

Statement regarding the successes attained by the Law and Justice Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs during the tenure of the present democratic government over two years :

The present democratic government took the responsibility of governing the country winning absolute majority through a free, fair, neutral, transparent & acceptable national election held on 29/12/2008. People cast their right of franchise freely supporting the election manifesto of the present government. Accordingly, the present government starts the journey towards implementing the commitments undertaken by it. As part of this program, the present government has taken a major diversified plan to implement those programs.

2.0 The enactment of historic bill towards "Separation of Judiciary" by the Ninth Parliament:

The present democratic government has separated the judiciary by enacting the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2009. As a result, the separation of judiciary has got a permanent shape which is considered a milestone to the successes of the present democratic Government.

3.0 Steps undertaken by the Government after separation of Judiciary:-

- The Government has given appointment of 215 officers in the vacant posts of Assistant Judge / Judicial Magistrate. Besides, 171 officers were promoted to the rank of Senior Assistant Judge or equivalent. Moreover, 10 Joint District Judges and 26 Additional District Judges were promoted to the rank of Additional District Judge and District Judges respectively.
- During the tenure of the present government 103 cars were purchased and supplied for the Chief Judicial Magistrates/ Chief Metropolitan Magistrates, Judges of Women and Children Repression Court, Judges of 3 Hill Districts and other Judges equivalent to District Judges respectively. Moreover, money is disbursed to buy 236 computers, 68 photocopiers and 68 fax machines for Judicial Magistracy.

4.0 A Short Description relating to the Development Projects undertaken and attained by the Law and Justice Division during the present Government:-

Investment Project

1. Construction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building in the whole of Bangladesh – 1 Phase project:-

The project estimated at an expenditure of Tk.731.69 crore has been approved by ECNEC on 15/04/2009 to be implemented from February, 2009 to June, 2014. Meanwhile, notification of award has been given selecting contractor for construction work in 10 districts (Tangail,

Manikganj, Joypurhat, Jhenaidah, Faridpur, Kushtia, Jessore, Kurigram, Sylhet and Dinajpur). Besides, considering the future demand of the infrastructure and to ensure the optimum use of the land, decision is taken for vertical expansion of the under-constructed building and DPP of the project has also been revised accordingly. Revised DPP is now awaiting in the Planning Commission for final approval. As per revised DPP in the first phase of the project, Chief Judicial Magistrate court building would be constructed in 34 districts. As per availability of land , 5 storeyed building with a foundation of 12 storeyed in 10 districts, 4 storeyed building with a foundation of 10 storeyed in 13 districts, 10 storeyed building with a foundation of 12 storeyed in 6 districts and 9 storeyed building with a foundation of 12 storeyed in 5 districts would be constructed. Besides, land would be requisitioned for constructing the court building of Chief Judicial Magistrate in remaining 30 districts. In the second phase of the project, construction work of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court building of the said 30 districts would be started. With the implementation of the said project, necessary infrastructure for the Judges would be created and thereby judicial work would get dynamism.

2. The revised project (1st phase) for construction of District Registry Office and Upazilla Sub-registry Office in 20 districts and 63 Upazillas respectively

Land would be requisitioned for the construction of 20 District Registry Office and 34 Upazilla Sub-registry office and also for 23 Sub-Registry Office. The construction work of -

29 Sub-Registry Office building would be started in the 2nd phase of the project. The project would be implemented by 1/7/2006 to 30/6/2012 period. During the financial period 2009-2010 construction work of 4 district registry office building (Dhaka, Noakhali, Chandpur and Meherpur) and 8 Sub-Registry Office (Roypur, Sonaimuri, Fatikchari, Razapur, Nabinagar, Chilahati, Lahirighat and Chunarughat) have already been completed.

3. Construction of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate building-cum-police barrack in the premises of Dhaka collectorate-2nd Phase Project:-

This project estimated at an expenditure of Tk.14.85 crore has been approved by the government to be implemented from July 2009 to December 2011. Under this project, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court building-cum-police barrack situated at Dhaka Collectorate building premises to be vertically extended up to 9 storeyed from 5 storeyed and 5 storeyed from 2 storeyed respectively. By this time the construction of roof up to seven storeyed and fifth storeyed of the Court building-cum-barrack has already been completed.

Technical Assistance Project:

(1) Legal and Reform Project part-B (2nd phase)

With a view to providing legal assistance to the poor litigant of Bangladesh the aforesaid project has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Tk.1108.40lac from 1/7/2009 to 31/3/2011 term. Meanwhile, in 7 districts the model of legal aid program has been introduced fully. Necessary assistance has been provided to establish offices of Dhaka legal Aid Committee & National legal Aid Committee. Besides, one legal aid Co-coordinator has been given appointment in each project district with the expenditure of this project. Under this project Legal aid assistance program to the poor & needy people is continuing and different programmes have been undertaken to create awareness in this regard (training, leaflet, books distribution). Women applicants seeking legal aid is increasing day by day.

2.Capacity building Project of the Judicial Administration Training Institute of Bangladesh(2nd phase project)-The main purpose of this project is to develop efficiency of the lower Court Judges and officers of the JATI regarding Court Administration and case management and thereby to ensure for providing justice to the common people. The project has been approved by the government on 23/04/2009 at an estimated cost of Tk.588.25 lac with the assistance of DANIDA from 1/1/2009 to 31/12/2010 term. Under this project training on computer technology, internet service, providing training materials and transport facilities to the trainee is going on.

