

# Lack of confidence still prevails among public servants: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is still trying to bring back confidence among the public servants that were lost during the army-backed caretaker regime.

"A sluggish situation is still prevailing... we are facing trouble in doing our works for the people," she said, while she was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day 17th biennial conference of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city.

Hasina said hectic day and night labour of her government cannot bring any good for the people just for lack of confidence among the public servants.

She alleged that the army-backed caretaker government was engaged in absurd works in the name of eradicating corruption. "There were stalemate, fear and panic," she said, adding: "We could not overcome these adverse factors yet."

But she said in the near future

these obstacles created by the caretaker government would be removed.

She also blamed the BNP-led 4-party alliance government for destroying the morality of the public servants. "The 4-party alliance government was engaged in looting public money and corruption. And the effect of their evil deeds spoiled morality of the public servants," she said.

BEA President Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad presided over the inaugural session. Finance Minister AMA Muhit was present as the special guest.

The main theme of the conference is: Economy at the golden jubilee of War of Liberation: Bangladesh we want to see.

Hasina said the theme for this year's conference was time befitting and this would help the government to chalk out how would be the country during its golden jubilee of the War of Liberation.

She said she is not a student of economics but realised from her experience as prime minister and from her family background that the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the 17th biennial conference of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

main aim of economy should be to provide better lifestyle for people, to eradicate poverty and improve the economic growth.

She said the main objective of the

War of Liberation was to establish a non-communal and disparity-free country. But that objective faced serious obstacles after the killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975.

Hasina said her government always wanted to establish a poverty-free country within a short time.

She urged the economists to

extend their cooperation to the government to fulfil the Vision 2021.

The PM said after the killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib the criminalisation of the society started in the country and the people had suffered a lot. As a consequence, the literacy in the country is lowest in this region while maternal death is higher.

She noted that the democratic process, obstructed after August 15, 1975, put back the country by several decades.

She said after assuming power in 1996, Awami League government maintained a good GDP growth with low inflation. In 2001, she said the GDP growth was projected at 6.5 percent while the inflation then was 1.59 percent.

"We made the country self-sufficient in food, but later the BNP-led alliance government had undone this."

About the ongoing power crisis, Hasina said her government has taken short-term, mid-term and long-term steps to mitigate the crisis. "As per our plan, 9026 MW of

electricity will be included in the national grid by 2015."

She said in their election manifesto they gave priority to five aspects -- to check price hike of essentials, take effective steps against corruption, develop the power and energy sector, alleviate poverty and establish good governance.

She said her government thinks that development is a continuous process. "That's why in the election manifesto we didn't limit our projection to just five years and placed our Vision 2021."

She said the economists have an important role to play in implementing the Vision 2021 and sought their cooperation to reach the goal.

The prime minister announced the allocation of five bighas of government land for the proposed Dhaka School of Economics, initiated by BEA.

Later, she distributed honorary awards to three eminent persons. They are: Dr Swadesh Ranjan Bose (posthumous), SAMS Kibria (posthumous) and Bazlur Rahman (posthumous).

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