Full text of Prime Minister's address to the nation

Following is the English translation of the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's address to the nation over radio and television on Friday night. Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters

Assalamu Alaikum.

I extend my sincere good wishes to you all. I pray for happiness, peace, prosperity and long life of you all. By the grace of Almighty Allah, the people of Bangladesh have once again successfully made yet another important step toward establishing democracy in the country. The elections to the 8th Jatiya Sangsad were held on October 1 in a festive atmosphere under a non-party and neutral Caretaker Government as per the country's constitutional provision. About three lakh polls observers from home and abroad as well as people of all classes and professions have described the elections as free, fair, neutral and peaceful.

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters.

I am conveying my sincere gratitude to Almighty Allah for the peaceful completion of the 8^{th} Jatiya Sangsad elections. By the Grace of the Almighty, the candidates of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (BNP) and the four-party Alliance were elected by huge number of votes on the basis of people's participation in the elections. I have been honoured by the opportunity to come before my countrymen once again as the elected Prime Minister by His (Allah) unlimited mercy. To convey my gratitude to the Almighty and to seek divine blessings for all, the activities of your elected government, I went to Holy Makkah Sharif to perform Umrah immedi-

During the elections this time the turnout of voters, especially of women and the youths, was higher than ever and incidents of polls-violence were much lower than in the past. It was a great achievement for the country towards its forward march to

This evening, at the outset, I want to convey my thanks for this extraordinary

Thanks to voters, officials on polls duty
I convey my sincere thanks to the honorable President, the Chief Advisor of the Caretaker Government, all other advisors, the Chief Election Commissioner, other commissioners, all officers and employees of the Election Commission, those who were on election duty all over the country, and those responsible for maintaining law and order, including members of the Armed Forces, BDR, Police and Ansars and others for holding a free and fair election in a proper and peaceful atmosphere.

I am also conveying my thanks to the development and donor agencies and members of diplomatic missions for their enthusiasm with regard to holding of a free, fair and neutral election. At the same time, I thank the local and foreign observers who were engaged in polls monitoring for their untiring work. I am conveying my sincere thanks to all the heads of state and government, heads of different organisations and well-wishers in Bangladesh for congratulating us on being elected in a successful and high standard of polling.

Now I convey my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the voters who went to the polling centres defying fear, intimidation and natural calamities like rain as well as to those who made an honest contribution to democracy and keeping themselves above all temptation. I also thank those who queued for a long time in polling centres.

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters, You have made the election successful by exercising your right to vote peace-

Your democratic success has drawn the attention of the peoples of the world. The image of Bangladesh was tremendously enhanced to the outside world. The self-confidence of the people of the country has increased along with the con-

I am conveying my sincere felicitations to you all. Now I want to convey thanks on some specific subjects. I convey my thanks to those who came to the polling centres to cast their votes despite their old age or sickness. My Salaam to you all.

I thank those courageous women who came to vote. I know how concerned a mother or a wife is for the safety of her son or husband. I know how worried you have been due to terrorism for the last five years. As a result, you came in droves to vote for us on October 1st to see an end to your miseries. We will try to alleviate your

This time many young voters exercised their democratic right to vote for the first time in their lives. I am inspired by watching the enthusiasm of the new generation of voters. I thank the new generation for their zeal.

I thank the leaders and workers of BNP and the four-party Alliance who made whole-hearted efforts and worked tirelessly for making the Alliance victorious in the elections. I thank those leaders and workers of the BNP who, despite inhuman torture and harassment by unjust cases filed against them, maintained their allegiance to the party and worked for the country.

At this moment of triumph, with deep respect, I would like to remember those who laid down their lives for the cause of the BNP over the last five years.

