

6 THE VISION FOR BANGLADESH RAILWAY

The vision of Bangladesh Railway is to play an important and dominant role in an integrated transport system for the country by emphasising its strengths. The main strength of rail transport vis-à-vis road transport is in long distance travel and carriage of goods. Bangladesh is a relatively small country, and so for railway to compete with road transport it must be part of a door-to-door service that is integrated with other modes of transport for access and egress. Key areas where railway will seek to achieve the vision are as follows:

Transport of containers. Currently restricted to the Chittagong-Dhaka corridor, the market and market share will be increased through:

- Lower port turnaround, loading and unloading times
- Competitive pricing
- Increased capacity on key corridors
- Increase new train service
- Development of new Inland Container Depots
- Development of Railway Links with all ports and proposed Deep Sea Port at Sonadia
- Improved custom clearance arrangements
- Quality transfer facilities to road transport
- BR to act as a multi-modal transport (MMT) operator

Inter City Passengers. Currently growing at around 3.8% per year, there is massive potential to increase market share through

- Increasing track capacity on key corridors
- Increase new train service and expansion of network
- Developing intercity stations, as termini, interchange points, and focuses of land development
- Developing Commuter Services and Metro System in the Capital Dhaka
- Improved rolling stock
- Faster operations
- Competitive pricing
- Improved customer-orientated approaches

Bulk Freight Movements. Focus on commodities where railway is competitive to increase market share through:

- Focussing on POL, sand, stone, food grain, fertiliser, iron and steel
- Improved mechanised handling techniques
- Integration with road transport for door-to-door operations

Role as an International Railway. BR has great potential to play a role in enhancing trade in goods and services through:

- Carrying a greater share of the bi-lateral trade with India
- Developing railheads for third-country trade and transit
- Playing an active role in the Trans-Asian Railway to make railway the main carrier
- Providing seamless access to Bangladesh ports for Indian cargo