

One More Year  
in Journey  
**Towards**  
**Digital**  
**Bangladesh**  
2014

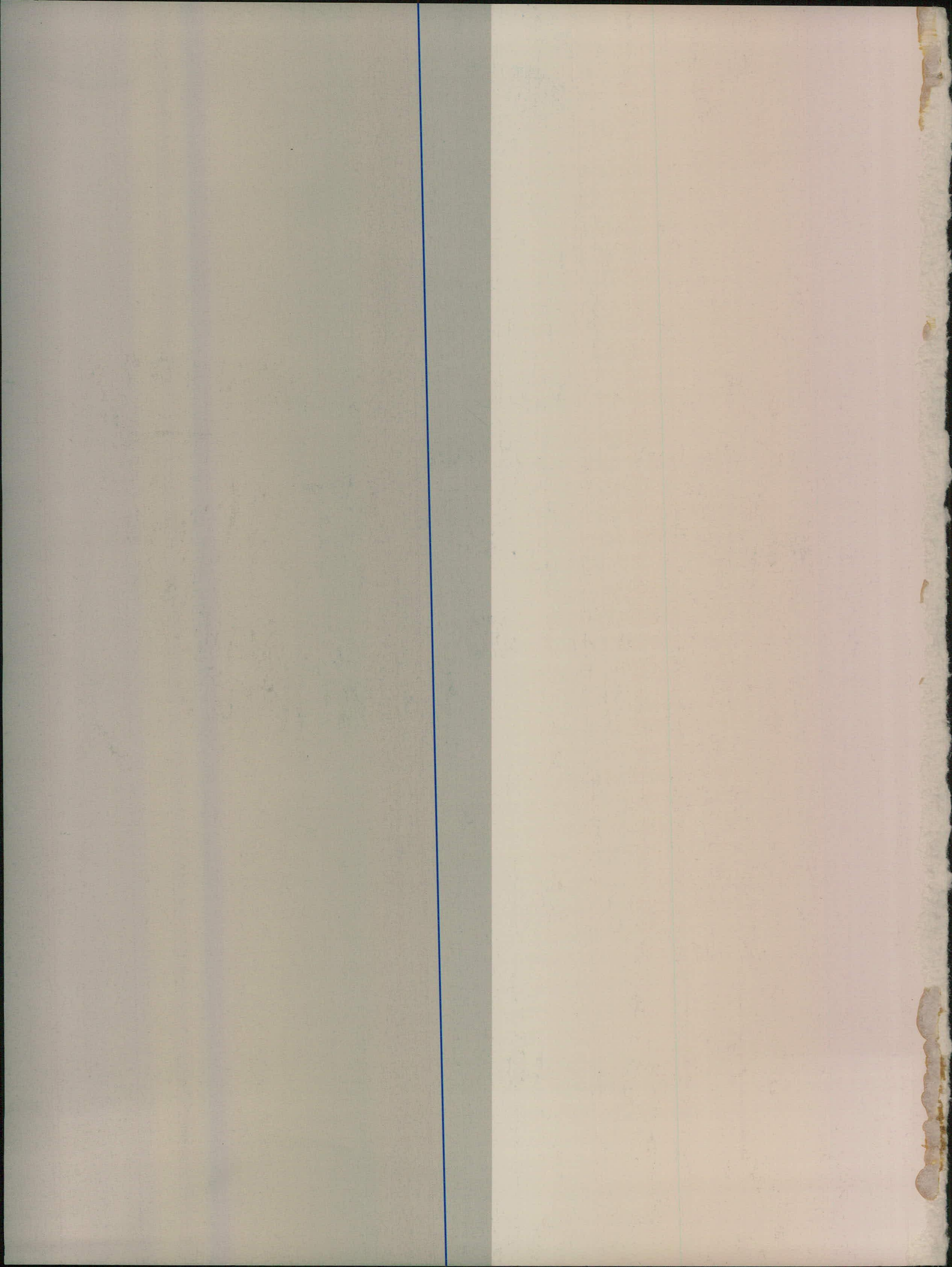


Published in January 2015

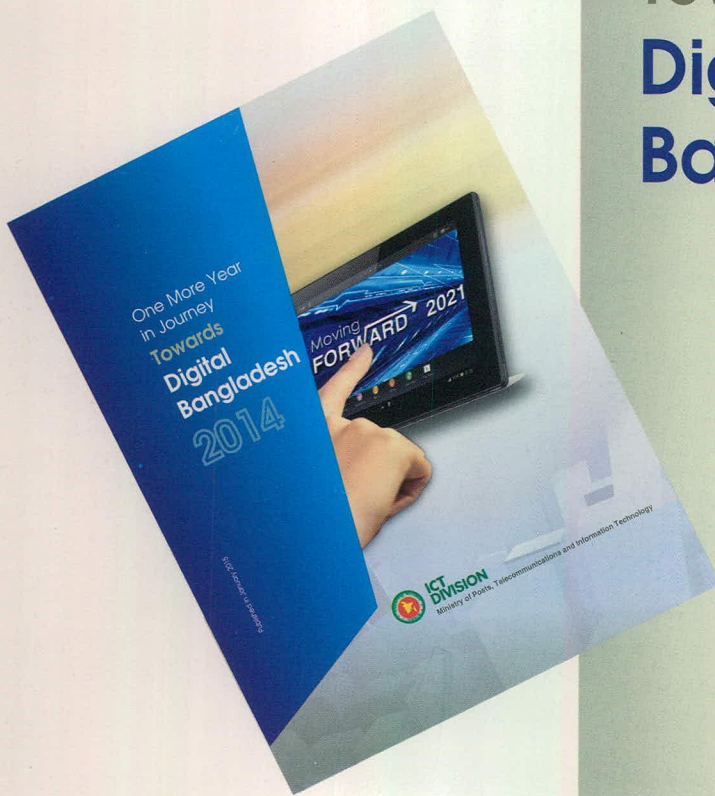


**ICT**  
**DIVISION**

Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology  
[www.ictd.gov.bd](http://www.ictd.gov.bd)



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***“The Digital Bangladesh will be free from digital divide and for all the citizens irrespective of the rich and the poor or the educated and the illiterate”***

*- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina*

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for pictures at a digital photo booth on 4 June 2014 at the Digital World 2014 jointly organized by BCC of ICT Division & BASIS