The previous government started the first day of their occupation of power by killing BNP workers. Our leaders and workers passed sleepless nights and days amid fear of being attacked during the last five years. Many lakhs of them fled their home and could not return throughout this period. Hundreds of our leaders and workers were killed. Several thousand were crippled. Over one lakh of party organisers were jailed under false and conspiratorial cases. We shall always remember them for their contribution to the country and democracy. We shall stand beside their distressed families

Sympathy to victims of terrorism

I pray for peace of the souls of those political leaders, workers, supporters, students, young men and women, business people, housewives and citizens who died prematurely during the past five years.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to those who have been victims of various kinds of terrorism. I express deep sympathy to those women who had been victims of torture and harassment during the last five years. I express sympathy to those women who were violated and those who were victims of acid-throwing incidents during the last five years My special thanks to those voters, who with a hope to build a terrorism and

corruption-free society, voted for the 'sheaf of paddy', the symbol of peace and progress. And to these who made BNP and the four-party Alliance victorious. Dear brothers and sisters,

I congratulate those who won the elections and extend appreciation to all who participated in the polls to help democracy move one more step forward. I especially praise those defeated contenders, who refused to raise the issue of 'crude e rigging' and have accepted the peoples' verdict and elevated the overal dignity of the democratic election system

The victory, achieved by the grace of the Almighty, is in fact the victory of the peace-loving and democracy-loving people of the country.

This is a victory of the people, who are determined to replace misrule by good This is the victory of the politics of future progress and unity opposed to the

politics of vengeance This is a victory of a huge majority against a few beneficiaries of state power

through politicisation and nepotism. Those victims of endless tyranny, corruption, torture and deprivation, who could not even voice their protest in fear of losing their life and livelihood, registered their protest through secret ballot this time. You have demonstrated a silent ballot revolution on October 1. I congratulate you all on this successful "October vote

Devaluation of Taka & forex reserve

Dear countrymen, We have only been in power for nine days.

I know your expectations are high. We all want to build a happy, prosperous and peaceful country. My last government was proceeding toward achieving that in a planned approach. Bangladesh had gained prominence in the world as a potential country of economic prosperity. Bangladesh was known as an emerging economic tiger. The exchange rate of our currency against the dollar went down by only 5 Taka during our five-year rule, which averages to one Taka per year.

The value of the Taka was almost at par with the Rupee of our neighbouring India. At one stage, the national reserve had risen to 304 crore dollars.

But an all-pervasive political turmoil gripped the country in 1995-96 which checked the economic progress of Bangladesh. The country's industries, trade and commerce were seriously affected. Exports, including those of readymade garments and frozen food, were seriously hampered due to the marathon hartals at that time. Our foreign currency reserve started sliding downwards. As a result the reserve reduced to 204 crore dollars by the time we left power in 1996.

Not only had society and the economy become victims of indiscipline, the government officials and employees were pushed towards a party's political dais in the name of Bijoy Mancha. Division was created in the state machinery in a pre-

During the Awami League rule the reserves declined further due to economic mismanagement. The reserve was 115 crore dollars, the lowest in the last ten years, when they left power. The Taka/dollar rate went down by 15 Taka during their five-year tenure. The value of the Taka declined by three Taka a year against dollar on an average.

The Awami League devalued the Taka 18 times and discouraged imports to avoid a dollar crisis

Emerging tiger turned into sick cat

They have increased L/C margin and duty on imported goods, which damaged import-dependent industry and trade. Revenue income from duty had also fallen. So Awami League government had to borrow Taka six thousand crore during its last fiscal year. Of the total borrowing, Taka three thousand crore was taken from the banking system and Taka three thousand crore from different savings sectors.

Foreign assistance also decreased during Awami League government. Even the annual Paris Aid Club meeting for consideration of our development demands was also postponed in the last year of Awami League government. Awami League government did not fulfill the conditionalities of the donors for administrative reforms and institutional development.

Dear Countrymen,

I am speaking these words with a deep sense of grievance and sadness. Bangladesh is not now an 'Emerging Tiger.' The potential prosperous 'Tiger' has

turned into a sick cat during the last five years. I want to inform you candidly the economic crisis and social plight under which

situation our new government took power. The government cannot be run or development efforts can be implemented

without money as the treasury is almost empty now. Internal borrowing of Bangladesh government was around Taka 14,000 crore during 24 years from 1972 to 1996. The amount of borrowing increased to Taka

