

## Promoting Pro-poor Growth : Success of the Present Government

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farmers have been opened accepting Taka 10 only as an initial deposit. Steps have been taken to disburse credit at 4 percent concessional rate to encourage cultivation of different variety of pulses, oil seeds, spices specially ginger, turmeric, onion, chilly, cumin and maize. As a result, expenditure for importing food grains is gradually decreasing.

## Food Security

Enormous success has been achieved in ensuring food security.. The government has updated the 'Food Security Policy' with a view to ensuring food security for the hardcore poor and prepared 'Bangladesh Food Security Investment Plan 2010' in order to develop a sustainable food security system. The three elements which are very important to ensure food security in the country are adequate supply of food, increasing the purchasing power of people for getting food and ensuring nutrition for all. There has been a record growth in food production due to favorable environment, extensive agriculture credit disbursement, agricultural equipments and other timely assistances of the government. During the last three years, annual food production has increased by 9.71 percent. The increase of wages and access of people to income-oriented activities have enhanced their purchasing power. In order to meet the food demand of the hardcore poor, the coverage of the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), and Gratuitous Relief (GR) programmes have been widened. Steps are being taken to involve the hardcore poor in the development activities by providing them with temporary employment.

Initiatives are on the way for supplying food at fair price. Rationing system, Open Market Sale (OMS) of food grains and other distribution mechanisms have been introduced. Steps are being taken to make these arrangements more rationalised. Various steps have been taken to ensure food reserve. To build up stock, an initiative has been taken to procure food grains from overseas. It will help maintain farmers' earnestness and success for high level production and at the same time, build up a safe food reserve through import.

It is possible to make Bangladesh a country free from poverty and hunger, if the country can be upgraded to a 'middle income' country by 2020 in line with the vision of the government. For this, all the initiatives taken for poverty eradication must be expedited in the coming days. Campaign for 'financial inclusion' should be accelerated with the participation of poor and disadvantaged people as an effective weapon for poverty eradication; adequate credit flows should be ensured for social security and other productive pursuits including agriculture, SMEs and environment friendly projects; effective measures should be taken so that people can cope with the climate change. There exists a worldwide acclamation for Bangladeshi people for survival combating all odds. Their creativity is endless. Both society and government should create an environment of confidence for further advancement of this fighting nation. Let all of us strive to make this commitment meaningful.

## Three Years of Progress

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With the successful sequencing of jute genome, the diverse use of jute has been made possible. Already 31 thousand pieces of ribbons have been distributed among 3.1 millions of farmers and taka 30 crore has been distributed as incentive among them. The production of seeds has been increased which reached the amount of 129 thousand metric ton in the last year.

## Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

The Open Market Sale (OMS) continues at the rate of rice 24 taka and wheat 20 taka per kilogram. Safe food stock has been built. A record volume of 14 lakh and 43 thousand metric ton of food grains has been stocked in the government food storages. New storages of food grains of 1 lakh 35 metric ton capacity have been built throughout the country. This has resulted in the raise of government's stock capacity to 16 lakh and 50 thousand tons. The horrifying *monga* referring to a seasonal famine in the North Bengal is already eliminated. The number of VGF cards has been raised to one crore 76 thousand and 300 from 70 lakh 67 thousand and 500 to bring the extremely poor people in the social safety net program. Equipment costing taka 85 crore has been purchased and 62 thousand volunteers are being trained to carry out immediate post-earthquake search and rescue operation. 18 lakh and 54 thousand metric tons of food grain and taka 651 crore and 70 lakh have been allocated for TR and food for work projects.

## Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

Upazila Council Act, 1998 (amended upto 30 June 2010) has been made effective. A total of Taka 494 crore has been spent under the Local Government Support Project to strengthen the local government institutions. 82,850 arsenic free water sources have been built resulting in one safe water source for every 95 persons. Construction of 11,637 kilometer roads, 68,765 meter bridges/culverts and 622 union complex building as well as development 567 growth centers/*haat-bazaar* has been completed under the LGED. Village cooperative societies have been formed in 9,640 villages under the "One home, One farm" project. About one million poor families will be receiving direct support through this project. 80 new markets have been set up to gradually open cooperative shops in all the existing markets and growth centres. Online cooperative market exchange ([www.samobayabazarexchange.com](http://www.samobayabazarexchange.com)) has been set up to exchange information on the price of different products in different places. The foundation stone of Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Academy has been laid in Kotalipara of Gopalganj district.

