

**President's Parade - 65th BMA Long Course
and 36th BMA Special Course**

Speech by

Honorable Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina

Chittagong, Wednesday, 07 Poush 1418, 21 December 2011

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

Dear Colleagues,

Excellencies,

Chiefs of three Services,

Senior Military and Civil Officers

Dear cadets,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to be present at the President's Parade of 65th BMA Long Course and 36th BMA Special Course at Bangladesh Military Academy. I welcome you all.

In this month of victory, I pay my deep homage to the 30 lakh martyrs and 2 lakh women who lost their innocence for the cause of the independence of our motherland. I recall with deep gratitude the greatest Bangalee of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders. I extend my sympathies to the war-wounded freedom fighters and the members of the martyred families.

I also recall the members of our Armed Forces who lost their lives for protecting the country's sovereignty and establishing peace abroad. I prayed for the eternal peace of the martyrs.

Today a total of 127 cadets are going to be commissioned of whom 116 from Bangladesh Army, 6 from Palestine and 5 from Sri Lanka. I congratulate the new officers on acquiring the feat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Soon after the independence, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took initiatives to build modern and skilled armed forces.

He inaugurated the Bangladesh Military Academy in Comilla in 1974. While addressing the passing-out parade of the first batch of the Military Academy, Bangabandhu had called upon the cadets to build themselves as a skilled and morally esteemed officers being imbued with the ideals of patriotism.

Dear cadets,

We are committed to building a smart, patriotic, skilled and new leadership of army motivated with the spirit of liberation war. To achieve the goal, the country's Constitution along with the background of the emergence of Bangladesh has been incorporated in the curriculum of BMA.

Besides, the inspirational speech of the Father of the Nation delivered on January 11 in 1975 at the Military Academy has been included in the Leadership and Management module of cadets.

This is the era of Information Technology. I believe that proper application of ICT would help modernise the armed forces.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have joined the Bangladesh Army with the sacred oath to serve the motherland. At the end of the training, each of you is going to be a highly skilled army officer from tomorrow. You would be bestowed upon the paramount duty of leading the Bangladesh Army. You have to attain qualities and techniques of leadership to perform your duties.

I firmly believe that young army officers who have been trained under the new curriculum of Bangladesh Military Academy will be able to give proper leadership to the Bangladesh Army. I hope, you will devote yourself to the service of the country and the nation being inspired with patriotism.

Our Armed Forces was born through a blood-stained War of Liberation in 1971. This force is the symbol of our independence, sovereignty, and national unity. We have taken various measures to build the armed forces as modern and skilled forces.

We have already brought equity at the ration and salary structure of the members of the Armed Forces. Retired armed forces personnel have been facilitated with family retirement allowances. Various measures have also been taken to solve the housing problem of the members of the armed forces.

I laid the foundation of the Bangabandhu Complex of the Bangladesh Military Academy two years back as part of the modernization process of the armed force. The construction of the complex is expected to be completed by June 2013.

Dear cadets,

This is a memorable and pleasant day for you. You are entering into your professional life as a proud officer being commissioned after a rigorous training.

From today the sacred duty of safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty is being reposed on you. You have to remain prepared to perform this duty. Your first and foremost duty will be protecting the country's independence and sovereignty even by shedding the last drop of your blood.

I, myself, am a member of Armed Forces family. My brother Captain Shaheed Sheikh Kamal took part in War of Liberation as a regular member of Army. My other brother Shaheed Sheikh Jamal joined Army after being commissioned from the Royal Academy, Sand Hurst. My youngest brother Sheikh Russel also had a dream to join army.

They are no more with us. I see reflection of my brothers when I look at you. You are as if my brothers and sisters, members of my family.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh has earned name and fame as a potential and peaceful country in the world arena. Bangladesh has immensely been contributing to the world peace by deploying the highest number of peacekeepers to the UN Peace Keeping Missions. Already we have been able to establish our firm positions in various international and regional forums. From now on, you have to work to keep uphold the dignity.

I want to see that people of any corner of the world know Bangladesh army as the symbol of peace and progress.

We have earned UN MDG-4 award for reducing child and maternal mortality rate and South-South Award for improving socio-economic condition of women and children.

Bangladesh army has been conferred on Independence Award 2007 for its significant contribution to the war of liberation and public service.

Remember that you are an inseparable part of the country's people. You are the equal partners of the people's happiness and misery.

Bangladesh Army has always been beside the people during all natural disasters and national crises. Besides, Bangladesh Army is assisting the civil administration in the fields of infrastructure development, preparing national identity cards and voter list, making Machine Readable Passports and Machine Readable Visas etc.

On this auspicious day, we earnestly expect that you will continue to work along with the people for the welfare of the country apart from safeguarding the national independence and sovereignty.

Dear cadets,

The spectacular and colourful parade has enthralled me. I congratulate you all. I also thank the Commandants and other personnel involved in making this function a grand success.

I congratulate the winner of 'Sword of Honour' from my heart. I sincerely thank you all present in this spectacular parade. I wish you a happy and prosperous future. May Allah bless us all.

Khoda Hafez,

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever