

Chapter-26

Security Services Division

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 An stable political situation and better Security system is an essential condition for economic growth and development of a democratic country. In the era of free economy market it is essential for security of the country and to ensure standard services in all aspects to get expected economic growth by competing with developed countries. Security Services Division (SSD) has been formed with the vision of creating a safe habitable human environment by ensuring security and services throughout the country. ‘Develop Public safety and standard of living in every citizen of Bangladesh by delivering quality services’- is the mission statement of Security services division. Ensuring security and rehabilitation of prisoners, combating drug trading and rescuing operation during disaster and issuance of MRP & MRV at home and abroad are the major goals of the agencies of SSD. The SSD has adopted several strategies to ensure the overall safety and security of the country. According to the Constitution of Bangladesh Security Services Division is doing their job to ensure standardized services for citizens of all levels. To ensure security & services and its effective implementation, the SSD initiates different policies, programmes and projects aligning with the Seventh Five Year Plan and the Perspective Plan of the government. All the directorates under SSD perform different tasks to achieve the goals of this Division.
- 1.2 One of the most prevalent human rights abuses, which has enormous impact in all aspects of women’s lives, violence at home and outside. Multipronged actions are essential to curb violence against women (VAW) including motivation of family, enhancing community support, enforcement of legal provisions, ensuring securities, improving women’s human capabilities, access to low cost prosecution services and economic self-reliance of women. The ongoing initiatives of government under the multi-sectoral Programmes and institutional mechanisms are being expanded in more areas. It is necessary to take women’s safety into account and promote various supports and services. The gender vision of the 7th Five Year Plan is that of establishing “a country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development”. The mission is to ensure women’s advancement as self-reliant human beings and reduce discriminatory barriers by taking both developmental and institutional measures. Gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda for the 7th FYP is based on pursuing strategies and actions

that not only enhance women's capabilities and accesses to resources and opportunities but also address the control over resources, decision making, reducing the barriers in structures and institutions and aim at changing social norms protecting their rights and ensuring securities. At the Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September, 2015, UN Member States have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Within the 17 goals, goal - 11 i.e. make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and goal - 16 i.e. promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels - are pertaining to security services of the country. As a member country of UN Bangladesh has undertaken initiatives to follow the SDGs' goals where goal 11 and goal 16 are associated with action of security services under SSD which are also interconnected to justice, security, and safety issues of gender. The Constitution, which is the key document by which it gives direction to national consciousness and to national development planning, encourages the equal participation of both men and women in every aspect of national life. Moreover, women and men are equal in the eyes of law and everybody has an equal right to get quality services. But women face many obstacles both socially and nationally to participate equally with men due to cultural norms wherein the male dominating social and economic discrimination against women. In order to improve better services, Security Services Division is working for ensuring public safety and security of lives and assets. To fulfill this target Security Services Division and its subordinate directorate are continuously doing their job.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ To formulate and implement security services related laws, rules and policies;
- ❖ Carry out activities related to jail management and narcotics control;
- ❖ Deal with issues related to passport and visa, nationalization;
- ❖ Manage the affairs arising from the operation of Fire Service and Civil Defense;
- ❖ Provide assistance to rescue operation during natural and social disaster;
- ❖ Maintain liaison with international organizations and countries and enter into agreements.

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

- 3.1 Stop smuggling of drug and protection of country's economic and commercial interest:** It is a common phenomenon of our country that women and children are used for drug smuggling. The status of women in the society will be enhanced if smuggling of drug can be stopped.
- 3.2 Protect society from the curse of drugs:** Families especially women will be protected from the influence of drug-induced poverty and crimes if the number of drug addicts decreases.
- 3.3 Easing lawful movement of people in and out of the country:** With the introduction of a modern system of passport issuance, the accessibility of Bangladesh passports worldwide will be enhanced and that will ease visits of women workers to foreign countries. As a result, women's employment abroad will be expanded and this will enhance their social dignity and financial capabilities.
- 3.4 Safe custody and rehabilitation of prisoners:** Separate prisons for women have been constructed by reforming and modernizing the Jail Code. In the jail lives women are involved in various types of jobs in order to make them self-reliant. Through education and training they will become aware of their rights which will play a positive role for women's advancement.
- 3.5 Conduct disaster and post disaster rescue operations:** To ensure medical facilities and to transfer women and children in safety places by developing quality services during and post disaster period. Besides, women awareness can be increased in fire-fighting programmes. By increasing service efficiency, poverty and risk of disaster will be reduced.

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

- 4.1** The Government is bound to protect women rights. Security Services Division is committed to provide efficient services to all citizens. All directorates of this Division is working in line with this.
- 4.2** The female members of the Directorate of Fire Service and Civil Defense and the Directorate of Prison under SSD have been allocated 100 percent ration allowance and granted 30 percent risk allowance same as their male colleagues. The inclusion of female members in these agencies is proportionately increasing every year.
- 4.3** A total number of 108 women employees are working in the directorate of Fire Services and Civil defense. For the benefit of women employees a `Women Welfare

Somity' has been formulated. To make women self-reliant loans are provided for initiating small businesses from this 'Somity'.