## Ministry of Education

The government is distributing the text-books to the students on the very first academic day of the year at a program titled "Text-book Festival". All these books are being published in the websites as well. National Education Policy 2010 has been adopted. All important services including results of public examinations, admission and recruitment are available online now. For the development of technical education, the textile college has been upgraded to a university, the syllabus and curriculum of the technical schools and colleges have been revised, and steps have been taken to set up technical schools in every upazilla and 25 poly technique institutes including four for women in different parts of the country. These all are ushering a new day for the nation. Madrasa education has been given special attention. Initiatives like establishing Islamic affiliating university, individual department for madrasa education have been taken which is going to bring positive and sustainable change in the quality of madrasa education in the country.

## Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

The rate of admission to primary schools has reached 99.64%. 7.8 millions of poor students have been given stipends of about taka 880 crore, new textbooks have been distributed among one crore 81 lakhs of school-children; 75-gram biscuit for each of the two million children of 61 upazillas has been given on every school-day; about 1.5 lakh schoolbags, books, pencils etc. have been distributed among the school-children. 10 schools with hostel facility have been set up in the hill-tracts area for the children of ethnic groups. Under the Reaching out of School Children project, about 7.5 lakh drop-out children have been taught through 23 thousand *Ananda* Schools set up in 90 upazillas. About 61 thousand teachers and more than 1,400 officers and staff have been recruited. Primary Terminal Examination has been introduced since 2009.

## Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Daily production of gas has been increased to 2,050 million cubic feet from 1,750 million. BAPEX has completed a 283 k.m line 2-D 3 fold seismic survey and located a significant gas structure (Sunetra). 110 k.m line seismic survey has been completed. Already 60 thousand metric ton LPG has been bottled in the six import-dependent bottling plants. Five coal-mines have been discovered in the western part of the country. Electricity production has increased by 2,894 mega watts. 27 more power plants of 3,521 mega watt capacity are under construction.

## Ministry of Communication

1,414 k.m highway embankment has been constructed and widened, 837 k.m long road has been constructed, 2,076 k.m long road has been widened and developed, 24,446 metre concrete bridge and 15,479 metre RCC culvert have been constructed. A fly-over from Mirpur to Airport road via Dhaka Cantonment, and an overpass at Banani rail-crossing are being constructed. The construction work of upgrading all the national highways is ongoing. The construction work of 26-k.m long elevated expressway from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali on Dhaka-Chittagong highway is underway. The route of Dhaka city metro rail has been finalised. BRTC has imported 530 CNG buses from China and Korea. School bus service has been introduced.

## Ministry of Railway

The present government has established a separate ministry for improving the quality of railway service for the people. The government has already constructed 22 k.m new railway and transformed 85 k.m metre gauge railway to dual gauge. About 320 k.m railway has been developed and reconstructed. 150 rail bridges have been reconstructed and renovated. Nine new locomotives have been collected. Eight pairs of new trains and seven pairs of train services have been extended. E-ticketing has been introduced.

## Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare

Bangladesh achieved United Nations MDG Award in 2010 for her success in reducing the child mortality rate and South South Award in 2011 for the successful utilization of information technology in the development of women and child health. Maternal mortality rate is now 194 per lakh live birth. About 45 thousand employees have been appointed including 5133 doctors, 1747 nurses and 13500 CHCPs. 11262 community clinics have been made functional. About six crore people have received treatment from these clinics. National health policy has been prepared. Four new hospitals have been constructed including two 500 bedded ones. For the first time, 10 water-ambulances have been supplied. A hospital has been established in remote Dahagram and Angorpotia.

