and the IsDB could not remain silent when the Rohingyas were facing ethnic cleansing.

Bangladesh is proactively responding to the unprecedented humanitarian crisis by keeping its border



open and accepting the large influx of forcibly displaced Rohingyas despite having multifarious negative impacts on the local community and the country's ecosystem and resources, the PM said.

Hasina, Modi jointly open electricity interconnection

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee jointly inaugurated the power supply via videoconferencing from Dhaka, New Delhi and Kolkata on 10 September.

Some 500 MW additional power will be supplied from India to Bangladesh through Behrampore-Bheramara interconnection.

The two prime ministers along with Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb also launched groundbreaking of Agartala-Akhaura rail link as well as groundbreaking for rehabilitation of Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways through videoconferencing. Biplab joined in through videoconferencing from Agartala.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina said the government has planned to import 9000 MW electricity from neighbouring countries by 2041 to maintain the country's high economic growth.



Hoping that India would remain beside Bangladesh in its endeavour, she said Modi ji would take necessary steps regarding Mamata's offer to supply additional 1,000 MW power to Bangladesh.

Speaking at the programme, Modi said India was proud to help Hasina realise the high goals, set by her, of transforming Bangladesh into a middle income nation by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

He expressed confidence that the India-Bangladesh development partnership would touch new heights in future.

Construction of pipeline between Siliguri & Parbatipur opened

The two Prime Ministers also opened the construction of 130km Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline between Siliguri in West Bengal and Parbatipur in Dinajpur through videoconferencing on 18 September. Sheikh Hasina attended the videoconference from the Gono Bhaban while Modi from his office in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina has said she looks forward to continued support from India for the development of Bangladesh. The two leaders also inaugurated the construction of the third and fourth dual gauge rail lines of Dhaka-Tongi and Tongi-Joydevpur sections of Bangladesh Railway.

Through the cross-border pipeline, India will supply fuel oil from its Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL), located at Golaghat in the northeastern state of Assam, while Bangladesh will receive the oil at Parbatipur depot of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in Dinajpur. India will supply 2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel in the first three years.

Birthday Greetings

During their speeches, the two prime ministers greeted each other on their birthdays. The birthday of Modi was celebrated on 17 September while that of Hasina on September 28.



Modi extended in advance birthday greetings to Hasina saying the people of India “wish you a long life, good health and success.” The Indian PM also acknowledged with gratitude Hasina's greetings on his birthday.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina had sent a letter greeting Modi on his 68th birthday and commended Modi's “keen desire and commitment to promote all-round cooperation with Bangladesh” saying it will take the bilateral relations to “newer height”.

Nothing to worry about: PM tells House on Digital Security Act

Journalists need not worry about the passing of the Digital Security Bill as it would not gag them, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the parliament on 20 September.

“We have seen several noted editors, journalists and wise people of the society give opinions against the law. Their only concern is about them being gagged. But they have not been gagged,” she said while delivering the valedictory speech of the 22nd session of the 10th parliament.

She said that had their voices been stifled, they would not have been able to express such opinions.

The bill had to be passed to protect the children, the young generations, students, adults, families, and the society. It had to be passed to ensure nobody's character gets assassinated online, and people, from children to the elderly, do not take the wrong path and get addicted to digital devices, the PM added.

Interests of any particular group should not be taken into consideration, she said, adding, “Why are our journalists being so sensitive and worried? What is the reason? I think there is no logic behind it.

Journalism must not be meant to create conflict, give rise to confrontational atmosphere, instigate terrorism and militancy or tarnish the country's image, the PM added.

Journalism is for taking the country forward and bolstering the confidence of the people, she said.



Mentioning that once there was only one TV channel in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina said her government first dared to allow private TV channels and radio stations.

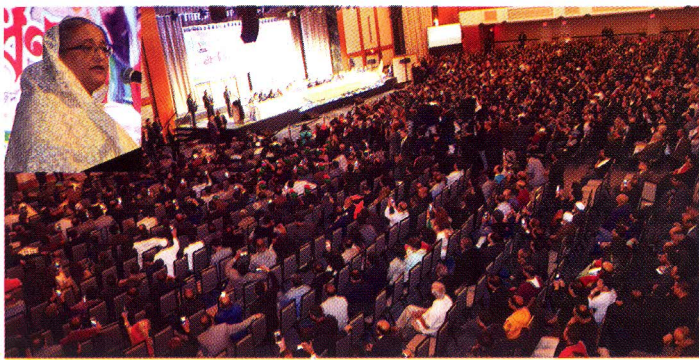
Social networking sites, including Facebook and YouTube, and digital devices have pros and cons, Sheikh Hasina said. "Given this, it is very necessary to ensure security for minor children, students, youths and even elderly people," she said.

