

## ***A Correspondent***

Savar: Voicing her government's firm desire to build a skilled and service-oriented public administration which will work for people, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday said the proposed Civil Service Bill will be passed in parliament soon once it is approved by the Cabinet.

"The process for enacting a civil service law is nearing completion. The draft law is now at the Ministry and will go to the Cabinet. After the Cabinet's approval, the draft law will be placed in parliament and we'll soon pass it so that everyone (Civil Servants) concerned could perform their respective duties properly," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the closing ceremony of the 56th Foundation Training Course of the new civil servants held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC) in Savar.

She also directed the new civil servants to render their services to the country as well as its people as their servants imbued with utmost patriotism and dedication.

Chairman of the Board of Governors of BPATC and Finance Minister AMA Muhith, State Minister for Ministry of Public Administration Ismat Ara Sadique, Ministry Senior secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury spoke on the occasion chaired by BPATC rector Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider.

Course Adviser Md Mahmudul Hasan gave the welcome address while Assistant Secretary Begum Mahfuza Sultana expressed her feelings on behalf of the participants. Some 263 participants in different BCS cadres became successful in the 56th foundation course.

Hasina reminded the civil servants that the salaries and allowances they receive are from the taxpayers' money through the hard-earned labour of the country's common people. "You'll have to keep this in mind and in exchange you'll have to work as the servants of people and establish

yourselves as the people's servants."

The Prime Minister said the aim of the civil servants should be to serve people as the country belongs to them as per the constitution.

In this context, she directed them to render their services devotedly for leaving a wonderful society and nation for the future generation.

Mentioning that the lone goal of her politics is to establish Bangladesh as a peaceful and developed country in South Asia, Hasina said, "I have such belief that we'll be able to do that."

Hasina that her government has undertaken various reform measures to build a skilled and service-oriented public administration.

She said that citizen charters have been implemented in government offices while the world's largest web portal 'National Web Portal' has been launched with 25,000 websites and such steps have increased manifold the capacity of the civil service.

Hasina said the government has already formed the Pay and Service Commission 2013 to enhance the salaries and allowances of the public servants and the Commission would submit its report by December this year. After that, it will be possible to further enhance the salaries and allowances of the public servants.

The Prime Minister said her government wants the country to move ahead and there is a need for social and economic emancipation to build a hunger- and poverty-free Sonar Bangla.

Underscoring the need for maintaining the current pace of development, Hasina said dynamism should have to be brought in the development activities in a bid to move ahead the country fast towards development and attain as much as achievements.

"This country belongs to all of us and we'll have to develop the country, not begging from others, rather we want to move ahead standing on our own feet as a dignified nation in global arena," she added.

Terming the civil servants as the main driving force of development as they implement various government's plans, Hasina urged them to come out of the mindset to carry on the tradition of the British colonial rule.

"There is no need to keep up the British tradition as they had dominated us .....like the Pakistanis. There is no need to keep their legacy rather we want to establish Bangladesh as a modern, developed country. We'll take lesson from the past, but we'll build the country as a modern and time befitting one," she added.

Referring to the National Integrity Policy, Sheikh Hasina directed the civil servants to strictly maintain the policy to ensure transparency and accountability.

Stressing the need for proper training of the officers, the Prime Minister said that training has a very far sighted impact and it brings about a change in the working life of every officer and prepare himself or herself in carrying out responsibilities in more effective and efficient manner.

In this regard, she mentioned that Awami League led government created opportunity for the officers in the civil service to impart higher training in foreign countries.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned that the Ministry of Public Administration and BPATC are working together to extend the duration of the Foundation Training Course to six months from the existing four months.

Highlighting the supreme sacrifices of the sons of the soil for Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said the new officers will have to know the real history of the huge bloodshed in the Liberation War and the tradition of the motherland.

In this regard, she laid emphasis on knowing the huge sacrifices of great leader Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had struggled for long 24 years and gave an independent country.

Over the much-hyped Padma Bridge project, the Prime Minister said her government has been able to initiate its work with own fund keeping the country's interest although there were many games over the project.

Highlighting various achievements and successes of the country in socioeconomic sector, Hasina reaffirmed her firm resolve to build a mid-income country well before 2021 and a developed country by 2041.

Earlier, the Prime Minister distributed Rector Award, Merit Award and Certificates among the 263 participants of the 56th Foundation Training Course.

Sheikh Hasina also inaugurated the central Wi-Fi system of the BPATC and laid the foundation stone of construction works of upward extension of two dormitory buildings.

After the function, she also released Fish Fingerlings in the lake at the BPATC.