

Sheikh Hasina's address to the nation

Following is the English rendering, available from BSS, of the address to the nation over radio and television delivered by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday, June 24.

Countrymen, my dear brothers and sisters Assalamu Alaikum.

At the outset I like to offer gratitude to the almighty Allah for providing the Awami League, which has achieved majority in Parliament in the present election, the opportunity to serve. I remember with deep respect the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy, Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Shaheed M Mansoor Ali and Shaheed AHM Kamruzzaman and the martyrs of the Language Movement, 6 and 11-point movements, mass movement of 1969, Liberation War of 1971 and 15th August of 1975.

I also remember with respect those who laid down their lives, suffered oppression and imprisonment to secure the rights of the people as well as to build a beautiful future for the nation during the last several years.

After I entered politics, I pledged to wage a struggle to establish the voting rights of the people and you have now won this right. I am conveying my love to the people of Bangladesh with whose support we could form the government after 21 years overcoming many a conspiracy and traversing a long way of struggle. This is the victory of struggle for truth and justice. This is the victory of the wishes of the people. Arrogance, corruption, misrule and policy of revenge have been defeated in this election.

I convey sincere thanks to the Election Commission, all returning officers, presiding officers, polling officers and all other officials and employees connected with the election for holding the elections neutrally. I also thank all members of the law-enforcing agencies for maintaining law and order during the elections. I thank radio and television personnel who announced the election results. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Chief Adviser and advisers of the caretaker government. I also thank the President. Lastly I thank all the political parties and candidates, whether they have won or lost, for making effective contribution to consolidation of democracy — win or lose is not the main thing, democracy has become victorious through the participation

of 73 per cent of voters.

At this moment of assuming the responsibility of running the country, I want to say a few words regarding the country's economic, political and social background.

The dreadful acts of terrorists have vitiated our social and political life. Their terrorist activities have made the life of the people miserable. State patronisation has made them even more desperate. We want a society free of terrorism and a secured life. We want a healthy and congenial atmosphere where teachers and students will establish an environment congenial to the pursuit of education. The campus will be the free centre for flourishing of talents and pursuit of knowledge. It would be the seat of culture and creativity. The students are the future of the nation and we want to build them as worthy citizens by supplying them inputs of education instead of arms.

We want a society where businessmen would be able to achieve success in trade and industry, womenfolk would feel secure on the streets and their places of work and artists attain excellence in an atmosphere free from control. We envision a future in which scientists and researchers would invent new technology and skill, professionals expand the horizon of their efficiency without interruption and the government officials and employees perform their responsibilities in a free atmosphere and without undue interference.

We want a situation in which journalists will disseminate correct information and report freely and intellectuals will pursue knowledge in a congenial environment. We look forward to create an atmosphere in which all repressive laws will be withdrawn from politics and it will be freed from the perilous influence of money and muscle power.

We want to live in a society where it will be possible to lead a courteous, secure and honourable life. Be it state administration or economic planning, these will be the objective of the management of the republic. Why the present perspective of public service is being vitiated by nepotism, corruption and abuse of power?

It was possible even some decades ago to receive state service without bribery or influence. But why is it not possible now? What transition has taken place in the administration for which the standard of state service has deteriorated? For whose protection is there this legal and judicial system?

administrative system and to punish whom? For whose interest the present administration is being run at the cost of public exchequer? Why people are afraid to visit any government office? We have to free the nation of these vices and wrong doings.

At every interview after attaining majority in the election, I said the first priority of the government will be to improve law and order situation. With this in view, different criminal activities, including extortion, murder, mugging and repression on women will be dealt with an iron hand, irrespective of party affiliation. We will table required bill in the Jatiya Sangsad to ensure independence of the judiciary with a view to establishing rule of law and justice in the country.

The present situation arose out of corruption. Steps will be taken according to the law of the land on the basis of a full-fledged investigation against those who have usurped wealth of the people and the country. But I want to assure one thing against anybody out of revenge or only for harassment. We are determined to establish rule of law and justice as the main pillar of state management and uphold the rights and dignity of the people.

Here I like to say that a conscious society is necessary to build a corruption-free management. Boycott corrupt people socially and excommunicate them from the society. Refrain from giving bribes. Be aware of your fundamental rights. Corruption can never be a one-sided affair.