## Bangladesh: A Shining Example of Moving Forward in ICT

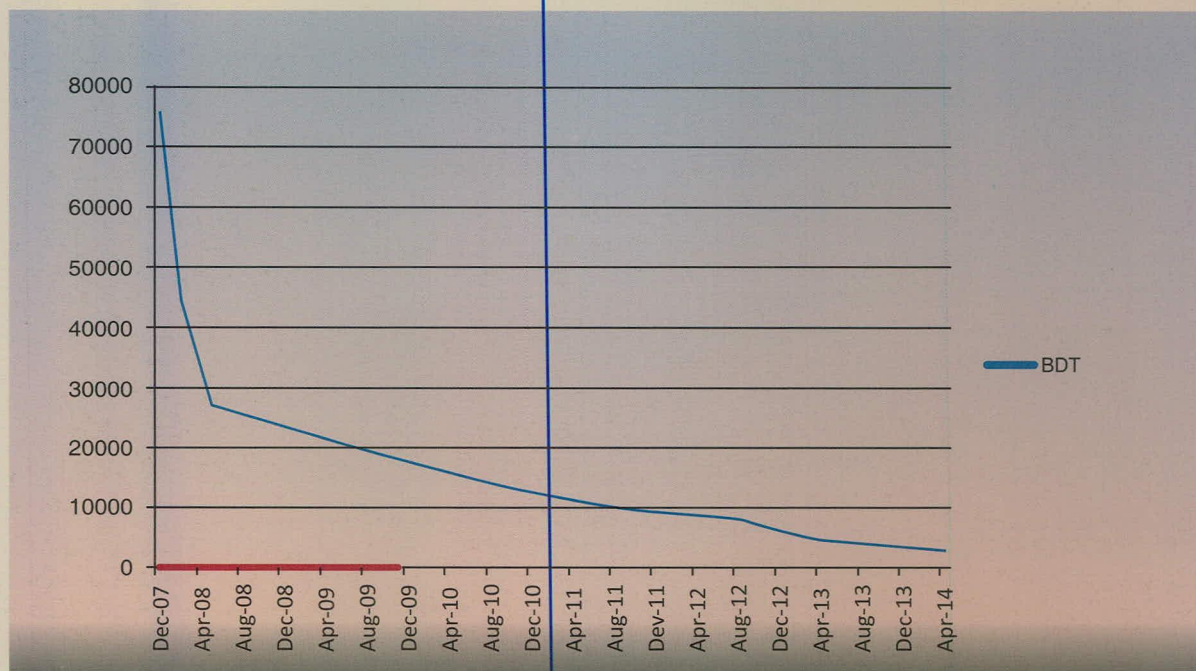
Bangladesh with a population of 160 million has sustained a good track record of growth over six percent over the last six years. The country has made remarkable progress on many aspects including the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since Bangladesh started the journey towards implementation of Digital Bangladesh in 2009. The ultimate goal is to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021.

In line with its plan to build Digital Bangladesh as charted out in the Vision 2021, the government put thrust on the use of ICT for improving productivity, governance and service delivery and on the development of IT industry. It created the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoPTIT) to carry forward its plan in a coordinated way to ensure at least 2 percent contribution of ICT to economic growth by 2017.

The present government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took oath on 12 January 2014 and Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the youngest member of parliament of Bangladesh, was given the responsibility of State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Mr. Palak gathered experience in ICT when he was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Information and Communication Technology during January 2009-January 2014. After assuming office he steered the ICT Division and tried relentlessly to boost the country's ICT sector at the advice of reputed IT expert and Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Hon'ble Sajeeb Wazed Joy and enabled people to get benefit from the opportunities created by the application of state-of-the-art technologies.

The government took a number of steps for increasing the use of ICT ensuring its contribution to the economy. The price of 1 Mbps bandwidth has been drastically reduced to Taka 2,800 in 2014. It was Taka 76,000 in 2007. The coverage of third generation (3G) mobile broadband service reach to 64 district towns by 2014. The number of mobile phone users increased to over 118 million while that of internet users rose to 42 million.

### Bandwidth Price trends in Bangladesh (Mbps per Month)



With the advancement of digitization, Bangladesh has been moving through the transformational process. The establishment of 4,547 Union Digital Centers (UDCs), 321 Poursabha Digital Centers and 401 Ward Digital Centers under City Corporations have transformed some important public services into online services. Launching of national webportal containing 25,000 websites of government bodies in various tiers on 23rd June 2014 is another step toward ensuring the rights to information of the public. 'Sebakunja', another info service portal, has also been launched on 21 September 2014 with an aim to provide all government information from a single platform.

Bangladesh's ICT export showed upward trend in 2014. The software export may increase to over 250 million US dollars in the fiscal year 2014-15 against the previous year's export of 100 million US dollars. Over 7 million youths have registered with different international online marketplaces like elance-oDesk. The earning from outsourcing may reach to over 50 million US dollars in 2014.

### **International accolades for Advancing ICT**

The ICT sector has developed considerably over the past few years. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has said Bangladesh was a shining example of Digital Technology used for delivering financial services to the poor. The country received prestigious awards for its outstanding contribution to ICT during the last six years. Since the present government took over on 12 January 2014 Bangladesh's ICT sector has seen some significant developments in the ICT sector. It has earned international recognition for using ICT to improve socio-economic condition and livelihood of people. The prestigious awards conferred by internationally reputed organizations recognizing Bangladesh's contribution to ICT have enhanced the image of the country in the international arena and sent a positive message to the investors to invest in Bangladesh.



*Great Honor by Any Account: Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received prestigious South South Award of the UN on 20 September 2011 in New York for her outstanding contribution to reduce maternal and children's death using ICT.*

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***“ We have been working to glorify Bangladesh in the international arena and will continue to do so ”***

*-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while receiving the UN South South Award at Hotel Waldorf Astoria in New York on 20 September 2011.*

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The PM was again nominated by the UN for award for advancing digital system and expansion of education. Her son and Adviser to the Prime Minister on ICT Affairs Mr. Sajeeb Wazed Joy received South South Cooperation Visionary Award 2014 of the United Nations on 21 November 2014 in the US Capital Washington on her behalf.

## South South Cooperation Visionary Award 2014

On behalf of the Prime Minister, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Mr. Sajeeb Wazed Joy received South South Cooperation Visionary Award 2014 of the United Nations on 21 November 2014. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was nominated for the "South South Cooperation Visionary Award" for her role in advancing Bangladesh towards digital system and expansion of education.

Mr. Joy received the award from special envoy of the UN Secretary General Ei Ping Jhu on the concluding day of the five-day "Global South South Development Expo-2014" held in Washington DC. He received the award on the concluding day of the five-day "Global South South Development Expo-2014" held in Washington DC.

At the award-receiving function, Joy presented a written speech of the prime minister.

"The award is the recognition of Bangladesh's Development led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration. It has been possible for ensuring maximum uses of the limited resources," said Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy in his immediate reactions after receiving the 'South-South Cooperation Visionary Award' of the Nations (UN).

***"The award is the recognition of Bangladesh's Development led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration. It has been possible for ensuring maximum uses of the limited resources"***

*-said Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy in his immediate reactions after receiving the 'South-South Cooperation Visionary Award' of the United Nations (UN).*



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak received 'World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2014 Prize' at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva on 10 June 2014.

**“WSIS award is a tribute to the dream of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for digital Bangladesh through her epoch making 'Vision 2021' and outstanding achievements within a short span of five years and bringing fundamental changes in providing services to citizen's doorstep towards the pursuit of good governance.”**

## World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2014 Prize

Zunaid Ahmed Palak received the 'World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) 2014 Prize' at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva on 10 June 2014. The award was given to Access to Information (A2I) Programme in recognition of its role in improving people's lives through the use of ICT. It (award) was in the category of service at people's doorstep. The award is being considered as recognition to the development that took place with the implementation of various digital initiatives.

