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(الْمَدِينَةُ الْمَدِينَةُ)

سربراہ کونسل اور سائبرنگ ڈائریکٹر:

سربراہ کونسل آر ایئر ٹرینڈنگ ایسوسی ایشن

Prime Minister, Your Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Excelencies, Honourable Members of the parliament, ladies, and gentlemen. It gives me great honour to welcome to our parliament Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In many respects the Prime Minister needs no introduction; her record speaks for itself. Under her leadership Bangladesh is booming. and rapidly becoming one of South Asia's fastest growing important and most dynamic economies. Before the pandemic, Bangladesh so sustained economic growth topping 7% over many years. It has also enjoyed unprecedented political stability, peace, and harmony. I am sure that economists, Pundits and gournalists will soon start calling Bangladesh not just a fast-growing economy, but a Tiger Economy. The Bengal Tiger is out. Not only is Bangladesh becoming an important economic power, but it is also punching above its weight on the world stage. I saw first-hand the leadership Bangladesh showed at the recent climate change summit. The Bangladeshi delegation headed by the Prime Minister, relentlessly fought for the rights of climate vulnerable countries including the Maldives. With determination, Bangladesh fought to ensure global temperatures do not pass 1.5 degrees of warming, which spells doom for all of us and that the international community delivers the funds we need to adapt to climate change and transition to a clean future. Indeed, the BBC reported that of all the world leaders that attended the climate summit, fives stood out as the most important dealmakers. This included the Prime Minister. The Maldives was exceptionally grateful to have such a heavy hitting dealmaker, fighting in our corner in Glasgow. I have been particularly grateful for the leadership of the Prime Minister has given to Climate Vulnerable Forum, a group of 55 vulnerable countries which under Bangladesh's presidency has become a global force to be reckoned with. I am impressed by the Prime Minister's vision behind her "Mujeeb prosperity plan" - an economic plan that would help deliver bangladesh's future prosperity while embracing the clean energy and technologies that are starting to dominate global economy. In the Maldives, we will follow the Prime Minister's lead. We will soon start work on our prosperity plan to deliver growth, wealth, and improved living standards, while, at the same time transiting away from the old, antiquated technologies towards the new. Before I end and pass to the Prime Minister for her remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of this entire house, the invaluable contribution the Bungladeshi community makes here in the Maldives. Our Bangladeshi cousins underpin our economy, our



that Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in the last decade. The average GDP growth registered in the previous few years has been more than 7%, while in 2019 to 2020 just before the pandemic, our GDP growth rate was 8.2%. But unfortunately, because of this covid it's gone down. During the last decade Bangladesh has also made remarkable progress in socio-economic indicators. Including women empowerment, maternal and child health, life expectancy, population growth rate, sanitation, drinking water, primary education and literacy. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen; In continuation of our development journey, we have to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2031, a knowledge based developed country by 2041, and a prosperous and resilient delta by 2100, as you may be aware that on 24th November 2021 the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on graduation of Bangladesh from the LDC category. Bangladesh is now a US dollar 411 billion economy and it's ranked among the 34 largest economies of the world. However, development brings its own challenges, to cope with the situation that we will face after the withdrawal of the benefits we used to enjoy as the LDC, our forecast will be on diversifying the economy and exploring new markets. We are also striving to transform into a technology driven society and innovation led growth with a vision of digital Bangladesh. We believe no country in the world can prosper in isolation. The pandemic Covid-19 taught us that we are interdependent and have to share our experiences for the sake of a better, secure and prosperous world. We reiterate our principle position of collaboration with our fraternal neighbours in South Asia as had been announced by our father of the nation. We are particularly encouraged to witness your development journey, your successful transition from LDC to a middle-income country, and we hope Bangladesh and Maldives would tap the complementarities. I also hope that our warm and friendly relations will further be consolidated. Bangladesh is thriving with possibilities and potentials. I call upon, both the government, our private sector of the Maldives to be a partner in the development journey in the next 50 years for mutual benefit. Distinguished Members of Parliament and audience; 2021 is a landmark year for Bangladesh Maldives bilateral relations with the exchange of high-level visits, fruitful bilateral discussions among relevant authorities and goodwill exchange of collaboration on many areas of bilateral interest. We firmly believe we would further consolidate our bilateral relations through further expansion of trade, investment, connectivity, tourism, and people to people contacts. I would like to conclude with the hope, that our next 50 years journey will be even more fruitful and bringing meaningful changes to the lives of our people. I wish prosperity and happiness for the people of Maldives and its