More than 100 items of medicine have been made available in all government hospitals. Seats in government medical colleges have been increased by 970 to 3340. Four new government medical colleges and four new private medical colleges have started their functions. 485 hospitals provide health care solutions through a fixed mobile telephone number in each hospital. Telemedicine services are being provided through video conferences from eight hospitals.

## Ministry of Defence

Truck Dozer engineering materials have been procured to modernize the Army. 44 new tanks and 3 armed recovery vehicles have been procured from china while 400 wireless signal sets have been procured from Australia. A new Unit named 37 AD Regiment Artillery has been formed at Mirpur cantonment. OTOMAT MK-II Missile and Missile System, Maritime Helicopter and Trigon Helicopter handling system have been procured from Italy for Bangladesh Naval Ship "Bangabandhu". Hydraulic survey vessel has been procured from the UK. Currently, 8,553 armed forces personnel are working in nine different countries under the UN peace keeping mission.

## Ministry of Home Affairs

A core committee has been made under the leadership of State Minister for Home Affairs for making social awareness and coordination to prevent and redress terrorist activities by the militancy and extremist groups. A national committee has been made to prevent women and child trafficking. Acid Cases Monitoring Cell has been constituted. Section 509 of the penal code has been added to Mobile Court Law to prevent eve teasing. Industrial police has been formed. A contingent of women police has been sent to UN mission. 62 thanas have been upgraded to model thanas. The construction work of seven complexes for rapid action battalions (RAB) at the cost of Taka 440 crores is in progress. A training base of Coast Guard is being constructed at the cost of Taka 42 crores and 12 lakh in Patakhali. Border Guard Act 2010 has been made. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu and Four National Leaders Memorial Museum has been instituted in the Dhaka central jail. The project of machine readable passport and visa has started. Operational activities of Coast Guard has been functioning in the coastal area.

## Ministry of Commerce

The volume of exports of goods has come to about USD 23,000 million in the fiscal 2010-2011 marking an increase by 7,500 million from its volume in the fiscal 2008-2009. Now Bangladesh has customs-free access of its goods to many countries. The country has also been able to avail GSP facilities in the developed countries. Bangladesh has been able to keep the price of goods lowest among the SAARC countries by increasing the capacity of TCB, proper market monitoring, creating business-friendly environment and adopting a liberal trade policy. The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection has conducted campaign and programmes to raise awareness across the country for ensuring presence of quality goods in the market and keep the market price stable. Marketing of Essential Goods and Distributors Appointment Order 2011, Competition Law 2011, Consumers' Rights Protection (Meeting and Activities) Rules 2010 and Consumers' Rights Protection Fund (Accounts and Audit) Rules 2010 have been made.

## Ministry of Industry

National Industrial Policy 2010 has been passed and the draft of the Industrial Laws has been prepared. Digital sugarcane purchase order e-purji system has been introduced. Progoti Industries has been able to add Pajero sports vehicles CR-45 in collaboration with the Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan. National Salt Policy 2011 has been adopted. Patent, Design and Trademarks Act 2009 has been passed. More than one thousand females and males have got employment after taking practical training from BITAC.

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Bangladesh has been familiarised in the world community as a liberal, democratic, non-communal and responsible country. Bangladesh achieved remarkable success in cases of the establishment of BIMSTEC permanent secretariat in Dhaka, approval of the SAARC Charter of Democracy initiated by Bangladesh, sending of the highest number of peacekeepers and police in the UN missions, the instance of Bangladesh's being elected in the record number of posts in the UN and other international organizations, organizing climate vulnerable forum conference in Dhaka, introduction of MRP and MRV facilities in 17 missions and progress in demarcating the sea-borders with India and Myanmar.

## Ministry of Science and ICT

In order to encourage the research, a total of 547 scientists have been given grants of Taka 27 crore 26 lakh and 30 thousand, and 1733 students of Masters, MPhil and PHD have been awarded fellowship of Taka 11 crore 52 lakh. 102 persons have been given opportunity to do MS and PHD in home and abroad under the Bangabandhu Fellowship project. Agreements have been made with Russian Federation to implement atomic electricity project at Ruppur. A marine aquarium is being made at Cox's Bazar on 40 acres of land to set up National Marine Research Institute. The functions of Science and Technology Development Trust has begun.