38,000 crore in the last five-year rule. Awami League government alone borrowed Taka 24,000 crore during its five-year tenure while all post-independence governments together had borrowed a total of Taka 14,000 crore from internal sources. The government had to pay interest of Taka 1080 crore on internal borrowing during the first fiscal year of the Awami League government in 1996-97. Now,

interest of Taka 3,600 crore has to be paid in the fiscal year of 2001-2002. The Awami League government also borrowed several thousand crores Taka by misusing suppliers' credit systems from other countries and financial institutions. They took several hundred crores of Taka as commission for borrowing at high interest rate and paid over-the-top prices for the purchases. These agree-

ments were against the national interest in most cases. I have to explain to you how

grave the situation is You know that TV refrigerators and sewing machines can be purchased in installments. The remaining amount can be paid in several installments over months or years. The Awami League government has done this in much the same way. They have completed several projects through unnecessary borrowings and purchases. The nation has to repay a huge loan and the incurred interest for years the journey carrying the burden of huge loans and its interests. The journey will be difficult. You all have to be prepared to address the problems of repayment of

the loans and interests.

The nation has to bear the adverse effects of economic and institutional mismanagement during the last five

The total loss of state-owned enter-prises during BNP government (1991-1996) was taka 2,973 crore. The loss increased to Taka 8,056 crore during the last five years of Awami League government due to unbridled corruption and

You can understand the magnitude of the problem by this example.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) had earned a profit of Taka 3.000 crore during our government from 1991 to 1996, while the Corporation incurred a loss of Taka 3,000 crore during the last

Dear Countrymen,

We think that the genuine picture of the country should be provided with our countrymen. We have spelled out in our election manifesto the goals that we want to reach. But you now have some idea of the point from where we have started. The full picture of the situation will be evident after thorough examina-tion and review of government documents and papers. Now we shall try to give an impartial view based on the eports published in various newspa-Some instances of corruption

First, some information on irregulari-

ties and corruption:

The government planning and economic discipline has been violated in constructing the Independence Monument at Suhrawardy Uddyan and Memorial Monument for the Martyred Intellectuals at

The government incurred a loss of Taka 48 crore due to complicity in transfer ring the land to a private entrepreneur in the power sector at Meghna Ghat.

The agreements for setting up two power stations in Shambuganj, Mymensingh, and one each in Bhola and Fenchuganj have been approved at an exorbitant price A massive corruption took place in the telephone sector, Around Taka 700 crore

has been over-spent in approving the establishment of a 63-digital exchange and Bangladesh Biman has borrowed several thousand crore Taka due to corrup-

tion and mismanagement in the Civil Aviation. Biman flights may be cancelled at any time due to the pressure of creditors. There is allegation of mismanagement volving Taka 200 crore in the construction of Chittagong Airport.

NAM conference

A luxurious conference building has been built for the NAM conference through loans from abroad. In the name of the NAM conference 260 luxurious flats were secretly allotted before the construction work was completed. The entire nation will have to pay back loans of hundreds of crores of Taka for some years for the proposed conference that was to be held for only a few days. Taka one thousand crore

Bangladesh is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement. We had full support for this organisation in the past, we have in the present and we will be there in the future too. But can Bangladesh afford to bear the huge cost of hosting an interna-tional conference of this organisation? When the government cannot provide arsenic-free drinking water for its countrymen, or support thousands of hungry children, provide shelter and food for the disabled old people, would it not be a huge waste of money to spend Taka one thousand crore for holding this international conference? What is the justification of holding such a conference by a poor country like us? What will the country derive by spending such a huge amount of money? I am requesting the countrymen to think about this. We have already taken steps to cancel hosting of this conference.

When Bangladesh has a lot of trouble paying its debts and interest for domestic and international loans, the holding of NAM conference can be termed not only as a luxury but it amounts to irresponsibility. Bangladesh can save several hundred crores of Taka by canceling the conference even at the last moment. This money can be spent on emergency development projects.

The Prime Minister of Awami League government spent approximately one working year travelling abroad. Relatives, friends and admirers also traveled abroad in large groups at the cost of the national exchequer. Many crores of Taka were spent on this account. As a result of such visits, employment opportunities did not expand, nor was the country benefited. Although the foreign trips of the Prime Minister of the Awami League govern-

ment was ensured, foreign travel and employment of the youths of this country became uncertain. Such huge expenditures on luxurious trips were aimed at meeting personal desire and were quite unnecessary for the country

Water sharing treaty & CHT peace accord

The Awami League government signed two agreements, one at home and the other abroad named the Water Treaty and Peace Accord. Great publicity was given describing these agreements as successful. You know, during the rule of the former BNP government we had made efforts to solve the water problem but did not sign any treaty as there was no acceptable solution to sharing water. Under the agree ment which the Awami League government signed soon after coming to power water remained on paper and did not come to the rivers. We shall take effective measures so that water can be obtained for cultivation. Great unrest prevailed in ll Tracts areas after the annound Clashes and abductions have become day to day affair. Peace could not be restored to the hill tract region following the peace accord. We shall change this situation. Insha Allah.

