

Continuation of Success and Development Two Years of New Tenure



Special Supplement

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Development and democracy are complementary to each other. The general election on 5 January, 2014 was an important and unique milestone of the country for sustainability of the Constitution and democratic process. The people of Bangladesh are always concerned about the interest of the country. Active participation, cooperation and consolidated efforts are essential for development to continue. Effective and integrated effort of the grand alliance government led by the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has resulted in the increase of national income and allocation of national budget even in the backdrop of world economic recession. The country has also shown success in attaining Millenium Development Goals and moved to the status of lower middle income country from low income country. Besides, progress has been achieved in different sectors including agriculture, education and health. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a leader is also accorded by the world as Bangladesh has been recognized in different levels of international arena. The present government is confident to attain vision 2021 with the combination of this success and recognition.

A brief account of the development activities and progresses achieved by the present alliance government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the past two years is presented below:

Finance, Commerce and Planning

Average economic growth rate in the last two years was 6.3 percent. Besides per capita income has increased up to US Dollar 1,314, reserve has reached almost US Dollar 27 billion and foreign remittance stood at US Dollar 16 billion. Because of the sincere effort of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, National Pay Scale-2015 has already been implemented with a significant rise of pay and allowances and retirement benefits for the employees of the Republic. Allocation of budget and annual development expenditure has increased almost 57 percent and 75 percent respectively in comparison to that of fiscal year 2013-14. Approving the Financial Reporting Act- 2015 is also a big achievement of the government.

Bangladesh is earning US Dollar 31.2 billion by exporting 729 items in 196 countries. Bangladesh is acting as the co-coordinator of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in World Trade Organization (WTO) and has managed to attain preferential benefits in service sectors from 11 developed and developing countries. In the last two years Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) sold 38,803 metric tons of necessary daily commodities among the low income group. Formalin Control Act 2015 has been formulated to maintain quality of food.

In the last two years, 417 projects with a cost of Taka 4,29,804.462 crore have been approved through 62 ECNEC meetings. Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020) has been approved accelerating the economic growth in view of empowering every citizen along with poverty alleviation. The size of ADP for 2015-16 has been set at Taka 1,00,996.92 crore.

Education

To prevent drop-out of the poor students Taka 880.27 crore has been distributed among 49 lakh 23 thousand and 485 students as stipends and free studentship in 2013-14. Bangladesh achieved parity in the number of male and female students in primary level in 2012, three years ahead of the stipulated timeframe of the United Nations. It became possible as a result of hard work and whole hearted effort of the alliance government. Establishment of Technical schools in 100 Upazilas is going on under a project to establish training schools in every upazila. 13.11 percent students got the opportunity to have technical education in the fiscal year 2014-15. Land has been allocated to establish an autistic academy in Purbachal, Dhaka. The academy will have two different dormitories, each with a capacity to accommodate 100 autistic boys and girls. Welfare activities for the autistic children of the country is going on with the sincere and hard work of Saima Wazed, the Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee of Bangladesh on Autism.

The net rate of primary school enrollment reached to 97.3 percent in 2014. The drop-out rate has reduced to 20.9 percent. A total of 11 crore 59 lakh 97 thousand and 97 copies of text books have been distributed among 2.23 crore students in 2015 academic year. With a view to building 'Digital Bangladesh, as announced by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, internet facilities have been introduced in field level offices related to primary education including 55 Primary Training Institutes (PTI) having a computer lab. Laptop, multimedia, internet modem and sound systems have been supplied to 5 thousand and 430 primary schools.

Health and Sanitation

The prospect of Bangladesh health sector is being reflected in various indicators. Life expectancy has reached to 70.7 years. Under-5 child mortality has reduced to 41 in per thousand live births. Maternal mortality has also come down to 170 in per 1000 thousand cases. Bangladesh has formally received certificate as a polio-free country in 2014. Curricular activity in 12 medical colleges including 5 army medical colleges has started. Beds in 40 hospitals have been increased. A project to build Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in Dhaka has been approved. Recruitment of 6,300 doctors is completed and they have been posted in upazila level. 24 hours health service is available in number 16263 from mobiles. Autism and neuro development proposal raised by Bangladesh was passed at the conference of World Health Organization (WHO).

