

BSS inputs for inclusion in Bangladesh Economic Review-2025

Introduction: Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) emerged as the national news agency in line with the secretarial order, No 1/72, of the then Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

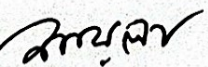
The Regional office of the then Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). Under the 20th Ordinance of 1979, BSS was transformed into a statutory organization (body corporate) as the national news agency and its management was vested upon an 11 member Board of Directors. On 14/11/2018, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Act, 2018 (Act 65 of 2018) was enacted and gazetted. Currently, a 13-member Board of Directors is entrusted with the task of running the management and administration of BSS.

Activities of BSS: The principal duties and activities of BSS Act, 2018 are-

1. To gather and disseminate national and international news through the print and electronic media;
2. To act as the national news agency of Bangladesh for disseminating the national news in outer world;
3. To gather and exchange reports in political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, technological, cultural, sports and other areas from and to the foreign media;
4. To get engaged with the concerned national and international agencies and organizations for training the newsmen under agreements;
5. To buy or sell news, features, pictures or videos from/ to other local or international news agencies;
6. To adopt programmes for the overall development of the national news agency.
7. Coordinating with Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB), Press Information Department (PID) and publicity wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of informing the people of the developmental activities of the Government; And
8. Perform such other duties as may be necessary for the performance of the above-mentioned duties and functions.

The BSS newsmen stationed in the capital and major cities and the correspondents based in the different districts and remote areas are covering routinely the daily activities of the honorable President and Chief Adviser, government offices, private sector along with the development news and incidents of national and international concerns. These reports and articles are being published after required editing in mainstream national and local newspapers and carried by TV channels and international news organizations. BSS also runs news portals for its clients and ordinary audience.

BSS collects foreign news from the international news agencies under news exchange agreements, and getting them publishing through the electronic media, newspapers and social media. Every year BSS runs nearly one lakh news items in Bengali and English languages. Alongside acting as a mainstream news agency BSS plays a role of being a conduit between the government and the people of different professional and social status and those who are in the grassroots. It is also a medium in maintaining the connection between Bangladesh and other foreign countries.



Information on activities undertaken and implemented by BSS:

SL No.	Subject	Activities, programs and actual progress					Remarks
A.	Comparative statistics, information and details of targets and various activities/programs and actual progress (decrease/increase) from 2010-11 to 2024-25 fiscal year:	The comparative statistics, information and details of the progress (decrease/increase) of BSS's news gathering and distribution activities in the past years are given below:-					
		SL NO.	Fiscal year	News coverage targets	Achievements	Total progress (%)	
		01.	2010-2011	1,02,000	1,02,526	100.51%	
		02.	2011-2012	1,05,000	1,05,654	100.62%	
		03.	2012-2013	1,01,000	1,00,695	99.69%	
		04.	2013-2014	1,07,000	1,07,320	100.29%	
		05.	2014-2015	1,09,000	1,09,534	100.48%	
		06.	2015-2016	1,11,000	1,11,730	100.65%	
		07.	2016-2017	1,15,000	1,02,794	89.38%	
		08.	2017-2018	1,05,000	1,28,272	122.16%	
		09.	2018-2019	1,10,000	1,10,944	100.85%	
		10.	2019-2020	1,11,000	1,12,020	100.92%	
		11.	2020-2021	1,11,000	1,17,608	105.95%	
		12.	2021-2022	1,12,000	1,15,762	103.35%	
		13.	2022-2023	1,12,000	1,12,219	100.20%	
		14.	2023-2024	1,12,000	1,15,696	103.30%	
		15.	2024-2025	1,12,000	1,32,862	118.62%	
B.	Comparative statistics, information and details of the goals and latest progress (decrease/increase) of various activities/programs for the fiscal year 2024-25:	The progress (decrease/increase) comparative statistics, information and details of BSS's news collection and distribution activities for the fiscal year 2024-25 are given below:-					
		SL NO.	Fiscal year	News coverage targets	Achievements	Total progress (%)	
		01.	2024-2025	1,12,000	1,32,862	118.62%	
C.	Details of recently adopted financial reforms/policies and good governance related activities (for the fiscal year 2024-25):	Not applicable as BSS is not involved in financial reform/policy and good governance related activities.					
D.	Details of any activities undertaken/to be undertaken regarding poverty alleviation, microfinance and privatization, if any:	Not applicable as BSS is not involved in poverty alleviation and microfinance related activities.					
E.	Details of the activities already taken and to be taken for the development and expansion of information technology:	<p>1. Implementation of the program titled Strengthening BSS ICT System: BSS has taken the following steps to modernize and modernize its outdated computer system:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Creating own data center, LAN setup and WiFi zone; ii. Installation of servers, routers, switches and small components; iii. IP PABX system launched; iv. internet bandwidth, software services, application services are enabled; v. Purchase and set up electrical equipment (2 on-line UPS and 300 KVA diesel engine generator). 					

Arjun