## Ministry of Post and Telecommunication

As a result of reducing telephone and internet call charges, number of users has been increased from 4.5 to 8.25 crore. Now BTCL land phone users can speak at 30 paisa per minute from any corner of the land. The bandwidth capacity of submarine cable has been increased from 7.5 gbps to 44.6 gbps. Bangladesh has been elected council member of IUT for the tenure 2010-2014. Teletalk mobile service has been introduced in three hill districts. Throughout the country electronic money order service has been set up in 1967 post offices and postal cash card has been introduced in all district and divisional towns. Telephone Shilpa Sangstha is marketing laptop/notebook/netbook through installation and production. Manufacturing and marketing of optical fibre cables has been introduced in the country for the first time.

## Ministry of Housing and Public Works

About 41 thousand plots and 25, 500 flats are being made in the capital Dhaka, other divisional towns and different district-upazilla levels targeting to distribute in affordable price among the low and middle income people. For planned urbanization and regional development, among others, the following plans have been made: A) Dhaka City Detailed Area Plan, B) Structural Plans of Sylhet and Barisal divisional towns, C) Khulna City Detailed Area Plan, D) Integrated Plan to expand tourism industries in Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Saint Martin and Moheskhalia areas and E) Master Plan of Graveyard of Bangabandhu, the Father of the Nation, at Tungipara of Gopalganj district. Initiative has been taken to set up four satellite towns in the four corners of the Dhaka city. Development of Hatirjheel areas including Begunbari canal and Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake are going on.

## Ministry of Environment and Forest

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Work plan 2009 has been adopted. A project has been taken at the estimated cost of USD25 million for construction of the multipurpose cyclone centers to protect the people of the coastal areas. A guideline has been issued to ensure use of high technology in the burning process for brick. Effluent treatment plants (ETP) have been set up in 280 factories after issuing directives to set up ETP in mills and factories discharging effluents. Bangladesh Environment Protection (Revised) Law 2010 has been adopted. The draft of Ship breaking and Waste Management Rules has been prepared.

## Ministry of Land

40,100 acres of agricultural *khas* land has been allotted to 87 thousand 346 landless families till June 2011. Additional five thousand acres of such land will be allotted in 2011-2012 fiscal year. 136 cluster villages have been made in 102 upazillas of 49 districts, and 6202 landless families have been rehabilitated there. 288 flats for slum dwellers and other 768 for low income people have been made at Bhashantec of the capital. 128 twin houses have been made in the *char* areas to rehabilitate 6185 landless families there. Vested Property Return (Revised) Act 2011, Waterland Management Policy 2009, Balumohal (sand zone) and Land Management Act 2010 and the Balumohal and Land Management Rules 2011 have been formulated. Besides, Hat-bazar Establishment and Management Law 2011 has been made.

## Ministry of Water Resources

Ministry of Water Resources has taken initiative to implement the major projects like building of Ganges Barrage, reclamation of land from the seas, and also the initiative to face natural calamities caused by global warming. It has taken steps to restore navigability of major rivers by capital dredging. The Ministry has also been running river excavation activities through pilot projects. Repairing of almost all the embankments of the Ayla areas of the country has been done. 118 lakh hectare of land has been protected from inundation and 60 lakh hectare lands have been brought under irrigation facility. Study of Ganges Barrage project, and recovery of the Buriganga and the Garai projects are going on.

## Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

Latest security scanning machine has been installed in the Cargo Village of Harat Shahjalal International Airport. Cox's Bazar Airport Development (Phase-I) project implementation is going on at the cost of Taka 302 crore 65 lakh. Two Boeing Aeroplanes have been procured for Biman Bangladesh Airlines and procurement of additional eight such aircrafts is in the process. Online booking system has been

introduced. The engineers of Biman themselves are now doing necessary maintenance of the aircrafts saving USD215,000/= per month. The Tourism Act 2010, Bangladesh Tourism Protected Area and Special Tourism Areas Act 2010 and formulation of the rules in this connection, formation of the Bangladesh Tourism Board, formation of the Tourist Police etc have increased facilities and amenities for the tourists.

