

Chapter-25

Public Security Division

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Establishing rule of law along with political and social stability is a precondition for economic growth of a country. In order to establish it, law and order situation should be well maintained. Public Security Division undertakes different policies, strategies and actions with a view to ensuring security of lives and assets of citizens at all levels. According to the Constitution of the country all citizens are equal in the eye of law and citizens are entitled to lawful rights. The Public Security Division is committed to provide these constitutional rights to all citizens of the country by establishing strong and responsive law enforcing agencies.
- 1.2 The Constitution of Bangladesh is the main guiding principle of all national plans and development issues of the country that ensures equal rights and equal participation for men and women in every sphere of national life. Side by side, the Constitution also confirms that all citizens irrespective of men and women are equal before law and are entitled to get equal protection on the basis of law. Despite these legal safeguards, due to patriarchal beliefs and perceptions women face huge challenges in participating equally in the society as well as in the state. Consequently, women experience various social and economic disparities in their daily lives. With this end the government of Bangladesh is committed to ensure equal opportunities and social securities for women through improving law and order situation of the country. In order to address these issues, the Public Security Division is mandated to take necessary initiatives to maintain law and order, combat terrorism and militancy, and prevent violence against women across the country.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Ensure internal security through anti-terrorism operations, strengthening intelligence activities and development of law and order situation;
- ❖ Formulate and implement security related laws, rules and policies;
- ❖ Activities related to border protection and smuggling prevention;
- ❖ Create mass awareness to control terrorism and militancy and concerted/coordinated activities with international organizations.
- ❖ Ensure security of victim and witnesses of the cases prosecuted against the persons involve in war crimes and inhuman activities.

- ❖ Maintain liaison and sign agreements with international organizations and foreign nations.

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

- 3.1 Women will come forward when their lives and assets are secured enough through well maintained internal security and law and order situation. Thus, women's self-confidence will increase and their role to the society will be enhanced.

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

- 4.1 The government of Bangladesh is highly committed to preserve the rights of women. In line with this, the Public Security Division is responding accordingly. Steps are being taken to combat violence, harassment and eve-teasing by different departments of the Public Security Division. In order to prevent eve-teasing, law enforcing agencies have been kept alert. Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendent of Police (SPs) are instructed to take urgent measures and strengthen their monitoring role in this regard. Besides, to bring eve-teasers to trial by Section 509 of the Penal Code has been incorporated under the Mobile Court Act-2009.
- 4.2 Female members of the law enforcing agencies like Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, and Ansar and Village Defence are drawing 100% monthly rations same as their male colleagues. In addition, female members are granted 30 percent risk allowance like male members of these forces. The inclusion of female members in these agencies is proportionately increasing every year.
- 4.3 Bangladesh Police has 11,261 female members (police- 10,855 and non-police- 406) which is 5.47% of its total employee. One female police unit titled 11 Armed Police Battalion has been formed. Two female FPU's (Formed Police Units) are working in Haiti and Congo as a part of UN Peacekeeping Mission. Till today 1046 female police members have joined in the UN Peacekeeping Mission through 12 female contingents by which a total of BDT 469 crore has been reimbursed as foreign currency. In order to make the police stations more women-friendly female police are being employed in every police station as per Women Development Policy 2011. Mobile courts are conducted frequently in order to stop child marriage and also to stop eve-teasing in the educational institutions. All members of Bangladesh police are receiving training on gender awareness and gender equality in all police training institutes. A total of 71 Women Support Centres established in Superintendent of Police (SP) office and Metropolitan Police offices are involved with providing counseling and legal aid to the victims. Under an UNFPA-funded project, Protection and Enforcement of Women Rights (PEWR) Project, Women Help Desk has been set-

up in 15 thanas on a pilot basis. One Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) are established in all public medical college hospitals from where rape victims get medical supports. One separate police division named Police Women Support and Investigation Division has been formed under Dhaka Metropolitan Police in order to provide safety, security and legal support to the female victims. 08 (Eight) Victim Support Centres have been established in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur and Rangamati district. In 2016 these victim support centres have provided assistance to 1250 victims. Among them 402 has been rehabilitated. In FY 2016-17 Bangladesh Police has spent BDT 691 crore for its female members which is 6.35 percent of total allocation.

