

Four Years of Epoch-making Successes at a Glance

(Continued)

- 8 new hospitals, 4 medical colleges, 7 nursing colleges and 12 nursing institutes have been made operational.
- 25 types of e-services have been extended at union and individual levels including digitalization of 'puri' of sugarcane farmers, agricultural information, healthcare information, educational information, admission in educational institutes and results of examinations.
- District information portals and one-stop service centres have been set up in all districts; land related services are being provided from these centres without any delay or harassment.
- Scope has been created for paying electricity, gas and phone bills and purchasing railway tickets via mobile phones.
- Nearly half the country's population now have mobile phones; the number of internet users is around 3 crore.
- Digital tax payment system has been introduced.
- 49 development projects are under implementation for developing 41,581 plots and constructing 31,533 flats in divisional towns including Dhaka as well as various districts-upazilas by targeting low and medium income people.
- Minimum wages have been fixed for 35 private sector industries including a minimum wage of Taka 3 thousand for the garments sector; the retirement age of workers has been raised to 60 years.
- A time-befitting Pay Scale has been given to government employees.
- Maternity leave for female government employees and women workers has been increased to 6 months from four months.
- Up to October 2012, around 19 lac 78 thousand Bangladeshi workers have found overseas employment; remittances earned totalled US Dollar 46.61 billion, with US Dollar 14.2 billion in 2012.
- The stay of around 2 lac 68 thousand Bangladeshi citizens in Malaysia has been legalised; opportunity has been created for entry of more workers into the Malaysian labour market.
- The number of Haj pilgrims has risen to a record level; it rose to 1 lac 9 thousand 611 from of 58 thousand 269 in 2009.
- Eleven large bridges have been constructed.
- Integrated Hatirjheel-Begunbari project in Dhaka with multi-faceted facilities including communication, recreation opened for the public
- Work on the construction of an elevated expressway from Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport up to Jatrabari, the flyover on Mirpur-Airport Road route and the Jatrabari-Palashi 'Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover' is continuing.
- 45 new trains have been pressed into service and 20 train services have been extended farther.
- Bangladesh has been accorded recognition as the country sending the highest number of peacekeepers to the UN Missions; At present, around 12 thousand personnel from the armed forces are working in 10 countries of the world.
- 'Forces Goal 2030' has been formulated in the light of Vision-2021.

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Four Years of Progress

Establishing Foundation for Achieving the Vision

(Continued)

schools in all upazilas and setting up of 25 polytechnic institutes including 4 for women. An affiliating university named 'Islamic Arabic University' has been set up and Honours courses have been introduced in 31 senior madrasas; academic buildings of 1,000 madrasas have been constructed, vocational courses have been introduced in 30 madrasas and a separate department of madrasa education has been established. Bangladesh University of Professionals, Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University in Gopalganj have been set up. Work is underway to set up Rangamati University, Rabindra University in Shilaidaha, Digital University at Kaliakoir, Maritime University in Anwara, Marine University in Barisal and Agriculture University in Khulna.

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Admission of cent per-cent students in schools has been ensured. The rates of literacy are now 59.4% (7+ years) and 62.9% (15+ years). Primary school certificate examination for class five has been started from 2009. 395 primary schools cum cyclone-shelters have been constructed. Implementation of the project to build primary schools in 1,500 villages without schools has started. A total of 86,275 headmasters and assistant teachers have been recruited. Computers with internet have been supplied to 1,109 field-level schools and laptops with multimedia have been provided to 503 model primary schools. A programme is being implemented to supply biscuits to 2 million pupils in 96 poverty-stricken upazilas. The number of students receiving stipends has been raised to 7.8 million from 4.8 million.

Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources

Production capacity of electricity has been increased to 8,275 megawatt from 3,268 megawatt in 2009. The highest production was recorded on 4 August 2012 at 6,350 megawatt. Fifty-one new power plants have been put into operation in four years having a combined production capacity of 3,595 megawatt. Production per day of natural gas has been increased from 1,750 million cubic feet in 2009 to 2,250 million cubic feet at present. Around 3 thousand metric tons of coal per day is being extracted from the Barapukuria Coal Mine. The amount of extracted hard rock of different sizes up to June 2012 stood at around 1.93 million metric tons.

