History and Functions of Railway Training Academy

Brief History of the Academy:

In British India, railway operations were first introduced on 15 November 1862 between Darshana and Jagati under the supervision of the Eastern Railway. At that time, there was no training academy in the area; however, a training school existed in Kolkata. Later, under the Assam Bengal Railway, a training school was established in Chattogram, which was transferred to Dhaka in 1942, but it was closed after the Second World War. After the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, railway officers of East Pakistan were sent to "Walton" in West Pakistan for training. In addition, employees of the Traffic Department were trained at the Lalmonirhat Training School, and employees of the Mechanical Department received training at Pahartali, Dhaka, Ishwardi, Parbatipur, and Saidpur.

After independence, due to the absence of a dedicated training academy for railway officers in Bangladesh, officers were sent to Pune, India, and other academies for training. To overcome these training challenges, the Railway Administration established the "Railway Training Academy" in 1976. From 1976 to 1984, training activities were conducted at CRB, R. Nizam Road, and Pahartali College. In 1984, after the construction of permanent infrastructure for the Railway Training Academy at Halishahar, Chattogram, all training activities for officers and staff have been conducted from this location.

Functions of the Academy

Courses Conducted at the Railway Training Academy:

1. Foundation Course
2. Final Course
3. Refresher Course
4. Special Course
5. Promotion Course

The following officers and employees appointed in Bangladesh Railway participate in the above courses:

- BCS Probationary Officers
- Assistant Surgeons
- Assistant Commandants
- Assistant Programmers
- Maintenance Engineers
- Sub-Assistant Engineers (SAE)
- Pointsmen
- Booking Assistants
- Ticket Collectors (TC)
- Guards
- Assistant Station Masters (ASM)
- Train Controllers
- Assistant Loco Masters (ALM), and Others.

Training Areas at RTA:

- Traffic, Operations, and Commercial Management
- Mechanical, Signal, and Telecommunication
- Civil Engineering and Track Maintenance
- Personnel, Finance, and Administration
- Information Technology and E-Governance.

Development and Modernization:

Currently, the Academy is equipped with computer laboratories, simulation rooms, e-learning facilities, modern classrooms, and residential accommodation. Moreover, as part of railway modernization projects, plans have been undertaken to upgrade the Academy's training programs to international standards.

Notable Highlights:

- Bangladesh Railway Training Academy is one of the oldest railway training institutions in South Asia.
- Every year, hundreds of officers and employees receive training at various levels.
- The Academy operates under the direct supervision of Bangladesh Railway.