

Full text of prime minister's address to nation

FROM PAGE 8
Half of the population is women who are victims of economic, social and political discrimination. A large number of women voters played vital role in our victory during last general elections.

After forming the government, we have laid emphasis on empowerment of women on priority basis. A time-befitting women development policy has already been formulated. They are imparted training for ensuring their emergence as economic force and large scale participation in the labour market and enhancing their skill, employment and potential entrepreneurs.

The maternity leave of the pregnant women has been extended to six months from four months and the government enacted 'Paribarik Sahingsota Protirodh and Surakhha Aiyeen-2010' for curbing violence against women.

The government has ensured participation of women in the Judiciary, Executives and Parliament, the prime minister said adding that the number of women reserved seats in parliament has already extended to 50. Provision has been made for ensuring election of three women members in every union parishad.

The government has already enacted National Children Policy-2011, and has created a trust fund for facing the effects of climate change. The government has been contributing Tk700 crore every year for implementing projects, and during last three years it allocated Tk2100 crore and implemented 62 projects in this regard.

Another fund of \$11,35,000,000 under the caption of Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund with the participation of development partners has been created. The government has already enacted Environment Court Act-2010 and Environment Protection (Amendment) Law-2010.

It is the prime responsibility of a government to ensure safety and security of the people. We have brought the law and order situation under control, and there was no incidence of explosion of 500 bombs in a day and there was no repetition of such incident like the August 21 grenade attack.

The trial of BDR carnage at Pilkhana has already started and a new law has

been crafted by this time in this regard. The steps are underway to modernise the Police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Ansar and other law enforcement agencies. The Industrial Police has already been introduced for maintaining law and order in the industrial zones.

The government has already set up 52 model police stations, 10 new investigation centres and three new police stations, and has already taken initiatives to launch tourist police, marine police, separate investigation unit and national bureau of counter terrorism for curbing militancy.

Bangladesh has secured the highest position in sending the peacekeepers to the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission. A total of 20,723 members of the armed forces have been working in the UN peace-keeping missions and that is why the image of the country has been enlightened in the world.

The government has been laying maximum emphasis on modernising the armed forces and trying to buy necessary weapons for them. A number of fighter planes and helicopters have already been purchased for the Air Force. A good number of surface to air missiles has been added to the Air Force, and the Bangabandhu Aeronautical Centre has been setup.

The government has been trying to make the Navy as a triangle force. The BMA Bangabandhu Complex has already been built at Bhatiyar for imparting efficient military training to the Navy.

The construction of 2,915 flats is underway for the landless and poor freedom fighters. The BNP-Jamaat government had stopped the construction of the Independence Monument at Suhrawardy Uddyan, but the government has again started its construction and taken initiatives to establish the Liberation War Museum.

The government recently accorded reception to important citizens and organisers for their contribution to the country's War of Liberation. The government has already formed a committee for implementing the unresolved issues in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). A land commission has been working there. Different departments and offices have already been handed over to three Hill District Councils as per the

law of the CHT Act.

Dear countrymen,
Before the election, I pledged that we will build an information-technology based modern Digital Bangladesh, which will be an award for the young generation, if we get scope to form government.

Information and service centre have been introduced at 4,501 unions to build the Digital Bangladesh.

Forty lakh people are getting services from the centres every month. Employment has been created at villages. The entrepreneurs are earning on an average Tk2.5 crore every month.

The production of Doel computer has been started. Mobile banking has been introduced to ensure banking facility to the village people.

Postal department has introduced electronic money order. Preparation of income tax return and submission on online has been introduced. Online and mobile health services have been introduced at upazila and district hospitals.

Now the bills of electricity, water, gas and other services are being paid on online and mobile. E-tendering has been introduced to ensure transparency, accountability and mobility in government procurement.

To ensure transparency and accountability at grass-roots level administration, video conferencing and e-servicing have been introduced at cabinet division, divisional commissioner, district commissioner offices. E-service centre has been introduced at every district.

All primary and secondary level books have been turned into e-books. Examination result and result of recruitment test are being given on website, SMS, and e-mail. Admission to universities and registration up to higher secondary level has been made on online.

To boost the information technology, ICT Act and ICT policy have been enacted. Work on setting up High-tech Park at Kaliakair in Gazipur has started. Information technology-based education has been made mandatory at secondary level education.

Ninety-nine percent people and 95% areas have been brought under telecom service and network. Thirty-nine licenses have been issued for IP phone.

Various measures have been taken to enhance

sports excellence of the young generation. Inter-school sports competitions are being arranged. Inauguration ceremony of ICC Cricket World Cup-2011 at Bangabandhu National Stadium has been acclaimed internationally.

Infrastructure development of different stadiums, including Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong and Khulna have been made. Sports infrastructure of Dhaka have been reformed and made modern.

Our players have been achieving success in cricket, football, hockey, gymnastic, athletic, tennis, kabadi and other sports.

Our daughters have achieved one-day status in cricket.

I have greeted them. Our intellectually disabled sons and daughters have got 44 medals, including 29 gold, 12 silver and 3 bronze in sports. I hope, our children will achieve more success in future.

Dear brothers and sisters
The main principle of our foreign policy is 'friendship to all and malice to none'. The bilateral relationships under this principle have been emboldened with all nation states. The position and the role of Bangladesh in the protection of peace and fraternity are appreciated everywhere, including South Asia and in the United Nations.

I proposed a world 'peace model' in the 66th general assembly of the United Nations in September 2011, with the theme of 'people's empowerment and development'. The model has been accepted as a resolution in the general assembly.