Under this project office equipments including computer, books/journals and furniture have been collected. At district level 50 computers have been supplied to different judicial Court.

5.0 Appointment of Judges in the Higher Courts:

The present government with a view to disposing the pending cases has given appointment of 45 Judges (including 13 Judges as permanent and 32 Judges as Additional)in the High Court Division.Moreover,the number of Judges of the Appellate Division have been increased from 7 to 11.

6.0 Execution of the verdict of BanghaBandhu Murder Case-

During the tenure of the present government, the verdict of the long awaited BanghaBandhu murder case has been implemented after completion of hearing appeals.

7.0 Simplification of Registration procedure and refixing of land-registration fees:

During the tenure of the present government steps have been taken for simplification of land registration procedure,for reduce time in this regard and for reducing registration fees and depositing all kinds of fees and taxes through same pay-order. Considering market value, valuation has been refixed regarding land registration. With this object registration fee has been fixed 2% considering the valuation of the registered deed from 1st September,2209 instead of previous 2.5%.Regarding imposition of tax over sale of land in City Corporation,Pourashava and Cantonment area it has been refixed 2% instead

of 5%.Regarding imposition of tax on stamp duty over registration of deed in district head quarters ,Pourashava and City Corporation it has been refixed 3% instead of 5%.

8.0 Activities of Law Ministry regarding BDR Mutiny:-

During the tenure of the present government, the offenders involved with BDR mutiny and brutal killing which was committed in Pilkhana are brought to book.

9.0 Establishment of Tribunal for trial of War Crimes:

The present democratic government with a view to trying the offences namely, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes that are committed during our great liberation war in 1971, has taken steps for passing the International Crimes Tribunal (Amendment) Act,2009 and accordingly a Tribunal has been established by appointing a Judge of the High Court Division as its Chairman and a Judge of the High Court Division and a retired Distric Judge as its members. Moreover, prosecutors have been appointed and investigating agency has been formed and its activities are going on in the Old High Court Building. In the present financial year Tk.12 crore has been allocated for incurring expenditure of the Tribunal, Prosecutor's Office and for investigating agency.

10.0Steps taken for enhancement of salaries and allowances for Judges of Sub-ordinate courts:

The present democratic government promulgated Pay and allowances Order,2009 for judicial officers with separate pay structure including 30% special allowances for judicial officers who are engaged in fulltime judicial works.

11.0 Training for Judicial Officers of different tiers- To develop professional efficiency of the Judges so far 243 Judicial Officers were imparted training from joint District Judge to District judge level at Judicial Administration Training Institute(JATI) after separation of Judiciary.

12.0 Activating dynamism in the activities of the National Legal Aid Agency-Efforts are underway to strengthen the activities of the National Legal aid agency with a view to ensure justice to the poor, disadvantaged and under-privileged litigant people. In the meantime, an officer in the rank of District Judge has been appointed as Director of the legal aid agency. Meanwhile from June /2009 to June /2010 a total of 12737 persons have been provided with legal aid in the whole country including 4800 female, 7886 male and 48 child.

Different programmes have been taken to provide information to the people regarding free legal aid service. Moreover government has taken a project namely Legal Reform Project -Part-B to bring dynamism in the activities of the Legal aid Agency with the assistance of CIDA(Canadian International Development Agency)

13.0 Appointment of Law Officers:

During the tenure of the present government Government Pleader (GP),Public Prosecutor(PP),Additional Public Prosecutor(APP),Assistant Government Pleader(AGP),Local Government Pleader(LGP),Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) have been appointed.Meanwhile,one Attorney General,3 Additional Attorneys General and substantial numbers of Assistant General have been appointed.

14.0 Steps towards establishing ICT Cell in the Division:-

Steps have been taken to establish an ICT cell in the division and for this purpose the creation of 4 posts of ICT Cell are under active consideration of the Ministry of Finance. Establishment of ICT Cell would definitely help complete government's objects towards Vision-2021 successfully.

15.0 Steps Taken Towards Alternative Dispute Resolution(ADR) and case management-

With a view to bring dynamism in the judicial system efforts are underway to introduce Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and to make it mandatory from subordinate Courts to Higher Courts. Moreover ,steps are also being taken to develop Court Administration and Case Management System.

16.0 Development of online causelist management of Supreme court and district level courts.

The government has allocated a fund of TK 5,00,00,000/- (TK five crore) to bring primarily 200 hundred courts at district level under web network with the supreme court and also for development of online causelist management of supreme court and district level courts.

17.0 Supporting the good governance project :

The government undertook this project at the estimated cost of TK 548.00 lac under the grant of ADB starting from 1.11.2007 to 30.10.2011 to build up the capacity of Bangladesh supreme court and Bangladesh judicial service commission.

18.0 Miscellaneous:

With a view to forming an information store for Justice sector under Law and Justice Division and to provide necessary information to people for framing policy regarding technical assistance project and for modernization and digitations of land registration procedure of registration directorate several committees have been formed and the committees are working in full swing.