

**Annual Performance Agreement (APA) Signing Ceremony &
SDGs Implementation Review Conference 2018,
Opening Ceremony**

Speech by

HE Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dhaka, Wednesday, 20 Ashar 1425, 04 July 2018

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,

Dear Colleagues,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Representatives from Development Partners and

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.

I welcome you at the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) signing ceremony 2018-2019 and the inaugural ceremony of SDGs Implementation Review Conference 2018.

I pay my deep homage to the greatest Bengalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall the 4 national leaders, 3 million martyrs and 2 lakh women, who lost their innocence, in the war of liberation. I extend my sympathy to the members of the war-wounded freedom fighters and families of the martyrs. I salute all the freedom fighters.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fought for 23 years for the liberation of the Bengalee nation. We began great liberation war under his leadership. We fought 9 months and achieved our independence. The aim of the liberation was the socio-economic freedom of the exploited and deprived people of Bangladesh, and to ensure overall development of the oppressed people.

The Father of the Nation dreamt of a hunger and poverty-free prosperous Bangladesh. He also took initiative to achieve economic liberation in the war-ravaged country. The responsibility of implementing the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib is now on us. Only after fulfilling this responsibility, we can take the country to a better position. Due to the establishment of democratic governance, the path of our socio-economic development has been facilitated.

To achieve all the specific goals of development, we have to work hard. All the staff and employees of the government will have to work more efficiently.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To enhance the efficiency and accountability of government employees, different countries of the world have adopted Performance Management System. Bangladesh is not an exception. We have introduced Government Performance Management System or GPMS with an aim to enhancing the capacity of government employee, improving service delivery and ensuring effectiveness of the organization.

Annual Performance Agreement is mainly a contract which is signed between cabinet secretary on behalf of me and secretaries of all ministries/divisions on behalf of incumbent ministers. In this agreement we have strategic objectives, activities to achieve these objectives and performance indicators with scales to measure the results.

After completion of each fiscal year, actual achievements will be evaluated against the indicators which are fixed earlier in the agreement. After introducing APA 2014-15 in Bangladesh, it is going to be signed for the fifth time this year.

According to prevailing GPMS, each ministry/division prepare action plans on the basis of Allocation of Business, 7th five year plan, Vision 2021, SDGs and other government policy documents. I believe that Government Performance Management System will contribute

effectively in ensuring good governance to build 'Sonar Bangladesh' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation through this agreement.

In order to implement the Annual Performance Agreement, the activities of the Ministries/Divisions and other government offices are regularly monitored and evaluated. I congratulate three Ministries/Divisions that have been selected for Awards as recognition of successfully implementing APA. I hope that these Awards will inspire all government offices to thrive for their best.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In order to build happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangladesh', National Integrity Strategy (NIS) has been introduced in 2012. The main objectives of the strategy are establishing good governance through preventing corruption and exercising integrity. Establishing integrity in society and state is the constitutional and legal responsibility of the government. In this consequence, National Integrity Strategy Plan and implementation frameworks have been introduced in 2015.

It is recommended to give award and remuneration to the government officials for practising National Integrity Strategy (NIS). As a result, NIS Award Giving Policy, 2017 has been approved. According to the policy, NIS Award is being given from this year. I believe that senior secretaries/secretaries to the government are playing a vital role in establishing and strengthening integrity. I congratulate secretary, IMED for receiving NIS Award this year.

Ladies and Gentleman,

We are committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the positive experience of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Bangladesh has been highly appreciated across the globe for taking necessary activities for successful implementation of SDG goals for the last two and half years. We are firm and committed to attain SDGs through the implantation of the 7th Five Year Plan.

Since 2016, the strength of Ministries/Divisions is being strengthened for smooth and proper implementation of SDGs. Annual Performance Agreement (APA) is an appropriate tool for implementing SDG objectives.

Bangladesh has submitted SDG implementation progress report namely 'Voluntary National Review' (VNR) to UN high level political forum for the first time in 2017. This year SDG review conference has been arranged in order to analyze the progress of Ministry/Division.

In order to implement a comprehensive development agenda like SDG, the active participation of the public sectors, the NGOs and different professional bodies is essential alongside government. As a result, the outside partners of the government can be informed about the progress of the SDG implementation of the ministries/divisions. They will try to get involved with more confidence in the development journey.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Bangladesh is now the role model of development in the world. We have been able to surpass many developed countries in different fields including poverty alleviation, education, health, technology and woman empowerment. We have recently been graduated from LDC to developing country.

According to the IMF, Bangladesh is the 43rd in the world based on GDP and 32nd country on the basis of purchase capacity. Bangladesh was on the list of the top 10 countries that achieved the fastest growth in 2017. According to Pricewater House Coopers, Bangladesh will be the 28th largest economy country by 2030.

We have achieved significant success in all socio-economic indicators. Poverty rate decreases by 22 percent in 2017. The per capita income has increased to 1 thousand 752 US dollar. We have achieved 7.78% growth rate. In May last year, the foreign currency reserve was 32.2 billion US dollar. The average life expectancy of people has been increased to 72

years. We have been implementing a huge project like Padma Bridge with our own fund. We launched Bangabandhu Satellite 1 in space.

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 SDGs Implimentation Review Conference 2018 open, and through the successful implementation of the Annual Performance Agreement, I am determined to build a non-communal, hunger-poverty-free and happy-prosperous 'Golden Bangladesh' as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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