

2014 and ICTs in Sustainable Development Award -2015.

Up to June, 2015, the number of mobile and internet users has reached also 13.02 crore and 5.47 crore respectively. Tele density and internet density has also reached to 83.09 and 34.4 percent respectively. SIM/RIM registration with biometrics and National ID verification system has started to be implemented since December, 2015. Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC), one of the largest



revenue earners of the government, has earned Taka 1,379.35 crore since July to December 2015. Directorate of Bangladesh Post Office has introduced mobile money order and cash card. Post E-center has started operation in 3,500 post offices so far. Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL) has given 1 lakh 39 thousand new digital connections and replaced 1 lakh old connections in Dhaka city. 4,500 Kilometer optical fiber has already been installed in 1,006 unions of 98 upazilas of 64 districts and 300 unions are now under optical network. With the farsighted and thoughtful planning of Sajeeb Wajed Joy, Information and Communication Advisor to the Prime Minister, 3G facility has been activated in 64 districts and 7 divisions under Teletalk 3G project. Bangladesh has signed Construction and Maintenance Agreement with SEA-ME-WE-5 submarine cable consortium. Government has fixed minimum bandwidth rate at Taka 625 per mbps.

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

Total number of beneficiaries under Rural Social Service (RSS) program is 24,15,000. Under Rural Maternity Center (RMC) Program for the empowerment and economic emancipation of women 8,34,960 persons are getting benefits from 318 programs in 64 districts. 1,50,050 persons are getting benefit under rehabilitation program for the disabled and acid victims. 'Asrayan' is one of the eight innovated initiatives of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. 61,874 persons are benefited under the loan project of Asrayan (Phase-1). Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken special initiative to sanction allowance for the destitute women. Allowance recipient of widow and deserted women was 10.12 lakh in 2013-14 financial year. 27.225 lakh citizens are receiving old age allowance. Another 4 lakh persons has received allowance for the insolvent disables and 50,000 disable students received stipends.

National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh has been approved to make social safety network more updated and effective. The policy has developed 5 yearly and long term goals. Beneficiaries of social safety allowances are getting their allowance in their own account to maintain transparency. Stipends for maximum 78 lakh students per month have been distributed under stipend project up to June 2015. 3.90 Lakh students of poor families are getting allowance for primary education under Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) Project. 33 lakh students of poverty prone areas are served with high protein biscuits in every school day. About 28 thousand 457 acres of khas land have been settled in favor of 49 thousand 559 landless families. 10 thousand and 703 landless and homeless families have been rehabilitated in 254 guchchhagrams (clustered village) under 'Guchchhagram' project.

Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) law has been passed in September 2014. One Stop Crisis Center (OCC) has been established in 8 Medical Colleges including Dhaka to offer all necessary services from one place for women and child victims. Destitute



and physically disabled women are trained along with food assistance by selected NGO's to become self reliant. 100 percent beneficiaries of this project are women. 7 lakh 50 thousand women living below poverty line have been assisted with VGD program in 2014-15 financial year.

Rural Development and Cooperatives

Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar (One House One Farm) Project is one of the eight innovative initiatives of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to alleviate poverty and to make the people of the country self reliant. Besides, the government is implementing various projects for poverty alleviation and rural development. Char Livelihood Project-2, Integrated Rural Development Program, Rural Housing (modern housing) Scheme, Economic Empowerment of the Poorest (EEP), Extension Program of Milk Vita, Construction of Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development etc. are among the mentionables. At present the number of small scale agriculture based farm stands at 18.72 lakh. The beneficiaries has transacted taka 2,573 crore through online which is a result of digital Bangladesh. 485 upazilas of 64 districts are already covered by online transaction facility. Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has developed 1,99,688 societies and groups so far under its poverty alleviation program. 18,460 deep tube wells, 44,523 shallow tube wells, 19,405 power generated pumps and 2,73,000 hand generated pumps has been distributed among the members of BRDB under irrigation project to boost up agricultural production. Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) has trained up 3651 participants through 88 training programs and awareness building workshops. About 2.5 lakh people directly and 10 lakh people are indirectly benefited in 28 upazilas of Kurigram, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Bogra and Sirajgonj district under Char Livelihood Project

