



Continuation of Success and Development
One Year of New Tenure

Founding of Base for Vision Achievement : 2009-2013

Every nation should have a vision for its development. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman also dreamt for a "Golden Bengal", free from hunger, poverty, exploitation and disparity. Following that track, the government in their past election-manifesto presented a unique vision. The vision was to promote Bangladesh to be a middle income country by 2021, the year of the golden jubilee of the glorious Independence. In this vision, the "Golden Bengal", as dreamt by Bangabandhu, was named afresh as "Digital Bangladesh" to benefit it with the demand of the 21st century.

In the general election held on the 29th December 2008, the people of the country gave mandate with absolute majority to the Great Alliance with a view to implementing the vision. According to the expectation of the people of the country, the government during the tenure 2009-13 achieved remarkable and notable success in making of a happy, prosperous and digital Bangladesh infused with the spirit of liberation war. During the period, effective measures were taken for the development of different sectors including economy, education, science and technology, health, improvement of environment, telecommunication and construction of infrastructures. During that time Bangladesh under the very able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina advanced properly overcoming the global recession. To fulfill the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to poverty reduction, gender equality, health and education, Bangladesh advanced enviably. In a good number of sectors, Bangladesh became a global role model.

The Government put poverty reduction in the front place of its development strategy. To integrate the social safety net, old-age allowance, allowance-projects for the widow-divorced and molested women, allowance for the insolvent handicapped, stipend for the handicapped learners, and enhancement of honorarium for the freedom fighters were increased; and to fulfill the food demand of the extremely poor people, VGF, VGD and GR activities were extended. Through temporary employments, the poor were employed in the development activities. Supply of foods at fair prices, rationing system, selling of food grains in the open market (OMS) and other distribution systems were followed.

In all, during the past tenure of 2009-2013 of the government, a firm base for making Bangladesh a middle income country by 2021 was established.

A brief account of the important development activities during the past tenure is given below:

Finance and Commerce

Growth in the country during the tenure 2009-2013 was 6.2 percent on average. During the period, the per capita income increased from 520 to 1,044 US dollars, export income from 14.1 billion to 27.1 billion dollars, import expenditure from 21.6 billion to 34.1 billion dollars, remittance from 10 billion to 18 billion dollars and the foreign currency reserve from 6.1 billion to 18 billion dollars. The 40 percent poverty rate of the year 2010 declined to 26.2 percent in 2013, and the rate of extreme poverty declined from 24.1 percent to 11.9 percent. The realization of revenue and the size of the budget increased and became more than double. The National Pay Scale 2009 was implemented. As the tax administration was made friendly to people, the collection of tax increased remarkably.

As Bangladesh could enjoy duty and quota free export facilities to a good number of countries including China, India, South Korea and Japan, the amount of export to those countries increased notably. The quantity of the commodity export stood at 30,176.8 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2013-14 with an increase of 7,500 million than that of 2008-09. The member countries under SAFTA reduced 20% of their sensitive lists on 1st January 2012. Trade and Investment Cooperation Framework Agreement (TICFA) was signed with the United States of America. Directorate of the National Consumer Rights Protection was established. Control was imposed on the import of formalin with putting conditions.

Education

91 crore 41 lakh 95 thousand 234 free text books were distributed among the school students from 2010 to 2013. A total of 2,245.65 crore taka was awarded to



students of 6th grade to degree (pass course) and equivalent levels as stipend and financial aid. An affiliating university namely of Islami-Arbi University was set up, honours courses were introduced in 31 madrasas, academic buildings were constructed in one thousand madrasas and vocational courses were introduced in 30 madrasas. Besides, a separate Madrasa Education Department was established. Bangladesh University of Professionals, Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj were set up. National Education Policy was formulated.