Share market, textbook scams

The price index in the share market was 976 when the Awami League government came to power in 1996. This index rose to 3.649 within only five months due to steps taken by the government to protect the interests of greedy businessmen of the party. The index was raised artificially which made paupers of the ever-day investors. These businessmen have looted the entire life savings of the small saving holders and pensioners. At the end of three and a half years of their rule, the price index came down to the lowest position of 473. As a result, hundreds of people and families became poor and destitutes.

Beginning with a complex matter like the share market to textbooks for school The main component of the children in their educational life is their textbooks. It is the fundamental right of all students to get textbooks in the first week of the year. This right was not only taken away, they were embroiled in corruption in the printing work of textbooks. A notorious company owned by a party businessman, who had no previous experience, was given the contract worth several hundred crore Taka for printing all the books. The company could not deliver the books to the students on time although it had won the contract following a huge illegal transaction of money. The books did not reach the students until the middle of the year. Irregularities, mismanagement and corruption regarding the textbooks reached such a level that there is a deep concern whether textbooks reached such a level that there is a deep concern whether textbooks for next year can be available on time after restoring rules and discipline. We shall make all efforts to meet the great challenge of delivering books to the students by the beginning of the year.

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters, Besides these incidents, in the last few months news about irregularities and corruption of the Awami League government appeared on the front pages of the country's newspapers. I want to recall a few of the headlines published during that period *Cables worth Taka four crore purchased at Taka seven crore without ender.*Corruption eats up four per cent of the GDP. Taka 12,000 crore misappropriated every year.*Directives to complete 250 projects of the local government ministry worth Taka three crore within five days.*Special allocation of wheat worth Taka 473 crore for rural infrastructure developmt keeping in mind the coming

*Plundering of money in the name of construction of rickshaw lanes to give financial benefits to selected contractors.

*Rules flouted. Plundering of money in the name of purchase agreements. Approval of purchases worth Taka eight thousand crore in the last three months of Awami League government.

*Last moment allocation -- 45 plots given to relatives *Taka half a crore spent for the medical treatment of 18 former ministers. *Prime Minister lays foundation stone of Padma Bridge without funds.

*Gulistan building -- Unequal agreement with the developer. Arrangeme

*Of the total 72 plots of Chittagong Development Authority, the Works Minister nanded 50 plots for his men. These were some of the news headlines in the last few months of the Awami

League government. But it is only a partial picture of the irregularities, corruption Dear countrymen-brothers and sisters.

We have become paupers. We have become poor. We owe loans amounting to thousands of crores of Taka. It will take many years to repay these loans. I want to know what sort of patriotism they had had when the entire country has become penniless? I want to ask what type of dream they had for building this country which resulted in a nightmare of the entire nation of debt repayments? I want to ask what type of feelings they had when the nation has to bear the burden of corruption that has penetrated our entire society? I want to ask what type of democracy they practiced where either relatives or a small section of party men have become wealthy? I want to know their replies. We want to know the entire story of irregularities, corruption and looting over the past five years. We shall bring out a white paper within the next three months which will give a preliminary description of the corruption of the Awami League government. Then we shall identify the offenders and arrange speedy punishments as per the verdicts. In this connection, I want to caution all MPs belonging to BNP and the four-party alliance that if any allegation is made against any one of them, I shall immediately take action. That action will be tough and exemplary. I want to remind you all that I pledged in public meetings and election speeches to wipe out the stigma in Bangladesh of being identified as the most corrupt nation on Earth. It is the joint responsibility of us all to fulfill this pledge.

We all have to realise that many of us have become accustomed to corruption because of its relentless, continuous practice for the last five years. Irregularity has become the norm. Therefore, the people have to free themselves from the practice of corruption. People have to be brought under into a system. It is a difficult task. So, I am urging the nation to help us in establishing good

ernance. Help us in removing the appalling title of Bangladesh recently dubbed as the most corrupt nation in the world. Urgent task to root out terrorism

Dear countrymen-brothers and sisters, The most urgent task before us is to contain terrorism. In this area also the past with a difficult task

In the last six months of their rule they issued licences for 5,000 fire arms. In the last one month, TCB in Chittagong sold 700 fire arms.