## Global ICT Excellence Award 2014

Bangladesh was awarded 'Global ICT Excellence Award 2014' for its outstanding contribution in social development of the nation by using ICT. The expert committee of WITSA, comprising of 80 nations, nominated Bangladesh in this category. Zunaid Ahmed Palak received the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) 'Global ICT Excellence Award 2014' in public sector excellence category on 31 September 2014 at a function held in Mexico. After receiving the award, in reaction, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said that 'with the active guidance of the Prime Minister we are able to make a huge leap toward a true digital Bangladesh'.

**“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who motivated us to introduce Bangladesh as modern and independent nations showing the dream of digital Bangladesh, the award will take her such motivational attitude more forward”**

**-State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said after receiving the WITSA award, in reaction.**



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak received 'Global Excellence Award 2014' at a function held in Mexico.

## Bangladesh Retains ITU Membership

Bangladesh retains its executive membership of the international Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the elections held in Bhusan, South Korea on 27 October 2014. It secured seventh position due to tireless effort of the Bangladesh delegation led by State Minister for ICT Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak. Bangladesh got a total of 115 votes in the poll.

The number of ITU member states is 193 and of them, 167 voted for electing a 48-member council for the next four years.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak along with his team members showing victory sign after winning the elections for becoming ITU executive council member for the next four years.

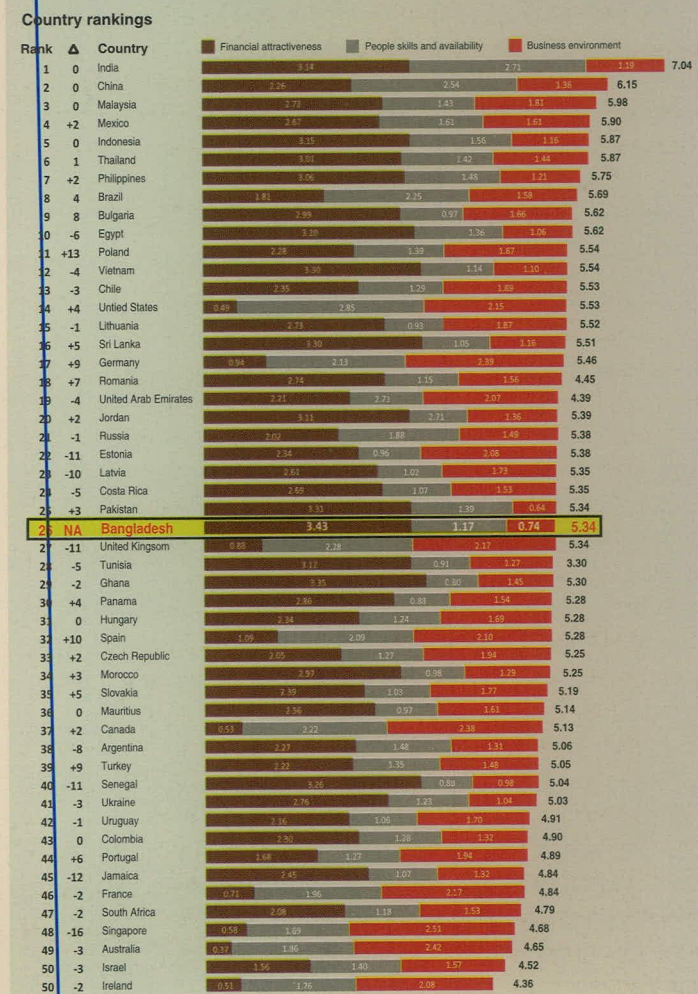
## Bangladesh ranks better position in outsourcing

Various reputed international consulting firms and online marketplaces recognized Bangladesh as the best outsourcing destination in 2014. AT Kearney, the US based management consultancy firm with offices in 40 countries, for the first time ranked Bangladesh 26th best destination for IT outsourcing globally in its Top 50 Global Services Location Index (GSL). Bangladesh secured first position in terms of financial attractiveness.

## Bangladesh emerging IT Outsourcing Destination: KPMG

The Amsterdam based KPMG, a leading global auditing and business advisory group has listed Bangladesh as one of the emerging Asian destinations for sourcing software, information technology-enabled services and business outsourcing. In a survey report, it is placed with Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam along with India on the list of emerging Asian IT services suppliers. The survey report 'Asia Oceanic Vision 2020: Enabling IT Leadership through Collaboration' was released in February 2010. In elance-oDesk, one of the largest marketplace, Bangladesh was ranked 7th for outsourcing job in its top ten list of countries globally.

### Bangladesh ranked 26 th at AT Keraney's 2014 Global Services Location Index



## Activities of ICT Division

The ICT Division is playing the role of a facilitator to flourish the country's ICT sector. It took a number of projects and significant actions in line with the government's Digital Bangladesh vision aiming to leverage ICT sector for the country's next stage of growth and development, and support Bangladesh to achieve the middle-income country status by 2021. The ICT Division launched the projects and programmes with the targets for developing of human resources, building ICT infrastructure and expanding connectivity, introducing digital signature and cyber security programme, conducting ICT based research and development, enacting rules, laws and guidelines to meet the needs of the hour.

## Human Resource Development Projects & Programmes

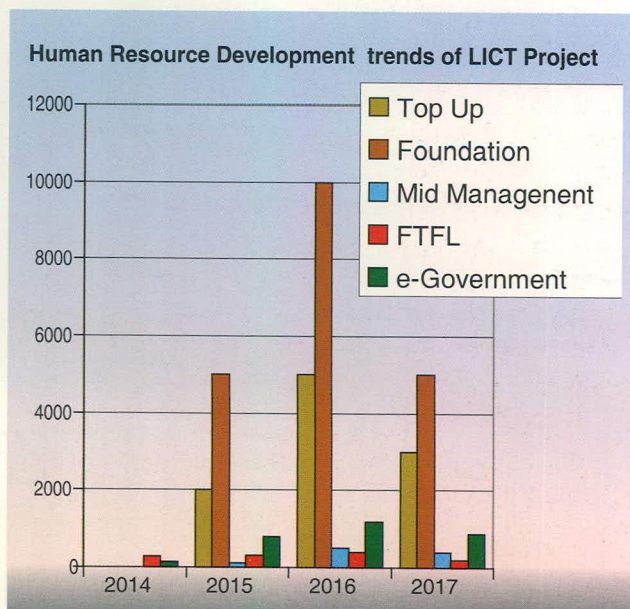
As per Vision 2021, the government started the journey towards building Digital Bangladesh in January 2009 aims at taking the country to a higher trajectory of growth and achieve the status of a middle-income country by 2021. To achieve the target, it attaches priority to achieving the desired growth at a faster pace by investing in ICT sector. The government has already undertaken a number of significant initiatives and actions as part of implementing the Digital Bangladesh programme. It put emphasis on creating human resources development to meet the skilled manpower demand. Taking the skill gap of human resources into consideration the government incorporated training component in some projects and programmes to develop skilled manpower. The Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance (LICT) Project, Learning and Earning Project and Mobile Application Development Programmes have been designed to create human resources for the IT sector.

## Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance (LICT) Project

BCC under ICT Division launched LICT Project in February 2013 to flourish the country's IT and ITES industry. The objective of the project is to catalyze the growth of Bangladesh's IT/ITES industry for employment creation, export diversification and establish e-Government foundations.

Bangladesh's IT industry is needed to (1) improve the skills and employability of the country's large educated workforce; and (2) put in place the institutional mechanisms to enable industry development, and present the country's comparative advantage to build global linkages. The LICT project has embarked on following tasks:

- ◆ Developing 34,000 IT/IT Enabled Services (ITES) human resources to meet the skill gap of IT/ITES sector and promoting ICT sector;
- ◆ Providing training for 3,000 government officials to establish e-Government foundations and addressing cyber security threat;
- ◆ Expanding National Data Center and establishing Disaster Recovery Center;
- ◆ Establishing enterprise architecture, and information security governance and form cyber security response team;
- ◆ Introducing cloud computing for e-Governance;



## Developing 34,000 IT professionals

Bangladesh possesses significant comparative advantage due to availability of a large English educated talent pool. In addition, the IT/ITES industry has been found to possess particular strengths in niche sub-segments such as software programming, graphics and animation and data entry services. Taking these into consideration the LICT project took initiative to provide three types of specialized and quality training to create 34,000 IT professionals for the IT industry. It has developed various skills sets based on the needs of the industry-including technical, soft and middle management skills. In addition, the LICT is ensuring quality skills through assessment and certifications mechanism.

LICT project has already launched Fast Track Future Leader (FTFL) Training Programme for graduate youths to create 4,000 future IT leaders based on the needs of the IT/ITES industry. Steps have been taken to provide Top-Up Training for 10,000 IT/Science graduates and Foundation Training for 20,000 youths through global partners is underway.

## Creating Future IT leaders

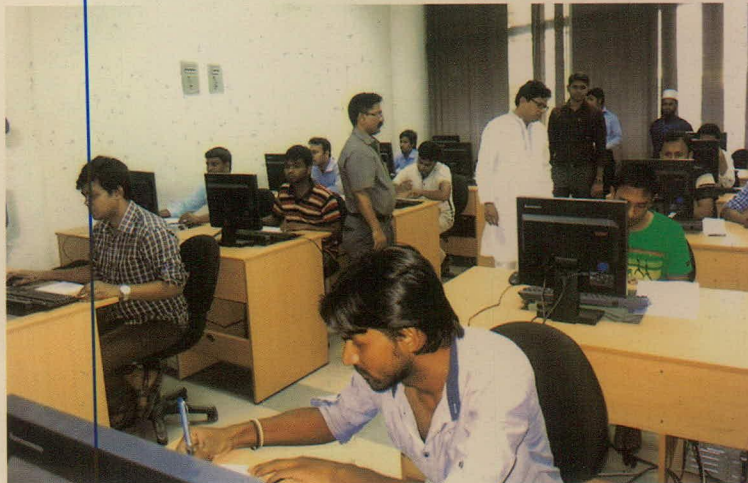
This is a story of advancement by any count. It is a story of becoming future IT leader and building confidence and resilience for developing as entrepreneur. It is a story of a quality training that showed light for the youngsters to move forward. The training has also ushered in prospect of IT ethos beckons and created employment opportunity for the youngsters.

Almost seventy percent graduate youngsters who have received training under Fast Track Future Leader (FTFL) Training Programme have already got job in IT industry. Most of the remaining 30 percent have vowed to become entrepreneurs and run business of their own in the IT sector.

A total of 148 graduate youngsters were provided with three months' training in the first batch. Of them, eighty trained graduates have got job so far. This has proved that good quality training could ensure job for the youngsters.

The Fast Track Future Leader (FTFL) Training began in May 29, 2014 aiming to provide world-class training to create 4,000 IT leaders. Prior to start the programme, the LICT project introduced online exam to select the candidates for training. A total of 6,848 graduate youngsters registered online for becoming future IT leaders. Of them, 3,040 candidates were short listed for sitting in the online exam held in the computer labs of BCC in seven regional centers.

It was the first ever online exam held on May 2014 and participated by huge number of graduate youngsters who wanted to be IT leaders in future. State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Zunaid Ahmed Palak visited the first day of online exam held for the first time in Bangladesh.



*State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Mr. Palak witnessing the online exam at BCC's lab in Dhaka for selecting candidates under Fast Track Future Leader Training Programme.*



*A group of youngsters who have received training under FTFL Training Programme in the second batch.*

Expressing satisfaction to see the exam the state minister said holding examinations online might be an effective way to prevent leaking of question papers. It has been proved that the digital system could bring transparency and there is no chance of leaking question in online exam.

Finally, the 148 graduate youngsters were selected for training in the first batch. They were given three-month extensive training- one month residential training on soft skills and core concept of IT/ITES industry in Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla and two months technical training in Dhaka.

The 148 graduates successfully completed the three-month training and most of them got job. In a similar way, 120 fresh graduate youngsters were selected for three-month training for second batch. The training of these graduates is going on. The preparation for selecting youths for the third batch is underway.

### **Some Specific targets of LICT Project to be achieved by 2016**

- ❑ Establish Bigdata Analytics and Titanium Lab
- ❑ Establish Public CA
- ❑ Establish S/W Testing and Certification lab
- ❑ Extension of existing Data Center
- ❑ Establish Security Operation Center
- ❑ Establish Mobile Service Delivery Platform
- ❑ Establish NEA and Interoperability Framework

## Learning and Earning Project

The ICT Division mooted the idea of launching Learning and Earning Programme in the first phase as part of its plan to develop skilled manpower. It decided to provide graphics and website design, Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to create 13,454 freelancers across the country. But finally 14,700 youngsters were trained under the Learning and Earning Programmes. These freelancers along with the individual level freelancers have started contributing to the economy. They earned 21 million US dollar from a single market place elance-oDesk.com in the last fiscal year. Besides, Dhaka ranked 3rd in the top ten list of oDesk and after its merger with elance Bangladesh's position now stood in elance-odesk at 7th.

Considering huge prospect to earn from outsourcing source, the ICT Division has launched the Learning and Earning Project to create 55,000 freelancers including 20,000 women freelancers across the country. The selections of firms to provide training and create 55,000 freelancers are now at the final stage.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressing an orientation programme organized by the ICT Division on 26 November 2014 at BCC auditorium.

The project involving Taka 180 crore would create a new era in the country as youngsters of rural areas will get an opportunity to earn foreign currency after taking training on outsourcing. The women would be encouraged as they could earn money staying at home.

