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## Press Release

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***“When I have been able to establish Bangladesh as a poverty-free country, a hunger-free country, perhaps then I may say I am proud,” Sheikh Hasina.***

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been featured distinctively in a book titled “Women Presidents and Prime Ministers” unveiled in Washington D.C. Tuesday.

Author Richard O’Brien, a leading human rights activist and educator, in his book prominently presented the Bangladesh Prime Minister as one of the 18 current women national leaders of the world. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s photo was printed on the cover-page of the book along with six other world leaders.

Though some factual errors, the author dedicated three pages to characterize Sheikh Hasina's dedication and hard struggle for restoration of democracy and voting rights, attempts on her life as well as historic achievements as the three-time Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

"When I have been able to establish Bangladesh as a poverty-free country, a hunger-free country, perhaps then I may say I am proud," the author quoted Sheikh Hasina as saying.

The book was unveiled at Woman's National Democratic Club (WNDC). Foreign diplomats, women leaders and representative of civil society attend the event.

Richard O'Brien praised the Prime Minister for dedicating herself to making Bangladesh "more stable, more democratic and less violent."

He writes "her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the founding father of the modern Bangladesh state and its first President." Only Sheikh Hasina and her sister (Sheikh Rehana) survived the August 15, 1975 massacre when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most members of his family were assassinated.

Richard says Hasina returned home in 1981 from exile when she stood against election fraud and oppression. She was elected to lead the Awami League party but faced torture and repression and was put under house arrest in the '80s. The author says despite being repressed by the then regime, Sheikh Hasina remained so powerful that in 1990 a coup leader (Gen. Ershad) stepped down at her insistence.

In 2004, the author says she was targeted in an assassination attempt in Dhaka that killed so many people. In 2007 she was arrested but released in time to stand for election in 2008.

Richard says "all three of her terms, including her present one, have been marred by violence and instability which have been a hallmark of Bangladesh since its independence in 1971." Despite the violence, he says Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her administration accomplished a number of tasks including groundbreaking "Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord" in 1997, banned the use of landmine and helped chair the "Micro-credit summit", the important economic movement benefitting women.

Sheikh Hasina was awarded "Mother Teresa Award" and the "Gandhi Award" for promoting peace and democracy, Richard writes.

Ends