

Founding of the Base

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were provided with the opportunity of doing MS and PhD on information technology at home and abroad.

The third generation (3G) of mobile phone was introduced. Cheap laptops and notebooks were made available, mobile money order services were introduced and opportunity was created to talk at only 30 paisa per minute all over the country in land phone under "one country one rate" policy. Tele-density was increased to about 73 percent and internet density to about 27 percent. Bandwidth charge was decreased from 27 thousand taka to 4,800 taka only. Electronic money order service was introduced in 2,750 post offices throughout the country. Postal cash card service was introduced in 598 post offices in total in the divisional towns. "E-purji" system was introduced in order to prevent wastage of sugar mills, bring transparency in buying sugar cane and stop the harassment of farmers.

Road, Bridge, Rail, Water and Local Communication Infrastructure

Big bridges like Shahid Buddhijibi Bridge, Sultana Kamal Bridge, Shah Amanat (R) Bridge, Shahid Abdur Rob Terniatat Bridge, Tista Bridge and Thanchi Bridge were built. Panchagar-Tatalia-Banglabandha National Highway, President Zillur Rahman Flyover on Mirpur-Airport Road and Ahsanullah Master Flyover were built. The upgradation of Nabinagar-Chandra, Dhaka-Chittagong and Joydevpur-Mymensingh these three highways into 4-lanes was completed more than one-third on average. The construction of second Kachpur Bridge, second Meghna Bridge, second Gomoti Bridge and 7th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, upgradation of Joydevpur to Alenga highway into 4-lanes and construction of Bus Rapid Transit Road from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Gazipur were going on. All taxes and fees of motor vehicles were realized through online banking system. Retro-reflective number plate, radio frequency identification tag and digital registration certificate were introduced. Digital smart card was introduced. Environment-friendly 530 CNG buses, 290 double-decker buses, 50 articulated buses and 88 AC single-deckers were added to the BRTC bus stock.

With a view to establishing rail communication with Tangail, Jamalpur and greater Mymensingh, the setting up of 35 kilo meter long Tarakandi to the east end of Bangabandhu Bridge was finished. 20 meter gauge locomotives were procured. In total, 86 news trains including intercity and mail trains were started in different routes and the service of 24 trains was extended. With a view to upgrading Dhaka-Chittagong railway corridor into double lines, the construction of 64 kilo meters double lines at Tongi-Bhairab Bazar section and 61 kilo meter double lines at Laksam-Chinki Astana section were going on.

Capital dredging work was going on against 11,470 crore taka in order to dredge 53 waterway communication routes. Two rescue ships with 250 metric tons of lifting capacity were procured. 7 ferries were built and building of 7 more was going on. Internal Container Terminal (ICT) was built in order to carry commodities in containers on waterway. Computerized Container Management System (CTMS) was introduced at the Chittagong port. Paira Sea Port was established in Patuakhali. Capital dredging in the river Poshur was started. The functions of founding a maritime university and 4 new marine academies were going on.

16,250 kilometer roads and 1,30,761 meter bridges-culverts were built. 1,052 growth centres and hut-bazars were developed. 16 new Upazila Parishad Complex buildings and 765 Union Parishad Complex buildings were built. Construction of about 10 kilometer long Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover from Jatrabari to Polashi was completed.

Social Protection, Giving Land to the Landless, Women and Children Development

Rights and Security for Disabled People Law 2013 and Neuro-developmental Security Trust for Disabled People Law 2013 were passed. Social protection programmes were taken for *Hijra*, *Bede* (nomads), *Dolit* and *Horijon* people through their skill development and involving them in income-generating activities and providing them with stipend. To keep the social safety net well-integrated, the number of the beneficiaries of all allowances and stipends was increased. Besides, the amounts of allowances were enhanced and measures were taken to distribute those through banks. The beneficiaries of old-age allowance were increased from 20 lakh to 27 lakh 22 thousand, widow and husband-deserted destitute women allowance to 10 lakh 12 thousand, distressed persons allowance from 2 lakh to 3 lakh 14 thousand and stipend for students with disabilities from 13 thousand to 20 thousand 482.