Ministry of Communication

A number of important bridges including Teesta Bridge, Abdur Rab Serniabat Bridge, Sultana Kamal Bridge, Shah Amanat Bridge, Shaheed Bhuddhijibi Bridge, Bamna and Thanchi Bridges have been built. The Banani Railway Overpass, Ahsanullah Master Flyover and the flyover linking Chittagong Port have been inaugurated. Work is in progress on Mirpur-Airport Road Flyover and up-gradation of some important highways into four-lane ones. Six overland control stations have been set up, eleven accident-prone turns have been widened and repair-works have been undertaken on Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges; e-procurement has been launched in the road sector. A route has been finalised for the metro-rail. BRTC has introduced e-ticketing and school bus service. Routes and passenger coverage have been expanded and 530 single-decker plus 290 double decker buses have been procured. Design for the Padma Bridge has been finalised and 90 per-cent resettlement works have been completed.

Ministry of Railway

A new ministry styled Ministry of Railway has been constituted. Opportunity for gathering information about trains through internet including e-ticketing has been created. Thirty-eight projects having a financial outlay of Taka 18,311 crore and 11 modified projects with an outlay of over Taka 5,445 crore have been approved. Thirty-five kilometres of new railway lines and 85 kilometres of repaired lines have been inaugurated. Lines of 101 kilometre length have been converted into dual gauge from meter gauge; railway lines of 568 kilometres have been rehabilitated; 300 bridges and 86 station buildings cum platforms have been rehabilitated or rebuilt; signalling system in 18 stations has been modernised; 9 locomotives have been procured and 4 have been rehabilitated; 175 carriages have been rehabilitated, 55 wagons procured and 277 wagons rehabilitated. Forty-five new trains have been pressed into service and the lengths of 20 train services have been extended.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Bangladesh was awarded United Nations MDG Award 2010 for her success in reducing child mortality rate, GAVI Award in 2009 and 2012 for her success in vaccination and the United Nations South Award 2011 as recognition of her successful utilization of information technology in the development of women and child health. Maternal mortality rate is now 194 per lakh live birth, child mortality rate is 36 per thousand and population increase rate is 1.37. The number of users of family planning methods has increased to 61.2%. About 45 thousand employees have been appointed including 5,730 doctors. 12,203 community clinics have been made functioning and about 12 crore people have received services from these clinics. Eight new hospitals have been constructed and 21 more are under construction. Four new government medical colleges, seven nursing colleges and 12 nursing institutes have started functioning. 12 upazila health complexes have been built. 136 union health centres have been made. About five thousand beds have been increased in government hospitals.

Ministry of Defence

Ultra-modern tank, armed recovery vehicle and weapon locating radder have been bought and for the first time SP gun has been added to the Army. Forces Goal 2030 has been set in the perspective of Vision 2021. Large patrol craft, hydrographic ship, QW-2 surface to air missile and C-704 surface to surface missile have been bought and maritime patrol aircraft has been added for the first time to the Navy. Short range air defence (SHORAD) system has been added for the first time to the Air Force. F-7 BGI fighter plane and MI-171SH helicopter have been bought. Seven agri-environment observation stations have been set up. Some 180 different types of modern machines with automatic production facilities have been commissioned in Bangladesh Arms and Ammunition Factory.

Ministry of Home Affairs

Militancy and Terrorism Prevention Committee and a monitoring cell for speedy trial of sensational and horrible cases have been formed. Article 509 of the penal code has been added to Mobile Court Law to prevent eve-teasing. So far 16 important laws including Pornography Control Law, Human Trafficking Prevention Law and Anti-terrorism Law have been enacted. Industrial police, Women APBN and special APBN have been formed and E-Trafficking system have been introduced and 62 thanas have been upgraded to model thanas. MRP and MRV are being issued from 34 centres in home and 65 embassies abroad with the passport made changed to MRP (machine readable passport). A Memorial Museum has been set up in the Dhaka central jail in the name of Bangabandhu and Four National Leaders.

Ministry of Commerce

Despite global economic recession, the advancement of trade and commerce in Bangladesh have been continuing. The volume of exports to a number of countries including China, India, South Korea, Japan has increased remarkably for getting customs-free and quota-free export facilities. For remarkable contributions in trade and commerce, trophy have been awarded to the businessmen including 196 for goods export and 136 trade. National Consumers Rights Protection Department has been established and the implementation process of online price monitoring system for keeping prices of goods stable is on the final stage.