"The digital technology has brought the globe to our palms, but an unscrupulous section is indiscriminately using the technology to create social problems."

"We have nothing to say in case of constructive criticism. But they [those newspapers] try to create confusion. They portray the present government in a very bad light. My question is what bad have we done?"

PM blasts unity move

Mentioning that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman were convicted in graft cases, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Dr Kamal Hossain and Badruddoza Chowdhury joined forces with corrupt people to fight corruption.



"Together with all such corrupt persons, Kamal Hossain and Badruddoza Chowdhury will fight corruption now. Manna will also fight," she quipped while addressing a civic reception accorded to her by the US Awami League in New York's Hilton Hotel on 23 September.

Sheikh Hasina said the BNP chief was convicted for embezzling orphans' money while Tarique was convicted in the 10-truck arms haul case and a corruption case. She said

former caretaker government adviser Mainul Hosein, who was "convicted" in Kakrail land dispute case, also joined them.

Moudud Ahmed, who was granted clemency by former president Ershad after being convicted in a graft case and lost his Gulshan house after occupying it illegally, was also with them, Sheikh Hasina added.

Criticising Dr Muhammad Yunus, the PM said he didn't quit the post of Grameen Bank managing director despite winning the Nobel Prize. "Now he is rich by providing loan to the poor at a high interest rate." She, however, welcomed them for being able to come under one platform.

Sheikh Hasina arrived in New York on Sunday to join the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Ending Rohingya Crisis: PM places 3 proposals at UN meet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has made three recommendations for solving the Rohingya crisis at its root, including abolition of discriminatory laws, policies and practices of Myanmar against the minority group.

According to her second recommendation, Myanmar must create conducive environment by building trust and guaranteeing protection, rights and pathway to citizenship for all Rohingyas.



If needed, it should create a "safe zone" inside the country to protect all civilians.

Her third recommendation says atrocious crimes against Rohingyas in Myanmar should be prevented by bringing accountability and justice, particularly in the light of recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission of the UN Human Rights Council.

The PM was speaking at a high-level event on the “Global Compact on Refugees: A Model for Greater Solidarity and Cooperation” at the UN headquarters in New York on 24 September.

“In Bangladesh, now we're faced with the largest forced movement of over 1.1 million traumatised Rohingyas in the shortest time. They've been forcibly displaced from their homes in Rakhine State of Myanmar where they had been living for centuries.

Sheikh Hasina reiterated that the Rohingya crisis has originated in Myanmar and the solution has to be found there.

She said Bangladesh would like to see the Rohingyas returning to their homes with safety, security and dignity. “Pending their return, we are trying to address their basic needs.”

Sheikh Hasina said the “Global Compact on Refugees” has been adopted at a time when the world is faced with swelling refugee crisis. Innocent people from various conflict-torn countries were leaving their homes for safety and security while many countries like Bangladesh were giving them shelter, protection and hope.