Under the social safety net programme, 69,591 acre agricultural khas land was allotted to 1,42,073 landless families. Under the Char Development Project, the khatians of about 9 thousand acre khas land were distributed among 6,185 landless families. 8,222 natural calamity-victim and landless and shelterless families were rehabilitated in 190 guchchhagrams (cluster villages). 2,016 flats were constructed on government land for the uprooted slum dwellers and lower income people in Bhasantek area of the capital. Arpito Sampatti Release Rules 2012 were framed.

The project "one home, one farm" had been implemented in 483 Upazilas of 64 districts.

National Action Plan was formulated to implement Family Violence (Protection & Prevention) Act 2010, Family Violence (Protection & Prevention) Rules 2013, National Women Development Policy 2011, National Children Policy 2011, Aggregated Policy for Baby Care and Grooming 2013 and National Women Development Policy 2011. To protect women from violence, 11,526 women were provided with various services from January 2009 to October 2013 through a multi-sectoral project. Under the VGD programme each year 7 lakh 50 thousand poor women of rural areas were given 30 kg of rice or wheat as food assistance. They were provided with income-generating training also. Each vulnerable adolescent boy and girl was given 15 thousand taka as cash transfer and 12 thousand taka as stipend through private institutions. More than 8 lakh children were given pre-primary training through 8,731 initial education centres of Bangladesh Shisu Academy throughout the country. Each of 1,01,200 beneficiaries of maternity allowance was given 350 taka per month.

Administrative Reorganization, Public Administration, Employment and Welfare to Expatriates

The Ministry of Railway was created separating the Railway Division from the Ministry of Communications; by reorganizing the Science and Technology Division and Information and Communication Technology Division, the Ministry of Science and Technology was created. Again by reorganizing the Food Division and the Disaster Management and Relief Division, two different ministries namely the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief were established. Rangpur was made an administrative division.

70 municipalities were upgraded from grade C to grade B, and another 38 from grade B to grade A. 21 new municipalities were constituted. Dhaka City Corporation was split into two and along with it four city corporations were constituted.

The age-limit for retirement of the public servants was extended from 57 to 59 and that of freedom fighters to 60 years. The Ministry of Public Administration consented to create 4,27,447 posts in different ministries. 3,86,072 officers and employees were appointed in the government service. Policy was adopted that in case of death of any officer or employee while in service, his or her family members will be given 5 lakh taka; and in case he or she becomes permanently disabled, he or she will get 2 lakh taka.

The retirement age-limit of the workers was extended from 57 to 60 years and steps were taken to increase the number of workers. Women workers' maternity leave was extended from four months to six months. The minimum wages of the workers of 35 industry sectors out of 45 sectors were made fixed. In the private garments sectors, the wage was enhanced in two occasions and was fixed at 5300 taka from 1662.50 taka.

23,78,136 workers got foreign employment in 157 countries in the world. Workers were sent abroad under G-to-G system only at an immigration cost of 60 thousand taka for Korea, 10 thousand taka for Jordan and 32 thousand taka for Malaysia. About 10 thousand women got opportunity to work abroad through house-keeping training. The Expatriate Bank gave 25 crore taka loans to 2,510 abroad-going workers.

Others (Liberation War, Law, Trial of the War Criminal, Foreign, Environment and Forest, Housing and Public Works)

Two International Crimes Tribunals were constituted to try the war criminals. During the past five years (2009-13) the judgment of eight cases were delivered and one death sentence was activated. During the past five years, 60,935 poor and insolvent persons were given legal aid at government cost. In the 9th Parliament 271 laws were passed.

The honorarium of the valiant freedom fighters was raised to 3,000 taka (per month) and the number of beneficiaries was increased from 1 lakh to 2 lakh. 84 residential flats were made in 15 storied buildings with the facility of using up to 4-story for commercial purpose for the wounded freedom fighters, family members of martyred freedom fighters and alive freedom fighters. For the welfare of the freedom fighters of Chittagong, the construction of a multi-storied

residential building was underway. In order to improve the socio-economic conditions of the freedom fighters, the construction work of three-storied Muktijodha Complex Buildings, one in all 64 districts, on the foundation of five-stories was undertaken to implement. The construction of twelve such buildings was completed.