## Bari Bashe Barolok

Bari Bashe Barolok Programme is being implemented to create 14,420 freelancers in 276 upazilas of the country. The programme started in March 2014 setting the deadline to complete by February 2015. Over 13,000 youngsters were given training so far. But the interesting part of the programme is 90 percent of the total trainees are women.



Women being trained to develop as freelancers under Bari Bashe Barolok Programme

## Freelancers to Entrepreneurs Development

The ICT Division launched in May 2014 Freelancers to Entrepreneurs Development Programme in all 64 districts simultaneously to create entrepreneurship on outsourcing. The programme has been designed with the target to develop Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) professionals who would play a vital role to boost the country's IT sector in future. As part of the plan, some 4,611 IT literate persons will be provided with 30-day training online and 2,747 persons will be given 5-day direct training on search engine optimization (SEO), graphics design, animation and the issues relating to outsourcing.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak unveiling logo of Freelancers to Entrepreneurs Programme at the conference room of the ICT Division

**“The entrepreneurs will get opportunity to develop themselves as Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) professionals at the Hi-tech parks in divisions and districts in future”**

**-Zunaid Ahmed Palak**

## Building Mobile App Developers

The ICT Division has imparted training to 2,471 youths to develop them as mobile app developers under 'National Level Mobile Application Development: Awareness and Capacity Building Programme.' The goal is to help the youth of Bangladesh connect to the international mobile applications market.

The project will especially emphasize providing necessary technical training for independent mobile application development to students in universities and at the grassroots level. Besides, efforts will be taken to raise awareness of mobile app potential among the public and among policy makers. The successful completion of this project will be an active boon to the established goal of 2021: Digital Bangladesh mission. The project is also aimed to create a pool of world-class app developers through employment in local and international markets.

Since launching of the programme mobile apps sensitization and boot camp in all the seven divisions and apps development training in districts were organized aimed at developing 100 mobile applications. The idea generation workshops were held to collect 100 ideas for developing mobile apps.

The ICT Division's plan is to ensure people's access to public services through the handheld devices like mobile phones at a time when the number of smart phone users is increasing in the country.

## 25 mobile apps launched to provide better services

The government launched 25 mobile-phone applications on 24 September 2014 as part of its effort to provide better services to the people through smart phone. These apps can be used for various purposes- from reading the constitution to getting information on hospitals and agriculture.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressing the launching ceremony of mobile apps of public services

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the programme held at the BCC auditorium on launching of 25 apps. The apps would be available on Android platform, the Google Play store and on the websites of relevant ministries. These apps are the first batch of 100 mobile apps the government is planning to release on selected services provided by various ministries, divisions and directorates.

### ICT Division organizes biggest ever Hackathon

The ICT Division organized National Mobile Hackathon, the biggest ever in Bangladesh, at Diploma Engineers Institute in Dhaka from 6th -7th December 2014. The programme kicked off with a workshop which was conducted by State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak on 'Vision 2021.' This was followed by a session of design sprint and paper prototype and primary coding part. Some 1,700 programmers, freelancers, students and app developers who were divided into 340 teams participated in the Hackathon. Each team comprising 5 members of coders and designers submitted projects on ten specific local problems such as corruption, water transport safety, sexual harassment, reproductive health, question paper leak, cyclone center management, etc. using IT, particularly mobile technology. A total of 49 professional companies also took part.



State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressing the biggest ever National Hackathon programme at IDEB

Thirty veteran IT specialists and programmers will evaluate projects submitted by the teams and the champions of this competition will be handsomely rewarded: they will be receiving Tk. 20 Lakh from the ICT Division's innovation fund to materialize their proposed app. Besides ICT Division, MCC Ltd, A2i, BASIS, Symphony, Grameen Phone, Robi, Sol Quest, Google Developer Group, Better Stories, BD Ventures Ltd, HiFi Public, Social Geeky Advantage are partners of the event. BD Ventures will also provide them with financial support. Aside from this, they will get several prizes from Microsoft Mobile, Symphony, Robi and Grameenphone. Better Stories Ltd. will help them to market their product for the span of one year.

### 500 more apps to be developed in Bangla



ICT Division organizes seminar on developing creative mobile apps

As part of efforts to make the service easily available to the people, the government has decided to develop more mobile applications of its various services. On August 31, it has signed an agreement with a private company to make 500 mobile applications in Bangla for Android OS. Of these apps, 300 will be for government ministries and institutions to ensure people's easy access to information and public services.

### Bangladesh to give internationally recognized certificates to IT professionals

The BCC has introduced ITEE in Bangladesh under a project titled Capacity Building on ITEE Management Project (BD-ITEC) with support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for giving international recognition to local IT professionals. On 1 September 2014, Bangladesh gets ITPEC membership that enables the country to conduct ITEE each year and give internationally recognized certificate for the IT professionals and graduates. Forty-seven participants have received ITEE certificates so far. The ITEE played an important role to develop confidence among the IT engineers for competing in the job markets worldwide. ITEE test is recognized in 12 Asian countries including the second largest IT job market Japan and also honored in the markets of European and American countries. IT engineers and professionals can appear in the ITEE test to identify their capacity and build confidence for being competitive in the world arena. ITEE is basically a national standard test of Japan for IT professionals in which 0.5-0.6 million students and professionals appear every year.



Bangladesh was formally given Information Technology Professional Examination Council (ITPEC) membership on 1 September 2014

## Basic ICT Skill Transfer Upto Upazila Level Project

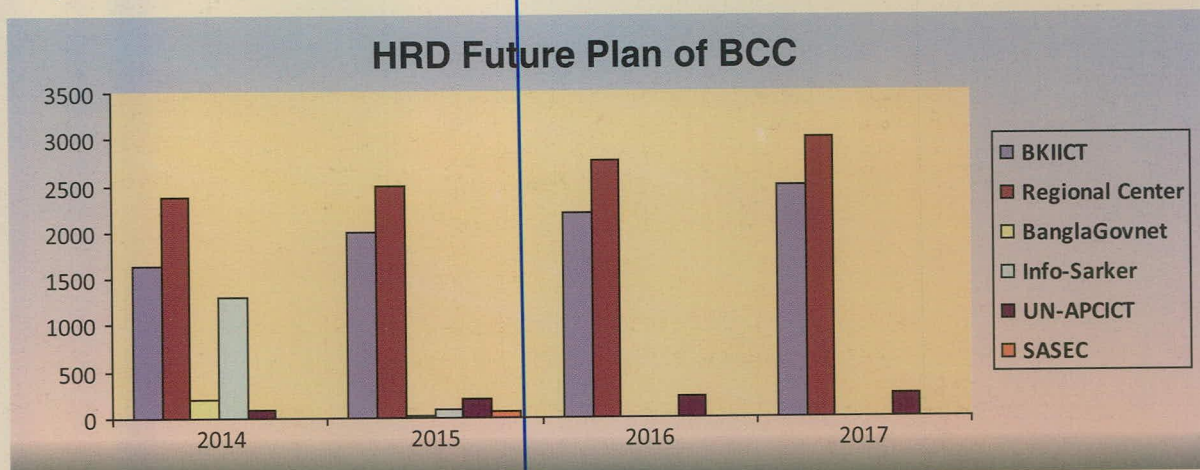
Under the Basic ICT Skill Transfer Upto Upazila Level Project of BCC, a total of 7,890 teachers were given training and developed them as master trainers and 112,189 students were given basic ICT training. 297 persons with disability and 7,978 persons of government and non-government level were given regular training.

