

**International Children's Day and  
National Child Rights Week-2019**

Speech

by

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Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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**Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

Respected Chair,  
Distinguished guests,  
My dear little sweet kids and  
Ladies and gentlemen.

**Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.**

I convey my heartiest greetings to the children of Bangladesh and as well as all over the world on this auspicious celebration of International Children's Day and National Child Rights Week-2019 organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

I recall with deep respect the greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I also remember the four national leaders, 30 lakh martyrs of our Liberation War and 2 lakh dishonoured mothers and sisters. My gratitude to the brave freedom fighters.

Children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. They will lead the world in the future, carry forward the civilization and culture. For this reason, children should be raised as worthy citizens. From this point of view, the main theme of this year's **World Children's Day and National Child Rights Week-2019** has been determined- **Children of Today, Our Keepers Tomorrow.**

**Dear Little Kids,**

The Father of the Nation deeply loved the children. That is why we have dedicated his birthday to the children and celebrate the day as 'National Children's Day'.

The Father of the Nation helped the poor and helpless classmates from his student life. He would also make them close one. I want you to always stand beside the poor, the helpless and the disabled with the ideals of the Father of the Nation.

I had a younger brother like you. I find Russell, my younger brother, amongst you.

The Father of the Nation has given this beautiful country for you. He made primary education free for the children of this country. He made the education of girls free up to secondary level. In order to ensure the rights of children, the Father of the Nation enacted the Children's Law in Bangladesh in 1974. The UN even did not enact legislation to protect the rights of children at that time. The UN enacted the law in 1989.

My hope is that as you grow up you will build 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation through completing the unfinished works of Bangabandhu. You [children] will dignify Bangladesh's position in the world.

**Dear Audiences,**

The Awami League government has been implementing a wide range of programmes to flourish latent talent, mental and cultural development of the children with the intention of making children eligible citizens of the country. The Child Labour Abolition Policy-2010, National Child Policy-2011, Children Act-2013, the Rights and Protection of Individuals with Disabilities Act-2013, Prevention of Child Marriage Act and Bangladesh Children Academy Act-2018 have been formulated. Financial assistances have been provided for the welfare of children, children at risky work, school dropouts and children with disabilities. To ensure the education and nutrition of children, mid-day meal at school has been introduced. We have

expanded Child Development Centre programme for poor and disadvantaged children. Day care centre for the children of the tea garden and garment workers have been set up with kid-corner. Our goal is to build a beautiful future by ensuring equal rights of all children.

**Dear guests,**

The government has set up multimedia classrooms and computer labs and providing computer training and education so that our children can build cope with the modern technology and gain proficiency in technical education. We have set up Sheikh Russell Digital Labs in educational institutions across the country and one language training lab in each district. Books have been distributed free of cost among the students. Braille books have been provided for the visually impaired. Books for small ethnic groups are being given in their languages. More than 900 children's books have been published from Shishu Academy in order to increase the habit of reading of the children. Books on the Father of the Nation's life and works have been published for the children while the true history of the War of Liberation has been added in the text books for the children.

We have adopted Zero Tolerance policy to prevent child abuse and to take action against child abuse. Bangladesh has achieved unprecedented success in child protection and prevention of child mortality.

**Dear Audiences,**

Bangladesh is moving towards a brighter future. Today's children will be riding the Metro Rail within a short period, will see the dream bridge-Padma Bridge. Today I inaugurated the first National Children's Painting Exhibition at Shishu Academy. I think, from these small painters, prominent artists like Zainul Abedin, S M Sultan, Kamrul Hasan will emerge.

We want our children to be the true legacy of our dreams. We want to create a well-balanced, child-friendly environment by providing access to improved living standards at the door steps of disadvantaged and underprivileged children. We want our children to enjoy all the benefits of Digital Bangladesh. However, everyone should be careful about the adverse impact of information technology.

I know, everyone has cell phones at home. Little kids-listen, you have to play at the playground; not on mobile phones. If you do not go to the playground you will not see the sky. You can't see the birds flying. You won't recognize butterfly. In addition to regular education, you have to be involved with creative and cultural activities. You will have to listen your parents and respect your elders.

**Dear Parents and Guests,**

I request to the parents and guardians to educate your children with moral education as these children will one day grow up and spread the light in the country. By raising children through the right practices of truth, beauty and honesty, Bangladesh will become more prosperous in the coming days. Therefore, in addition to love, care and admires, behave with the children in such a way so that they feel safe.

The school will be the fountain head for children's physical and mental development. The children should be taught about the true history of the Liberation War and have to inspire with patriotism. Children with disabilities and autism are an integral part of our society. They must be ensured active participation in every area of life, including education.

Let us say yes to children for building a brighter future and create a safe, peaceful Bangladesh for the children. I urge people at all levels of society to stop violent behaviour and abuse of children.

Today's children will bring light, keep the world sound-with this conviction, I am declaring a happy opening of the **World Children's Day** and **National Child Rights Week-2019**.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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