- 4.4 Bangladesh Ansar and VDP has initiated a list of special activities for women empowerment. Two female battalions comprising of 808 female Ansar members have been formed. Besides, a total number of 672 female members of Ansar and VDP have been posted to district level offices. Furthermore, women members of this force are working as Commander in some battalions.
- 4.5 Women and children trafficking have reduced substantially because of anti-trafficking drives taken by Border Guard Bangladesh. Appointment of 283 female soldiers has already been completed. On the other hand, appointment of 50 female members is under process. More importantly, Border Guard Hospitals located at Dhaka, Shatkhira, Khagratori, Thakorgaon and Chuadanga are providing medical facilities to both BGB and non-BGB women and kids.
- 4.6 Anti Trafficking mechanism project has been successfully completed for social security of women & children and teenagers prevention Exploitation, Trafficking and torture. This project has been working from 2012. This project has been helping for prevention smuggling rescue, Repatriation and rehabilitation of women and children of Bangladesh and India both. This is important to mention this project's second proposal has approved and UNICEF already agreed to finance to this project. Country report of 2010, 2011 & 2012 about human trafficking already published. About human trafficking report 2011 of U.S. state department change stage-TR-3 TO TR 2 of Bangladesh.
- 4.7 Public security division distributed 8,80,000 taka by many district commissioners in the financial year 2013-2014. National acid control council (chairman D.C) distributed this allotted money.
- 4.8 There is 23% female employee of total employee in public security division within them additional secretary-1, Joint secretary-1, deputy secretary-4 and senior assistant secretary-2 are existing. Everyday ministry has taking important activities for law and order and human rights. Female employees take important role and

action to implement these activities. Public security division has taken initiative for promote women leadership. Recently female police super and O.C. posted in the some districts and thana. Ministry giving priority to women in new recruitment and training so in the pubic security divisions female officers and staffs has playing important role besides male officer and staffs.

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.	Enhancing the efficiency and capability of Bangladesh Police, BGB, Ansar and VDP, and Bangladesh Coast Guard Enhancing the efficiency and capability of Bangladesh Police, BGB, Ansar & VDP, and Bangladesh Coast Guard have been given the highest priority with a view to maintaining internal law and order and ensuring security of life and property.	Maintain internal security and law and order
2.	Restructuring of Border Guard Bangladesh In order to strengthen the protection of border, control of smuggling and prevention of human and narcotics trafficking, restructuring of the Border Guard Bangladesh has been considered as the second priority area.	Border security and protection of the country's economic and commercial interest

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2018-19			Revised 2017-18			Budget 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	464574	136938	29.48	371495	86169	23.2	400266	112019	27.99
Ministry Budget	21426	1517	7.08	19397	1716	8.85	18288	1432	7.83
Development	1258	345	27.42	1072	513	47.81	1045	278	26.60
Non-Development	20169	1172	5.81	18325	1204	6.57	17243	1154	6.69

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

7.1 Last three years a total number of 2561 women have received direct service from seven victim support centers. Besides, 1988 women have got legal and other supports while 918 have been rehabilitated. To undertake welfare activities among the female Police members, Bangladesh Police Women's Network (BPWN) has been formed.

- 7.2 In FY 2016-17 Bangladesh Ansar and VDP has provided fundamental training to 58,271 of its female members with a view to generating their income level.
- 7.3 Combating women trafficking under a joint initiatives of Public Security Division and the UNICEF titled 'Anti-trafficking Mechanism and Monitoring' is a notable success to mention. A good number of preventive measures have been taken to address women trafficking and their rehabilitation. Last three years, BDT 1.96 crore had been allocated to this purpose. Under this project 1258 women trafficking victims have been rescued.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Female members of the law enforcing agencies will be placed to important positions on the basis of their competencies.
- ❖ Necessary steps would be taken to create women-friendly environment in different departments of the Division.
- ❖ Food courts operated by female members will be introduced considering the benefits of its female members.
- ❖ Sufficient day-care centers will be in place in all offices of the Division.