In awarding these licences, it has been found that in most cases, rules were not followed. Relationship with the Awami League was the main qualification for obtaining a licence for fire arms. The race to get fire arm licences was not confined to the Awami League ministers and MPs, but even their wives took part.

My question is: How on earth, could the Awami League with so many arms speak of freeing the nation of terrorism? Did the Awami League ever think of the consequences of having a huge market in the country for both legal and illegal arms? Does any one know the number of

illegal arms in the country? We have to find answers to these questions. These are imperatives to free the country from

I am hopeful that we shall receive active cooperation of people in identifying possessors of illegal arms.

In this regard I want to say something to the members of the police force: You have to take the great responsibility of freeing yourself from the bad name that the police force earned during the tenure of Awami League. I know you have been trying to shake free of this reputation during the tenure of the caretaker gov-ernment. You have successfully fulfilled the task of holding free, fair and peaceful elections. Now is the time to restore law and order and I am confident that you will be successful in discharging your duties.

Dear countrymen-brothers and

The first task of your government is to improve the law and order situation. I know the people who suffered most will not believe our words unless we make some progress by containing terrorism to some extent. But I want to assure you this much that we shall not waste any time. Neither the state nor the government will provide shelter to any terrorist. We will take tough measures to ensure that terrorists cannot shelter behind politics. I hope by now you have got the proof of how sincere we are with our election pledges. We have warned our own ministers, MPs, leaders and workers that if either they or their relatives resort to terrorism or use force, they will not be spared. I have directed the police and other members of law-enforcing agencies to perform their duties as per the law, without any fear and in a non-partisan manner. No one will be spared if they are found to show any weakness for the terrorists. I am asking all levels of leaders and workers of BNP and the four-party alliance not to take up the law into their own hands under any pretext.

As a nation we earned a very bad name recently as killings, terrorism and anarchy prevailed with the patronisation of the last ruling party.

The US government report on law and order and human rights of this country have wounded our conscience If we fail to quickly improve the situation, our economic activities and production

will continue to remain at a standstill. Expected foreign investment, too, will not

Everyone will have to step forward sincerely if we want to see a rapid improvement of the law and order situation. Social awareness and a public move against terrorism can make our efforts a success. With this in mind I seek full support from the press and mass media.

Shun apple polishing I have noticed that soon after the announcement of the poll results, efforts have

started to turn different TV channels into BNP channels changing their tune. I humbly request the television, radio and newspaper personnelPlease don't ndulge in flattering individuals. Please step away from adoration of the dead and flattery of the living. This undermines the memory of those deceased and it weakens the position of the living. At the same time, I request you to publish objective eports on the economic and social issues being faced by the new government.

Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters. Bangladesh Nationalist Party believes in Bangladeshi nationalism. We are nly committed to ensuring civic rights of everyone

Each and every citizen of the country has the full rights to practice his or her eligious faith and promote their ethnic cultural identity. I want to clearly spell out that everyone in Bangladesh, belonging to any religion, colour or ethnic population are citizens of Bangladesh.

We have equal respect for all religions. The people of this country belong to all religious, and they are all, including Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians

I warn the countrymen against those who intentionally want to create a wall of division amongst us by using the word minority in this country of excellent religious harmony. I want to say that people belonging to all religions, caste and ethnic groups have the unequivocal support behind the huge victory of the BNP and the

So, the claim of different religious communities as their vote bank has been ved wrong by the results of the last election. We are honour-bound to ensure total freedom and necessary security to people

who wish to practise their religious faith Bangladesh is a country of religious harmony free from communalism Lurge the people of this country belonging to all religions, caste and ethnic

groups to extend cooperation to us in serving the country. After only a few days, the biggest religious festival, of the Hindu community, Durga Puja, will be held.
On the occasion of the universal Durga Puja, I convey my congratulations and

greetings to all members of the Hindu community. Around the middle of next month, Holy Ramadan, the month of restraint for the believers of Islam, will begin. The val of Eid-ul-Fitr falls in the middle of December. After that the biggest festival of the Christian community, Christmas Day, will be observed on December 25. I consider it to be blessings and mercy of Almighty Allah that one after another of these three great festivals of three religions are going to take place in close succession at the beginning of a new government. I believe these festivals in close successions will increase the religious harmony in Bangladesh and make our relations more pleasant, decent and firm.