## Ministry of Textile and Jute

For the first time since 1982, BJMC has made net profit of Taka 19 crore 59 lakhs. The operations of the Khalishpur Jute Mills and National Jute Mills have been inaugurated creating job opportunity for 7,059 people. These two mills have been yielding profit of Taka one and a half crores per month. The National Jute Policy is at its final stage meeting the recommendation of the Jute Commission.

## Ministry of Information

The Right to Information Act-2009 has been passed for ensuring media freedom and free flow of information. An information commission has been constituted. One government and 14 private TV channels have been given approval to go on air. Meanwhile, 'Shangshad (parliament) Bangladesh Television' and six private channels have been broadcasting their programmes in full swing. Digital terrestrial broadcasting started on experimental basis from BTV stations in Dhaka and Chittagong, and its substation in Khulna. Licences have been granted to 14 locality based community radio stations. Licences have also been given to seven private FM radio stations after formulation of the private FM radio stations establishment and operations policy, 2010. The Cable TV network operations and Licencing Rules have been made for safeguarding national cultures and enforcing discipline in the broadcast of the foreign satellite TV channels. Digitisation process of the Bangladesh Film Archive is at the final stage. Communication campaign has been strengthened to raise awareness of the people at the grass root levels for eliminating discrepancy against the women and children, and development of the reproductive health, family planning, gender and resistance of the HIV/AIDS infection etc.

## Ministry of Social Welfare

This Ministry has been providing various kinds of allowances and stipends e.g. old age allowance, insolvent disabled allowance, stipends for the retarded learners, allowances for the widows and deserted women, and freedom fighters. The number of allowance recipients as well as the amounts of allowances has been increased. A tuition free government autistic school has been established in Mirpur of the capital to ensure opportunity for the autistic children. A survey of the beggars in Dhaka has been conducted with an objective to rehabilitate them.

## Cultural Affairs Ministry

A total of 41 distinguished personalities have been awarded Ekushey Medal. The 150th birthday of poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore has been celebrated in Dhaka. A two day long international conference was organized marking the 90th anniversary of national poet Nazrul Islam's poem *The Rebellious*. The birth and death anniversary of poet Lalon Shah, poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt, rural poet Jashim Uddin, Mir Mosharrif Hossain and Kangal Harinath were observed under the auspices of the government. The Cultural Institute Act of the ethnic minorities, 2010 has been passed. Allowances have been increased for cultural institutes, private libraries and financially insolvent cultural activists.

## Labour and Employment Ministry

Reasonable wages have been fixed for the workers in six industrial sectors. Wages have been refixed in 21 private industrial sectors including garment industries out of the 42 private industrial sectors. The minimum wages for the garment workers have been fixed at Tk 3,000 only. Training has been provided in 19 appropriate trades at 26 technical training centres. A total of 20 thousand youths are being trained yearly at these centres enabling them to be employed at home and abroad. About 10 thousand females who have been trained in housekeeping got employment abroad. The age limit of the workers has been raised to 60 years.

## Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry

Expatriate Welfare Bank has been established for the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriate workers. The appropriate steps of the government enabled over one million 325 thousand workers to get employment abroad despite global economic recession. The amount of remittance contributed by the expatriate workers has been raised to 11 billion US dollars.

## Fisheries and Livestock Ministry

Bangladesh has earned about Taka 11 thousand 256 crore by exporting fish. During this period, fish production has increased from 25.63 lakh tons to 29 lakh tone. The livestock scientists in the government research centre has developed a variety of layer hen and given its name *Shuvra* which can lay 280 to 295 eggs a year. The scientists at the Livestock Research Centres have developed a high variety silver carp (*ruhii* fish) and the first generation new variety of *koi* which have higher breeding capacity over the regular variety by 15% and 45% respectively. Bangladesh has also succeeded in cultivating pearls in ponds. The technology for advance production of lobsters has been developed by applying the Green House system.

