

## Activities of BAPA during 2015-2016

BAPA has lots of activities and involvements with various agencies, organizations, strategic, methodical steps for the proper management and growth. Few major of these are mentioned below:

### August Inauguration

BAPA shifted to its new own office through a formal function. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the President Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, who cut the tape and removed screen on the name plate of the President and an instant prayer was performed on 29 August 2015. Most of BAPA members, officers, employees, and owners of different industries were present on the happy moment.



### Memorable Meeting on the memory of Marhum Major Gen. Amjad Khan (Retd.)

Marhum Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd) was the Founder and President of BAPA, died on 8 July 2015 after a commendable service to the nation, including BAPA.

In the meeting, President Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, Mr. A F M Fakhrul Islam Munshi, Mr. Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, S/O- Marhum Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury, Mr. Jahangir Hossain along with BAPA E.C. members, general members and officials of BAPA and projects were present and many of them took part in the discussion in memory of that great soul and prayed for salvation of his soul.



### Election

BAPA in its regular program and practice held the election for formation of Executive Committee in 2015. For the purpose, Election Board, Appeal Broad for 2015-16 & 2016-17 were formed and following the schedule election was held and new body was elected for the above mentioned years and drew up plan for the development of the organization for the coming year.



To note that after the formation of the new Executive Committee the outgoing Executive Committee Members welcomed the new one and handed over their responsibilities.

### Decoration:

After the purchase of the flat for BAPA office under the leadership of Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, it was primarily re-arranged and decorated in consultation with



concern engineer for immediate use. But the new committee with the leadership of the present President the original arrangement in light of present need and outlook exhaustive decoration was done. It includes establishment of work stations, library, officer's chambers, receptionist desk, dining space, etc. In addition, suitable chamber for President, General Secretary and Treasurer etc. were also earmarked and appropriately decorated.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

Like each year, this year also AGM of BAPA was held on 19 March 2016 in Dhaka Club in gorgeous way. Most of the senior members attended the AGM and explained their demands & satisfaction. President of BAPA presided over the AGM and the decision regarding Audit Report, Annual budget, appointment of new Auditors etc. were passed by the general body in the AGM.



### **Picnic:**

Like the previous years, a general picnic for the members was arranged on 12 February 2016 at Proma Convention Centre, Maynertek, Uttara. In the picnic most of the family members of BAPA with their children attended.

This picnic, in fact was arranged for a general get-together of all family members for establishment of inter-personal relation. In the picnic, all items of interest including lottery, sports for all categories were arranged. It also included songs and musical items. There was grand arrangement of lunch for all. At the end of the day program costly & attractive items of prizes were handed over to the lucky winners by the president.



### **Flat Purchase:**

Right from start, the BAPA office used to be run in haired flat. But later under the leadership of Mr. Anjan Chowdhury, the President & Treasurer and along with other EC members together tried heart and soul to purchase an office of its own which was ultimately purchased under his leadership. The total area is 3140 sq.ft. of Navana Newbury Place, D-6, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 4/1/A, Sobhanbag, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1207.

### **Collaboration with Govt. Organization:**

Under the earnest desire and effort of the present President, attempts to contact different govt. and non-govt. officials were taken for the development of agro processing sector through BAPA.

### **Tariff commission:**

A meeting amongst the members of tariff commission related senior officials and BAPA were held on 2 June 2016.

BAPA President put up some specific tariff and non tariff problems and barriers creating hindrances in the development of the sector. Chairman of Tariff Commission assured co-operation from his side to solve the problems, which are within this control.

### **Export Promotion Bureau (EPB):**

Meeting between Vice Chairman of EPB and BAPA President, members was held on 17 February 2016. The president sought all possible help from the EPB authorities to promote export. Co-operation from BAPA was assured by the president to expand export market through holding food fairs in co-operation with EPB.



### **Meeting With Governor Bangladesh Bank:**

The meeting between Governor of Bangladesh Bank and BAPA president and his colleagues was held in Bangladesh Bank office on 3 March 2016. President, BAPA had good relation with the then Governor on that basis raised some problems of agro SMES and others seeking Governor's special consideration, particularly lowering the interest rate down simple digit. He further requested the Governor to make the process of issuing all types of loan issuing process easier.



On another occasion meeting was held between senior officers of BB and BAPA members to realize some genuine demands.

### **Meeting with Finance Minister:**

A team of BAPA led by President along with its others EC members met the Honorable Finance Minister on 6 April 2016 and humbly drew his attention on some specific issues for his smart action.

The major problems referred before him included:

1. Increase of cash incentives
2. Inclusion of new non conventional items in the list of cash of beneficiaries
3. Establishment of quality testing lab for agro processed products
4. Establishment of Agro processing zone



He was very much attentive and seemed convinced and assured all possible help to this thrust sector for its growth of national interest.

### **Meeting with JICA:**

Two meetings between JICA and BAPA were held on 14 January 2016 & 16 February 2016, in which President of BAPA explained the need of quality production of our processed products and measure for ensuring food safety respectively. Japan is very sensitive country regarding quality and we do not enjoy GSP from them. President expressed happiness for the victory teams desire to establish machineries on co-operative basis to help expansion of processing industry.



### **Meeting with Canadian visiting team on 25 August 2016 at Dhaka Club:**

The team leader of the visitors expressed that Canada produces the best quality wheat in plenty. They are the major exporter and Bangladesh has a vast scope to import the quality food product, which after processing can get good western market. They sought co-operation through BAPA the appropriate party /team to make deal. President Mr. Munshi expressed their co-operation to establish high quality testing lab for our processed products and establishment of storage system. He further requested the team to provide latest technology as our soil is also quite suitable for production of wheat an important food item for all.