It was possible to bring 96.7% children of school going ages to schools. 26,193 non-government primary schools were nationalized and at the same time 1 lakh 4 thousand 776 teachers were absorbed. Efforts were put in to establish 1,500 primary schools in the areas where there were no schools, and 562 primary schools were set up till 2013. Five posts were created for teachers in each of these schools. 87,293 teachers were appointed in primary schools. 395 primary school-cum-cyclone centers were set up. The number of students enjoying stipend was increased from 48 lakh to 78 lakh.

Health and Sanitation

12,248 community clinics were put into operation. About 60,000 personnel along with 15,000 physicians were appointed. The average life-expectancy of people increased to 68.94 years. The population growth rate declined to 1.37 percent. Infant mortality rate declined to half and thus came down to 33 per thousand. The maternal mortality rate reduced to 194 per lakh in 2010, which came to 170 according to the UNO survey 2012. For the treatment of cancer and thalassemia the country's first bone marrow transplantation unit was set up in Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the National Institute of Neuroscience was established and two general hospitals with 500 beds were put into operation. 12 new Upazila Health Complexes were constructed and 136 Upazila Health Complexes were upgraded from 31 to 50 beds. 100-bed hospitals in five districts were upgraded to 250-bed. The National Health Policy was formulated. The number of seats in government

medical colleges was increased to 3,340. Four government and four private medical colleges started functioning.

More than 1 lakh 39 thousand various sources of water were built and 50 thousand sanitary latrines were distributed free of cost among the poor people.

Free Flow of Information and Establishing Right to Know Information

The Right to Information Act 2009 was enacted to ensure freedom of speech and expression and people's right to information and the Act came into force. In order to ensure free flow of information, Sangsad Bangladesh Television was introduced and permission was given to set up 31 private satellite televisions, 22 FM radios and 32 Community radios. Under the Journalists' Welfare Allowance/Grants Policy 2012, financial aids were given to insolvent and accident-victim journalists. The grants were also given to the members of families of the deceased journalists. For the development of film industry, 'film' was declared as industry, and the 3rd April was declared as the National Film Day. In order to establish Bangladesh Film and Television Institute, The Bangladesh Film and Television Act 2013 was enacted. The institute started functioning. 1,000 kilowatt transmitter of Bangladesh Betar was substituted.

Electricity and Gas

The generation capacity of electricity increased from 4,942 mega watt of 2009 to 10,264 mega watt. 58 power stations of 4,983 mega watts capacity were put into



operation. 62 percent people came under electricity facility. The daily gas production increased from 550 million cubic feet to 2,300 million cubic feet. To motivate people, 1 crore 5 lakh energy saving bulbs were distributed among 45 lakh customers free of cost.

Agriculture, Food, and Industry

Immediately after assuming power, the government reduced the price of non-urea fertilizers to a half and on three occasions lowered its price from 70% to 78%. The production of food grains increased to 3 crore 72 lakh 66 metric tons in the year 2012-13. The genome sequence of local and tosha jute along with harmful fungus for more than five hundred crops including jute were unfolded. High yielding and adverse weather sustainable 145 new varieties of crops were invented. Zink enriched rice BRRI 62 was introduced. This rice is effective to make natural formation of human body, increasing immunity and fulfilling the needs of nutrition. 95 lakh farmers opened bank accounts with only 10 taka deposit. They received various financial helps through these accounts. 1 crore 44 lakh 59 thousand farmers were given agricultural input assistance cards.

Government food godowns storage capacity increased from 14 lakh to 19 lakh metric tons. To ensure food availability for the low income people, the government distributed 15,17,497 metric tons food grains under the OMS programme in five years. Besides, 3,48,135 metric tons food grains were distributed to 77 lakh easy card holder families and other 71,236 metric tons were distributed at a low price to 4th class employees and village police. 54,36,244 metric tons food grains were distributed under social safety net programmes in TR, Kabikha (food for work), VGF and VGD.