## Youth and Sports Ministry

About 64 thousand youths have been provided with credits of an amount exceeding Taka 181 crore. The gorgeous inauguration and closing ceremonies of the 11<sup>th</sup> SA Games is a great success. Bangladesh occupied third position in the 11<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games by bagging 18 gold, 24 silver and 55 bronze medals. The inauguration tournament of the ICC World Cup-2011 and 8 matches including 2 quarter finals were held in Dhaka. Bangladesh Basket ball team became champion in the Sheikh Kamal International Basket Ball championship. The Bangladesh mentally retarded team won 37 gold medals in the Special Olympics held in Greece.

## Liberation War Affairs Ministry

Honourarium for the financially insolvent freedom fighters has been raised to Taka 2,000 only from Taka 1,500 and the number of allowance recipients has been increased from one hundred thousand to one hundred fifty thousand. A number of development projects including construction of Liberation tower at Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udayan, foundation of Mujibnagar Liberation War Memorial centres, construction of freedom fighter database, construction of freedom Fighters' Complexes etc are being implemented in order to inform the new generation about the real history of liberation war and conservation of war history, tradition and memoirs. Various organizations related to the liberation war have been registered. The programmes for awarding honour to the foreigners including statespersons, politicians, philosophers, artists, writers, intelligentsia, distinguished citizens and organisations for their historic contribution to our liberation war are being implemented.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry

A 'climate change cell' for facing the adverse impact of climate, and an 'NGO monitoring cell' for monitoring the programmes of the private organizations in Hill regions have been constituted. About one hundred thousand of children have been provided with pre-school education through the 3,500 neighbourhood centres of Chittagong Hill Tracts. Formal education has been imparted to 700 local ethnic minority citizens through the four residential schools. The programmes for hygiene promotion in 3,500 neighbourhood centres, distribution of over 11,100 set sub-latrines and development of 375 sources of drinking water have been introduced in the Hills.

## Religious Affairs Ministry

A total of one million 260 thousand children have been provided with pre-primary education, 38,400 adults have been taught with the knowledge of literacy and 840 thousand children and juvenile have been given the Quranic education under the mosque based children and mass education programmes. A total of 150 thousand children and adults have been provided with the knowledge of pre-primary education and literacy through the temple based mass education programme. Training has been given to 500 thousand Imam and muezzin to increase their skills. An amount of Taka 50 millions has been allocated to the Christian Religious Welfare Trust for the first time and the grant to Buddhist Religious Trust has also been increased. A total of about Taka 117 million 360 thousand have been granted to the destitute and for construction/repair of various religious institutions during the 2010-11 FY. A record number of 105,617 people went on pilgrimage to Makkah in 2011 and performed Hajj under the smooth government and private management.

## Women and Children Affairs Ministry

Each of the 101,200 recipients of the maternity allowance has been receiving Taka 350 monthly. The period of maternity leave for the female government employees has been extended from four months to six months. Each of the 700 thousand women below the poverty line has been receiving monthly 30 kgs of rice/wheat under the VGD programmes. Subsistence allowances and required training have been given to 80 thousand extreme poor female at the monthly rate of Taka 400 only for 24 months under the food security programmes. The National Women Development Policy-2011 and the National Children Policy 2011 have been formulated. 25 books have been published under the children book publication programme based on the life and work of Father of the nation. One-stop crisis centres have been set up at seven divisional cities and Faridpur district town under the multisectoral project to curb female repressions.

## Ministry of Shipping

A cell has been set up to establish a "deep-sea port" at Sonadia island of Cox's Bazar district. The Deep Sea Authority Act, 2011 draft has been finalized. A project for capital dredging in 53 riverine routes at the cost of Taka 11,470 crores has been taken to increase navigability and ensure safe riverine communication. Five new ferries have been purchased. The operation of Chittagong port container terminal has been computerized. The infrastructures of various land ports are being developed. A project has been readied to establish a maritime university and 6 new marine academies. Bangladesh has secured the B-category membership status of International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

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Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.