A long drawn conflict with Myanmar over the maritime boundary ended in historic solution. The 67th session of the UN adopted the autism resolution of Bangladesh. Bangladesh commodities got duty and quota free access to India. Full-fledged new embassies were opened in Greece, Mexico, Brazil, Portugal, Lebanon and Mauritius. Consulate General offices were opened in Milan of Italy, Kunming of China and Istanbul of Turkey. A Deputy High Commission was opened in Mumbai in India. 17 missions abroad provided MRP and MRV facilities.

To preserve environment and forest resources, 23 old laws and rules were updated. Because of the strengthening of enforcement activities, ETP (effluent treatment plant) were set up in about 80 percent mills and factories. In the global climate diplomacy, Bangladesh played a very important role and as the recognition of its role, Bangladesh got membership of six important committees of UNFCCC and received 4 international awards. The forest area increased to 13.2 percent. A project was taken to build multi-purpose cyclone shelter at an estimated cost of 25 million US dollars for the people of the coastal belt.

In total 62 development projects were going to develop 43,995 plots and construct 31,898 flats at division, district and upazila levels including the capital for the people of low and middle income groups. 3.10 kilometer long Kuril Flyover with 04 loops at the juncture of Airport Road of Dhaka and Progoti Sarani, a 15-storied car parking-cum-office building with two basements at Gulshan-1 and a 6.18 kilometer long highway from Progoti Sarani to Balu river were constructed. To reduce the traffic congestions of Chittagong city, a 1.37 kilometer long flyover, 600 meter overpass, and 28.39 kilometer road were constructed and extended. The construction works of 14.70 kilometer long Chittagong City Outer Ring Road, 6 kilometer long loop road, and 5.20 kilometer long flyover were going on. To reduce the traffic congestions on the highways of Khulna and Rajshahi, the existing roads were made wider and link roads were constructed. For beautification of Dhaka, reduction of water-logging and improving the sewerage, the integrated and coordinated projects for the development of Hatirjheel including Begunbari canal was completed.

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One Year of New Tenure

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Bengali Character Code Set has been devised for enhancing the use of Bangla language in computers. Bangladesh received the WSIS Award from the International Telecommunication Union in 2014 for contributing towards providing government services online, and the Global ICT Excellence Award from the World Information Technology and Services Alliance for advances in information and communications technology.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has implemented 6 projects having an



outlay of Taka 670.15 crore during 2013-14 fiscal year for expansion of atomic energy medical centre in the country, establishment of atomic energy centre in Chittagong, procurement of various exhibits for popularising science, and strengthening of laboratories at Dhaka and Chittagong. Financial aids were provided to 1,001 students-researchers and 331 research projects under the science and technology fellowship programme during 2014 in order to carry out scientific research and groom competent scientists and researchers in the country. Financial assistance has already been provided to 194 fellows at home and abroad under the fellowship programme for completing MS, PhD and post-doctoral courses. The Atomic Energy Regulation (amendment) Act 2014 has been passed. Medical treatment has been provided to 400 thousand patients through atomic energy medical centres. An ultramodern 5-D movie theatre having 40 seats has been installed at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo-Theatre.

Digital punching attendance has been introduced at National Maritime Institute. The admission process of students has also been digitalised at the institute.

Free wi-fi internet facility has been provided in 15 BRTC buses on an experimental basis on Abdullahpur-Motijheel, Balughat-Motijheel routes. Vehicle tracking service has also been launched.



Road, Rail, Water Transport and Local Communication Infrastructure

77 kilometres of new railway lines including 22 kilometre-long Tongi-Bhoirab line with signalling, 45 kilometre Laksam-Chinkia-stana line and 10 kilometre Faridpur-Panchuria line have been constructed. A total of 52 kilometres of railway lines on Parbatipur-Kanchan-Panchagarh and Kanchan-Biral sections have been converted to dual-gauge from metre-gauge. Twenty-seven (16 BG and 11 MG) and 6 DESU locomotives have been procured. 301 wagons including 19 brake-vans have been purchased. Thirty-two new trains have been launched.

Construction of the main infrastructure of Padma Multipurpose Bridge through self-financing has been started. Seventeen bridges, 235 culverts, 14 bypass roads and 155 kilometres of basement have been constructed under the Up-gradation of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway into 4 Lanes project. Under the non-development (repair and maintenance) head, 207 kilometres of road have been rehabilitated, 330 kilometres of road have been seal-coated with carpeting, 817 kilometres have been overlaid, DBST of 468 kilometres has been done and seal-coating of 1,146 kilometres of road has been completed during the period July-2013 to June-2014. Five excess-load control stations and 11 portable weighing-scales have been pressed into service on the national highway.

