



Bangladesh Marches On



Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Bangladesh has been passing through a momentous time since independence in 1971 as the nation is celebrating three glorious events simultaneously. Firstly, the country has been celebrating the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest Bengali of all times and the architect of independent Bangladesh. Secondly, the nation has celebrated in March 2021 the golden jubilee of the glorious independence of the country. Finally, after becoming a lower middle-income country in 2015, Bangladesh made a giant leap fulfilling all the criteria for graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) twice, first in March 2018 and finally in February 2021, which means that Bangladesh will upgrade itself into a developing country in 2026. The convergence of these three glorious events in a single point of time promised to bring joy and national pride to all.

The robust economic growth during the last 13 years of visionary leadership by Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was manifested by the 271 times increase in the size of Bangladesh's economy and the 300 times increase in per capita national income. The growth has been exemplary for the rest of the world, as according to the GDP ranking based on PPP published by the IMF in June 2020, Bangladesh was the 30th largest economies in the world. Again, despite the continuation of the COVID-19 global pandemic for more than a year and a half, Bangladesh has, through pursuance of well-designed economic, fiscal and stimulus programmes, effectively tackled the economic shocks and maintained a solid progress towards

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recovery. According to an IMF report, Bangladesh is one of the three countries of the world that has achieved highest economic growth in 2020. According to the World Bank, “Bangladesh economy shows early signs of recovery amid uncertainties”. HSBC Global Research recently observed that Bangladesh is likely to be the biggest mover in the GDP rankings in 2030 and become the 26th largest economy in the world from its 42nd position. Further, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) from the United Kingdom projected that Bangladesh’s economy will be 28th largest in 2030 and 25th largest in 2035.

Macroeconomic Stability and Robust Economic Growth

Pursuance of pragmatic macroeconomic policies contributed in achieving sound macroeconomic fundamentals during the last decade. It has achieved a high growth rate alongside maintaining macroeconomic stability with stable inflation, sustainable public debt, and greater resilience to external shocks. The growth rate averaged 6.3 percent during 2009-2021 while developing economies’ average was 5.1 percent, and per capita GNI (US dollars) rose by 9 percent each year. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation moderated to 5.56 percent during FY21. In FY21, building on revenue growth and budget support assistance, the budget size reached to BDT 5,38,982 crore, which was 6 times higher than the budget in FY09, and particularly development expenditure rose by 10 times. Over the years budget deficit has been maintained around 5 percent, and in FY21, due to pandemic related spending, it rose only slightly to 6.2 percent, allowing Bangladesh to remain at a

low risk of debt distress. In the external front, export receipts remained resilient and more than quadrupled since FY06. In FY21, remittances inflow registered a record increase by 36.10 percent to USD 24.78 billion. The nominal exchange rate has also remained stable. Exchange rate stood at BDT 84.81 as of end June 2021 compared to BDT 84.90 as of end June 2020. Foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 0.744 billion in FY06 which has now crossed over USD 48.02 billion as of 25 August 2021. This reserve is broadly adequate to cover imports of goods and services of about 9 months.

Impressive Achievements in Social Sectors

Bangladesh has made impressive progress in socio-economic development outperforming its neighbours in many key indicators. The average life expectancy in Bangladesh has gone up at 72.8 years in 2020. In 2020, infant mortality of less than 5 years per thousand live births has gone down to 28, infant mortality rate of less than 1 year has gone down to 21, and maternal mortality rate per thousand is now only 1.63 persons. In 2005, Bangladesh's ranking in the *Human Development Index* was 140 among 177 countries, which has advanced to 133rd among 189 countries in 2019. It has secured 75th positions in the 'Global Hunger Index 2020' with major neighbouring countries trailing behind. In April 2018 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received Global Women Leadership Award 2018. Bangladesh secured 65th position in 'The Global Gender Gap Report, 2021', among 156 countries, a significant jump from the rank in 91st among 115 countries in 2006.