Ministry of Industries

National Industry Policy 2010 has been announced. Rules for environment friendly shipbreaking & recycling have been adopted. Well supply of fertilizers has been ensured. Construction of yearly five lac 80 thousand metric tons capacity Shahjalal Fertilizer Industry has been started. Digital sugarcane buying order e-puri system has been introduced to prevent wastage of the sugarmills, bring transparency in buying and stop harassments of the farmers. The construction of central effluent treatment plant (CETP) at the leather industries complex at Savar is on advance stage. The third D-8 Ministerial Meeting for industrial cooperation was successfully arranged in Dhaka. Patent, Design and Trademarks Law 2009 has been passed to protect intellectual property and ownership. National Salt Policy 2011 has been adopted.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Bangladesh-Myanmar maritime boundary has been settled permanently by the historic verdict of the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea as a result of timely initiatives taken by the government. For a favourable environment of cooperation, multi-national cooperation has got special momentum in the diplomatic activities of the present government. Issues like identifying borders with India, customs-free access of Bangladeshi goods to India and keeping Three-Bighah Corridor open round the clock for allowing uninterrupted movements to Dahagram-Angorpota have been resolved. Through the tours of the Prime Minister to China, Japan and Myanmar, the friendly relations of Bangladesh with these countries have been enhanced.

Ministry of Science and Technology

For research in science and technology 931 scientists have been given grants of about Taka 49 crore and 2,921 students of Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. have been awarded fellowship of about Taka 20 crore. 189 persons have been given opportunity to pursue MS, Ph.D. and Post-doctoral research and study in home and abroad under the Bangabandhu Fellowship project. 10 lacs patients have been given diagnostic facilities of complicated diseases including cancer at low cost from 14 health centres. More than one agreements have been made with Russian Federation to implement atomic electricity project at Ruppur.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

Perceiving the importance of information technology the government has established this ministry. Employment opportunities have been created for the young generation through flourishing information and technology based industries including district portals, district e-service centres, union information and service centres, computer lab, making e-books, national data centre, setting up of hi-tech park. This ministry is inventing new technologies to build the 'Digital Bangladesh' by ensuring highest use of information technology in poverty alleviation and people's empowerment through bringing services to the doorsteps of the people.

Ministry of Post and Telecommunication

Bangladesh has been elected council member of IUT for the tenure 2010-2014. As a result of reducing telephone and internet call charges, number of users have been increased to almost 10 crore. Broadband internet service has been added to telephone lines providing internet services at a reduced rate to use it simultaneously with phone services. Now tele-density is 66.37% and internet density 20.28% in the country. The bandwidth capacity has been increased to 200 gbps. Teletalk mobile service has been introduced in three hill districts. Teletalk Bangladesh Limited has started experimental commercial use of 3-G technology mobile phone services. Throughout the country electronic money order service has been set up in 2,750 postoffices and postal cash card service has been introduced in 598 post offices at divisional towns. The activities of establishing e-centres in eight thousand village post offices have been started. The activities of bringing one thousand union councils under optical fibre network have been started.

Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Development of 41 thousand 581 plots and construction of 31 thousand 533 flats are going on in the capital city Dhaka, other divisional towns and different districts-upazilla towns targeting to distribute among the low and middle income people are going on. The construction of a multi-dimensional flyover at the Kuril intersection is being continued including a 13.33 kilometres long link road from the intersection to the river Sitalakhma, multi-storied car parking and the expansion work from Progati Sarani to the river Balu. The following plans have been made: Dhaka City Detailed Area Plan; Structural Plans of Sylhet and Barisal divisional towns; Khulna City Detailed Area Plan; Structural Plan, Master Plan and Detailed Area Plan for the Extended Areas to expand Khulna City upto Mongla; Structural Plan and Detailed Area Plan in 12 sectors of Chittagong City expanded in 1,152 square kilometres; and Integrated Plan to expand tourism industries in Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Sentmartin and Mohekskhali areas. Initiative has been taken to set up four satellite towns in the four corners of Dhaka city. The Integrated Hatirjheel-Begunbari project in Dhaka with multi-faceted facilities including communication, recreation has been opened for the public.

Ministry of Environment and Forest

For the protection of environment and maintenance and development of forestry resources, 23 old laws have been made time-befitting. As a result of strengthening enforcement activities, effluent treatment plants (ETP) have been set up in 280 factories so far. About 95 crore taka has been imposed as fine on 898 industrial factories for making environmental pollution. As recognition of playing important role in the world environment diplomacy, Bangladesh has acquired membership of Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund Board, CDM Executive Board, Compliance Committee, Montreal Protocol Implementation Committee and Consultative Group of Experts. She has achieved Equator Prize for forestry management, Earth Care Award for coastal forestation, Wangari Mathai Award for forestry maintenance and Certificate from Ozone Committee for complete stoping of using CFC gaz.

