

## **Convention on NRB Engineer's**

Speech by

**H.E. Sheikh Hasina**

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Tuesday, 14 Falgun 1425, 26 February 2019

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### **Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

Colleagues  
Expatriate friends  
Distinguished Guests and  
Audience,

#### **AssalamuAlaikum.**

Greetings to you all and very good morning.

In the month of our glorious language movement, I recall all the language martyrs with reverence. I pay my deep homage to the greatest Bangalee of all times Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for his noble and dynamic leadership we achieved independence. With due gratitude, I recall the 4 national leaders, 3 million martyrs and 2 lakh women who lost their innocence. I salute the valiant freedom fighters. I pay my deep homage to the martyrs of the 15th August in 1975 carnage.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib got only three and a half years to rebuild the war-ravaged Bangladesh. Bangabandhu wanted to build the independent country as 'golden Bangla'.

In his speech he said "We have to be the golden people of the golden country". In his speech intended for the intellectuals he told "I have deep respect for our intellectuals. I just want to tell them - please utilize your intellect to benefit the people."

You are the proud soul of the nation. You have not only established yourself by your actions on foreign soils, but also upgraded the image of Bangladesh around the world. Here you have united today for the welfare of your motherland. I would like to thank you all.

I know that deep sense of affection remain awake in your heart for the motherland those are living abroad. Slogan of the event titled "We are for Bangladesh" is a unique slogan for the country.

The expatriate Bangalees had played significant roles to mobilize public opinion for Bangladesh during our war of liberation. After the war, many of them extended their supports for reconstruction of the country after the war. I am grateful to the Bangalee brothers and sisters those had carried out campaigns in United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Russia and other countries of the world to stop genocide in Bangladesh. Besides, they called upon American citizens to participate in the movements unitedly to shut off the weapon shipment to Pakistan by USA government.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have made tremendous developments over the last 10 years. we have advanced a lot in the last 10 years. Bangladesh has been achieved the status of Developing country. Bangladesh is now recognized as the 41th largest economy in the world. Bangladesh is one of the top five countries in the world in terms of economic progress. Per capita income has increased to \$ 1,751. GDP growth rate increased to 7.86%. Literacy rate increased to 73 % from 45 percent in the last

10 years; while poverty rate reduced to 21.8%. The foreign currency reserve has now reached to 33 billion USD from 3 billion USD.

Our annual budget increased 7.6 times from Tk 61 billion in 2005-06 fiscal year to 4.64 trillion in 2018-19 fiscal year. Ninety percent of the development projects are being implemented by our own funds. Inflation rate has been reduced to 5.4 percent.

During the 2005-06 fiscal year, our export revenue was only 10.52 billion dollars, but 2017-18, it has increased to 36.67 billion dollars. We are working to achieve the goal to increase our export earnings to 60 billion dollars by 2021.

Power generation capacity rose to 20,885 Mega Watt. About 93% people are now under the electricity coverage. We have enabled to build Digital Bangladesh. We have launched 'Bangabandhu Satellite-1' in the orbit.

We have achieved food-sufficiency in food grain and now we are working to ensure food security for all. We have ensured healthcare services for all and people are getting healthcare facilities staying at home. Thirty types of medicines are being provided free of costs.

We are implementing several mega projects in priority basis. These are: the Padma Bridge, Metro Rail, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Rampal Coal Power Plant, Deep Sea Port.

Besides, Dhaka Mass-Rapid Transit Project, LNG Terminal, Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Program, Piara Sea Port, Padma Setu Rail Link and Chittagong to Cox's Bazar rail line project are of them also. Already the LNG supply from the LNG terminal started in the national grid.

We have established Probashi Kalyan Bank (Expatriate Welfare Bank). 59,92,132 workers went with jobs in 165 countries across the world in the last 10 years. The country has received 10 lakh 47 thousand 518 crore and 31 lakh taka as remittance. We have a plan to send 1000 workers from each upazila in abroad.

FDI was 28555.53 million dollars from 45 countries in the last 5 years. We are establishing 100 special economic zones where local and foreign investors are coming to invest.

### **Distinguished guests,**

The people of the country made us victorious in the 11<sup>th</sup> parliamentary elections. We are highly grateful to the people. We want to ensure sustainable development for welfare of the people. We will implement all pledges made to the people.

We have taken special plan for creating employments for the youths. we have set a target to create 1.5 crores employments for the youths.

The works of establishing more than 2 dozens of hi-tech parks and IT villages are going on.

We shall ensure civic rights for all. We are taking steps to provide every village with facilities of modern town. Electricity will reach to every household soon. Internet/IT facilities will reach to everywhere quickly.

Adopting zero tolerance policy, We have attained many successes in the ongoing drives against drug abuses, militancy and terrorism. The drives will continue.

We want to build a peaceful society establishing good governance in the country.

We have formulated a 100-year plan titled 'Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100'.

We welcome your any plan or suggestions for the welfare of the country. You invest here and also work in augmenting the foreign investments. Your cordial supports will expedite our development activities.

I think through this year's conference you will be able to identify the Policy Level Challenge and Institutional Level Challenges and find specific ways to solve it quickly. The suggestions from the First conventions of NRB engineers 2019 will supplement to formulate expatriate friendly policy.

**Ladies and Gentlement,**

Bangladesh is marching forward and will forward too. I hope your role will continue in country's march forward.

We shall celebrate the birth centenary of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020 and the golden jubilee of our great independence in 2021.

We shall turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed, prosperous one by 2041.

I, hereby declare the Convention of NRB Engineers (KONE) open, seeking utmost success. Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabondhu

May Bangladesh live forever.

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