The National Industry Policy 2010 was declared. Rules were framed for ship breaking and recycling in the environment-friendly way. Proper supply of fertilizer was ensured. At a cost of about 6,000 crore, the construction work of Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory with annual production capacity of 58,000 metric tons was going on rapidly. For stocking fertilizer in the time of emergency two new buffer godowns of 50,000 metric tons capacity were built in Chittagong.

Information Technology and Digital Services

Employment opportunities were created for the young generation through the development of information and technology-based industries including establishment of district web portals, district e-service centers, union information service centers, preparation of e-books, national data center and the High-Tech Park. Students registration, examination form fill-up, publishing results of public examinations in the website, admission into colleges-universities, teachers registration, all activities of examination, receiving applications for retirement allowance and help from welfare trust, etc. were performed using online technology. 4,608 computer laboratories were set up in various educational institutions of the country. Under Bangabandhu Fellowship Project, 102 persons

Comparative Information of Advancement

Subject/ Sector	2006	2009	Present
Rate of Poverty	40% (2005)	40% (2005)	31.5% (2010) 24% (2014, estimated)
Per capita national income (US\$)	520	751	1190
GDP (size) (billion taka)	4,674.97	6,923.80	7,745.39 (2013-14)
Total national budget (crore taka)	61,057 (2005-06)	94,140 (2008-09)	2,50,506 (2014-15)
Foreign exchange reserve (billion US\$)	3.48 (2005-06)	7.50	22.39 33 (UN Survey 2013)
Remittance received (billion US\$)	5.08	9.70	14.23
Life expectancy at birth (year)	64.5	66.8	70
Maternal mortality rate (per lac)	322 (2001)	-	194 (2010), 170 (2012)
Infant mortality rate (per thousand)	45	41	33 (UN Survey 2013)
Population per hospital bed	2766	3320	1,698 (July 2014)
Rate of enrolment	90.9%	93.9%	96.7%
Drop-out rate	45.1%	50.5%	21.4%
Capacity of electricity generation (mega watt)	4,583	4,942	13,283
Maximum generation	3,718	3,268	7,418
Access to electricity	43%	47%	68%
System loss	19.3%	18.45%	14.13%
Old Age allowance	-	20,00,000	27,22,500
Allowance for distressed persons	-	2,00,000	3,14,000
Stipend for students with disabilities	-	13,000	20,482
Food production (lac metric ton)	277.87 (2005-06)	333.03 (2008-09)	383.43 (2013-14)
Capacity of food storages (lac metric ton)	14	14	19.50
Number of freedom fighters getting allowance	-	1,00,000	2,00,000
Amount each freedom fighter getting as allowance	900	1,500	5,000 (from July 2014)
State-owned television	02	02	03
Private television	09	19	23
FM radio	02	04	28
Community radio	00	00	32
Dredger	-	10	21
Rescue ships	-	02	04
Sea ports	02	02	03
Law enactment	185 (8th Parliament)	-	271 (9th Parliament)

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Progress Sustained in One Year

The general election held on 5 January 2014 for sustaining the progress of parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh was a unique milestone. Democracy and development are complementary to each other. Development is a continuous process. Concerted efforts and active participation and support of the masses are required for this. The grand alliance government in 2009-2013 tenure has succeeded in ensuring massive development in all sectors of the country through wholehearted cooperation of the people. The living standard of the general masses was improved and social harmony in the country was enhanced whenever the Awami League – a mass-based party – came to power. Even in the backdrop of global recession, budgetary allocations in Bangladesh have risen, national income has increased, and essential advances have been achieved in different sectors. This is evidenced through the recognition accorded to Bangladesh in the international arena. Standing on the firm edifice of development erected by the grand alliance government, the present government is moving ahead towards achieving its Vision-2021.

A brief account of the development activities and progresses achieved by the present government during the past one year is presented below:

Finance and Commerce

Actual revenue collection during 2013-14 stood at Taka 141 thousand 603 crore. The rate of poverty has been projected at 24.5 percent in the mid-term implementation report of the Sixth Five-year Plan in 2014. Bangladesh Bank received the mobile banking policy and financial inclusion award in 2014 from the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI). A total of 965 thousand 56 old tax-payers have completed online e-TIN registration up to November 2014 and 391 thousand 722 tax-payers have done the same anew. The UK based financial magazine of Financial Times group 'The Banker' awarded Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman as the Central Bank Governor of the Year 2015 for Asia-Pacific region.