Administrative Reorganization, Public Administration and Employment

The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology has been reorganized by amalgamating Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication and Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. The name of the Ministry of Communication has been changed to Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges; the Roads Division under its purview has been renamed as Road Transport and Highways Division. Nine eminent personalities and 1 institution in 2014 and seven eminent personalities in 2015 have been awarded Independence Award. Enactment of Citizen Charter in all ministries/divisions and departments/organizations has been ensured to establish good governance in the state institutions. Grievance Redress System (GRS) has been inaugurated to ascertain transparency and accountability in public administration. 59 ministries/divisions and selected organizations have framed integrity committee and monitoring strategy framework to implement



"National Integration Strategy-2012".

Civil Service Rules and Posting/ Transfer Policy have been enacted. Besides, Promotion Rules have been amended and upgraded and database for every cadre officials have been developed. Initiative to develop performance based assessment system is going on. Government Vehicles (Regulation of use) Law 2014, Bangladesh Civil Service (age, qualification and direct recruitment) Rules 2014 and Public Administration Award Rule 2014 have also been enacted. Around 1,10,585 posts have been created, 57,532 posts kept reserved and 11,365 posts in different government ministries/divisions and departments has been made permanent. Recruitment of 8,312 officers has been completed and recruitment process of 3,983 officers and recommendation for recruiting 2,158 officials under different BCS examination is underway. A total of taka 30 crore 95 lakh has been distributed among families of 619 deceased and 2 permanently disabled government servants.

Bangladesh Labor Rules 2015 has been enacted. A total of 3660 factories have been assessed up to November 2015 by National Initiative, Accord and ALLIANCE to ensure structural integrity, electrical and fire safety of all garment factories.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment

The Present alliance government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been able to prevent illegal and irregular migration. Illegal migration of about 2 thousand Bangladeshi citizens was prevented last year due to strengthened enforcement of the vigilance taskforce to check human trafficking and illegal and irregular migration. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, for the first time, has nominated 14 recruiting agencies to send safe and skilled worker in Singapore for building construction sector. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between International Manpower Development Organization of Japan and the ministry to send technical intern in Japan. Besides, related 4 technical agreements have also been signed with Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). Construction of 24 Technical Training Centers has been completed under a project of constructing 30 Technical Training Centers in different districts (2nd phase). Institute of Marine Technology (IMT) has been set up in Munshiganj, Faridpur, Chandpur, Sirajgonj and Bagerhat district. Probashi Kalyan Bank has disbursed migration loan among 9,513 out bound workers and rehabilitation loan among 150 homecoming workers in 64 districts.

Law: Testimony of cases is now recorded by voice recorders in courts. Important information including daily schedules, latest update of cases and date of next hearing in both lower and higher courts are available on online. 48 laws have been enacted, 152 treaties have been signed and 651 notifications have been issued in the last two years along with translation of a significant number of acts and rules. Due to courageous and sincere endeavour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, final verdict of 7 cases have been delivered by the International Crimes Tribunal and 10 appeals are awaiting for disposal.

Foreign Affairs: " The Foreign Policy", an influential periodical of the United States of America has stated Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh as one of the leading thinkers of the world and has included her among 13 top thinkers in the category of "decision makers" for creating substantive awareness against adverse effects of climate change and its prevention. Bangladesh has been awarded with



glorious Women in Parliament (WIP) Global Forum Award 2015 for significant success in attaining gender parity and empowerment of women in politics. In 2014 Honorable Prime Minister received the Peace Tree prize of UNESCO. Bangladesh has achieved significant success in attaining Millennium Development Goals. Participants from Bangladesh were elected Chairperson of the Executive Committee of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Director General of International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2014. In the same year Bangladesh became the member of UN Human Rights Council, UNICEF Executive Board, Governing body of International Labor Organization (ILO) and ITU council. In 2015 International Institute of Mother Language of Bangladesh received category II status of UNESCO and Bangladesh took charge as the LDC Chair at the UN General Assembly. Permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC has been established in Dhaka in 2014. 22 significant treaties have been signed between Bangladesh and India during the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Bangladesh.