## Bangladesh Korea Institute of ICT (BKIICT)

Bangladesh Korea Institute of ICT (BKIICT), an apex IT training institute of BCC and the BCC's six regional centers have given training to 3,660 persons including government officials and staffers, master trainers, students and physically challenged persons in the fiscal 2013-14.

## National ICT Internship Programme

BCC has launched a National ICT Internship Programme with an aim to develop skills of computer personnel and strengthen domestic ICT industry. Till date 12 batches have been completed training and about 3,150 ICT graduates and diploma holders were placed in different private and public organizations by BCC.



## Human Resources Development by Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHPTA)

Under the Support to Development of Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park (SDKHTP), 25 top level officers including Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Managing Directors (MDs) of IT industry and organizations have been trained under C-Level Advancement Programme from Hong Kong University. Later these trained top level officers sensitized the 45 top level officers of IT industries and organizations in the 12-day Advanced Management Programme.

3000 youngsters are being provided training under the Skill Enhancement Programme of BHPTA. Of them 835 freelancers including 350 women have been developed until December 2014. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressed the function jointly organized by technology skill training organization Creative IT and BHPTA on 13 December 2014 at Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum on completion of training of 835 youths.

Mr. Palak said compared to men, women are doing significantly better in online marketplace. Technology brings equity among all with online marketplace, he said adding at this moment the contribution of women in online marketplaces is increasing day by day.

"In Bangladesh, women contribution of women helps us to achieve 3rd position in online marketplace. We hope the women contribution will be increased very soon and we are looking to achieve the first position,"

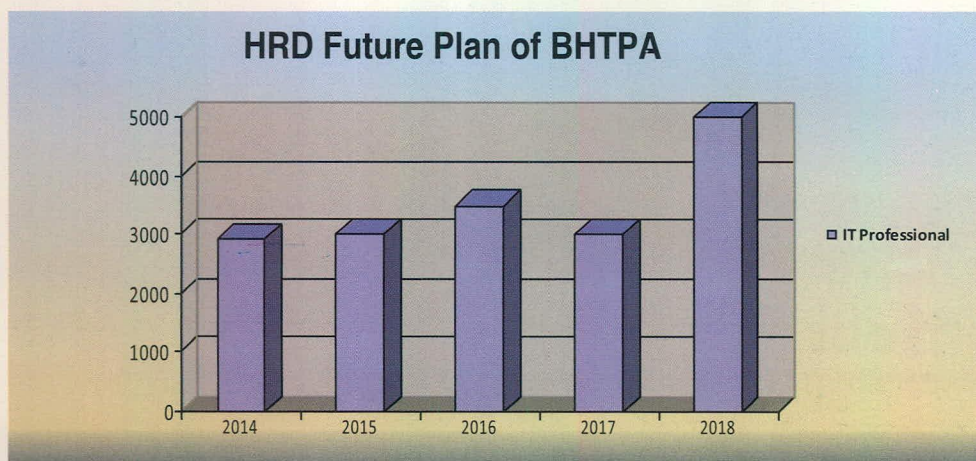
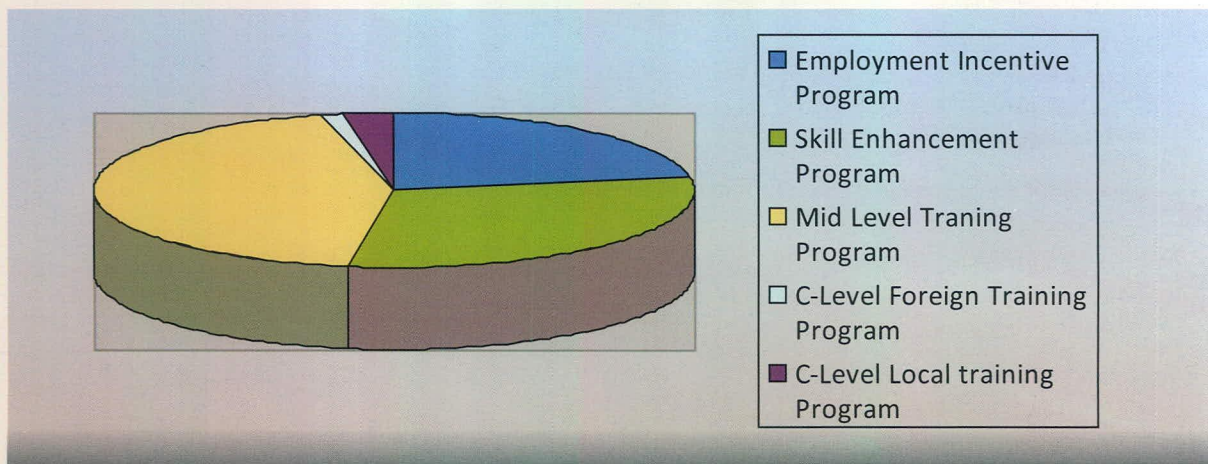
the minister told the function titled ‘women’s achievements in Outsourcing.’”

He called upon the women to ensure their maximum participation in the training to develop as freelancers and contribute to national economy.

ICT Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder, Additional Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director of High-Tech Park Authority Hosne Ara Begum and Elance-oDesk Country Manager Saidur Rahman also spoke at the function.

Besides, 536 jobs have been created in 17 IT organizations in the first phase under Employment Incentive Programme and the project authorities have given approval of creating 519 fresh jobs in 25 organizations in the second phase. 30 organizations have been selected under Company Certification Programme and awarding ISO 9001 certificate to five organizations have been completed. Training of 1052 mid level officers working with IT/ITES organizations have been completed under Mid Level Training Programme.

### Progress of implementation of Human Resources Development by BHTPA



## Establishment of ICT infrastructure and expansion of connectivity

### Building Hi-Tech Park

The Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park located at Gazipur is being constructed on 231.685 acres of land comprising of industrial base, internal roads, science plaza, and some policy-covering sections. The park has an excellent location and enjoys easy transportation. It is 40 km away from the capital Dhaka and 25 km from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The 30 feet wide Dhaka-Tangail expressway beside the zone links up with the inner-ring road of the park and the main communication hub of the country. The Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park is planned on a scientific and comprehensive basis keeping provision of running industry and commerce, office and residence, roads, water, gas and electricity supply, culture education, telecommunications, drainage and sewerage facilities. At moderate prices, Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park will provide both domestic and foreign investors with land for industrial and commercial use as well as standard factory building for Hi-Technology knowledge based economy.