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Massive Social Protection to Reduce Poverty

Reducing poverty is one of the major objectives of the government. Towards that end, the government is committed to pursuing an inclusive growth strategy, and accordingly has adopted a coordinated approach combining various initiatives including the overall government development programmes, private investment and social security programmes. The government formulated the National Social Security Strategy, 2015 to reduce poverty and discrimination, and approved the Action Plan 2016-2021 for its implementation. Further, allocation in social protection has witnessed a massive expansion by 7 times from BDT 13,845 crore in FY09 to BDT 95,574 crore in FY21, and the spending covered 3.17 percent of GDP. Success in poverty reduction was particularly spectacular as both depth and severity of poverty have declined significantly. The headcount poverty reduced to 20.5 percent in 2019 from 40.0 percent in 2005 and the hard-core poverty reduced to 10.5 percent from 25.1 percent in 2005.

Progress in Developing Physical Infrastructure

Developing physical infrastructure, especially in communication, power and energy sectors, is a prerequisite to build the ‘Sonar Bangla’ (Golden Bengal). Completion of four lane highways at Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Mymensingh and Gazipur-Tangail, widening and renovation of other highways and roads, construction of Kachpur-2, Meghna-2 and Meghna-Gomati-2 bridges, introduction of double tracks along the Dhaka-Chattogram railway line, and opening of a number of flyovers in Dhaka and along major highways have greatly eased

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transportation problems in the country. Meanwhile, implementation of the government's fast track and mega projects has achieved momentum. Of them, construction of Padma Bridge, Padma Bridge Rail Link, MRT-6 Metro Rail, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Matarbari Power Plant, Rampal Power Plant, Payra Sea Port, Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Rail Link, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, and Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujib Tunnel at the Karnaphuli river is progressing fast. Apart from the communication infrastructure, generation of electricity at the moment is 5 times higher compared to that in 2009. Total power generation capacity (including captive and renewable energy) has increased to 25,227 MW as of May 2021. In 2009, natural gas production in Bangladesh was 1,744 million cubic feet, which has now increased to about 2,525 million cubic feet. The remaining demand is being met by importing liquefied natural gas. To this end, two floating LNG terminals each with a capacity of 500 million cubic feet have been set up at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar, and construction of a few more LNG terminals is being considered.

Improving Business and Investment Environment

To materialise the government's goal to become a happy and prosperous developed country by 2041, private sector should go along with the pace of development. The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index is used to indicate how well the business environment of a country performs. Bangladesh's position in the Index has improved from 176th to 168th in 2019 and it has been included in the top 20 countries that have undertaken massive reform activities to improve its position in

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the Index. Reforms undertaken to streamline business processes included the One Stop Service (OSS) Act in 2018 and the OSS Rules in 2020 that aim at simplifying and integrating the delivery of various services, facilities, licenses and permissions. A total of 42 services of 12 companies are currently being provided online through the OSS portal with the target of providing 150 investment services of 35 companies. The PPP Office, established in 2010, has continued to provide support to line ministries to identify, develop, tender and finance PPP projects. The government has taken steps to establish 100 economic zones by 2030 that is estimated to create direct and indirect employment opportunities for around 10 million people and increase export by additional 40 billion. As these initiatives improved the investment climate, net FDI inflow grew at 26 percent annually on average in the last decade. In FY20, net FDI inflow stood at USD 2.38 billion. The government is working to bring Bangladesh's position in the Index within double digits (or below 100).

Deepening Financial Sector

The financial sector has further deepened, which was evident from the rise in the broad money. *Broad money (M2)* increased by 13.60 percent (y-o-y) at end June FY21 while the growth was 12.64 percent at end June FY20. Efficiency of the financial intermediation has continued to improve despite the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the spread between the weighted average interest rate on advances and deposits of all banks decreased to 3.19 percent in July 2021 from 3.20 percent in June 2021; it was 5.79 percent in FY06. At the same time,

significant increase in total assets as well as deposits in the banking sector indicates a sound financial base for the country.