Environment and Forest: The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has been awarded with Champions of the Earth Award in 2015 as recognition of governments effort to minimize effect of climate change. Approximately 45 thousand people have been benefitted as a result of the Sundarbans Environmental



and Livelihood Security Project (SELS) to create alternative employment opportunity. Taka 18 crore has been collected in 2014-15 fiscal year as penalty from 402 institutions for polluting the environment. Sanctuary and eco parks in different parts of the country and Green belt in about 2 lakh hector area of coastal districts have been developed. 5 lakh families have come under social forestry network. 8 Thousand Bio gas plants have been established with 72 percent industries having ETP. 15 Lakh modern cookers have been distributed. Bangladesh, as a developing country is the first to develop a trust fund from her own resource to cope up the effects of climate change.

Information: Construction work of 16 storied 'Tothya Bhaban' (Information Building) for Department of Films and Publications (DFP), Mass Communication Department (MCD) and Bangladesh Film Censor Board, under Ministry of Information, has been inaugurated to ensure better service and prompt action in fast changing scenario. In line with the directions of the Prime Minister of the alliance government, the construction work of government buildings is progressing fast. A project for building Head Quarter for

Bangladesh Television has been implemented. Information Commission has conducted training courses for 8,878 designated officers, journalists, sub editors, sub inspectors and teachers in the last two years and disposed of 557 complaints out of 587. Another 30 such complaints are under process of disposal.

Housing and Public Works: With the directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakha (RAJUK) has established 90 thousand apartments to minimize accommodation problems under Uttara Model Town (Phase-3), Purbachal New Town and Jhilmil housing project. Besides, The National Housing Authority



and Public Works Department has constructed 8881 flats to accommodate government employees and to sell among the low and middle income groups. An effort to construct 5,000 flats on shared basis in Kurail of the capital is underway. Initiative to construct country's highest 130 storied building in Purbachal as a symbol of national development and progress is also on.

Home Affairs: During the visit of the Indian Prime Minister in Bangladesh the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), 1974 (Mujib-Indira Agreement) between Bangladesh and India has been implemented. Instruments of ratification of the LBA have been exchanged. The appointed day for the physical exchange of the enclaves were set on 1 August 2015. As a result, Bangladesh received all the enclaves of India inside Bangladesh and ceded all the enclaves of Bangladesh inside India to India. This long standing issue has been resolved with the personal initiative and hard work of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Additional 80 Border Operation Post (BOP) has been constructed along with 527 BOP's with a view to modernize the Border Guard Bangladesh and strengthen border security. About 1 crore 25 lakh Machine Readable Passports (MRP) and 2 lakh 50 thousand Machine Readable Visas has been distributed including the nonresident Bangladeshis.

Civil Aviation and Tourism: Building of a new 10 storied Parjatan Motel in place of Hotel Soikat in Chittagong costing Taka 4302 lakh is about to complete. Construction of terminal 1 and 2, internal terminal, VVIP Complex, control tower building and fire alarm and detection system of power house of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport has been completed. Biman Bangladesh Airlines has profited Taka 233.06 crore (unaudited) in financial year 2014-15.

Textiles and Jute: Initiative has been taken to frame Jute Law 2015, Jute Policy 2015, Textile Mills Law 2015 and Textile Policy 2015 to identify the present problems of jute and textile sector. Use of jute bags for paddy, rice, wheat, maize, fertilizer and sugar under 'Jute Packaging Act 2010' has been made mandatory to ensure the use of environment friendly jute and jute products.