Why Muslims are repressed? PM asks OIC member states to find out reasons

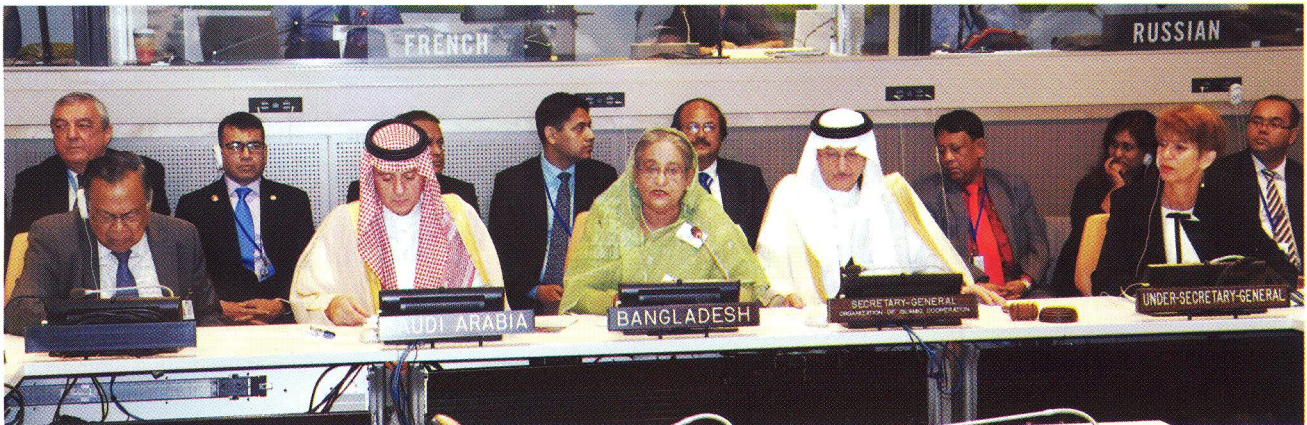
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the OIC member states to find out why Muslims across the world are being subjected to repression, torture and eviction.

“I would like to urge the OIC [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation] to play a more proactive role in mitigating the plight of the Muslims,” she said.

Sheikh Hasina was speaking at a high-level meeting on the situation of the Rohingyas in Myanmar, organised by Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia and the OIC Secretariat, at a conference room at the UN Headquarters.

More than a year has gone by since thousands of Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine State to escape “genocide” in their homeland, she mentioned.

“We cannot just ignore the plight of the forcibly evicted Rohingyas in one of the largest displacements in human history. Currently, we're hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh.”



Sheikh Hasina said repression on the Rohingya Muslims is nothing new. Their exodus from Myanmar to Bangladesh had taken place in three phases -- in 1978, 1991-92 and 2017-18, and their recent exodus is the biggest one.

The repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homeland does not seem to be the only sustainable solution to the problem, she said underscoring the need for collective responsibility and ensuring the rights and privileges of the Rohingyas by Myanmar.

She mentioned that as a responsible neighbour, Bangladesh has engaged with Myanmar in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis from the very beginning.

She urged the Muslim Ummah to mount pressure on Myanmar to create conducive environment for sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas and ensuring accountability of those who committed atrocities against the Muslim minority.

PM stresses UN role for global cyber security

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called the UN to play an effective role in making the digital world safer and continue its work on norm setting for information security.

“UN can play a critical role in making the digital world safer. The work on norm-setting in information security should continue,” she said in a statement at a high-level event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on 25 September.



UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on Cyber Security and International Cooperation and Bangladesh’s Permanent Mission to the UN jointly organized staged the event.

UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu, Singapore Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister Paul Teesalu and Ambassador in Charge of Cyber Policy of Japan Masato Otaka spoke on the occasion.

The panelists were PM’s ICT Adviser Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed; Director of Global Services Division, UNOICT, Salem Avan; and Senior Director, Cyber Security Strategy and Policy, Microsoft, Angela McKay; while senior adviser of ICT4Peace Eneken Tikk was the moderator. PM’s Energy Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury delivered the closing remarks.

“The abuse of ICT may pose serious threat for international peace and security (as) cyber space has no physical borders,” she said, adding the capacity of states for securing IT was “far from even”.

The Bangladesh premier said while some states were working on using ICT for military purposes, The prime minister said the states should also prevent their territory from being used for wrongful acts against other nations’ interest.

PM at 73rd UNGA

PM pushes for quick solution to Rohingya crisis

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has demanded immediate and effective implementation of the Myanmar-UN agreement on the solution to Rohingya crisis which is putting immense socioeconomic pressure on Bangladesh.

Addressing the 73rd UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters on 27 September, she said the crisis has its origin in Myanmar and its solution also needs to be found there.

The PM said Bangladesh was appalled by what it saw in UN reports about atrocities against the Rohingyas, which are tantamount to genocide and crimes against humanity.

Bangladesh wants an early and peaceful solution to the crisis, she said. “We expect the international community, particularly the UN, to give due importance to the atrocities and injustice suffered by the Rohingya population in Myanmar.” Like the previous years, the PM delivered her speech in Bangla.