Now I come to the question of politicisation. Appointment and promotion of officials of the republic will be given only on the basis of their professional efficiency and competence and not on the basis of allegiance to the party in power. But during the last few years, we have witnessed a dreadful attempt to politicise every sphere of administration. We want to see the administration in the service of the people in real terms and not as the ruler. Our Constitution specifically mentioned that the employees and officials of the republic are the servants of the people. We are determined to realise this policy. We want to establish the chain of command at every stage of the administration to make it effective in its purpose.

The Jatiya Sangsad will be the focal point of discussion and resolving all problems. Thus only the Sangsad will be sovereign in real terms where we want to take major decisions of the government by ex-

changing views and ideas amongst all of us. Our dream of consensus will be a reality one day through this endeavour of ours. I solemnly call upon all parties and members to lead the Jatiya Sangsad to that environment and possibility.

My dear countrymen,

I would like to assure the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other foreign development partners that our government for the sake of continuation would follow the agreements and memorandum of understanding signed by the past government. Our government would give topmost priority to agriculture in its development planning. We will give subsidy to the development of agriculture and the farmers, if needed. The privatisation of industries would continue and involvement of government would be minimised.

We will give full support to free market economy in respect of commerce.

We have to keep a vigilant watch so that our indigenous industries could sustain and flourish in competition with others' products. A better living standard of the workers will be ensured by fixing minimum wage for them. Proper labour policy would be formulated by a committee comprising workers and employers. Similarly the local government structure would be strengthened and made dynamic with the democratically elected public representatives.

Radio and television are the assets of the people and these should not be reduced to anybody's personal property. An unfortunate tradition has been created in the country to consider the opposition as anti-state in our state management. Time has come to understand that there are poles of difference between anti-government and anti-state.

Radio and television would be given autonomy so that these were not reduced into publicity organs of the government only. Instead of becoming instruments for praising the government, the national media will project the history of our glorious struggle, national uplift, progress, hopes and aspirations, culture, literature and arts and crafts.

The state-owned newspapers will be disinvested within the shortest possible time to make the flow of information more accessible to the people.

I have already given directive to extend appropriate compensation to the families of those who had sacrificed their lives for the establishment of neutral caretaker government and freeing democ-

racy after collecting correct information about them. Orders have already been issued to withdraw cases against those who are languishing in prisons on false charges for their participation in the recent movements. Instructions have been given for proper treatment of those who have been injured and for the welfare of those who have been oppressed.

You have given me the onerous responsibility of administering the country at a critical time. It is no possible for anyone to discharge the responsibility alone. I fervently appeal to all including peasants and workers and people belonging to all professions and classes to extend their hands of support and love in the coming days to me as they had done in the earlier days. Please pray to the almighty Allah so that we could dedicate our whole life for the welfare of the people. You know that the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was: "Only aspiration of my life is to ensure food for the people and let them have access to other basic needs of life like clothing, education and better living." I pray to Allah to provide me the strength to complete the unfinished task of building "Golden Bengal" with the co-operation of all of you.

My dear brothers and sisters,

When this couplet of our national anthem "Oh golden Bengal, I love thee," is heard do you remember whose eyes were filled with the dream of golden Bengal and whose bullet-pierced heart was filled with the indomitable desire to bring smiles on the face of the people. Will these hopes and aspirations remain imprisoned within the lines of national anthem only?

The responsibility of building a golden Bengal has come to us. But this responsibility could not be of Awami League's alone. We all should work together, as we had participated in the War of Liberation, to free the country from terrorism, corruption and misrule. To struggle for a country where all can breathe freely, follow a single will and be companion on path towards a common goal.

We did not bring out any victory procession or rejoice to make the election triumph memorable. With a heavy heart, I dedicated this triumph to the memory of your beloved leader.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu Khoda Hafez Long Live Bangladesh.

Extensive summer crop cultivation programme for 16 N-dists

NATORE, June 26: An extensive summer crop cultivation programme has been undertaken in the 16 northern districts, reports UNB.

According to the Agriculture Extension Department, a total of 2.34 lakh hectares of land have been brought under this programme while the production target has been fixed at over 10 lakh metric tons.

The summer crops include broadcasting aman, vegetables, ground nut and oil-seeds.

According to the officials, around 1.36 lakh hectares of land have been brought under this programme in the districts of Natore, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Pabna and Sirajganj. The production target was fixed here at 1.50 lakh mts.

