

Chapter-25

Public Security Division

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs has been working relentlessly to establish 'safe life and peaceful Bangladesh'. The government has put maximum importance to stabilize the public safety system to achieve sustainable development targets. In order to achieve this goal, the Public Security Division and its departments/agencies are working to ensure law and order, civil rights, preventing crime and smuggling in sea and border areas, providing necessary public services to combat various natural and man-made disasters and successful implementing of various programs including preventing burning activities, militancy and cybercrime. Considering the importance of the Public Security Division the budgetary allocation has increased logically in the last 10 years. It is essential to establish the rule of law along with the political and social stability for the country's economic and social development. After all, the Public Security Division has been adopting and implementing different strategies to protect the lives and properties of citizens by improving internal law and order situation with efficient use of its allocated budget.

1.2 The constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the basic foundation for identifying the national consciousness and development plan which also guarantees equal rights and of equal participation of both men and women in state and public life. At the same time, equal rights have been established having same treatment under laws of the country to all citizens irrespective of men or women through law enforcement. But due to some traditional customs there exists some obstacles in equal participation of women in social and state life, which is creating various social and economic disparities. In order to establish equal rights and free movement of women in social and state life, the Public Security Division is taking steps to establish law and order and combat terrorism and militancy, prevent various violence, especially crime against women.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Preparing and implementing policy related to administrative activities and formulating associated laws, rules and regulations related to public security;
- ❖ Managing strategic intelligence functions;

- ❖ Ensure sustainable development by establishing internal security through improving law and order situation;
- ❖ Maintaining border security and preventing smuggling activities;
- ❖ Collective action with international organizations to develop social awareness to curb terrorism and extremism;
- ❖ Procurement of the necessary weapons, equipment, supplies and arrangement of training for law enforcement personnel;
- ❖ Ensure proper prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity cases and provide protection to victims and witnesses of those cases;
- ❖ Maintaining relation to international organizations and foreign countries for preserving public security and signing contracts.

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

- 3.1 The main strategic plan of this division is to create a modern public safety system to ensure sustainable development and proper public safety. If safety of life and property could be ensured by maintaining internal security, peace and order, more employment will be created for women and their income will be increased. As a result, women will become more self-reliant and their role in society will increase.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry for Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 The public security division is determined to protect women's rights. Important steps have been taken from Public Security Division to prevent torture, harassment and eve-teasing. Section 509 of the Penal Code has been enclosed in the Mobile Court Act, 2009 in order to perform spot trial against women and children eve-teaser through a mobile court.
- 4.2 Beside male members, all the women members of the law enforcing agencies under the Public Security Division, namely- Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and Village Defense Force, have been brought under 100% rationing system and 30% risk allowance is being paid to the female members like other male member along with main wage. The rate of appointment of female member in these forces increases proportionately every year.
- 4.3 Number of female working in Bangladesh Police is 13,721 (police 13,177, non-police 544), which is 6.86% of the total manpower. A full-fledged female unit (11 Armed Police Battalion) was formed in Bangladesh Police. So far, 14 female units/contingents and 1,329 female members were sent to UN peacekeeping missions. In the light of the National Women Development Policy, 2011 women

police are being posted in all the police stations for making them female-friendly police stations. The activities required to stop child marriage and prevent sexual harassment in all educational institutions is continuing through mobile court management. In order to prevent sexual harassment, community police have been formed in all the police stations to increase public awareness about pornography law and necessary activities are being done every year through open house day and various crime prevention meetings. In the light of the Children Act, 2013 the children affairs desk has been set up in all the police stations. Police officers are providing necessary legal assistance to child victim. The training program is being provided to the police members regarding gender awareness and gender equality in all the training centers. Family Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 are being taught in all the training centers of the police. According to the directions of the High Court Division, the complaint management committee has been formed in all the units/districts to stop sexual harassment at work. A total of 71 women support centers have been set up at the office of the police super and in the headquarters of the metropolitan, and counseling is being provided through those centers. Sexual harassment has been reduced in different places of the country, including educational institutions due to the provision of immediate punishment by the mobile courts. The medical services are being provided to the victims of rampant women and child victims in all metropolitan areas and medical college hospitals. DNA testing of women and child victims of rape is being done in CID's DNA lab. Women Support and Investigation Division under Dhaka Metropolitan Police has been established to provide support and assistance to the child and women victims. Security and legal support is being provided to the victims for medical examination through the Women Support and Investigation Division with the help of female police officers. In addition to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Chittagong Metropolitan Police, Khulna Metropolitan Police, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, Sylhet Metropolitan Police, Barisal Metropolitan Police, a total number of 8 Victim Support Centers have been set up including Rangpur and Rangamati district headquarters. Such services are providing not only to the victim of human trafficking but also to every women and children. Apart from this, the other activities of this help center are as follows:

- ❖ Collect daily information about cases related to women, children and human trafficking, the rehabilitation of the rescued victims and the results of the investigation including the arrest of the accused.
- ❖ Collect, publish and preserve statistics of human trafficking. Carry out necessary administrative procedures with the NCB and the Public Security Division to visit the places of human trafficking spots, arrest the suspects, recover victims, and

to make necessary arrangements for foreign visit of the investigation committee members to bring back the victims of human trafficking from abroad.

- ❖ Take necessary steps to collect summons/warrants from the PP through court police inspector and present witnesses before the court for prompt and fair trial of the case.
- ❖ Investigate and coordinate human trafficking prevention according to the information available from the various ministries/NGOs or on the basis of paper-cutting/application. Provide necessary information of the concern investigator as well as joining workshop organized by various NGOs.
- ❖ Collect fortnightly/monthly reports from various units of police through CDMS and submit to the Public Security Division.

- 4.4 Like police force, special actions have been taken to empower women in Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defense Forces. Separate housing for female Ansar members has been arranged. Two female battalions of Ansar (number of women Ansar members is 808) have been established. Female captain has been appointed in Ansar Battalion.
- 4.5 As a result of strengthening the Border Guard Bangladesh, women and child trafficking activities in the border areas has significantly reduced in comparison to the earlier periods. In order to empower women, 438 female soldiers have already been appointed in BGB. There are female soldiers in 19 ICPP at the border area. Besides, they are employed as guard police and trainers. Female soldiers are also contributing in sports arena. In addition to BGB families, all kind of medical services are being provided to civilian women and children in Dhaka, Satkania, Khagrachari, Thakurgaon and Chuadanga hospital in indoor and outdoor units. Moreover, separate CWCs have been opened under these hospitals. There they are getting instant medical treatment.
- 4.6 Starting from the year 2012, Anti-Trafficking Mechanisms and Monitoring project has been completed successfully. This project was implemented by Public Security Division with the help of UNICEF to prevent exploitation, violence, trafficking and oppression of women, children and adolescents. This project is helping the taskforce cell which aims to prevent trafficking and rehabilitation (RRRI) of women and children between India and Bangladesh. It is to be noted that proposal has been received for the second phase and UNICEF has confirmed the funding of this project. Bangladesh's position was upgrade to Tier-II from Tier-III in the 2011 report published on human trafficking by the US State Department.

- 4.7 The Ministry of Home Affairs distributes funds from the National Acid Control Council through the Deputy Commissioners to the acid victims for the assistance and rehabilitation of women.
- 4.8 11 female officers are working in PSD out of total 41, which is 23 in percentage. Important programs have been taken regularly to maintain law and order and human rights. Female employees are playing an important role in directing and implementing these programs. Initiative has been taken from Public Security Division to ensure women leadership. In the meantime, female police superintendents and some female OCs in police stations have been appointed in some districts. Besides, female members are given priority in new appointments and training in the ministry. As a result, in the overall management and decision-making process of Public Security Division, female officers and employees are playing significant role along with male officers.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

| Serial No. | Priority spending Area/Programmes | Impact on women's advancement |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | Victim Support Center: 8 victim support center are currently running. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting social and family life of women; • Prevention of trafficking of women and children; • Prevention of violence against women; • Creating the foundation for women's economic prosperity; • Conduct legal assistance and investigation activities; • Victim rehabilitation |
| 2 | Help desk Setup: Help desk was established to take complaints of women and children separately in the police station. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate recording of women's complaint; • Provide treatment for victims. |
| 3 | Women/child protection and monitoring project: This is a project of the Public Security Division. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training to investigation officers on behavior towards women; • Training on taking interviews about women's complaint. |
| 4 | Call Center Establishment and Operation Monitoring: Emergency Call Center of emergency call number '999' was | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Along with the other information collected through the call center, information about child marriage, eve-teasing, women and child abuse, and violent behavior towards children is sent to the operational unit and immediate actions are |