Exports from the country during 2013-14 financial year recorded an 11.69% growth at US Dollar 30,176.8 million. Exports during July-November 2014 period recorded a 0.92% growth at US Dollar 12.07 billion. Economic/Commercial Counsellors and First Secretaries (Commerce) have been appointed in Bangladesh Missions of 9 countries in order to gear up exports. A memorandum of understanding has been signed by BGMEA with a Chinese investment firm for setting up a garments industrial park on 530.78 acres of land at Baushia of Munshiganj. Tea cultivation has been expanded in 2,700 hectares of land for meeting the rising demand for tea in the country.

Education

The drop-out rate at primary school level has come down to 21.4%. The status of headmasters in government primary schools has been lifted to class two from class three. The number of students receiving stipends in 63,587 schools now stand at 78 lakh 70 thousand 129. Around 7,000 assistant teachers have been recruited in primary schools during 2014. Non-formal Education Act has been passed by the Jatiya Sangsad.

A total of 32 crore 63 lakh 47 thousand copies of text books have been distributed among students from primary to SSC and equivalent levels during 2015 academic year. A course on art and crafts carrying 50 marks has been made compulsory in JSC and JDC examinations from 2014 academic year.

Health and Sanitation

Bangladesh has formally received certificate as a polio-free country in 2014. A bone-transplant plant has been set up at unit-2 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Specialised Hospital and Nursing College has been made operational. A separate 150-bed unit for female and child heart patients has been established at National Heart Foundation. A 20-bed burn unit



has been put in place at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. A door-to-door screening survey for identifying autistic children has been completed in 7 districts of 7 divisions. At present, medicines are being exported to 93 countries. The Public Health Engineering Department has installed 53,464 water-sources of different types, 13 water-reservoirs, water-sanitation facilities at 7,570 primary-secondary schools, 11,941 low-cost latrines and 110 public toilets.

Agriculture, Food and Industry

The production of food-grains (rice, wheat, maize) increased to 383.43 lakh metric tons during the 2013-14 fiscal year. At present, the market prices of Urea, TSP and MOP fertilizers are Taka 16, Taka 22 and Taka 15 per kg respectively. The price of DAP fertilizer has been re-fixed at Taka 25 from Taka 27 per kg. Taka 405 crore 97 lakh has been spent as incentives and rehabilitation expenses for compensating losses incurred due to different kinds of natural disasters.

Food-grain production during 2014 has risen to 35.66 lakh metric tons during 2014. A total of 976 thousand metric tons of rice and 811 thousand metric tons of wheat have been distributed under the public food distribution programme. The storage capacity of government warehouses has been raised to 19 lakh 50 thousand metric tons.

For meeting the demand for urea in the country, 91.38% work on the project for the construction of Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory having a capacity of 580 thousand metric tons has been completed. The prevalence of the Goitre disease in the country has been brought down to 1.60% through implementation of iodised salt project. Bangladesh Accreditation Board has been accorded full membership of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) in 2014.

Power and Gas

The production capacity of electricity in the country has been raised to 13,283 megawatt by installing new power plants of 1300 megawatt capacity during the past one year. Maximum electricity generation in the country rose to 7,418 megawatt on 18 July 2014 from 6,675 megawatt on 11 July 2013. The number of beneficiaries getting electricity rose to 68 percent in 2013-2014 from 62 percent in 2012-13. Overall systems loss came down to 14.13 percent in June 2014. Around 11 lakh new electricity connections were provided during 2013-14 fiscal year.

Information Technology and Digital Services

The unicode-based Bangladesh Standard (BDS 1520:2011) for the existing

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