- 4.4 A women's prison has been set up at Kashimpur in Gazipur district. 6 Jail Superintendents and 12 women Deputy Jailors have been posted in the directorate. One women prison unit has been formed and 477 women prison guards have been deputed to different prisons across the country. Various vocational trainings have been conducted for rehabilitation of women prisoners. A project amounting to Tk. 108 crore is implementing at Keraniganj in Dhaka to build a women's prison with a capacity of 300 persons. Besides, there are 6 more similar projects in the pipeline.
- 4.5 The women prisoner guard accommodation project is going on in full swing. Total cost of the project is 96 crore taka. Besides, another women prison unit with 200 accommodation is under construction in Dhaka Central Jail of Keraniganj campus.
- 4.6 After completing the "Establishment of DNC offices in the divisional cities (Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barishal and Sylhet) project" the number of drug addicts will be reduced and families especially women will be saved from the curse of drug abuse related offences.
- 4.7 Passport and Immigration Directorate has been implementing "Introduction of Machine Readable passport (MRP) and Machine Readable Visa (MRV) in Bangladesh" which has improved the accessibility of Bangladeshi passport abroad. Women workers will be benefited by being able to move easily to other countries. This will improve job opportunities of women as well as their social status and financial abilities. Besides, there are separate counter for women to deposit application and to take passport in all divisional/zonal passport offices. As a result the rate of passport distribution is increasing with a higher pace. Furthermore, separate rooms are available for breast feeding of kids.
- 4.8 In FY 2014-15, SSD allocated BDT 29.50 lac for providing support and rehabilitation of acid victims. Deputy Commissioners (DCs), (President, District Acid Control Council) distributed the money to the victims.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority spending Area/Programmes	Impact on women's advancement (Direct and Indirect)
1	2	3
1.	<p>Establishment of a fire service station in every upazilla</p> <p>Establishment of fire service station in every Upazilla will reduce the loss of life and property. This</p>	Develop quality services and efficiency

Serial No.	Priority spending Area/Programmes	Impact on women's advancement (Direct and Indirect)
1	2	3
	program therefore, has been given first priority.	
2.	Control smuggling, production and use of narcotics It is common in our country that women and children are used for drug smuggling. To Control smuggling, controlling production and use of narcotics have been given the second priority.	Protect society from the curse of drugs
3.	Introduction of passport and visa system accessibility around the world Considering the importance of a easy passport and visa system, simplification of passport issuance and development of the immigration system have been given the third priority.	Easing lawful movement of people in home and abroad
4.	Modernization of prison management system In order to build prisons as a correction centers, and as an alternative to punishment, modernization of the prison system has been included in the priority list.	Safe custody and rehabilitation of prisoners

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2017-18			Revised 2016-17			Budget 2016-17		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	400266	112019	27.99	317174	86586	27.3	340605	92781	27.24
Ministry Budget	2883	422	14.65	2250	229	10.2	0	0	0
Development	994	368	37.03	688	192	27.96	0	0	0
Non-Development	1889	54	2.86	1562	37	2.37	0	0	0

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

7.1 In the SSD 22 percent of total employees are women which includes one Joint Secretary, four Deputy Secretaries and one Senior Assistant Secretary. The Division constantly takes initiatives to provide developed services. In these initiatives women are playing an important role in decision making and implementation processes. SSD has taken the lead on the issue of women's leadership. In the meantime, 6 women Jail Superintendent and 12 women Deputy Jailors have been posted for the first time in the country. Moreover, women members of this Division are getting priority in the

training programmes and more women are being recruited under new recruitment programmes. As a result, in overall management and decision making process of SSD women officers and staffs are playing a vital role.

- 7.2 To build up digital Bangladesh women employee are participating in all IT related training programmes arranged by the Division. In addition, some women officials have been posted at the Passport and Visa Wing in Bangladesh foreign mission abroad.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ While both men and women prisoners use the same prison van, women prisoners often face attitudinal problems from male prisoners. Hence, there should be separate vans for women prisoners when they are being transferred to jails or to courts.
- ❖ Female prisoners should receive training on income generating skills so that once they are freed from the jail, they can be established themselves in society according to their skills.
- ❖ To ensure women-friendly environment, separate and quality will be established in all its offices.
- ❖ Day care centres will be introduced in the Division and all subordinate offices.
- ❖ All service delivery agencies including passport offices will establish minimum one complaint center from where women sufferer will get priority to get better services.
- ❖ One separate drug treatment centre will be established for drug addicted women and vocational or technical training will be provided to rehabilitate them.
- ❖ One day care center will be set-up in Dhaka for women officials of Narcotics Control Department.