Structural Transformation of the Economy

Due to policies adopted by the present government, the Bangladesh economy has been witnessing a substantial structural transformation, as the industry's share of GDP rises and that of agriculture falls. The provisional estimate of FY21 states that the share of agriculture, industry and service sectors to the GDP at constant prices are 13.47 percent, 34.99 percent and 51.53 percent respectively. The share of agriculture and industry was 18.4 percent and 26.35 percent respectively in FY09. Within the industry sector, the manufacturing subsector's evolution is evident from the rapid growth of the readymade garments industry on the back of low-cost labour. A substantial portion of Bangladesh's export earnings comes from RMG. Thus, the economy is slowly heading towards a desirable economic transformation as a strong manufacturing sector will be the key to sustain the present growth momentum. The export-led growth strategy pursued by the government along with its initiatives to create the enabling environment and strengthen the regulatory framework for industrial promotion, workers' welfare, competition and innovation have largely contributed to this development.

Digital Transformation of Bangladesh

The government is working to build a 'Digital Bangladesh' to ensure ease in public service delivery by carrying out infrastructural development and extensive expansion of ICT technologies. Broadband internet access facilities have been

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extended up to the union level. 4G mobile services have been rolled out to all districts and divisions, and necessary preparations to rollout 5G have been taken. The country has witnessed a widespread expansion in the use of mobile phone and internet during the last decade. In recognition to the commendable performance of the government in transforming the country into a technology based modern state, Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been awarded the “South-South Cooperation Visionary Award”. The country also succeeded in launching its own satellite, named the *Bangabandhu Satellite-1*, in 2018. The government is setting up 39 Hi-Tech Parks/Software Technology Parks in different parts of the country. Furthermore, the government has taken efforts to effectively tap the opportunities presented by the 4th industrial revolution. Using the Government-to-Person (G2P) system, social security payments are being made directly to beneficiaries through banks or mobile banks. The government has also encouraged the growth of mobile financial services (MFS), as transaction worth, on an average, of BDT 1,745 crore is being carried out every day through MFS. Again, the government mustered the use of ICT in tackling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic both at the health front (e.g. creating awareness of the virus, communicating PCR test results, enrolling for vaccine, etc.) and the distribution of stimulus payments (including direct cash transfer).

Moving Forward to Achieve the Dream of Golden Bengal

To achieve the dream of Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal), as dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, the present government has undertaken various medium- and long-term development plans. It has already overseen the successful implementation of the 6th and 7th Five Year Plans, and has recently embarked on implementing the 8th Five Year Plan from July 2020 to June 2025. It remains committed to implementing the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is well on course towards achieving various SDG targets. For our journey towards prosperity, Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has pledged to work resolutely with the support of people from all walks of life. The development trajectory of Bangladesh is expected to flow through Vision-2021 (Middle Income Country and Digital Bangladesh), 2030- Achieving SDGs, 2031- Achieving the status of an Upper-middle- income country, Vision-2041 (Achieving the status of a developed country- Prosperous Bangladesh), 2071- 100 years of Independence (Surprising Bangladesh) and Delta Plan- 2100 (Safe Delta).

The government has commenced its third term in January 2019 with a strong zeal and confidence of sustaining the remarkable strides it made during its previous two terms in various macroeconomic and social indicators. Although the outbreak of COVID-19 novel coronavirus in early 2020 created an unprecedented global crisis affecting lives and livelihood, the Bangladesh government has so far done exceedingly well in tackling the economic shocks of the pandemic and in spearheading the process of economic recovery with well thought-out and comprehensive stimulus programme of BDT 1877 billion (USD 22.08) involving 28 fiscal and financial measures. The signs of economic recovery are evident from the

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encouraging performance of the economy in terms of remittances, exports and imports growth and in enhancing domestic resources mobilization. We are confident that Bangladesh will be able to sustain the growth momentum and will continue to make a resolute progress towards achieving its ultimate goal of achieving the dream of Golden Bengal.

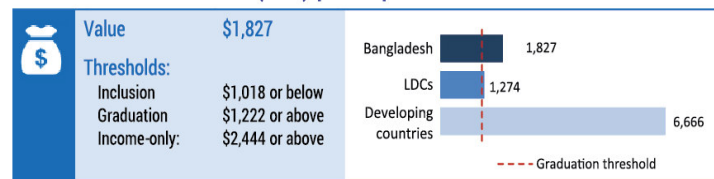
Thirteen Years of Success

A Milestone Case:

