

Civil Service in Development Innovation-2016 Inaugural Ceremony

Address by

HE Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novotheatre, Dhaka, Thursday, 28 July 2016

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,
Colleagues,
Ministers of Maldives and Bhutan
Delegation from Development Partners in Bangladesh
and
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.

I welcome you all at the inaugural ceremony of Civil Service in Development Innovation-2016. It is aimed at highlighting Digital Bangladesh and Vision-2021 through different innovations at home and abroad. I would like to congratulate those who are enjoying the live program from district, upazilla and union by using digital information technology.

I pay my homage to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with great gratitude four national leaders. I pay my respect to the memories of the 3-million martyrs of the war of liberation and 200 thousand women who lost their innocence in 1971. I extend my sympathies to the wounded freedom fighters and the families of the martyrs. I salute the valiant freedom fighters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Modern, dynamic and innovative civil service can take the country at the highest peak of development. I strongly believe, a civil service member is no more limit himself in a structured system. They along with countrymen are working for the country's development leaving their previous bureaucratic attitude. They are using information technology, science, knowledge, talent and experience at the maximum level. They are adapting themselves with new strategy and innovation. They are serving their best to the people and the country is going ahead.

To materialize government's Digital Bangladesh, 'Civil Service in Development Innovation-2016' is a very time-befitting arrangement. All civil service members will be inspired by the program. More new strategies and innovations will be invented and materialized for the country's development. The young generation will come forward to this end. Exchange of innovative ideas will be accelerated in both regional and international levels helping Bangladesh to move forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangladesh Awami League government is a people-oriented government. Our only objective is to establish a society based on equity and Digital Bangladesh is the key to achieve the goal.

The Father of the nation was able to establish Bangladesh on a strong base of development during his three and half years' tenure rebuilding war-ravaged country. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had given priority in innovative ideas and IT in country's development. Bangladesh got the membership of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1973 under the leadership of the Father of the nation. He established BCSIR in 1973. Bangabandhu had given responsibility for forming the first Education Commission to renowned scientist Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda. He established country's first satellite station in

Betbunia. All those measures of the Father of the nation are the base of today's Digital Bangladesh.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Everything was analogue when we formed government in 1996. Everyone was unresponsive in using computer let alone internet. The files sent to my office from various ministries were type-written. Maybe, there were some computers but they were left as show-pieces. I do not blame government employees for that as there was no expected speed in internet. Computer was very much expensive as well. It cost three and a half lakh taka when we bought Apple brand computer in 1991 for our party. LASER printer, ink and other computer accessories were very costly. We decided to make affordable all computer accessories, including IT materials, for people.

I have no hesitation to mention here that my son Sazib Wazed Joy advised and taught me regarding ICT. He advised me to reduce tax on computer and its accessories. As per his advice, I did that. I also decided to establish submarine cable. But BNP-Jamaat alliance government refused to avail the opportunity of submarine cable at free of cost with the excuse of security ground. In fact, they never wanted to explore IT in the country. IT means transparency and accountability and there is no opportunity here to loot. But BNP-Jamaat government was the government of corruption, terrorism and militancy.

We dismantled the monopoly business of a minister of BNP-Jamaat government. At that time, piece of a cell phone cost taka 1 lakh 30 thousand. Both incoming and out-going calls cost tk 10. We have made mobile service available and easy in the country. Now there are over 130-million mobile SIM subscribers and over 50-million internet subscribers in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We formed government again in 2009. One of the commitments of our election manifesto was to materialize Digital Bangladesh. Without hesitation I admit that my son Sazib Wazed Joy presented me the phrase 'Digital Bangladesh'. We started working according to his advice. 'Digital Bangladesh' is not a dream now but it is a reality. Digital technology is being used almost everywhere in citizen life.

We have provided government service to people's doorstep by establishing Digital Centre in Union Parishad, Municipality and City Corporation. Infrastructure in IT sector has massively been developed. Optical Fiber Connectivity has been started in country's every upazilla. Inter-connectivity has been made rapid and easy through video conferencing.

We have increased internet density and capacity of submarine cable. IT friendly policy has been enacted in country. 99% area is now under mobile coverage. 3G technology mobile network has been launched and 4G technology will be started shortly.

We have launched 'The National Web Portal' Containing 25,000 websites. Besides, Form Portal has been launched with over 1500 government forms.

We have evolved two models named 'Multimedia Classroom' and 'Digital Content made by Teacher'. Multimedia classrooms have been established in country's 23,331 secondary schools and 4500 primary schools. 'National e-information hub' has been made about 10000 topics with 1 lakh pages contents.

We turned 300 text books and over 100 supplementary books into e-book. An open e-learning platform in Bangla named 'Muktopath' has been started. 'Accessible Multimedia Talking Book' has also been introduced for the visually impaired learners.

We have introduced e-filing system being used by Prime Minister's Office, 20 Ministries, 4 Directorates, 64 districts and 7 Divisional Commissioners' Office.

A Monitoring System named Digital Mobile Court System and Management Information System (MIS) under Digital Court has been introduced. We have started making all land records digital.

Health advice at free of cost through mobile phone has been provided. With the help of telemedicine, patients can get advice of specialist physicians without going to hospitals in cities.

Country's first government call centre named 'Agriculture Call Centre' has been launched to get information about modern technology and service on agriculture. 47 lakh digital 'e-purzi (supply order)' have been issued for sugarcane growers in mobile phone.

We have introduced agent banking in 400 union digital centres. 200 types of services are being provided in digital centres.

18 lakh citizens are using e-TIN. Postal Cash Card Service is being provided in 1,333 post offices. Electronic Money Order has been introduced in 2,750 post offices and sub post offices. The work on establishing 8500 digital centres is going on.

We have provided Smart Driving License with electronic chip. Motor taxes and fees are given through online. E-ticket in railway service has been introduced. Various services for citizens including different utility bills and online Hajj Management have been provided through internet. 5,275 Digital Centres established across the country are providing 200 types of e-services.

Dear Government Employees,

You have been playing the main role to materialize these initiatives of ours to make a Digital Bangladesh. We have made 'Innovation Fund' to patronise innovation. 103 projects have been implemented with the help of service innovation fund at a cost of taka 200 million. An innovative platform named 'Idea Bank' has also been introduced to accelerate innovative culture.

We have to achieve more proficiency to provide quick, up-to-date and trouble-free services to our people. I think, every member of public administration in the country has the appropriate potentiality. We have also arranged training both at home and abroad to increase the capability.

The government employees of every sector like administration, Law enforcement agencies, agriculture, education, health, information & technology, communication and infrastructure development have to think again to develop the country. They have to generate new ideas and innovation.

Our motto is that People will not seek services from government but the government employees will provide the services to the doorsteps of the people.

There is no alternative to transparency and accountability in every sphere of public administration. I firmly believe, together you all will build a modern, service-oriented, proactive civil service to meet the challenges of 21st century.

We have huge population resources. We have to make a strong connectivity between the people and information technology. Public participation has to be ensured in all spheres of government's development activities. And this is the way to reach our destination.

The county is ours. Let us engage ourselves for innovation utilizing ICT for the country's development. Let us sacrifice our present for the future generation. I firmly believe, we can uproot terrorism and militancy from our soil forever with the help of people. Let us come forward to turn our country into a mid-income one by implemented Vision-2021 and a developed one by materializing Vision-2041.

With these few words, I declare the 'Civil Service in Development Innovation-2016'.

Allah Hafez

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

...