

The Inaugural program of the expanded building of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) and other projects

Address by

Sheikh Hasina

Honorable Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,
Colleagues,
Physicians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum

I welcome you all at the inaugural ceremony of the expanded building of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) and other projects.

At the outset of my deliberation, I pay my deep homage to the greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall the 4 national leaders, 3 million martyrs and 2 lakh women. I pay my deep homage to the martyrs of the 15th August 1975.

We have achieved independent and sovereign Bangladesh under the noble and prudent leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib took various initiatives for the development of the newly independent Bangladesh. Within three and a half years of his regime, Bangladesh graduated to a Least Developed Country. He took milestone steps for developing the health sector. He expanded health services to the thana level to establish citizen centric health management. He upgraded the status of doctors to the class-1. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib established the BCPS, BMRC, NIPSM and public health nutrition institutions at that time.

Dear audience,

After 21 years, people have regained confidence after forming of our government in 1996. Our 1996 to 2001 regime was the golden era of the country's history. At that time, we established Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

We have introduced community clinic system to reach health services at the doorsteps of the people. Later, the BNP-Jamat alliance government had stopped more than 10,000 community clinics due to their vengeance to us.

Embracing the ideology of the father of the nation, extensive development works have been carried-out in this sector to ensure healthcare services to the doorsteps of commoners in the last ten years. Our government's health policy and healthcare programs are now considered as an example to the world. We have resumed community clinic services. Currently, some 18,000 community clinics and union healthcare centers are being operated its services. Thirty types of medicine are being given to patients at free of cost. Maternal and infant mortality rates decreased greatly due to the relentless efforts by all of us.

The introduction of free health care service on cellular phone and the telemedicine to the hospital have gained immense popularity. 16 new government and 5 new army medical colleges have been established since 2009. Moreover 10,662 new beds have been added to different hospitals of the country.

345 new educational institutions have been established to promote medical education- among them there are 42 new medical colleges, 19 dental colleges, 37 nursing colleges, 22 nursing institutes, 171 medical assistant training schools and 54 health technology institutes.

We have appointed 13,000 doctors, more than 5,000 new nurses in 10 years. More than 6,000 doctors will be appointed through Special BCS soon. More than 50 thousand people are recruited so far in the health sector.

Maternity leave has been extended to 6 months from 4 months. Average life expectancy has been increased to 72 years and 9 months.

We have developed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University as centre of excellence. Bed numbers have been raised to 1500. Health care service is being provided from newly built outdoor complex in the morning and evening shifts. The largest 500 bedded burn and plastic surgery institute in the subcontinent has been inaugurated few days ago.

Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPJ Hospital is established in Gazipur. Amid establishing of Dhaka Medical College Hospital-2 its seats have been increased to 2,600. While 500-bed Mugda General Hospital and Kurmitola General Hospital are being operated in full swing. About 201 Upazila Health Complex were upgraded from 31-bed to 50-bed hospitals. We will also upgrade the other Upazila hospitals to 50-bed hospital phase by phase. We want to set up one medical college in each district and one medical university in each division. As a result, people will get specialized healthcare services easily within a quick possible time.

362 new posts for orthopaedicians have been created in NITOR and other medical colleges. By this specialized hospital, proper modern treatment is being rendered so that none has to go abroad for treatment.

Dear audience,

For the treatment of wounded freedom fighters, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib invited popular orthopedic surgeon Dr. Ronald Joseph Girst to Bangladesh. There was no orthopaedic surgeon in Bangladesh during that period. 5 doctors were sent to East Germany upon the directives of Bangabandhu. To develop specialized doctors, the first post graduation course started in 1973 in this hospital with Bangabandhu's order. Later BSc and Diploma in physiotherapy also started.

As the present government came to power in 2009, I realized that this hospital needed to be upgraded; the beds to be raised to 1000 beds. That has resulted in today's inauguration of the newly expanded building. I hope, this hospital will try its level best to serve the injured and patients with deformity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The unprecedented development that carried out in the last 10 years has turned us a wonder in the world. Even the remote areas are getting the facilities of development. People are enjoying the benefits of development. Now, we are a developing country. Bangladesh has become a 'Role Model'. 90 percent of our development works are done by own fund. The poverty rate is reduced to 21 percent. About 7.86 percent economic growth rate has been achieved. Per capita income has increased to \$ 17.51 dollars. More than 5 million people are upgraded to the middle income level. The Padma Multi-purpose Bridge is now visible. We are constructing the Metro Rail. Digital Bangladesh is now reality. People are getting many digital services staying at their homes. The young are earning through out-sourcing. We have launched Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to the outer space successfully.

Bangladesh is marching forward; it will continue to move forward. We need your support to maintain the continuation of the development we have made. We want to have a happy, prosperous and modern Bangladesh for our next generation. That is why; the continuation of the government is needed. The advancement of Bangladesh will be continued, InshaAllah.

Dear Doctors,

Treating patient is not only a job but also a vow. You have to build the mentality to serve; to think every patient as a member of your family.

We are trying everything to ensure higher education. We are building specialized hospitals. This is my only expectation that you use this facility to learn and offer the patients your highest service. You must serve the patients properly, so that they feel confident.

Thanking everybody again I declare the newly extension programme of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) 'open'.

Khoda Hafez.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh live forever.

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