Defence: With the farsighted thoughts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Army has completed a project titled 'Construction of BMA Bangabandhu Complex, Bhatiary, Chittagong' to update and modernize Bangladesh Military Academy. Project entitled 'Construction of BAFA Bangabandhu Complex, Jessore' is under implementation. 7 agro- meteorological observation posts have been constructed under 'Upgradation of Agro-Meteorological Services' project. 6 permanent GNSS/ GPS stations, Digital Mapping Unit (DMU) has been set up in Dhaka, Rangpur, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Moulvibazar under 'Improvement of Digital Mapping System of Survey of Bangladesh (Revised) Project'. Besides aerial photography of the whole country has been completed and satellite image for international boundary, coastal area and the Sundarbans have been purchased.

Liberation War Affairs: Monthly honorarium for general freedom fighters has been enhanced to Taka 8,000 and the number of recipients has been raised to 2 lakhs. Monthly honorarium for gallantry freedom fighters with title Bir Sreshtho and Bir Protik out of 676 gallantry freedom fighters have been fixed at taka 20 thousand and 15 thousand respectively. For the war-wounded, deceased war-wounded and martyred families it has been increased to minimum Taka 18 thousand to maximum 48 thousand considering their state of disability. The introduction of honorarium for the veteran freedom fighters and martyred freedom fighters is an epoch-making initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. 'Housing Project for the Landless and Insolvent Freedom Fighters' has a provision to build 2,971 houses. Construction of 43 complexes has been completed under 'Building Complex for Freedom Fighters in Every District Project'. 81 complexes in different upazilas have already been completed under a project named 'Building Complex for Freedom Fighters in Every Upazila'. Construction of 59 memorials has been completed under the project of building memorials of Liberation War.

Religious Affairs: Islamic Foundation Bangladesh has offered pre-primary and moral education to 1 lakh 50 thousand children, Quranic and moral education to 10 lakh 29 thousand boys and girls and literacy to 38 thousand 400 adults in the last two years. Besides Taka 42 crore 98 lakh and 86 thousand has been disbursed as assistance for the reconstruction of different religious institutions and rehabilitation of the destitute. Online Registration of the Hazz Pilgrims has been introduced in 2015. Every Pilgrim is now notified by 6 SMS before the Hazz and bulletins and information services through IVR system.

Cultural Affairs: 15 eminent personalities have been awarded with 'Ekushey Padak' for their invaluable contribution to the nation in different sectors. A MoU on cultural activities between Bangladesh and Malaysia in 2014 and two years cultural exchange program between Bangladesh and India in 2015 have been signed. Taka 2 crore 27 lakh has been distributed among 1,025 libraries as grant from non government libraries development fund in 2014-15 financial year. Besides a grant of Taka 4 crore 86 lakh 15 thousand has been granted against 1,174 cultural organizations from fine arts and theatre fund.

Water Resources: 192.42 kilometers of river have been dredged in the last two years. It includes test dredging in 22 kilometer areas of river Jamuna under "Capital (pilot) Dredging of River System in Bangladesh" project. Four cross bars have been developed adjacent to Sirajgonj town by the dredged materials and about 16 Square kilometers of land have permanently been recovered. 1,4792 hectares of land have been settled among 17,533 landless families under the settlement and development projects in the coastal strips.

Youth and Sports: As a result of the affinity of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for sports, cricket has helped Bangladesh to raise its profile in international arena. Bangladesh has successfully organized the World T-20 Bangladesh- 2014 and Asia Cup Cricket- 2014. Bangladesh became champion in the under-16 SAFF Football Championship defeating India and also became unbeaten champion in the first round of World Hockey League. National Service Program has been extended to 17 upazilas of 17 districts and 14,718 persons have been employed after training. Decision has been taken to extend this program to 20 upazilas in 2015-16 financial year.

Due to prudence, farsightedness and statesmanship of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, leader of the present alliance government, Bangladesh will soon become a middle income country. The economy of Bangladesh has been able to achieve sustainable progress confronting national and international challenges as democracy and development has been sustained by the present government since 2009. The alliance government is working constantly to be a middle income country by the year 2021. Bangladesh will be regarded as a role model worldwide if this democracy and development can be continued inspired by the spirit of Liberation War.

(Compilation and composition: Press Information Department)

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