### Future Infrastructure Plan of BHPTA

- In 2015, the IT space of 52,000 sq ft in Jessore Software Technology Park (JSTP) and 200,000 sq ft IT space in the private sector to be hired by BHPTA would be available for the investors.
- In 2016 the IT space of 140,000 sq ft in JSTP, 200,000 sq ft IT space and one Convention Center in Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park (KHTP), 20,000 sq ft IT space in CUET/SU, 300,000 sq ft space in private sector and 100,000 sq ft IT space in Chittagong to be hired by BHPTA would be available for the investors.
- In 2017, the IT space of 600,000 sq ft IT space in KHTP, 200,000 sq ft IT space in Dhaka and 100,000 sq ft IT space in Chittagong/Sylhet would be available for the investors.
- In 2018, the IT space of 600,000 sq ft in KHTP, a Hi-tech Park in Rajshahi and a total of 1000,000 sq ft IT space would be available in the country for the investors.



*The design of Multi Tenant Building (MTB) of Jessore Software Technology Park*

### Software Technology Park, Jessore

The implementation of Software Technology Park on 9.185 acres of land in Jessore has been progressing fast. Under the project, 15-storied MTB and 12-storied dormitory building will be built on the project site to create conducive environment for investment. In the first phase, six-storied dormitories and four-storied MTB are being constructed. It would be ready for setting up IT industries there by April 2015.

### Janata Tower Software Technology Park

Government has allocated 12-storied Janata Tower building at Karwan Bazar in favour of High-Tech Park Authority. Currently, the Janata Tower building has turned into Software Technology Park. Some IT companies are running their business at the park as congenial environment for investment has been created there. International standard software is being developed at the Janata Tower Software Technology Park.

## Establishment of Freelancers to Entrepreneurs Training Center, Natore

Steps have been taken to establish a Freelancers to Entrepreneurs Training Centers in Natore on 1.2304 acres of land of old Jaikhana. The aim is to provide training to freelancers to develop them as entrepreneurs who would play pivotal role to flourish the country's IT sector. The ICT directorate is making design to develop infrastructure with beautification.

## IT Village/Hi-Tech Park/Software Technology Park at Divisions

Steps are underway to establish one IT village/Hi-Tech Park in each division of the country to boost the country's ICT sector and increase ICT export. Already boundary of 34.56 acres of land for setting up a Barendra Silicon City in Rajshahi, 162.83 acres of land for Sylhet Electronic City, 47 acres of land in Mahakhali in Dhaka for IT Village has been finalized. The feasibility study is going on under a programme titled: 'Feasibility Study for Setting up IT Village at Divisional Level' while the feasibility study for setting up IT Village in Rajshahi, Sylhet, Jessore, Mahakhali and Barisal has already been conducted. The feasibility study for Chittagong and Rangpur is also going on.

## Establishment of Union Digital Centers (UDCs)

The government set up 4,547 Union Information Service Centers (UISCs) with internet facilities at the Union Parishad, the lowest tier of the administration to ensure people's access to various services. The UISC was later named as Union Digital Center (UDC) which is providing about 60 categories of services to the people. Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) under the ICT Division set up 1013 UDCs in the off-grid area while 200 UDCs were established at the remotest areas under SAARC Development Fund (SDF).



ICT Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder addressing a workshop organized by Empowering Rural Communities—Reaching the Unreached: Union Digital Centers (UDCs) Project under SAARC Development Fund (SDF) to provide better training to UDC entrepreneurs

ver 4.5 million people are receiving 60 categories of services from the 4,547 UDCs. Even the unbanked rural people have been brought under banking services after introduction of mobile banking in most of the UDCs.

### **District e-Service Center:**

BCC provided infrastructural support to establish district e-Service Center in all the 64 districts. It appointed 64 assistant programmers to Deputy Commissioner's office. The district e-Service centers have been providing hassle-free services to people. Even the age old land record system of Bangladesh was dwarfing the citizen's right to public services. Parcha and khatian were provided online through district e-Service Center and UDC.



*A family of remote areas talking to their relatives over skype at an UDC*

### **Establishment of ICT Incubator**

An ICT Incubator/ Software Technology Park (STP) has been established in BDBL Bhaban, Karwanbazar with an area of 68,563 square feet. 41 organizations have been running their business here. Besides, the work on establishing an IT Business Incubator in Chittagong Engineering and Technology University (CUET) is progressing.

### **Establishment of Computer Lab**

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has set up a total of computer labs in 3,544 educational institutions. The computer labs have created an opportunity for the students of the said schools and nearby schools, teachers and local people to gather practical knowledge on ICT. Basic ICT Skill Transfer Upto Upazila Level Project of BCC has also set up computer labs in 192 educational institutions. The government officers and employees, teachers and entrepreneurs of Union Digital Center are getting training from these computer labs. BCC has appointed an assistant programmer in each school lab. Under the project, a total of 7,890 teachers were provided training and developed them as master trainers and 112,189 students were given basic ICT training. 297 persons with disability and 7,978 persons of government and non-government level were given regular training. Bangladesh Korea Institute of ICT (BKIICT) has been set up on the ground floor of BCC to conduct training programme.

### **Computer and Language Lab to be set up in Educational institutions**

The government will set up computer lab in 2,000 education institutions across the country under a project titled: 'Establishment of Computer and Language Lab in Secondary and Higher Secondary Educational Institutions of Bangladesh'. The project involving Tk. 299 crore will also set up 64 language labs in the educational institution of 64 districts of the country. Each lab will have 17 laptops, a printer, a multimedia projector, two routers and equipment for language learning.

### **Tier-3 and Tier-4 National Data Center**

BCC has set up a Tier-3 National Data Center at BCC building to carry forward the e-Government initiatives. The Data Center received status of Tier-3 Data Center by the Enterprise Product Integration Pvt. (EPI), an organization providing international Data Center Certificate. The Data Center is hosting government websites, mail, national ID of Bangladesh Election Commission, voter list related information etc. With the advancement of Digitization, the government is going to set up a Tier-4 National Data Center at Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park in addition to the existing Tier-3 National Data Center at BCC. The Tier-4 Data Center will host the data and information of Hi-tech Park companies alongside the data and information of government and private sector.

## Formation of ICT Directorate

It is imperative to develop and expand ICT infrastructure up to district and upazila level and ensure optimal use of ICT. The government has set up separate ICT Directorate with manpower strength of 756 aimed at reaching the ICT facilities to the grassroot level, ensuring security of ICT infrastructure and its expansion and maintenance.

## The Development of National Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government (BanglaGovNet) Project

The BanglaGovNet Project has been launched in December 2010 aimed at setting up public network backbone for implementing e-Government.

Under the project, establishment of connectivity between 58 ministries and divisions, 222 departments and directorates and 128 offices at district and upazila level and 31 kilometer optical cable line is at the final stage. e-Filing and e-Service will be introduced through this project.



*ICT Secretary Shyam Sunder Sikder addressing a seminar organised by BanglaGovNet Project*

the government will spend Tk 307.40 crore with Tk 245 crore coming from Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of Korea and the remaining portion amount to be borne by the government. The storage capacity of National Data Center has been increased to 58 terabyte from 24 terabyte under the BanglaGovNet Project. This enhancement of storage capacity Data Center will enable the center to host all government websites and ensure security of data and IP based voice service without cost.

