

**'Sheikh Hasina Chattogram Hill Tracts Complex'**  
**Inaugural Ceremony**

Address by

**Sheikh Hasina**

Honorable Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Sunday, 13 Kartik 1425, 28 October 2018

---

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Honourable Chair

Dear Colleagues

Diplomats, Development Partners, Representatives of different International Organizations

Leaders of the Chattogram Hill Tracts and

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good afternoon to you all.

I welcome you at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Sheikh Hasina Chattogram Hill Tracts Complex'.

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, 2 lakh women and all the martyrs of 15th August of 1975.

The Father of the Nation had an immense love and sympathy for the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) people. After liberation, during his tenure of three and half years Bangabandhu visited Chattogram Hill Tracts for 3 times. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib realized with his farsightedness and prudence that the total development of Bangladesh is not possible ignoring the CHT. In 1973 Bangabandhu directed to create a separate board for the development of people of CHT.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Chattogram Hill Tracts is enriched with cultural diversity of different ethnic groups and its natural beauty. 'Sheikh Hasina Chattogram Hill Tracts Complex' is the latest milestone of different initiatives of our government for the development of people of CHT region.

We signed 'Peace Accord' on 2nd December 1997 for the establishment of peace and equal development for the people of this region. Bloody conflict of more than two decades was peacefully ended after signing of this peace accord. This agreement was signed without the involvement of any third party and it was highly appreciated in home and abroad.

Peace and stability have been established in CHT region due to implementation of Peace Accord. To accelerate development and to ensure services to the people of CHT, 30 subjects have been transferred to Hill District Councils. Development Partners have come forward, and local and foreign assistances are being extended. 'CHT Peace Treaty Implementation and Monitoring' committee has recently been reformed. The Land Dispute Resolution Acts, 2001 has been amended in 2016 to make the land dispute resolution commission more functional.

Task Force on 'Repatriation and Rehabilitation of Tribal Refugee returned from India and Identification and Rehabilitation of Internally Displaced People' has been formed and is discharging its activities. Hill District Council Acts, 1989 has been amended in 1998 to strengthen three Hill District Councils.

Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) has been working for the development of 3 hill districts. Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board law has been promulgated in 2014 by repealing the CHTDB ordinance 1976 for the expansion of working area and capacity building. As a result, development activities have been accelerated in CHT region.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During Awami League government, remarkable development activities have been implemented in three hill districts for upliftment of living standard of CHT people. After signing Peace Accord, 1659 km roads have been constructed in CHT region for the development of communication. A project of 879 crore taka has been taken for 873 km electric line extension and electricity distribution. Notable projects are also taken in Education and Health sector. Mobile networks have been extended.

Many Projects have jointly been taken by the government and development partners in socio-economic development, preservation of bio-diversity, protection of environment and cultural diversity. UNDP-CHTDF (Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facilities) project of Tk. 120 million has already been implemented in CHT. UNDP and Bangladesh government are jointly implementing 'Strengthening Inclusive Development in CHT' project at the cost of Tk. 350 crore. 1st phase of Chittagong Hill Tracts Rural Development Project of Asian Development Bank has been implemented and 2nd phase of Tk. 504 crore is under implementation.

UNICEF and the government of bangladesh funded 'Sustainable Social Service in CHT' is providing pre-primary education, maternal and child health, different development and awareness building program in CHT through 4000 village centers. Mixed fruits cultivation is practising for empowering women and meeting the requirement of nutritional status of CHT people. Project on rearing of cows for better income generating opportunities of marginal and poor women in remote areas of CHT is under implementation.

As income generating activities, a project of quality bamboo cultivation is being implemented for the backward people of CHT. Project has been taken for safe water supply and sanitation system development at important locality in CHT. Electricity facility through solar panel installation has been extended in remote area of CHT. Extension of electricity distribution lines and establishment of power substations are going on. As a result, inhabitants of remote and backward areas are enjoying the electricity facilities in CHT.

One Science and Technology University and one Medical College and Hospital have been established in Rangmati. One Nursing College has been established in Bandarban for the improvement of education and health of CHT people. Under 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, several project/programs have also been taken for over all development of CHT based on priorities and development strategies in 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Establishment of new schools and renovations of schools at remote hilly areas have been extended for the education facilities of more than 20,000 students. Preservation of the alphabets of ethnic languages has been started to teach them in their own languages in CHT. A large number of residential schools have been installed in remote areas and more will be established so that no child can be left uneducated in CHT region. Many schools and colleges in CHT have been nationalized like other part of the country. We have been establishing new upazilas, thanas and unions in the remote area of CHT for better administrative coordination. By this time Guimara Upazila, Sajek Thana and Barthali Union Council have been established.

Tribal Cultural Institutes have been established in 3 Hill districts. These institutes are very effective to keep up their own culture, heritage and originality.

For the first time in 1974, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib for the first time introduced the honorarium of Tk. 1000/- for Circle Chiefs and Tk. 100/- for Headmen. We have increased the honorarium to Tk 10,000 for Circle Chiefs, Tk. 1000 for Headmen and Tk.500 for Karbaris.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

CHT people did not have their own establishment in Dhaka. I have sanctioned 2 acres land for the construction of the CHT complex. Now the address of CHT people has been established in Dhaka through it. It creates a scope to perform different social and cultural activities of CHT people. Above all, this complex will contribute as a centre of all activities of 3 hill districts in the capital. I hope, it will play a vital role for interchanging views between CHT people and main stream people.

Bangladesh has recently been graduated to developing country. Bangladesh is now a 'Role Model' for development in the world. For the first time in the world, we have promulgated a hundred year ahead future plan named 'Delta Plan 2100'. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a dream of a hunger-poverty-illiterate-free Golden Bangladesh. We will turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 in the golden jubilee of our great independence and a developed one by 2041, InshaAllah.

With these few words, I declare the 'Sheikh Hasina Chattogram Hill Tracts Complex' open.

Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.  
Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

...