Ministry of Land

51 thousand 871 acres of agricultural khus land has been allotted to one lakh 11 thousand 373 landless families. 774 families living outside the embankments have been rehabilitated inside the embankments. 163 guchhagrams have been made in 102 upazilas and 7,172 landless families have been rehabilitated there. 10,409 inhabitants of guchhagrams have been given training of self-employment and about six crore 25 lakh taka has been distributed as loan among them. 1,250 multistoried flats have been made at Vasantek for slum dwellers and low income people. Vested Property Restoration Rules 2012 has been made.

Ministry of Water Resources

A fifteen years long work plan has been taken in order to increase the navigation of 31 rivers, reducing breakings and recovering lands by the sand and mud got by dredging. 22 kilometres dredging in the river Jamuna and the dredging of the river Gorai have been completed. The dredging of rivers Dholesory, Pungli, Bongshi and Turag has been started in order to recover the river Buriganga. The water-locking of the haor Hakaluki has been removed by dredging the river Juri. The formulation of National Water Policy 2012 is in the final stage. The activities of the India-Bangladesh joint scrutiny group concerning construction of barrage at Tipaimukh have been started.

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

An specialized tourism zone is being made in Teknaf. National Tourism Policy 2010 has been formulated. Bangladesh Tourism Board has been formed. Machine management system has been modernized in all airports including development of cargo scanning system.

The activities of making Cox's Bazar Airport international standard are going on. Flights have been restarted flying in the Rajshahi and Syedpur roots. Two new generation B-777-300 ER aircrafts have been bought and work order for buying two more has been passed.

Ministry of Textile and Jute

For increasing the use of jute products, law has been enacted to make the use of jute compulsory for packaging the goods. Jute Policy 2011 has been formulated. Formulation of Textile Policy 2012 and Textile & Garment Industries Board Law 2012 is at the final stage. Number of running mills under BJMC has increased to four from that of one in 2008. The Textile Engineering College has been upgraded to university and four textile diploma institutes have been upgraded to textile engineering colleges. Two new textile engineering colleges and 40 textile vocational institutes have been established.

Ministry of Information

The Right to Information Act 2009 has been introduced and an independent Information Commission has been constituted. One government and 16 private TV channels have been given approval to go on air. Digital terrestrial broadcasting started on experimental basis from BTV stations in Dhaka and Chittagong and its substation in Khulna. Licenses have been given to 14 locally-based community radios. Licenses have also been given to seven private FM radio stations after formulating Private FM Radio Stations Establishment and Operations Policy 2010. The Cable TV Network Operation and Licensing Rules 2010 have been made for enforcing discipline in the broadcast of the foreign satellite TV channels and protecting national cultures. The project for building Bangladesh Film Archive Bhaban is under implementation at the cost of taka 75 crore.

Ministry of Social Welfare

Along with increasing the number of the recipients of various kinds of allowances and stipends, the amount of the allowances has been increased in order to secure the social safety network. Initiative has been taken to distribute these allowances through banks. Thirty five service centers for the disabled people in 35 places of the country have been established. A tuition fees free government autistic school has been established in Mirpur of the capital to ensure opportunity for the insolvent autistic children. Financial support to the Lillah Boarding, Ramkrishno Mission, Buddhists temples, different religious institutes and cancer patients as well as food support to the unemployed tea workers has been provided.

Ministry of Cultural Affairs

A total of 56 distinguished personalities have been awarded Ekushey medal for their contributions in different sectors of our national life. The award amount has been enhanced to taka one lakh from taka 40 thousand. The 150th birthday of the poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore and the birthday of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam have been celebrated jointly by Bangladesh and India. Cultural agreements with India, Germany, Kuwait, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Turkey have been signed by Bangladesh. Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has selected Dhaka as the capital of Islamic Culture of Asia region.

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Along with fixing the minimum wage for the garment workers at taka 3,000 only, the minimum wages have been re-fixed in 35 private industrial sectors. The national wage structure for the workers of the state-owned and autonomous industrial sectors has been declared and National Wage and Productivity Commission 2010 has been formed. With an aim to creating employment opportunities in home and abroad, training has been provided in 19 appropriate trades at 26 vocational training centers. 20 thousand trainees are being trained up yearly at these centres making them competent for employments. About 10 thousand females who have been trained up in housekeeping got employments abroad. The retirement age limit of the workers has been raised to 60 years. Duration of maternity leave has been raised to six months from four months.

Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment

Till October 2012 more than 19 lakh 78 thousand workers have got employment abroad and by this time the remittance contributed by the expatriate workers has reached 46.61 billion US dollars. From the Expatriate Welfare Bank loan of taka 8 crore 66 lakh to the workers going abroad and taka 36 lakh 83 thousand to 28 workers returned from abroad have been provided. At present skilled workers are being produced in 48 trades from 37 vocational training centres and one institute of marine technology. Yearly about 60 thousand trainees are being provided training from these centres. A Memorandum of Understanding on manpower export issue has been signed between Bangladesh and Malaysia. About 2 lakh 68 thousand Bangladeshi illegal workers living in Malaysia have been given legal residence-ship. From 2013 sending of workers in plantation, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and nursing sector in Malaysia will be started at government level.