She said she presented a five-point proposal at the UN General Assembly last year with a view to finding a durable and peaceful solution to the Rohingya crisis.

“We're disappointed that despite our earnest efforts, we have not been able to begin Rohingya repatriation in a permanent and sustainable manner.”

She said many countries and organisations, including the UN, the Commonwealth, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, have shown solidarity with the Rohingyas and extended support and assistance for them.

Bangladesh started working on a new housing facility with all arrangements for the Rohingyas' education, healthcare and other needs so that they could live in a good and healthy condition, the PM told the UN. She called upon international organisations to join hands with Bangladesh in this initiative.

About terrorism, she said Bangladesh stands firm against terrorism and all organised crimes. The country would not allow its territory to be used for any terrorist acts against or any activity detrimental to the interest of its neighbours.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh has started its journey from being an LDC to becoming a developing country. Terming Bangladesh one of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change, the PM said its topography and high density of population have particularly exposed it to climate change risks.

Bangladesh has integrated its development programmes and its efforts to build a capacity for combating climate change into a mega project titled Delta Plan 2100. It is the only country to have adopted such a long-term development plan spanning 82 years, she added.

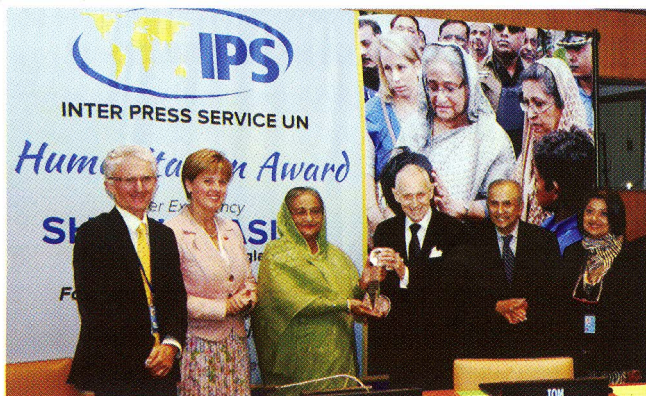
About the Palestine issue, she said Bangladesh was shocked by the continued violation of the rights of the brotherly people of Palestine.

Sheikh Hasina said three elements play the most critical role in advancing human civilization -- peace, humanity and development.

Noting that Bangladesh was once known to the world as the land plagued by disasters, floods, droughts and hunger, she said it has done wonders in maintaining international peace, managing disasters, empowering women and consolidating development gains.

The PM said Bangladesh has surpassed its South Asian neighbours on a number of indicators.

“But our journey has not reached its end. Our journey will continue till the day we can build a Bangladesh free of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and exploitation -- the Sonar Bangladesh as dreamt by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,” Sheikh Hasina asserted.



PM receives two international awards

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has received two international awards -- the IPS International Achievement Award and the 2018 Special Distinction Award for Leadership -- for her humanitarian and responsible policy in hosting the Rohingyas and for her far-sighted leadership over the Rohingya issue.

The Inter Press Service (IPS), one of the world's leading news agencies, and the Global Hope Coalition, a network of three not-for-profit foundations based in New York, Zurich and Hong Kong, honoured her with the two awards on 27 September. Sheikh Hasina received the awards at two separate functions in New York.

At a function at Park Avenue, Honorary President of Global Hope Coalition Irina Bokova conferred the 2018 Special Distinction Award for Leadership on Hasina.

The three other world leaders who also received the awards are President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Tunisia Beji Caid Essebsi and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.



Digital Security Act not against journos: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the spread of cybercrime as a global phenomenon warranted the enactment of Digital Security Act 2018 and that it is “not against the journalists”.

“You [journalists] are only seeing one side of the law fearing it could gag you. In fact, there is nothing to muzzle the journalists,” she said replying to a query at a press conference in New York on 28 September.

The PM said the cyber security issue also featured at the UN General Assembly as every country was worried that terrorist and militant activities were incited using the ICT.

She also questioned if it was not essential to check various offences in social and digital media at a time when everyone, including minor children, were stepping into the wrong paths due to lack of cyber security.

She informed the press conference that during a meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at her hotel suite they discussed, Rohingya, EVM and other bilateral issues.

The Prime Minister joined the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly on 23-28 September 2018.

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