Unfettered access has been ensured for the border enclave-Tin Bigha Corridor, for 24 hours to and from the mainland-while long unresolved bilateral issues such as border demarcation and duty free access of Bangladesh products to India are solved.

The relationship with China has also been heightened with signing of economic and technical assistance (grant) agreements, exchanging of letter to build Kazirtek Bridge as well as signing of a MoU on oil and gas related affairs.

During my visit to neighbouring Myanmar, their government has agreed to recognise and take back their undocumented nationals who took refugees in Bangladesh. Bangladesh products have also got duty-free access there.

The diplomatic and economic relationship with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and other Muslim states in the Middle East has been strengthened. The manpower exports to the Middle East have also gone up.

Petitions have been filed with the international tribunal to settle the maritime disputes with neighbouring India and Myanmar. Bangladesh has got elected in 32 international bodies of the United Nations as well.

The manpower export in last three years stood at 14.33 lakhs. Amid global economic meltdown, the manpower export has surpassed the total volume of three years of BNP-Jamaat regime. Steps have been taken to create new labour markets. As a result, manpower is being exported to Poland, Papua New Guinea, Algeria, South Africa, Angola and Congo.

Progress has been made to reopen now-stalled labour market in Malaysia, while the legalisation of nearly three lakhs illegal Bangladesh labours is almost at the final stage of completion. The Expatriate Welfare Bank has also been established.

A record number of 1,05,617 pilgrims have performed hajj in 2011, mainly because of improved hajj management, opportunity to apply online and time-befitting hajj policy. The number of hajj pilgrims has marked a 17% rise due to increased economic solvency.

Dear democracy loving countrymen,

We have made the Jatiya Sangsad the focal point to run the country. The 9th Jatiya Sangsad has passed 153 laws. All the parliamentary standing committees were formed at the very first session in order to ensure transparency and accountability of the government.

Two members from main opposition BNP as well as five others from the Grand Alliance and other political parties were made committee chairmen alongside the treasury bench members. The 'Sangsad Bangladesh Television' has also come into being.

Dear Countrymen:
We have crossed 40 years after independence. We had lost Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman three-and-a-half years of the Victory. Since then autocracy continued for 21 years. The only policy of the then rulers was the corruption instead of service. The breeze of democracy, peace and development, however, returned to the country in 1996.

The country plunged into a dark era again in 2001. The

political vengeance, repression, oppression, rise of militancy, bomb and grenade attacks coupled with unbridled corruption tarnished the image of Bangladesh abroad.

But we have again put Bangladesh on the right track of peace, development and progress. Bangladesh is now a world model in the areas of poverty alleviation, rural development, food security, healthcare, education, women empowerment and some other fields and it has been recognised by the world leaders including the UN Secretary General.

The year 2021 is the Golden Jubilee for Bangladesh. Marking the Golden Jubilee, we want to build a Sonar Bangla that would be freed from poverty, hunger and illiteracy. This country would be developed a resourceful and democratic--a Digital Bangladesh.

My earnest request to the opposition, please shun the path of the politics of conflicts. Let's work together for the sake of the development of the country and its people. I believe, none can resist the development of a nation that has earned its independence through bloodshed.

The victory is imminent against poverty and hunger, Insha Allah. I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to all of you. I seek Doa and cooperation from the countrymen.

Khoda Hafez. Joy Bangla. Joy Bangabandhu.
Long Live Bangladesh.

Further probe

FROM PAGE 20
(no-confidence) petition filed by Asma Kibria, the widow of Awami League stalwart, against the supplementary charge sheet.

The judge also ordered the CID to run the fresh probe by a senior police officer, said public prosecutor Misbah Uddin Ahmed.

The tribunal on November 15 last year started hearing the petition.

The supplementary charge sheet was submitted to the court of Habiganj chief judicial magistrate on June 20. Later, the case was sent to the tribunal.

The Awami League finance minister of 1996-2011, his nephew and AL leader Shah Manzurul Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in the grenade attack at a public meeting at Baiderbazar in Habiganj Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005.

The then senior ASP of the CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman (now in jail in Chittagong arms haul case) filed a charge sheet naming 10 people on March 20, 2005. However, they were found to be innocent during the four-year-long further investigation conducted by another senior ASP Md Rafiqul Islam.

Kishore Kumar Kar, special prosecutor of the tribunal, yesterday told The Daily Star that Asma Kibria's lawyer Alamgir Bhuiyan Babul filed the objection petition

termining the supplementary charge sheet 'incomplete and flawed'.

"We just want a flawless investigation," said Alamgir, also president of Habiganj District Bar Association, during yesterday's hearing.

The special prosecutor mentioned that Huji kingpin Mufti Abdul Hannan had given a confessional statement with details about the conspiracy. "But the CID in its supplementary charge sheet had only made the hired killers accused, leaving the main culprits and the masterminds out of the book," he said.

Misbah and Kishore also pleaded for further investigation into the case.

Of the 14 newly charge sheeted in the highly sensational case, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, Indian national Md Abdul Aziz Batt alias Abdul Mazed Batt, Mufti Mainuddin Sheikh alias Abu Zandal, Mufti Abdul Hannan, his brother Muhibullah alias Muhibur Rahman alias Ovi, Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul, Hafez Syed Nayeem Ahmed Arif, Md Badrul Alam Mizan and Mizanur Rahman alias Mithu are in police custody.

Five other accused -- Moulana Taj Uddin, brother of ex-BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Mufti Abdul Hai, Mohammad Ali and Mohammad Badrul -- remained absconding, court sources said.



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