In the last 2 years Department of Public Health Engineering has installed 318 service tube wells, 34 water treatment plants, 19 raised water reservoirs, 743 kilometer pipeline of different width and 8,403 sanitary

Development Sustained in Two Years of Alliance Government

latrine and 190 community latrine- public toilets through various projects.

Agriculture, Food and Industry

The production of food grains in 2014-15 was 384.18 lakh metric tons. To sustain the agricultural production subsidy of Taka 7,101 crore was distributed among the farmers. A project of Taka 172.19 crore has been implemented for mechanization of farms with 30 percent subsidy on machine parts. Taka 10.6 crore has also been distributed to supply agricultural instruments in the marshland areas. 64 high yielding varieties of crops have been developed in last two years that are disease resistant and



can sustain against drought, flood and salinity. It is now possible to yield safe crop production as the farmers are encouraged to use natural fertilizer and pesticides.

Food grain production has risen to 35.68 lakh metric tons in 2015. 12 lakh metric tons of rice and 2 lakh 4 thousand metric tons of wheat has been collected in 2015 from internal sources to ensure safety of food storage. Total food storage in 2015 was 15 lakh 46 thousand and 939 metric tons. During the present tenure of the alliance government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh exported 25 thousand metric tons of rice in Sri Lanka, which is the first incident to export rice to any other country. A total of 11 lakh 27 thousand metric tons of rice and 4 lakh 47 thousand metric tons of wheat have been distributed under the public food distribution program. The storage capacity of government warehouses has been raised to 19 lakh 50 thousand metric tons. Construction of a multi-storied warehouse with storage capacity of 25 thousand metric tons has been completed in Santahar cylo campus.

Average annual growth rate in the fisheries sector at present is 6.23 percent. About 1 crore 80 lakh people lives on this sector. 35.48 lakh metric tons of fish and shrimp were produced in 2013-14 using appropriate technology to achieve vision 2021. In the last two years additional 15 thousand metric tons of fish was produced and 1.61 lakh metric tones of fish and fish products have been exported earning Taka 9.5 thousand crore as foreign exchange. Bangladesh stands fourth in the world in producing inland freshwater fish. Bangladesh has been included as the pilot country in Blue Growth Economy. In 2014-15 milk production reached to 69.70 lakh metric tons. In the same period the production of meat and egg stood at 58.6 lakh metric tons and 1 thousand 99 crore and 52 lakh pieces respectively.

A project to establish Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory has been taken with a yearly production capacity of 5 lakh 80 thousand metric tons to meet the demand of urea. In 2014-15 Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has identified 3,890 small and 8,934 prospective cottage industry entrepreneurs who have been provided with different suggestions and services. Food, microbiology, cement and textile laboratory of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) has attained accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing Laboratories (NABL), India.

Power and Energy

Bangladesh has achieved enviable success in power sector with the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, leader of the incumbent alliance government. The production capacity of electricity (gred connected) in the country has been raised to 11,952 megawatt from 10,289 megawatt during the past two years. Maximum electricity generation in 2013 was 6,675 megawatt which rose to 8,177 megawatt in 2015. Per capita electricity generation has been raised to 371 kilowatt/hour which in 2013 was 321 kilowatt/hour. Daily gas production has increased to 2,700+ million cubic feet and in addition Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has been identified as alternative energy. After the completion of daily 500 mcmfd capacitated Floating Storage Re-gasification Unit (FSRU) LNG terminal, with the technical assistance of Exclerate Energy (EE) of Singapore, it will be possible to connect additional electricity to the national gred by 2017.