Bogra and Joypurhat districts were not brought under the broadcasting aman cultivation.

In Rangpur region Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilamari have been brought under the broadcasting aman cultivation.

It is expected that 4,444 mts of crops will be produced on some 4,040 hectares of land. Similarly, eight districts of Rajshahi and eight of Rangpur region were brought under summer vegetable programme.

Around 40,800 hectares of land in Rajshahi and 25,400 hectares in Rangpur region have been brought under this programme.

Some 32,000 hectares of land in eight districts of Rajshahi and another 32,000 hectares in eight districts of Rangpur region have been brought under groundnut cultivation programme.

Production targets have been fixed at 6,400 mts and 6,100 mts respectively.

Similarly, in eight districts of Rajshahi region, 15,200 hectares of land have been brought under oil-seeds cultivation while a production target has been fixed at 15,200 mts.

In eight districts of Rangpur region, some 7,000 hectares of land have been brought under the programme with a production target of 7,000 mts of oil-seeds.

Official sources informed that Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has already started distributing seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to make the programme a success.

Experts of AED are directly supervising this programme to attain the optimum production.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE

Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

Tender Notice

No 40/95-96

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from DPHE enlisted 1st/2nd class 'C' category contractor renewed/enlisted for the year 1995-96 for work mentioned below in "23 Town Water Supply Project of DPHE."

Sl No	Description of work	Estimated cost (In Tk)	Cost of tender documents (In Tk)	Earnest Money (In Tk)	Time of completion
1.	Construction of pump house at Gouripur Pourashava Comp. (Well No 1) during the year 1995-96	1,71,039	200	3421	60 days
2.	Construction of pump house at Gouripur Pourashava at Balaka (Well No 2) during the year 1995-96	1,71,039	200	3421	60 days
3.	Construction of pump house at Muktagacha Pourashava (Well No 2) during the year 1995-96	1,72,039	200	3421	60 days

The tender documents will be available in the office of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, PHE, Ground Water Exploration & Development Division, 686, Uttar Shahjahanpur, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, PHE, SIR Division, 12/L, Dilkusha Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and Sub-Divisional Engineer, PHE, Mymensingh Sadar North, Sub-Division, Kaohijuly, Mymensingh in any working day during the office hour up to 6-7-96 on usual charges. Tender will be received in aforesaid offices up to 1 PM on 7-7-96. On receipt of all tenders from the aforesaid offices, the tenders will be opened by the undersigned at 11-00 AM on 8-7-96 in presence of the contractors or their representatives happened to be present at the time of opening of the tenders.

No tender documents will be sold in the date fixed for receiving of tenders.

Khondaker Abul Kashem

Executive Engineer, DPHE

Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

DFP-14104-20/6

G-799

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Local Govt. Engineering Department

Bagerhat

Memo No.LGED/XEN/Bager/DA-1(Part-II)/95-96/2836

Date: 8-3-1403 Beng., 22-6-96 Eng

Tender Notice

No. 40/95-96

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan No. 1215 BAS(SF) from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Rural Development Project-18, Infrastructure Greater Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia district. It is intended that part of the contract for the following works.

Code No	Name of work	Completion of time	Cost of tender document	Class of contractor
RE-TENDER (4TH TIME)				
BA6G09SH90a.	Constn. of Multipurpose shed at Rajapur GC	75 days	300/-	A, B & C
BA6G09SH90b.	Constn. of 3 Nos open shed platform at Rajapur GC			
BA6G09TW90c.	Sinking of Tube Well at Rajapur GC			
BA6G09SL90d.	Constn. of Slaughter shed at Rajapur GC			
BA6G09HB90e.	Constn. of Internal road with brick pavement at Rajapur GC	60 days	300/-	A, B & C
BA6G09PA90f.	Constn. of Paved area at Rajapur GC			
BA6G09GP90g.	Constn. of Garbage pit at Rajapur GC			
BA6G09DR90h.	Constn. of drain at Rajapur GC			
BA5G010B68a.	Constn. of office building at Gilatala Bazar GC	60 days	300/-	A, B & C
BA5G010TW68b.	Installation of Tube Well at Gilatala Bazar GC			
BA5G010SH68c.	Constn. of Fish & Meat Market at Gilatala Bazar GC			
BA5G010SH68d.	Constn. of Multipurpose shed at Gilatala Bazar GC			
BA6R01BR99.	Constn. of 7.50m span Girder bridge on Pplerhat-Singore road at ch. 5234m.	60 days	300/-	A, B & C

2. The Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Bagerhat, now invites sealed tenders in prescribed form for construction and completion of the works mentioned above from prequalified contractors of above mentioned class under this project.