3,064 kilometres of roads have been built, 20,392 bridges, 78 growth-centres and hat-bazars have been built, 34 cyclone centres, 250 union council complexes and 20 upazila council complexes have been constructed for rural infrastructure development during 2014. Besides, 605 kilometres of roads and footpaths, 689 kilometres of bridges-culverts, 196 kilometres of drains, 4 bus terminals and 22 community/town centres have been constructed.

Social Security, Land for Landless, Development of Women and Children

A total of 10,522 acres of khas agricultural land have been settled in favour of

23,431 landless families all over the country during 2013-14 financial year. Revenue of Taka 72 crore 86 lakh 98 thousand 105 have been collected by leasing out 44 water-bodies for six-years since January 2014.

For meeting the demand for food among the hardcore poor, the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme has been expanded and rice worth Taka 1145 crore 52 lakh has been distributed among 90 lakh 71 thousand families during 2013-14 financial year. At the same time, 95,07999 families have been brought under the social safety coverage by extending assistance worth Taka 5,069 crore 81 lakh.

The transgender community has been accorded state recognition as the third gender. For lifting the living standard of the tea-labourers, food items worth Taka 97 lakh at the rate of Taka 5000 per head have been distributed among 140 labourers at Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas of Moulvibazar district under a programme. People above the age of 60 years have been declared as senior citizens.

Permanent installations have been constructed as office-cum-shelter homes for rendering assistance to repressed and helpless women at 5 divisional towns. The number of poor mothers receiving maternal allowance in all unions has been raised to 220 thousand. Their monthly allowance has been enhanced to Taka 500 from Taka 350. One hundred thousand poor and working mothers employed in the garments factories under BGMEA and BKMEA in the city corporations and municipality areas of Dhaka sadar as well as Savar municipality are being extended assistance.

Under the 'One house one farm' project, employment has been generated for 484 thousand people in 33,500 small-scale income-generating farms. Among the beneficiaries of BRDB, 3,50,161 persons have been brought under skill development and 2,99,286 persons under human development programmes. Up to November 2014, 19 irrigation and water management sub-projects have been implemented through RDA, and 23 community-based bio-gas (130-150 cubic metres) plants have been installed.

Administrative Reorganization, Public Administration, Employment and Expatriates' Welfare

Five policies, strategies and action plans as well as 28 international treaties and memorandums of understanding have been approved by the cabinet. Nine eminent personalities and institutions have been awarded Independence Award in four areas. The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology has been reorganized by amalgamating the posts and telecommunication and information and communication technology divisions. The name of communication ministry has been changed to Ministry of Roads Transport and Bridges; the roads division under its purview has been renamed as road transport and highways division.

Around 148 thousand posts have been created, 34,521 posts kept reserved and 24,817 made permanent between July 2013 and June 2014. Initiative has been taken to introduce a public administration medal. During 2013-14 financial year, 14 officers were promoted to the rank of secretary, 82 to the rank of additional secretary, 420 to the rank of joint secretary, 24 to the rank of deputy secretary, 195 to the rank of senior assistant secretary and 45 to the rank of assistant secretary. A total of 1,665 officers have been recruited through 32nd BCS examination and 8,105 through 33rd BCS examination in various cadres.

Initiative has been taken to increase human resources and raise the retirement age of workers from 57 years to 60. Minimum wages have been fixed for the workers of 35 industrial sectors out of 42; among them, minimum wage for the private garments sector has been set at Taka 5300 after increasing it twice from Taka 1662.50.

National occupational health and safety policy has been formulated.

During 2014 (up to November), overseas employment has been generated for 3,82,298 workers; the number of female migrant workers was 583. Twelve new labour wings have been opened in various countries with the goal of expanding the labour market. Due to the successful labour diplomacy of the government, 267,803 Bangladeshi workers have been accorded legal status in Malaysia. Migration loans have been extended to 3,488 out-bound workers by the Probashi Kalyan Bank.