Road, Rail, Water Transport and Local Communication Infrastructure

The construction work of the main structure of Padma Bridge and river training has been initiated. Two service areas and construction yard has already been completed. About 28 percent work of the project has been completed. Preparatory work of 20 kilometer long Metro Rail from Uttara to Bangladesh Bank costing Taka 22 thousand crore has been done to ease traffic congestion of Dhaka city. An agreement has been signed with the government of China to make a 3.5 kilometer long tunnel under the bed of the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong. Upgrade of 184 kilometer out of 198 kilometer of Dhaka-Chittagong highway to four lanes has so far been completed. Six highways comprising 227 kilometers have been developed in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. 35 kilometer long Thanchi-Ali kadam highway is now open for traffic. Construction of many bridges including Kazir Bazaar Bridge on Surma river of Sylhet, Seventh Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Madaripur, Sheikh Russel Bridge, Surma Bridge in Sunamganj, Birulia Bridge on Birulia-Ashulia road, Arial Khan Bridge, Old Brahmaputra Bridge and Kolatoli Bridge has already been completed. Different ministries/divisions are working together in line with the long term planning of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to minimize the traffic congestion of Dhaka city. In connection to this, the work of 24 kilometer long elevated expressway has been started. The preparatory work of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from Hazrat Shahjalal Airport to Joydevpur intersection has been completed. The work of 80 kilometer four lane road from Joydevpur to Mymensingh is going to be completed. 2 lakh 21 thousand and 238 sets of digital number plate have been assembled in different vehicles. 2 lakh and 425 digital smart card driving licenses have been distributed in fiscal year 2014-15. Under the non development head for repair and maintenance, rehabilitation of 125 kilometer road except surfacing, seal coating of 271 kilometer road with carpeting, overlay of 1,474 kilometer road, DBST of 253 kilometer, construction/reconstruction of 21 bridges and 107 culverts has been completed during fiscal year 2014-15. Bus services to Kolkata- Dhaka- Agartala and Dhaka-Sylhet- Shilong- Gouhati- Dhaka has been launched in 2105. E-Ticketing system for air conditioned buses of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) plying on Abdullahpur-Motijheel route has been introduced. Two new bus depots in Gabtoli and Mohammadpur under BRTC have come into operation in fiscal year 2014-15.

Construction work of 61 kilometer double line with modernization of signaling system in 11 stations from Laksham to Chinkhi Astana has been inaugurated for the development of railway. Physical infrastructure development of 64 kilometer double line from Tongi to Bhoirob Bazar, including signaling system has already been completed. Besides process to procure 100 meter gauge and 170 broad gauge passenger coach is underway.

To develop the main infrastructure of Paira Deep Sea Port 6 thousand acres of land has been purchased. A project involving Taka 1128.43 crore has been approved in 2015 for developing necessary infrastructures and facilities to operate the port in limited scale. Long awaited New Mooring Container Terminal in Chittagong is now in operation with container handling capacity in four terminals. Two new ferry routes between Mehendigonj of Barisal and Shariatpur and Matlab upazilla of Chandpur and Narayanganj are now in operation.

Under different development projects of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), 9,135 kilometers of road (Upazila, union and village level) and 43,250 meters of bridge/culvert have been constructed. LGED is operating the construction project of 8.25 kilometer long four lane "Moghbarar-Mouchak Integrated Flyover" with a stipulated cost of Taka 773 crore to minimize traffic congestion of the capital.

Science, Information Technology and Post & Telecommunication

Seven projects with a cost of Taka 688.11 crore have been materialized and 2,439 students / researchers have been assisted with funds under national science and technology fellowship program in the last two years for the progress of science and technology. With the bold leadership of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the alliance government, three agreements have been signed with the Russian Federation nominated contractors to construct Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant with a capacity of 2400 megawatt.

Division of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has set up connectivity in 18,130 government offices in district and upazila level. The division is working to develop a regional network between Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan and has installed optical fibre up to Bangladesh. Bangladesh received South-South Cooperation Visionary Award-2014 from the UN and the Global ICT Excellence Award-2014 from the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA). International Tele-communication Union (ITU) has awarded Bangladesh the World Summit on Information Society Prize- (WSIS)

