

Dinner hosted by H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister, Bangladesh

In honour of H.E. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

Address by

Her Excellency

Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Monday, 30 Kartik 1418, 14 November 2011, Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Mrs. Ban Soon-taek,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and Good Evening to you all.

I am extremely delighted to have you and Mrs. Ban with us in Bangladesh. I am also very happy to have with us the members of your high and distinguished delegation. Your presence reflects the special relationship that Bangladesh enjoys with the United Nations.

We, in Bangladesh, deeply admire your leadership and reform measures in making the United Nations into a more dynamic and functional organization. We are, therefore, highly pleased with your second successive term as the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I am particularly grateful that you made special efforts to make your presence in the Climate Vulnerable Forum. It shows your strong commitment to address the issues related to climate vulnerable countries. It also demonstrates that climate change and its challenges are high on your agenda.

I also take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your successful campaign of "Every Woman, Every Child" which is gaining momentum with increasing support worldwide. Indeed, good health of women and children helps in their empowerment, and contributes to a healthy nation.

I wish to felicitate you for your leadership role in ensuring the success of United Nations peacekeeping missions across the globe. Bangladesh is happy to be part of these noble efforts aimed to ensure international peace and security. Our commitment is, of course, reflected in our annual flagship resolution on "Culture of Peace".

I believe that peace is possible if people are empowered. This is possible with sound democracy, justice, human rights, inclusion and development. Therefore, in the 66th UNGA, I have proposed a draft resolution entitled, "People's Empowerment," for adoption. I am confident that it will surely receive your support.

I deeply appreciate your efforts to assist all concerned nations in attaining their MDGs. I must record the fact that all the UN Agencies, particularly those in Bangladesh, are extending all possible support to us in realizing them. I am confident their contribution will help us in also realizing our goal of a middle income country by 2021.

In conclusion, let me once again say how happy we are, especially me, to have you, Mrs. Ban Soon-taek and all members of your delegation with us in Bangladesh.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Long Live Bangladesh and the United Nations Friendship.

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