## Development National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh government Phase-II (Infosarker Project Phase II)

ICT Division has launched Development National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh government Phase-II Project involving Taka 1,333 crore to bring 17,500 government offices at the district and upazila levels under an ICT network. BCC is the executing agency of the project.

China will provide Tk 1,087 crore in loans for the project and the government will provide the remaining amount.

The project is bringing Bangladesh Secretariat, Bangladesh Computer Council, 7 divisional and all district and 485 upazila level offices of the country under WiFi coverage. Of them, Bangladesh Secretariat and BCC have already been brought under WiFi coverage.

The ICT network has been created under the ongoing Banglagovnet project with Korean assistance. This network would be expanded to government offices at grassroots level through this Infosarker project. A modular Data Center infrastructure and sub Data Center have been deployed in National Data Center to expand the space and capacity.

Under the project, 800 video conferencing systems will be installed at different offices including the ministry, government departments and training centers. It will help establish twelve training labs at different universities and set up a Wi-Fi network including one lac Wi-Fi hotspot in important public places, train and bus stations and hat-bazars.

Besides, list has been finalized to distribute 25,000 tablet PCs at Bangladesh Secretariat and other government offices. Apps would be developed for the mobile and media pad users.

### **InfoSarker III for Rural Broadband Network**

The government is setting up optical fiber network in all of its office at district, upazila and union parishad with a view to spreading internet services to the grassroots level across the country under the project Development of National Network for Bangladesh government Phase III (Expanding IT connectivity up to Union Level: Info Sarker 3) known as "InfoSarker III."

### **Bangladesh Secretariat under WiFi Coverage**

Bangladesh Secretariat, the center point of administration went under WiFi coverage in 2014. The government officials, journalists and visitors have the easy access to internet using a PIN.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the WiFi service on 21 December 2014 at the conference room of the Ministry of Public Administration. The WiFi zone is covering the entire area of the secretariat.



*State Minister for ICT Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurating the WiFi service at Bangladesh Secretariat on 21 December 2014.*

Mr. Palak said the Secretariat has been brought under free WiFi connection aimed at digitizing the administrative activities. "Under the National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government (Phase-II) Project all government offices will be brought under internet connectivity by June next year," he said adding the digital window project covers all the unions across the country and it will help reduce the existing digital gap among the people at all levels.

## **South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Information Highway (Bangladesh Part):**

The South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) has been implemented to establish connectivity between Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan. The government with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) spent Tk 28.61 crore for implanting the project. Under the project, the setting up of 58 Km-long fiber optic cable line from Panchgarh to Banglabandha has been completed. 30 Community e- Centers (CECs) with internet facilities have been established in Upazila Parishad Complex to ensure sub-regional connectivity and exchange of information and services among the countries of SASEC.

## **Digital Signature**

The government is going to introduce digital signature to reach goals of paperless government correspondence, e-governance, e-procurement, e-commerce, electronic document signing, internet banking using digital signature, device and server signing. In 2010, the government approved the Information Technology (Certifying Authorities) Rules 2010, which provide the detailed guidelines for licensing Certifying Authorities (CA); license renewal and cancellation procedure, standards to be followed by Certifying Authorities (CA); creation, issuance and revocation of digital signature certificate etc. Under the Rules and Act, CA license has been issued to six private companies and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). Of the six organizations three have already been providing digital signature certificate and related services to public and private organizations and individuals. A move is underway to give digital signature certificate to 20,000 government officials free of cost under a programme of the ICT Division.

## **Cyber Security Programmes**

A programme is going on to sensitize about the ICT Act, safe use of internet and security of network and cyber crime risk. Campaign is also going on in media and leaflet distribution is being done in 64 districts under the Cyber Security Programme. Seminars and workshops have been held at the Deputy Commissioner's offices of 35 districts and 81 colleges so far. A move is underway to set up separate cyber security department and cyber forensic support center. Cyber Tribunal has been formed to prevent cyber crime. A judge with the status of district judge was given appointment to the tribunal. A helpline has been introduced to receive complain from the users about cyber crimes. The helpline number is: 01766678888.

## **Awareness Programme on e-Commerce**

With the expansion of online activities Bangladesh government is promoting e-commerce to ensure fair price of goods. The ICT Division has been organizing e-Commerce fair locally and internationally to build relationship between government and businessmen (G2B) through IT service. It has already organized e-Commerce fair in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong and London to encourage buy and sale of products online. ICT Division is going to organize e-Commerce fair in London, New York and Dubai.

## **Promoting Green Technology**

There is no alternative to introduce Green Technology to check fast upsetting environmental degradation and making the world livable. It's possible to save misuse of water, power and gas at least 30 percent. ICT Division has launched a programme on Innovation and Smart Green Building to promote Green Technology. Meanwhile, The implementation of two other programmes Bangla Corpus, Bangla O.C.R and Text to Speech Software Development and Development of Digital Talking Book and Conversion of primary education contents into interactive multimedia Digital version are also going.

## **Fellowship and scholarship on ICT**

The ICT Division has introduced fellowship and scholarship to conduct research and grant for innovative works in the ICT sector. It has already made guidelines in this regard. The ICT Division has given fellowship and scholarship worth Tk 151,75000.00 in the fiscal 2013-14 while Tk 78,58,300.00 grants have

## Use of Bangla in computer

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) has taken initiative to optimal use of Bangla in computer. It has already made the existing Bangla character code set into Unicode-6 based standard BDS 1520:2011. Bangla keypad has been standardized for compatible to mobile phone.

## Digital World 2014

ICT Division organized Digital World 2014, the biggest ever ICT exposition to showcase Bangladesh's achievements in information and communication and share experiences and exchange information on advancement of IT.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Digital World 2014 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 4 June 2014 inaugurated the four-day event at Bangabandhu International Conference Center. Thirty-five foreign delegates from 15 countries attended the seminars and technical sessions. The event was organized jointly by BCC under ICT Division and Bangladesh

## Making and updating Laws and guidelines

The ICT Division has made a number of laws and guidelines and brought amendment in it to give legal basis in use of ICT legitimately and prevent misuse and check cyber crimes. These are:

- ICT Act, 2006 and later it was amended in 2013
- Cyber Security Strategy
- Information Security Policy Guidelines
- Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority Act, 2010 and it was amended in 2014
- Guidelines, 2013 (amendment) relating to provide fellowship and scholarship for research and grant for innovation work in ICT
- Making E-Service Act is now under process.

**“The government is working for making Digital Bangladesh as a "Nation Brand" to create positive image of Bangladesh abroad ”**

**-Sajeeb Wazed Joy**



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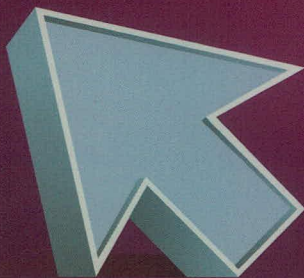
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