3. Tenderers may obtain further information on the tendered from and inspect the tender documents at the offices of the undersigned as well as the Projects Director, Rural Development Project-18, 3/1, Block-B, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, the Executive Engineer, LGED, Khulna/Satkhi and Thana Engineer, LGED, Bagerhat Sadar Thana.

4. A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested eligible tenderers upon payments of non-refundable fee mentioned above from the office mentioned in para or before 10th July, 1996 during office hours.

5. All tenders must be accompanied by tendered security of 2.5% (Two point five per cent) of the total tendered prices in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bagerhat.

6. The tenders will be received at the offices mentioned above on 11th July, 1996 before 1-00 PM and the tender will be opened at the same offices at 1-30 PM on the same date.

7. The undersigned shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by tenders in connection with the preparation of delivery of tenders, including costs and expenses related to visits to the site.

Executive Engineer

LGED, Bagerhat

DFP-14205-24/6

G-797

Chairman of RHDLC hails Hasina

From CHT Correspondent
RANGAMATI, June 26: Chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDLC) Rabindra Lal Chakma Sutar yesterday congratulated the Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister.

In a press statement, Chairman Sutar said, "I convey my sincere greetings and congratulations on behalf of the councilors of RHDLC and the people of the insurgency-battered Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) as well as my own on your taking oaths as the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh."

Rabindra expressed his hope that the new government would take the necessary initiatives to reconstruct the ruined economy, institutionalise the democracy, attain social stability and ensure people's partnership in the state politics.

BKB gives Tk 4cr agri loan in 10 Southern dist

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, June 26: Bangladesh Krishi Bank has distributed taka 4.21 crore among the farmers of 10 southern districts for agri cultivation. According to Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) sources, in current fiscal they had disbursed taka 70 lakh in Jhenidah district, taka 44.65 lakh in Jessore district, taka 15 lakh in Magura district, taka 12.65 lakh in Narail district, taka 28 lakh in Khulna district, taka 75.80 lakh in Bagerhat district, taka 65.50 lakh in Satkhira district, taka 41.28 lakh in Kushtia district, taka 25 lakh in Chuadanga district and taka 42.43 lakh in Meherpur district.

Meanwhile, 2,300 hectares of land was brought under agri cultivation in haring Kundu thana of the district. Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said, 300 hectares of land brought under high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy while rest 2,000 hectares under local variety.

Sufficient seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other agriculture inputs were supplied to the farmers to make the programme a success. AED sources added twenty demonstration plots were installed in different thanas of the district. Sources said 2,700 metric tons of paddy worth taka about two crore is expected to be produced in the district this season.

Tk 2.7 lakh interest-free loan given in Bandarban

From CHT Correspondent

LAMA (Bandarban), June 26: With a view to developing the socio-economic condition of the down-trodden people of the locality, the Lama thana unit of the Social Services Department has disbursed interest-free loan amounting to Tk 2,67,900 among the members of 155 families in four union parishes of the Lama thana on June 19.

According to official sources, the loan was given to enable the poor people to establish poultry, duck, cattle and goat farms, raise vegetable orchards and horticulture as well as to small trades.

The loan was disbursed among the members of poor families of Islampur village in

Aziznagar union parishad, Hargaza village in Phasiakhali union parishad and North Dordoi Noyapara village in Rupaspura union parishad including Serakhola village of Lama sadar union parishad of Lama thana in the district in separate functions. Nurul Amin Chowdhury, the thana social services officer of Lama thana chaired the loan disbursement ceremony while Mohammad Yusuf, a councillor of the Bandarban Local Government Council was present as the chief guest. Earlier the loan receivers were imparted with necessary training to implement the projects by the disbursing agency, sources added.

Child labourers on rise in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 26: The number of child labourers is increasing in the district day by day with the influx of floating people in the urban areas. To eke out a living, the children are being compelled to take any odd job.