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|------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | established at Metropolitan Police Crime and Command Center. Implementation of 333 service with the instructions of the A2i project of Honorable Prime Minister's Office | <p>taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police conduct operations according to the call center's guidance. If necessary, operations are conducted through mobile courts. |
| 5 | <p>Ensuring appropriate penalty through Speedy Trial Tribunal:</p> <p>Instructions have been given to transfer women and children's murder cases to the Speedy Trial Tribunal.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cases of brutal killings of women and children are transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal according to the 6th schedule of the Speedy Tribunal Act, 2002. |
| 6 | <p>Social Media Surveillance:</p> <p>A unit under the Cyber Crime Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with other crimes, women and child pornography, violent incidents and related information were provided for crime prevention and prosecution. Social media monitoring |
| 7 | <p>Establishment of Border Digital Surveillance System:</p> <p>Establishment of barbed wire and digital surveillance system to prevent trafficking of women and children.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of Border Out Posts (BOP) and Border Sentry Post (BSP); Immediate actions are taken through regular monitoring in remote areas by barbed wire and digital surveillance system to prevent women and children trafficking. |

6.0 Women's Share in Division's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

| Description | Budget 2019-20 | | | Revised 2018-19 | | | Budget 2018-19 | | | Actual 2017-18 | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| | Budget | Women Share | | Revised | Women Share | | Budget | Women Share | | Actual | Women Share | |
| | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent |
| Total Budget | 523190 | 161247 | 30.82 | 442541 | 136036 | 30.74 | 464573 | 136938 | 29.48 | 321861 | 88441 | 27.48 |
| Division's Budget | 21923 | 1446 | 6.6 | 22101 | 1458 | 6.6 | 21426 | 1452 | 6.78 | 18051 | 1253 | 6.94 |
| Development | 2166 | 442 | 20.4 | 1578 | 432 | 27.38 | 1258 | 344 | 27.33 | 1026 | 305 | 29.69 |
| Operating | 19757 | 1004 | 5.08 | 20523 | 1026 | 5 | 20169 | 1108 | 5.5 | 17025 | 948 | 5.57 |

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

7.1 Separate wash rooms for female employees have been constructed in Public Security Division. Separate prayer rooms also have been arranged for them so that they can pray with comfort. Furthermore, initiatives have taken to ensure separate food court for them. In order to establish women's rights and to provide better

services to women, direct service is provided to the women in 8 Victim Support Centers established in different district towns. Bangladesh Police Women Network (BPWN) has been constituted to take care of welfare activities for the welfare of women in Bangladesh Police.

- 7.2 In order to engage the female members of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defense Forces in income generating activities, 81774 female members received stitching and fashion design training, VDP basic training, Ansar basic training, basic computer training, union/ward leader primary training and TDP basic training in the FY 2018-19.
- 7.3 To prevent and deter human trafficking, the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNICEF Bangladesh jointly have been providing services to human trafficking victims, especially women and children victims and risk groups as part of their anti-trafficking mechanism and monitoring program. Since women are important stakeholder in this project, prevention of trafficking activities can be considered as one of the unique steps for women's advancement. In addition, women trafficking could be considered as a result of gender based violence in some cases.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

Public Security Division has been working evidently to make the country's economic changes visible by facilitating women's social, family and economic prosperity by taking the following future activities. Those are:

- ❖ Appointing female officers in the important post of law enforcing agencies on the basis of merit
- ❖ Establish food court for women at office premises
- ❖ Establish victim support center at every police station
- ❖ Introduce 999 call service for quicker response to women complaints
- ❖ Establish OCC center at every hospital to continue medical service to the victims of rape and child abuse
- ❖ Continue counseling service to the victims through 08 victim support centers
- ❖ Establish women help desk in the police station under “Protection and Enforcement of Women Rights (PEWR)” project run by UNFPA.