

Bangabandhu's dream to bring smiles on faces of poor

# Poverty, illiteracy, oppress

Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday emphatically declared that the present government will continue its relentless endeavour to eradicate poverty, hunger illiteracy and oppression from the society and reaffirmed her government's commitment to regain the lost glory of the nation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also president of Bangladesh Awami League, was presiding over a mammoth public meeting at the sprawling Manik Miah Avenue in the city. The day was not far when the nation could fulfil the noble dream of the Father of the Nation—Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build an exploitation-free and prosperous Sonar Bangla, she said.

Amid thunderous applause from tens of thousands of receptive cheerful crowd, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the only five-month old rule of her government is full of suc-

cesses and will continue to struggle for the complete economic emancipation of the toiling masses of the country.

She said the last 21-year rule by anti-liberation forces in the country is a story of deprivation and unemployment and utter dissatisfaction. She said, the last five years rule of the BNP had tarnished the once glorious image of this country and her government is now determined to regain that lost glory and brighten the image of the country in the eye of the outside world.

Organised by Bangladesh Awami League to mark the formal launching of the fortnight-long programmes for celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the country's independence and War of Liberation, the public meeting was also addressed, among others, by party leaders and cabinet ministers including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman,

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury, Maya Bir Bikram, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin while party Assistant Publicity Secretary Abdul Mannan conducted the meeting.

At the very onset of her speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid glowing tributes to the memories of 30 lakh martyrs of the country's Liberation War, and women who lost their chastity in the struggle for liberating the country. She also paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was the chief architect of the liberation struggle of the country and also to four national leaders who were brutally killed in Dhaka Jail in their

captivity and members of the family of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who lost their lives at the hands of armed assailants in 1975.

Referring to the brutal killing of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Hasina said that the best way to take revenge would be to bring smile on the faces of every oppressed people which was a life-long dream of Bangabandhu.

In this context, she said that Bangabandhu wanted to make Bangladesh a self-respected and self-reliant nation so that it could stand in the comity of nations with its head high.

Expressing her gratitude to the people of the country for voting Awami League to power, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that after a long struggle of 21-year for establishing democracy and right to vote and food of the people, her

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party is pledge-bound to accelerate the socio-economic emancipation of the masses.

Regretting the main opposition political party leadership's what she called 'wilful inability' to understand the government of consensus initiated by her party, Sheikh Hasina said the main opposition party is still unable to reconcile its defeat in the June election and playing a negative role in the political arena of the country.

Referring to the speech of the Chairperson of BNP, at Savar that as Awami League is in power the people would no more hear the sound of Azan from the mosques but they would hear "Ulludhani", Sheikh Hasina wanted to know from the audience if there is any truth behind such statement, lakhs of voice roared "No" "No". The Prime Minister then termed the statement of Begum Khaleda Zia as "down right falsehood."

She said the government has achieved a remarkable success during this short period of time for the development of the country and welfare of the people. Among other things, she listed budgetary allocation of Taka 100 crore for agri-cultural subsidy, Taka 100 crore for poverty alleviation, setting up of a number of committees for formulating national policies on education, health, industry and energy sector, streamlining local government bodies and making parliament the focal point for solving all national issues.

She also mentioned that committees are working on granting autonomy to national radio and television and also bringing peace in the hill districts.

The Prime Minister cautioned her audience to guard against conspiracies being hatched out by certain vested

quarters who were defeated in the last June general election and rejected by people.

She said these quarters are active to thwart the ongoing development activities undertaken by the present government and these people are trying to obstruct inflow of foreign investment in the country so that the present government cannot succeed in its endeavour to mitigate people's sufferings and solve the huge unemployment problem. Turning to the crucial watersharing problem, the Prime Minister said we have problem with India in sharing of the Ganges water and added we are discussing the issue and taking necessary steps for solving the problem.

The Prime Minister said the previous BNP government had started negotiating with India for importing electricity. Besides, through 'SAPTA' the BNP government had taken decision to give transit to India, she added.

The Prime Minister said now her government is taking initiatives to ascertain the facilities of Asian highway for Bangladesh. Besides, she said we badly need electricity for our mills, factories and industries as well as for domestic uses.

"We are trying to get foreign investment in the power installations but it is a time consuming matter" Sheikh Hasina said, adding that we might have to import electricity from any country including India if we get it on convenient terms.

At the fag end of her speech, Sheikh Hasina became emotional when she said that the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Independence is simultaneously a matter of joy and grief. "It is a matter of pleasure for us that we are celebrating this auspicious occasion while on the other hand it remains us the tragedy of those who have lost their near and dear ones," she said.

"As Prime Minister I have nothing to gain or lose. I never consider that the post of Prime Minister is something to rejoice or earn any personal benefit" she said adding that her identity as the daughter of Father of the Nation bears much more honour and pride for her. She solicited people's good wishes so that the Almighty Allah blesses her to enable her fulfil the commitments she gave to the nation and materialise the unfinished task of Bangabandhu to build up a prosperous country.

to be fulfilled: Hasina

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