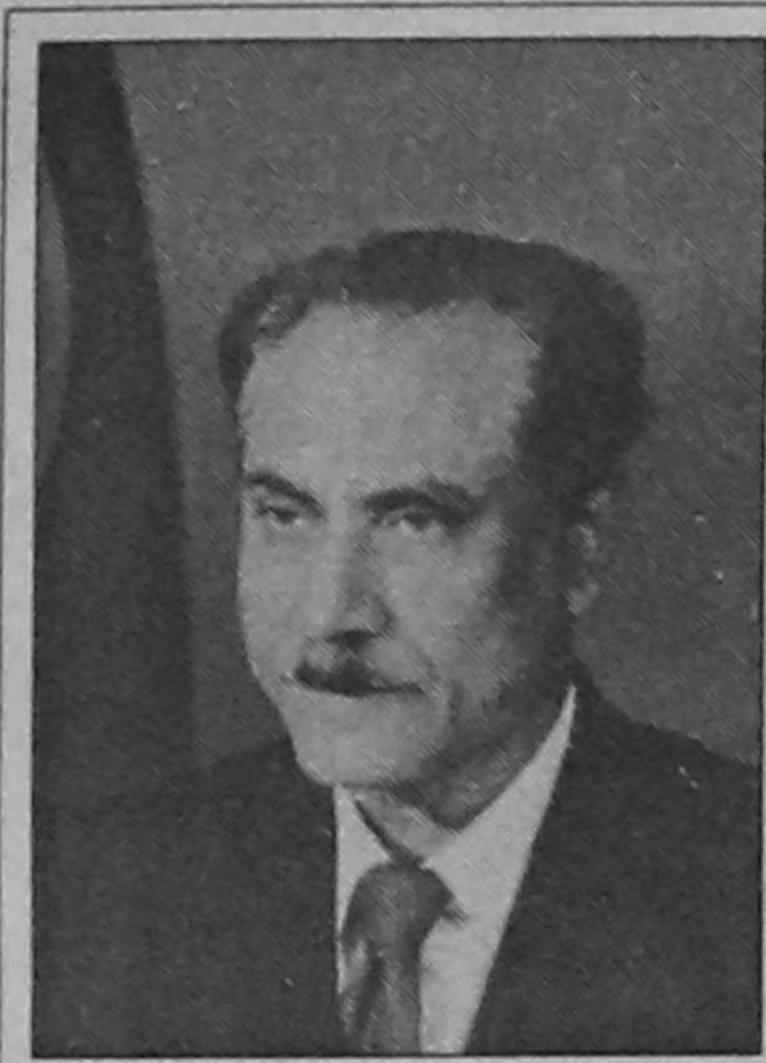


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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
রাষ্ট্রপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
ঢাকা
০৯ আগস্ট ১৪০৭
২৩ জুন ২০০০

বাণী

গণতান্ত্রিক চিন্তা-চেতনায় উজ্জীবিত বাংলাদেশের মানবের ঐকান্তিক চেষ্টায় ১৯৯১ সালে সাধারণ নির্বাচনের মাধ্যমে গণতান্ত্রিক হয়ে এবং ১৯৯৬ সালের সাধারণ নির্বাচনের মাধ্যমে দলে গণতান্ত্রিক প্রক্রিয়া আরও জোরাবর্দী হয়। সে নির্বাচনে ফলে শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে বর্তমান সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়; আজ এর বছর পূর্বের প্রত্যাশা। দেশবাসীর এই প্রত্যাশা পূরণে রাজনৈতিক নেতৃত্বকে আমি সচেতন হওয়ার আহ্বান জানাই।

জনগণের কল্যাণে দেশের সব রাজনৈতিক দল, বিশেষ করে সংসদে প্রতিনিধিত্বকারী দলগুলির মধ্যে সহযোগিতা ও সহযোগিতার মনোভাব সম্ভাসারিত করা গণতান্ত্রিক শাসন ব্যবহার পর্যবেক্ষণ। জাতীয় ও জাতুপূর্ণ বিষয়ে বিচারণ রাজনৈতিক দলের মধ্যে একাত্ম প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়া একাত্ম দরকার এবং এটাই দেশবাসীর একাত্ম প্রত্যাশা। দেশবাসীর এই প্রত্যাশা পূরণে রাজনৈতিক নেতৃত্বকে আমি সচেতন হওয়ার আহ্বান জানাই।

জনগণের কল্যাণে আমি বর্তমান সরকারের গৃহীত কার্যবলীর সাফল্য কামনা করি।

শেখ হাসিনা
বিচারপতি সাহাবুর্দীন আহমদ

The Bangalee Nation achieved independence in 1971 breaking the shackles of subjugation for a thousand year. Democracy was emancipated in 1996, the Silver Jubilee year of country's independence, under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu. Then, for the last four years, the people witnessed glorious success and achievements at national and international fields. Bangladesh has got the status of international language and Bangladesh got a glorious position. On the 23rd June the Awami League government headed by Sheikh Hasina will complete four years. During this period the people got a new direction for development, peace and stability. This period will remain as a milestone in the history of Bangladesh despite repeated attempts by the opposition to create obstacles and chaos in the name of movement.