Role of NGOs

Dear Countrymen brothers and sisters,

Our stand on non-government organisations known as NGOs, are very clear. The NGOs activities of foreign assistance in Bangladesh began since the War of Liberation in 1971 and thereafter. With the increase of the age of the independent country, the NGO activities also expanded on a massive scale. The macro-credit programme of Grameen Bank is widely discussed as a new strategy to stamp out poverty globally. BRAC of Bangladesh, today, has emerged as the biggest NGO in the world. The combined successes of many NGOs like Asha, Gonoshasthya RDRS, Caritas, SSS and Bachtey Shikha have introduced the struggle of survival of the down trodden section in society to the developed world. The NGOs are intrinsically involved in the development of the country. Their contributions in important fields, like tackling natural disasters, extending small credits, provisions of jobs for women and the expansion of mass-education, have earned appreciation from all quarters. During the last 30 (thirty) years, the NGOs worked hand in hand with the government in poverty alleviation, removal of disparity, and is social development. We want to maintain this course. But there has been widespread reaction in society regarding a handful of NGOs as they have involved themselves in party politics and viewpoints. Adverse and hostile attitude have been created among the common people. Using foreign aid for party activities is a serious crime. Proper investigations into the misdeeds of such NGOs will be made and action under the law of the land will be taken. No one should be allowed to do whatever ney like whilst violating the laws of the Republic.

Democracy gets firm footing Dear brothers and sisters.

The election of October 1 has not only changed power at the state level, but also put democracy one step forward. You know, democracy in the country was not allowed to march smoothly. One of the greatest aims of our war of independence was democracy. But after only three years of independence, democracy was exiled by the proclamation of a one-party system. The consequences of it were painful and catastrophic. I am citing the incidents just for the sake of keeping those in mind and taking lessons from them. This is not aimed at undermining any individual or any party. In 1975 martial law replaced the one-party autocratic system, which was also patronised by Awami Leaguers.

Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP, had restored the multi-party democracy in the country, bringing an end to martial law regime. BNP was born in the process of that democratisation. BNP was not born silently in the cantonment area. BNP was born publicly and with support from the people. The other political parties were also born at that time. So, democracy is the main pillar of our political philosophy. It is we, who had to play the pioneering role every time in the struggle to restore democ

We succeeded in the struggles against the autocratic rule in the eighties. Democracy was brought back. We tried our best to give a firm footing to democracy, to institutionalise it in the early nineties. The parliamentary system of democracy was re-established by BNP at the very beginning of our effort. It was BNP, which had passed the bill of non-party caretaker government defying all odds in 1996. We had tried our best at that time to make Jatiya Sangsad the focal point of all activities We had to struggle in the movement to protect the fundamental human rights of

people during the last five years. By the grace of Almighty Allah, as well as support from you, we have succeeded in that struggle. Now we shall make all efforts to give nocracy a firm footing. I seek cooperation from all to this end. The developing countries are facing difficult situations amid multifarious changes and equations across the globe at the beginning of the 21st century. These

countries will go backward unless democracy marches ahead. Liberal democracy s absent from many third world countries. But, from that point of view Bangladesh has great potential. Bangladesh mains at the forefront of the few Muslim countries that have a democratic system and change governments through elections. But, this is not enough. Our democracy has to flourish and the process of democratisation has to be introduced in every sphere. The balance of world politics changed forever after the September 11 terror attacks on Twin Towers in New York and Pentagon in Washington. Especially, the Muslim countries are facing an adverse situation. So, now opportunities

have emerged to play a significant role in the international politics as a liberal

Muslim democratic country. We have to avail ourselves of the opportunity. The first and foremost objective is to make Jatiya Sangsad the focal point of all discussions of important issues of state as well as take decisions. I seek cooperation from all quarters to this end. The people of the country have cast their votes with great hopes. All the members of the ϑ^{th} Jatiya Sangsad have to keep that in mind. So, the parliament has to play a historic role. Now, it is imperative to bring back political activities to the Jatiya Sangsad from the fields and streets. And for

Efforts should be made to pursue politics of logic, excellence, and practice intelligence, which suits an independent country. It is impossible to practice parliaentary politics without having patience, decency, politeness and courtesy. So, we want to introduce a contest of knowledge, merit, logic and tolerance of bilatera

hartal, anarchic movement and street movements. General people as well as wel wishers of Bangladesh outside the country want to see this.

