Status of Road Transport and Transit Facilitation in Bangladesh

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Outline

- Status of Road Infrastructure in Bangladesh
- Initiatives for upgrading of cross border connectivity
- Regional Initiatives for MVA
- Challenges and way forward
Regional and Subregional Initiatives for connectivity

- Asian Highway (AH)
- (SHC) SAARC Highway Corridor
- SASEC Road Corridor (SHC)
- BIMSTEC Road Corridor (BRC)
- BCIM Route (BCIM)

RHD Road Network

- National: 3,570 km
- Regional: 4,323 km
- Zilla: 13,678 km
- Total Roads: 21,571 km

- Bridges: 4,507 nos
- Culverts: 13,678 nos

Source: HDM, Roads and Highways Department
Asian Highway 2

Total 515 km

Class I: 42 km
Class II: 473 km

8% 92%
Upgrading infrastructures along AH-1

- Upgrading of Dhaka-Sylhet Highway (Proposed)
- Dhaka-Mawa Expressway (Ongoing)
- Upgrading of Jessore-Benapole Highway (Proposed)
- Construction of 680m Kalna Bridge to commence soon (Ongoing)
- Construction of Padma Bridge (6.2 Km) (Ongoing)

With completion of projects, Class II Roads will increase.

- 31 km (6%) to 338 km (67.6%)
- No Missing Links on AH-1

There will be No Missing Links on AH-1.
• Improving connectivity between Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan

• Upgrading of existing 2-Lane Highway to 4-Lane Highway including SMVT Lanes

• Construction of grade separating structures at busy intersection and bazaar areas
Upgrading infrastructures along AH

- Construction of Access-Controlled Dhaka Bypass to commence soon (PPP)
- Upgrading Daudkandi-Chittagong to 4-Lane Highway (Completed)
- Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway Project to commence soon (PPP)
Enhancing Road Safety

- **Enhanced road safety** due to segregation of slow-moving traffic from main carriageway
- **Enhanced level** of service for fast-moving vehicles
- Grade-separating structures at intersection and bazaar areas allow fast moving vehicles to **avoid congestion**
Enhancing Road Safety

Countermeasures implemented for 209 Blackspots on National Highways

- Improving of Intersection
  - Major/Major
  - Major/Minor
- Easing sharp bends
- Making pedestrian movement safer

Implementation of road safety countermeasures on N5 resulted in reduction of 53.33% reduction of road crashes between 2011 and 2012 (46.67% reduction of death and 30.38% reduction of injury)

Source: BRTA, 2012
BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement

Signed on 15 June 2015 in Thimpu (Bhutan), BBIN MVA is an agreement to allow vehicles to enter each other’s territory for passengers and cargo.

Three countries—Bangladesh, India and Nepal—ratified the MVA and are considering implementation of the MVA with Bhutan join it after it ratifies the Agreement.

The three countries agreed to conduct trial runs of cargo vehicles before finalizing the protocol for cargo vehicle movement.

The implementation of the MVA is expected to improve economic cooperation and connectivity among member countries. It will also help landlocked countries to integrate more efficiently with global economy.
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Studies of cross-border infrastructures

SRTPPF completed FS & DD of 1751 km Roads

SRTPPF-II is conducting FS & DD of 600 km Roads
Combating overloading of vehicles

Legal Framework

- Maximum Permissible Weight limits for Motor Vehicles
- Schedule of fine for overloading of vehicles
- Axle Load Station

Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983 (as amended)
Notification no. RRD/BRTA/Overload-38/96(P-1)-653, dated 16 November 2003

Government Notification no. 35.00.0000.030.22.003.14-225, dated 16-08-2016

Axle Load Control Station Operation Policy 2012

Assigns RHD the task of setting up weigh stations at strategic places;
Stipulates that a separate enforcement unit for weigh stations;
Specifies a web-based monitoring system;
Allows for changing policies by Gazette notice
Combating overloading of vehicles

RHD controls overloads as it has a vested interest in protecting its roads and bridges.

RHD installs axle load system on highways and penalizes vehicles for overloading.

Weighbridges are in operation at dry ports under BLPA.

BRTA provides the regulatory framework and takes legal measures against overloading (BRTA Act 2017).

Bangladesh Police enforces laws against overloading.

Administrative control of overloading
Combating overloading of vehicles

Axle Load Control Stations are installed at strategic locations near sources of overloading: Dry Ports, Sea Ports, River Ports, Material Sources, etc.

2 types of axle load stations are in operation: Permanent and Portable

The Selection of location of axle load control stations depends on:

- Number of commercial vehicles
- Degree of overloading
- Reducing incentive of overloading
- Physical constraints (e.g. ROW)
- Enforcement

Axle Load Control Stations on RHD Network

Existing Control Stations
- Permanent (5 nos.)
- Portable (10 nos.)

Future Control Stations
- Permanent (29 nos.)
The construction of Padma Bridge (6.15 km) will eliminate the longest missing link on AH1.
Construction of Kalna Bridge (680 m) is included in JICA assisted Cross Bridge Road Network Improvement Project.

Projects are financed by Government and Development partners. Where possible, PPP options is being explored. Support from development partners need to continue to bridge financing gap.

Road Geometry to allow regional traffic. Harmonization of Standards. Border facilities. Multimodal integration.

Challenges for Bangladesh
Thank you