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Fish production has increased from 25.63 lakh metric tons to 32.62 lakh metric tons. Fish exporting has reached taka 4,703.95 crore from taka 3,243.81 crore. In order to expand the fish exporting market, agreements and memoranda of understanding with nine countries, establishment of 260 sanctuary, recovery of the natural fish breeding place at the river Halda, development of sea fish resources and expansion of the cultivation of environment-friendly lobster have been done. Production of milk, meat and egg has been raised to 34.63 lakh, 23.32 lakh metric tons and 730.38 crore.

Ministry of Youth and Sports

For creating temporary employment for the educated unemployed youths, 'National Service Program' has been undertaken, and 56,054 young people have been employed for two years. The image of Bangladesh as a gorgeous and successful organizer has been brightened in the international arena by arranging SAF Football Championship 2009, South Asian Games 2010 and the World Cup Cricket 2011. In the 16th Asian Games Cricket Bangladesh earns first gold medal. Bangladesh Women Cricket Team achieves one day status at the international cricket and becomes history. Bangladesh bags 18 gold medals in the SA Games, 27 gold medals in the 3rd Indo-Bangladesh Games and 37 gold medals in the Special Olympics held in Greece. The country earns gold medals in shooting, taekwondo, archery, gymnastics, golf and beach football.

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Honorarium for the financially insolvent freedom fighters has been raised from taka 1500 to taka 2000 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 Post at Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan, foundation of Mujibnagar Liberation War Memorial Centres, preservation of the place of execution, foundation of Liberation War Memorial, preparing freedom fighters database, construction of residence 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 memories. The programs for awarding honour to the foreigners including eminent leaders of states, politicians, philosophers, artists, writers, intelligentsia, distinguished citizens and organizations who have put historic contributions to our Liberation War are being implemented. The retirement age of the freedom fighters in Government service has been raised to 60 years.

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Seven divisions under different ministries have been handed over to the 'Zilla Parishad' of three Hill Tracts districts in order to implement the Peace Agreement fully. The whole Chittagong Hill Tracts area has been brought under mobile network. Ruma and Thanchi bridges have been constructed in Bandarban district. Moreover, school-going facilities were created for 20 thousand children, 8,380 children have been provided with primary education and 2,299 children given mother tongue-based pre-school education.

Ministry of Religious Affairs

Digital version of Al Quran (www.quran.gov.bd) has been launched. A record number of one lakh nine thousand 611 people went to hajj in 2012. Taka 42 crore 58 lakh 92 thousand has been donated to mosques, temples, various religious' institutions and the destitute. 26 lakh children have been provided with pre-primary education, 16 lakh 80 thousand people with religious education and 85 thousand adults have been given literacy. Different trainings have been given to about 20 thousand Imams. Christian Religion Welfare Trust has been formed for the first time and its fund has been raised to taka 5 crore. An amount of taka 91 lakh has been donated to 1,203 Buddhist Religion institutes.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Maternity allowances have been distributed among three lakh 62 thousand four hundred females, allowances were given to 22 thousand seven hundred lactating mothers, rice/wheat were distributed among 15 lac women under the VGD programme and subsistence allowances were given to 1 lakh 60 thousand poor women under the food security programme. The period of maternity leave for the female government employees has been extended from four

months to six months. Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act 2010, National Women Welfare Policy 2011 and National Children Policy 2011 have been formulated. People below the age of 18 years have been brought under the definition of children. 25 books have been published under the programme of publication of books on the life and work of the Father of the nation. A total of 60 one stop crisis centres have been set up in 40 district headquarters hospitals and 20 Upazilla health complexes under multi-sector project to curb female repressions.

Ministry of Shipping

In order to digitize the Chittagong Port, Container Terminal Managements System (CTMS) has been introduced. Mongla sea port has been turned into a profit earning port for the timely steps of the government in its development. Eight projects against taka 489 crore 63 lakh have been implemented for its development. In order to preserve the navigability of the riverine communication three new dredgers have been purchased at a cost of taka 63 crore. A project for capital dredging in 53 riverine routes at the cost of taka 11,470 crore is going on. Two rescue ferries with the capacity of 250 tons have been added to BWTA fleet.

[Compiled by: Press Information Department]

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributes new books



A multi-media classroom