

# Hasina seeks cooperation to sustain pace of development

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought cooperation from all to continue the present pace of development.

The premier was speaking at the inaugural of a three-day Development Fair-2017 across the country through videoconferencing from her official Gono Bhaban residence in the capital yesterday.

The fair has been organised to bring all people under the government's activities by informing the success stories to achieve Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Terming terrorism and militancy as the main barriers to development, the prime minister reiterated her call to the people of all levels to build a social spirit against the twin social vices.

Highlighting various initiatives of her government to reduce poverty, Hasina said, "Bangladesh would be considered as a poverty-free middle income country if we can cut the rate by 7/8 percent by 2021."

Elaborating her government's steps for development, the premier said, "Whenever Awami League comes to power, we think it's our responsibility to serve the people."



She said the government has introduced micro-saving project instead of microcredit to make the marginal people self-reliant and free them from the high interest rate of microcredit.

Her government is establishing 100 economic zones across the country to create employment opportunities, she added.

The premier said Bangladesh has earned food autarchy and in order to ensure food for all, misuse of agriculture land should be stopped by banning the establishment of industries here and there.

She also underscored the need for proper marketing of various agro items that are being produced in different areas of the country so that the interest of the farmers could be protected.

The premier hoped that the Bangladesh missions abroad will arrange similar fairs to project the development strides of the government to the expatriate Bangladeshis as well as the development partners.

Senior ministers and government officials were present on the occasion.

Later, the people and officials of four districts -- Tangail, Barisal, Khulna and Gopalganj -- were connected through the videoconferencing. Various government and non-government organisations, banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions are taking part in the fairs.