

Speech of Hon'ble Law Minister to observe the Human Rights Day 2016

Organizer: National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRCB)

Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium; Date: 10, December 2016 at 10:30 AM

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

- Hon'ble Chair of this Ceremony and Chairman of NHRC Mr. Kazi Reazul Houque;
- Hon'ble Special Guest and Ambassador of Sweden H.E. Johan Frisell and Country Director of UNDP Mr. Sudipto Mokerjee;
- Keynote Speaker and Senior Advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court Barrister Amir-Ul Islam;
- Learned Discussants;
- Distinguished Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamo Alaikum! Namaskar! And A Very Good mornng!

- It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be present amongst such august gathering to observe the **Human Rights Day 2016** organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the foundation of the international system of protection for human rights and it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th, 1948.

The document adopted on 10 December 1948 is not a binding document. But, it is a milestone document in the history of human rights. It laid the foundation of human rights. Starting with the UDHR, the international community has adopted more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- On 10 December of every year, Human Rights Day is celebrated by deciding a particular theme to make this celebration more effective and successful. Human Rights Day of 2016 calls on everyone to **stand up for someone's rights today!** On this day, let us once again commit to ensure human rights for all. We should not restrain the Human Rights Day to a mere some occasions.
- Human rights of all persons throughout Bangladesh shall be established only when we stand together. Stand together will make us win. If we are divided, we lose. To bring our dream country to light, we have to assist each other in understanding human rights and in protecting human rights.
- Every person has to respect rights of others. Each of us, as humans, expects and deserves to be respected. We have to build a sense of brotherhood. We have to stand for the rights of a refugee or migrant, a person with disabilities, a woman, a child, indigenous peoples, a minority group, or anyone else at risk of discrimination or violence.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- In this light, I must once gain reiterate that The Government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is firmly determined and committed to uphold human rights, human dignity, rule of law, non-discrimination, constitutional governance as well as to eliminate all sorts of terrorist activities in Bangladesh.
- Our Prime Minister has assured the people by taking a tough stance against militancy. We are always alert to ensure rule of law and rule of law has been established in the country through the trial of Bangabandhu's killers and war criminals.
- The Constitution of Bangladesh recognizes that all citizens are equal for law and are entitled to equal protection of law. But in many cases poor people are unable to get this benefit due to financial constraints. Government is very much concern to the rights and justice of them. This is why government has enacted **Legal Aid**

Services Act, 2000 and established NLASO with the necessary support and resources to provide justice to poor with free of cost.

- To protect and promote human rights throughout Bangladesh, independent statutory body National Human Rights Commission is established in 2009 by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- The NHRC has been given a broad range of functions necessary to protect and promote human rights. The NHRC is performing its functions in spite of various limitations. A person can file an application to the NHRC on behalf of victim of human rights violation and thus can stand for someone's right today.
- We should not wait for a better time to come. Rather we should make it better by standing for someone, today. The NHRC is performing its duties by conducting enquiries, visiting detaining places, publishing research works, communicating recommendations etc. We have to stand beside the Commission so that it can play a vital role in protecting human rights.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Taking effective step of the present government, Bangladesh is gradually flourishing in ensuring human rights of all persons. It is framing laws complying with human rights. The judiciary is directing to make laws, interpreting laws and making necessary orders to protect human rights. Improvements in education, health, employment etc. sectors are clearly seen as the indicators of development.
- It is admitted that Bangladesh still has much to do to establish a political culture, administration, judicial systems and economies that allow each person to live with dignity.
- In spite of preventive and redress systems, Bangladesh is facing some challenges in protecting human rights. We hope & believe that with our severe efforts & work.

- We will be able overcome the challenges and move ahead to build a country in which human rights of all people are ensured. We have to more improve our human coming together.

With these few words, I conclude.

Thank you very much for your participation and patience hearing.

JOY BANGLA, JOY BANGABANDHU!

LONG LIVE BANGLADESH!