Law, Trial of War Crimes, Foreign Affairs, Environment and Forests, Information, Housing and Public Works, Home Affairs, Civil Aviation, Planning, Fisheries and Livestock, Textiles and Jute, Defence and Liberation War Affairs

The sixteenth amendment to the constitution has been passed. Nineteen laws have been framed in 2014. These include many timely ones including the DNA law. Fifty-nine treaties have been signed and 283 notifications have been issued. Verdicts of four cases have been delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal and one appeal has been disposed off. Sixty-seven assistant judges have been appointed.

Bangladesh was elected to the top posts of two transnational democratic institutions during 2014. The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury was elected chairperson of the executive committee of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association during its 60th summit. This glorious achievement has been the first for Bangladesh in its history. Besides, a member of parliament Saber Hossain Chowdhury was elected president during the 131st assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva, Switzerland. Besides, Bangladesh has been a member of UN Human Rights Commission. The image of Bangladesh has been bolstered as a result.

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the Peace Tree prize of UNESCO in recognition of her pioneering role in expanding education and literacy among women and girls. She was honoured with the Vision Award for playing a leading role in building a Digital Bangladesh. A protocol for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Bhutan has been signed and an agreement was inked on sanctioning land for constructing the Bhutanese embassy in Dhaka. The BIMSTEC Secretariat was formally inaugurated in Dhaka in September.

The Sundarban Tourism Policy 2014 has been formulated with the objective of ensuring biodiversity in the forest. Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation has earned a profit of Taka 6 crore 35 lakh 79 thousand by producing 4,315 metric tons of rubber. Bangladesh attended the 26th Meeting of the Parties (MoP) of member-countries under the Montreal Protocol held on 20 November 2014 in Paris, France, and was elected the 10th vice-president of Committee of Parties (CoP) under the Vienna Convention.

Bangladesh Journalists' Welfare Trust 2014 Act has been passed. The Broadcasting Policy 2014 has been approved by the cabinet. Film production training (diploma) course under Bangladesh Film and Television Institute has been inaugurated.

The National Housing Authority has constructed 286 flats and developed 3,720 plots.

Fire Prevention Rules have been framed and published in gazette for improving the services of fire service and civil defence.

Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft has been inducted into the fleet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The engineering and material management directorate of Biman has been able to successfully change the huge GE-90 model engine assembled for the Boeing 777-300 ER aircraft. Sky-shop in-flight duty-free service has been launched anew from 1 March 2014.

During the period January-November 2014, 149 projects with an outlay of Taka 1 lakh 8 thousand 401 lakh have been approved through 27 ECNEC meetings. A total of 1176 projects have been approved during 2013-14 financial year including those in the ADP. The size of the revised ADP was Taka 60 thousand crore. The size of ADP during 2014-15 is 86 thousand crore, and 1187 projects have been included in it.

Around 34.10 lakh metric tons of fish were produced during 2012-13, which has now risen to 35.55 lakh metric tons. Annual growth in this sector has been about 5.49 percent.

Taka 5 thousand 930 crore 27 lakh has been earned by exporting jute and jute goods during 2013-14 financial year.

Under the purview of Forces Goal 2030, 6 units under 17 Infantry Division have been raised and 7 units have been constituted under 10 Infantry Division at Ramu. Bangladesh Air Force has procured 16 ultra-modern advanced jet trainer aircrafts, 5 MI-17 SH helicopters, 2 maritime search and rescue helicopters and 3 transport trainer aircrafts. Process for purchasing 12 PT-6 Basic Trainer aircrafts, 1 air defence radar and 1 MI-17 Helicopter Simulator is now underway during 2014-15 fiscal year. The aerospace programmes of Army Medical Colleges at Chittagong, Bogra, Comilla, Jessore and Rangpur have been started. The newly-established Cochlear Centre of Dhaka Combined Military Hospital has carried out successful operations on 23 deaf offspring of army personnel.

7,837 war-wounded and martyred families were extended state honorarium totalling Taka 144.97 crore during 2013-14 fiscal year. Taka 3 crore was distributed among the families of deceased freedom fighters for burials and cremations during 2013-14. A policy on overseas treatment of war-wounded freedom fighters has been formulated during the year and Taka 3 crore has been sanctioned for providing overseas treatment through Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust.

Bangladesh has already made considerable overall progress and it is further advancing. If this trend of development continues, the country will go a long way further towards progress and advancement in future.

[Compilation and composition: *Press Information Department*]

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