

# 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 seven 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 loss 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 that no action will be taken 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 official 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 have given the onerous responsibility of administering the country at a critical time. It is not 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 cooperation 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 a Bengal people's leader 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?

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 disbanded 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 these 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 not 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 cooperation of all of you.

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## 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.

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.

In eight districts of

Rangpur region, some 7,000

hectares of land have been brought under oil-seeds cultivation while a production target

of 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

of 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

| SI 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 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.

**Khandaker Abul Kashem**

Executive Engineer, DPHE

Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Local Govt. Engineering Department

Bagerhat

Memo No. LGED/XEN/Bagerhat/DA-I (Part-II)/95-96/2836 Date: 8-3-1403 Beng., 22-6-96 Eng

### Tender Notice

No. 40/95-96

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

- 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, Jessor and Kushtia district. It is intended that part of the contract for the following works.
- 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 Tk 20 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.
- Some 20 villages of Shibchar and Nokusdip thanas will be electrified after completion of installation of 90 kilometre electric lines by this month, samsi said.
- Most of such boys live in their masters' houses or spent 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.
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