### **Meeting with D.G. /DAO:**

President of BAPA with his senior colleagues met with the senior officers in the office of D.G. on 12 April 2016 and put before them some problems regarding delay in issuing phytosanitary certificate to our members who export their processed food products. He requested the concerned officer to expedite the process. The concerned officer assured regarding the matter.



### **U-DAY Observance:**

U-Union observed U-day and our BAPA-U project authorities were kind enough to invite us to attend the ceremony in the Westin Hotel hold on 9 May

2016.



Our E.C. members led by President attended the ceremony. Advisor & Secretary also attended with them. The ceremony was enlightened by the presence our state Ministry & the Chief Guest.

### **Advisory meeting of National Revenue Broad (NBR)**

Advisory Meeting of National Revenue Board was held on April 28, 2016 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. Our President, BAPA attended the important meeting and urged for vat, tax policy in the meeting.

### **Meeting for Seeking Project Fund**

BAPA President along with some Senior E.C. members participated in the meeting with HELVETAS held on 22.02.16 , World Vision on 24.02.16, Action Aid on 14.03.16 and SMEF on 24.03.16 seeking project fund in collaboration with them. Luckily, we got the project PRISM with partnership of HELVETAS, Traidcraft, etc

### **BAPA-EU Project**

We are lucky to mention that BAPA won two EU- funded projects of 24 and 30 months duration. In the mean time both the projects have been completed. The donors were happy for our performance. The projects were continued with skill development, TVET & SME development and also the smaller one concerned with the capacity building of BAPA.



Lastly, the completed ceremony was held on 20 September 2016 presided over by the President of BAPA in which Honorable Industry Minister was present as Chief Guest and Coordinator of Bangladesh INSPIRED was also present as Special Guest.

### **Project Grant No. DCI/ASIE/2013/333/072:**

Project Title was: The road to sustainable Agro SME development in target clusters of Bangladesh through enhancing ‘Entrepreneurial Ability’ and ‘Technical Skills’

There were 4 clusters under this project in the country. The clusters were: a) Gazipur (Dhaka-Savar-Gazipur) b) Narayanganj (Sonargaon-Munshiganj) c) Natore (Rajshahi-Bogra-Pabna-Natore) and d) Khagrachory (Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong Area).

The target of this project was to achieve economic growth, increase employment and alleviate poverty through sustainable agro SME development in Bangladesh through cluster approach. The project created 200 new small entrepreneurs, another 60 from Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students, 5000 jobs in such new SMEs with women and tribal or physically challenged persons and also jobs for 2000 apprentices.

Under the schemes, BAPA arranged several ‘Training of Trainers’ and 35 trainers have been created in agro processing sector and 31 industrial managers and supervisors were trained to conduct apprenticeship program. 21 TVET teachers were trained and 360 hours certificate course on entrepreneurship development and preparation of successful business plan was



performed in the Nutrition and Food Engineering dept. of Daffodil International University, Narsingdi Polytechnic & Cox's Bazar Polytechnic Institute where 80 students participated in this training course. A National Workshop was held on the benefits of apprenticeship program and government incentives for agro SMEs.

208 SMEs received training and they are doing better business and 2050 apprentices got training in different different agro processing industries.

A study tour in UK was also arranged for stakeholders to understand how entrepreneurship is mainstreamed in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and to validate the curriculum for the certificate course in TVET institutes,

### **Project Grant No. DCI/ASIE/2013/333/073.**

One of the two EU-funded projects, BAPA on completion in the year 2016 was concerned on the title: 'Strengthening the capacity of Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA) to enhance competitiveness of its member SMEs involved in Agro-processing'. Its Grant No. DCI/ASIE/2013/333/073.

Its major activities included holding of Regional Meetings in six divisions of the country to collect opinion regarding the problems and prospects of agro processing sector from the stakeholders engaged in agro processing. There were also two Round Table Meetings held in Dhaka City to discuss the tariff & non tariff barriers of agro processing sector. Training program was organized in Dhaka City for 100 BAPA SME members to qualify the products for consumed and export. We had collaboration meetings with Bangladesh Bank, EPB, BSTI, Tariff Commission, SME Foundation, Hortex Foundation, Bangladesh Women Chamber in Sylhet and Khulna. We have discussed with Govt Authorities to solve the problems, tariff & non tariff barriers of agro processing sector.

A study tour in Thailand & Vietnam was organized for gaining knowledge about agro processing where SME members from BAPA, Officers from Ministry and Project Manager participated. 10 brochures and training manuals were published for BAPA SME members. EU grant also helped to organize a trade fair in 2015 that was first introduction for BAPA.

The project helped to establish Front Desk, Training Centre and Library at BAPA office. About 800 books and journals have collected for Library.

### **Meeting with BSTI:**

A group of BAPA SME with the project officials met and hold meeting with BSTI officials related with agro processing. BAPA demanded the easy and cheap price for the standardization certificate for BAPA SME members. BSTI agreed to support us in various ways.



### **Meeting with SME Foundation:**

A team of BAPA E. C members by the leadership of President A F M Fakhrul Islam Munshi participated in the collaboration meeting with SMEF held on 1 June 2016 and 24.03.16 at the conference room of SME Foundation. Discussion was taken place for the interest of both the institutions particularly for the development of small and medium enterprises.