The minor boys are engaged mostly as helping hands in masonry works, bakery, motor garage, restaurants, hotels, bicycle and rickshaw repairing shops, welding workshops, and brickfields. Besides, a large number of boys are engaged as domestic help and cow-grazer.

It is observed that the chil-

dren even under the age of 10 years are engaged in hard works, only due to poverty, finding no alternative.

In Chuadanga district, there are several thousand children below the age of 15 who are engaged in such jobs, it is reported.

Most of such boys live in their masters' houses or spend their nights in the railway platforms or on the road side or in the premises of the government offices.

Now-a-days, it is found that a good number of children are pulling rickshaws in the towns.



RANGAMATI, Rabindra Lal Chakma, Chairman of RHDLC handing over the paper of ownership of car to a destitute recently at his office premises. — Star photo

290 villages in Madaripur get electricity

MADARIPUR, June 26: Some 296 villages in four thanas of Madaripur and Gopalganj districts have been brought under rural electrification system since the inception of Madaripur Pali Bidyt Sanity in 1964, reports UNB. A total of 290 villages in Rajoir, sadar and Kalkini thanas of Madaripur district and six villages in Moksadpur thana of Gopalganj got electric connection with the initiative of the samity, said officials. The samity already gave electricity connection to 23,431 subscribers through its 1,188 kilometres electric lines.

Electrification in two villages of Shibchar thana in Madaripur district and five villages in sadar thana of Gopalganj is going on in full swing.

So far, 8,270 acres of cultivable land of the two districts have been brought under irrigation facilities while 318 small industries also got electricity connection.

Some 20 villages of Shibchar and Moksadpur thanas will be electrified after completion of installation of 90 kilometre electric lines by this month, samity sources said.

Carts distributed among destitutes in Rangamati

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, June 26: The Social Welfare Committee of the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (RHDLC) has distributed five carts among the destitutes here with a view to earn their livelihood.

The RHDLC has been working to uplift the socio-economic condition of the down-trodden people of this district forming different committees for the different sectors to implement various projects immediately after its creation in the insurgency-battered Chittagong Hill Tracts in June, 1989, officials said.

As a part of the continuous process, the Social Welfare Committee of the RHDLC has handed over papers of ownership to three destitutes of Rangamati sadar and one each to the destitutes of Kaukhali and Belaichhari thana in the district.

ABM Abdur Rob Farazi, the convener of the committee and councilors Ronald Robert Pinoo, Rubayet Akter Ahmed were among others who attended the distribution ceremony, chaired by the Chairman of RHDLC Rabindra Lal Chakma.

Dacoits kill one in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, June 26: One person was killed when a gang of dacoits exploded bombs while fleeing with the booties they looted from a house at Kamorpur near the town here recently.

The dacoity was committed in the house of one Abdul Wahid Mondal on June 17 night.

The gang of armed dacoits numbering 10 to 12 entered the house breaking open the doors and looted gold ornaments, money and other valuables worth over two lakhs. The dacoits decamped with the booties after exploding bombs that left one person dead. The dead was identified as Abdus Sattar, 42. Another person, Saiful Islam, 25, was also injured seriously police source said.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police in this connection. However, none was arrested till the filing of this report on Thursday last.

7 dacoits arrested in Sherpur

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, June 26: Seven dacoits were arrested with arms while they were reportedly attempting to commit a dacoity near ferryghat at Kularchar under Charpakhimany union recently.

Acting on a tip-off, Sadar police personnel led by SI Md Nurul Islam arrested the dacoits on June 19 who were taking preparation to rob bus passengers.

The arrested are Abdul Matin, Rahmatullah, Anis, Akkel Ali, Mintu, Lazur and Swapan. However, four to five more dacoits of the group managed to escape, police said.

All the arrested have been sent to jail hajat and a case has been filed with Sadar thana.

Contraband worth Tk 40,000 seized: One arrested

MAGURA, June 26: Contraband, including Indian sugar and pesticides, worth about Tk 40,000 were seized from a shop at Arpara Bazar in Shalikhtha thana on June 19, reports UNB.

Members of a Task Force, led by first class magistrate Amrul Azim, raided the shop and arrested Swapan Kumer, an employee of the shop along with the contraband.

The shop owner, Harashid Shah, fled the scene. Swapan was handed over to police. A case was filed in this connection.