So, I assure you all today that we shall ensure a conducive atmosphere to make Sangsad meaningful and lively through effective participation of the opposition. Opposition will get scope to raise their allegations, protests, opinions, recom-mendations and indignation's before the parliament. But, our government will not allow any attempt to create anarchy and disorder outside the parliament in the name of movements. People have given that mandate to us through a ballot

rebuilding the devastated economy and creating congenial atmosphere for industrialization, trade and commerce as well as employment generation. We are

Now I shall give you some happy news.

We have finalised our new government's 100-day activities.

I hope all members of my cabinet will prove their worth through honesty, efficiency and dynamism. Ministership is no longer an employment for a five-year term. Changes in the cabinet of democratic countries of the West take place. It will similarly take place in our cabinet.

Highlights of the 100-day agenda

Observing a day to give thanks to the voters for the victory of the four-party

Organising an anti-terrorism national convention in Dhaka by assembling the relatives and well-wishers of those who were killed in various incidents like political

and criminal acts across the country during the last five years. Opening all educational institutions and stopping all kinds of terrorist acts there

Starting legal process for releasing the persons who are in prison without trial

Repealing all previous unfair administrative orders. Taking initiatives to remove discipline and irregularities at Chittagong Port, ongla Port and the Airport.

Unveiling the real causes of share market scam of 1996 and identifying the persons responsible for it. Re-establishing confidence of both local and foreign vestors in the share market

Formation of law and order citizens committees comprising local renowned persons in cities, towns, villages and localities.

Starting an inquiry into all allegations of corruption, identifying corrupt persons and the process of their trial. Celebration of 30 years of victory of Bangladesh in the War of Liberation on

the Language Movement on 21 February, 2002. Sending special request teams abroad to increase the garments quota.

Sending special teams abroad to increase manpower export Plan for creating employment opportunities

coach, bus and taxi drivers.

We will organise some international seminars without festivity, which are essential for the country, but not like the unnecessary and colorful international

the highlights of these plans: An international seminar on arsenic problem will be organised

Steps will be taken to set up cyber club in the main district towns with a view to building computer networking.

Work to set up language laboratory in six divisional towns will start. Courses

the teaching of English language. Initiative will be taken to set up government motor driving schools in the main

district towns to motivate the youths to learn motor driving. Special bus service for women employees will be introduced in the capital. We see photographs of severe accidents in the newspapers. Steps will be taken

roads and waterways and identify the cause of accidents. We want to free the country from not only terrorism, but also from accidents.

serious about employing the unemployed youths, generation of power and solving chronic problems, like traffic jams. These issues will get our priority. The Power Development Board will become bankrupt if the purchase of electricity with unjust conditions, at a high price and involving foreign currency contin-

Thrive for unity in the new world after attacks on US The election of October 1 was an unprecedented vote of revolution but it was

Let all of us, the 13 crore people of Bangladesh, make a human chain by holdin hands. Let us be united towards building the nation, because divided we fall but unity brings progress. Let us face the harsh reality unitedly. I said earlier that the world faces a new situation after the destruction of the Twin

concern for Bangladesh. You are all aware of that the world situation has become more dangerous after the US attack on Afghanistan since October 7 Our export oriented industries, including readymade garments and frozen fish, are dependent on the world market. The scope of jobs and earnings of Bangladeshi people abroad also depends on stability in different countries of the world. The

participation of Bangladesh in such markets must be extended and maintained a

So, mobility must brought back to all businesses and industries if we want to nake the country development-oriented. New blood must be circulated From this moment, I urge all businessmen and industrialists to come forward to make their business and industries rejuvenated with new initiative and courage.