Some of the achievements of government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina during the past four years are narrated here briefly.

The Post of the President
The Post of the President in our country is the highest constitutional post. Awami League nominated Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for the post who is neutral and acceptable to all. Nomination of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has brightened the image of the government headed by Sheikh Hasina.

Achievements in International field
Bangladesh runs its foreign policy in the light of policy guideline "Friendship to all malice to none". The main objective of this policy is to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and accelerate the pace of economic development. Measures have been taken by the government to play an effective role in the UN and its sister organizations. Efforts are also being made to further strengthen the friendly ties with NAM, Commonwealth, OIC and SAARC for increasing cooperation based on friendship. For strengthening regional cooperation Awami League government is giving full support to SAARC and taking active part in its activities. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took initiative to defuse tension created by nuclear test carried out by India and Pakistan. The world leaders have welcome Bangladesh's move.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina participated in the world Microcredit summit held in

Over 13 crore people live in our small country. If we all want to devide any major economic benefit among ourselves the per capita figure will take a very small shape. In this context, do the following data comparatively indicate any better achievement?

People live below poverty line
April 1996 : 47.9%
April 1999 : 44.7%

Per Capita calorie intake (per day)
April 1996 : 2206
April 1999 : 2283

Availability of food per head/ per day
June 1996 : 415 gram
June 1999 : 525 gram

Annual per capita GDP

June 1996 : Tk. 10,660

June, 2000 : Tk. 14, 578

The Awami League government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has crossed four year of its tenure. Political situation, during

the period, was hostile and the nature was unfavourable. Even then, the GDP growth rate during the four consecutive years was more than 5 percent, which was totally incredible throughout the two decades before 1996. There was such a target to produce 2.5 crore tonnes of rice and wheat in the year 2001. But congenial atmosphere could not be created to achieve the target. Rather the then governments had no ability to materialise the long term plan. The following data depict clear reflection of this comment:

Foodgrain Production

1991-1992 : 1, 93 Lakh M.T.

1995- 1996 : 1, 90 Lakh M.T.

1999- 2000 : 2, 43 Lakh M.T.

BNP was in power from 1991 to 1996. Food autarky is regarded as one of the foremost conditions in achieving economic self-reliance in our country. During the period, population of the country was raised by one crore although the

production of foodgrain decreased. However, the scenario of the past four years was different. Aman crop had to suffer a serious loss following the devastating flood of 1998. The government extended all-out cooperation to the farmers to cover the losses immediately as agriculture loan of Tk. 3005 crore was disbursed only in a year. In the past, half of this amount was not disbursed in a year. Even agriculture loan for the share-croppers and supply of chemical fertilizer at a fair price were ensured. These steps resulted production of one crore 5 lakh M.T. of Boro paddy, which is a all time record. The production of Boro paddy will increase further during the current 2000 season.

The success behind the success in agriculture sector was not confined in rice production. The production of wheat has also increased. The production of potato this year, about 28 lakh M.T. is more than the double of

Bangladesh, being a foreign aid

dependent country, had to win over the debate against the donors on the issue of giving subsidy to agriculture sector in this age of globalisation. Tk. 411 crore subsidy was given only to import fertilizer during the last 4 years. Farmers were charged with only Tk. 1.75 for one unit of electricity for irrigation, production cost of which is Tk 2.63. Bold decision are needed to take such steps, which the donors did not like.

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including tax exemption in this regard. Tk. 100 crore has been allocated under the equity development fund in the budget of fiscal 2000-2001 as incentive for the entrepreneurs, who want to set up software, agri-products and food processing industries. These two sectors also have great prospects in the country's export market. Although the volume of export earning increased largely and names of many new items are being included in the export-list. In this regard, the government has rightly identified the thrust sectors.

Industrialisation in the era of globalisation is not so easy. However, reduction of import duty in the nineties caused damage to the local industries. Many of these became sick and to some extent, some active industries were shutdown. To overcome these problems, the government had to take various steps in the interest of local industries.

The success achieved in agriculture sector during the last consecutive years has widened the possibility of setting up of agro-based industries. The government is also providing incentives

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