Huge responsibility on the new govt's shoulder Side by side, I am urging the expatriate Bangladeshi brothers and sisters to look to us and invest some capital here.

now; but a government for peace and stability has been established here. We are not rightist, we are not leftist, we are progressive, we are pro-development and pletely Bangladeshis. Dear Countrymen, brothers and sisters,

The BNP and four-party alliance has won more than two thirds majority and it was possible because of your unparalleled love, deep faith and unconditional

But the great victory has imposed huge responsibilities on the new government. The new government has to move ahead to fulfill your expectations. At the same time. I want to say that you must all come forward in building the

his own field in his own capacity. Everybody should realise that it is very difficult to achieve many things for the best Prime Minister, the best parliament and the best government of the world alone. It will be a mistake if it is expected that the government will do everything. Independence and democracy means everybody's participation in building the

The main responsibility of the government is to create progressive and develop an affable environment. The rest will be done by people with their patriotism and sense of responsibility.

The main responsibility of the government is to create an atmosphere conduc tive to progress and development while the rest should be done by the country's people out of their sense of patriotism and responsibility. If we can realise this fact, only then we shall be able to regain our strength and restore inspiration to material ise our hopes and aspirations. These hopes and aspirations, and strength are very much necessary at this moment since we have no time to waste. We must win the

My dear brothers and sisters,

We have already won two wars -- the War of Liberation in 1971 and the War to establish Democracy in 1990. We have now two more wars ahead and they are the war to check terrorism and the war for economic emancipation. Since economic emancipation is related with checking terrorism, I fervently appeal you all to render

I thank you all for giving me a patient hearing for so long. I especially thank all victorious and defeated candidates, voters and those directly involved in the process, whose combined efforts had helped held this election trend in the country. At this moment, we need peace, security, stability and restraint.

Let us all work together, free the country from terrorism and corruption and build

Bangladesh into modern state of the 21st century. I appeal to Awami League and all other political parties, their leaders and workers, to become active parts of this great task undertaken by BNP and its allies in the greater national interest. We need your all-out cooperation towards building Bangladesh as a happy, prosper-

nelp us. I wish secured, peaceful and a good life for you all. Ameer Allah Hafez,

Bangladesh Zindabad

this, we have to change our political attitude and language

opinions in the parliament.

We all have to come out, forever, from the destructive political programmes of

I caution you all that we are committed to restoring rule of law in the country for

pledge-bound to combat anarchy. Dear brothers and sisters.

We have prepared a programme for one hundred days so that the members of the cabinet remain dynamic from the very beginning.

Recovering illegal arms, arresting identified terrorists and starting the process

Starting the process of repealing the Public Safety Act (PSA) and Special Powers Act (SPA).

Starting the process of judicial inquiry into the much-talked about bomb explo-

Formation of organising committees to observe the completion of 50 years of

The youths would be encouraged for computer training, learning foreign language and motor driving to create new employment opportunities. Following are An international seminar to motivate the youths to learn computer will be held.

related to job in Chinese, Japanese, French, Arabic, German and English languages will be launched. These courses will help create job opportunities abroad. Fresh initiatives will be taken in all government educational institutions to start

to set up an Advanced Drivers Institute to provide improve training to truck, lorry,

Step will be taken to set up an Accident Research Center to reduce accidents on We hope you will take part in these constructive works. Your government will be

ues. It will be difficult to meet the additional demand for power amid widespread mismanagement and indiscipline and under stringent conditions of the donor

without bloodshed and lawful. The October vote revolution was silent and gentle in

Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on September 11th. New thinking has developed in the dollar-based global economy. It is a matter of grave

Recession is also prevailing in other businesses and industries in the country.

Inspire all to concentrate on business and small industries. I am promising that the government will extend their all out support.

Ask foreigners to invest capital in Bangladesh and tell them that we shall ensure a conducive environment for investment. Tell the foreigners that there is no rightist or leftist government in Bangladesh

nation, you should take some of the responsibility. Everybody will have to work in

two other wars at any cost and we have to prepare ourselves right now for that. Two more wars on the horizon

your active participation in these two wars to win at any cost My fellow countrymen,

An unholy trend prevailed during the last five years to divide the country politically and communally. The people of Bangladesh as a mark of their protest against such trend had voted BNP and its four-party alliance to power. The nation voted us to power to see unity and communal harmony, not for any division or communality

ous and peaceful state Let us come forward to serve the country and its people. May Almighty Allah