BANGLADESH: Graduation from the LDC Category

Fulfilling all 3 criteria

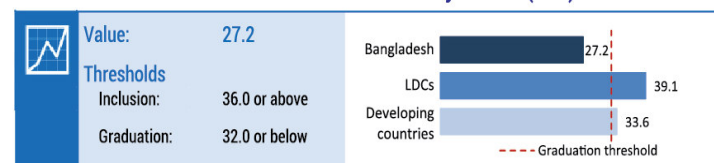
Gross national income (GNI) per capita*



Human assets index (HAI)*



Economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI)*



* Data from the 2021 triennial review of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy

Socioeconomic Achievement

- ◆ Annual average GDP growth was 6.3 percent for the last 12 years (FY09 to FY21)
- ◆ Per capita GNI increased to USD 2227 in FY21 from USD 759 in FY09
- ◆ GDP growth reached 8.15 percent in FY19; Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the rate was 3.51 percent and 5.47 percent respectively in FY20 and FY21
- ◆ The Spectator Index in its recent publication showed Bangladesh as the top GDP growth achiever totalling 188 percent in current prices during the last 10 years
- ◆ Share of industrial sector to GDP increased to 34.99 percent in FY21 from 26.54 percent in FY09
- ◆ Total investment to GDP ratio increased to 29.92 percent in FY21 from 26.2 percent in FY09
- ◆ Headcount poverty reduced to 20.5 percent in 2019 from 40.0 percent in 2005
- ◆ Hard-core poverty reduced to 10.5 percent in 2019 from 25.1 percent in 2005
- ◆ Crude Birth Rate (CBR) reduced to 18.1 per thousand of population in 2020 from 19.4 per thousand of population in 2009
- ◆ Crude Death Rate (CDR) reduced to 5.1 per thousand of population in 2020 from 5.8 per thousand of population in 2009
- ◆ Life expectancy (total) increased to 72.8 years in 2020 from 67.2 years in 2009
- ◆ Dependency ratio reduced to 50 percent of total working-class population in 2020 from 66 percent in 2009
- ◆ Female literacy rate increased to 73 percent of adult women in 2020 from 53.8 percent in 2009

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- ◆ Public investment scaled up to 8.67 percent of GDP in FY21 from 4.31 percent in FY09
- ◆ Government revenue income grew by more than five times during this period; Total revenue increased to 12.55 percent of GDP in FY21 from 9.16 percent in FY09
- ◆ Total government spending increased to 18.86 percent of GDP in FY21 from 12.6 percent in FY09; The size of the government expenditure increased by more than 5 times during this period
- ◆ Budget deficit was maintained at a reasonable level of around 5 percent (Due to the pandemic, it was 6.2 percent in FY21)
- ◆ Financial deepening (M2/GDP ratio) increased to 44.5 percent in FY21 from 42.0 percent in FY09
- ◆ Remittance increased by 36.1 percent to USD 24.78 billion in FY21 from USD 9.7 billion in FY09
- ◆ Exports grew to USD 38.76 billion in FY21 from USD15.56 billion in FY09



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- ◆ Imports grew to USD 60.68 billion in FY21 from USD 22.5 billion in FY09
- ◆ Foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 48.02 billion in 25 August, 2021 from USD 7.47 billion in 30 June, 2009
- ◆ Exchange rate (BDT/USD) increased to 85.20 in August 2021
- ◆ FDI inflows increased to USD 2.38 billion in FY20 from USD 961 million in FY09
- ◆ Average inflation rate was 5.6 percent for the last 6 years

Social Protection

- ◆ Allocation for social safety net has been increased to BDT 1,07,614 crore in FY21 which is 7.7 times more than the allocation in FY09 (BDT 13,845 crore). This amount is 5.61 percent of total budget of FY21
- ◆ The National Social Security Strategy, 2015 formulated and Action Plan prepared
- ◆ The Children Act, 2013 and The Maintenance of Parents Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disability Act, 2013 and The Vagrants and Homeless Persons (Rehabilitation) Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The Protection Trust for the Persons with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ 'One stop service' introduced for disabled persons
- ◆ 100 percent poor elderly people and widows & deserted women in the most poverty-stricken 112 Upazilas were brought under the coverage of 'old age allowance' and 'allowance for widows, deserted and destitute women' respectively in FY21; This will be extended to the next 150 poverty-stricken Upazilas in FY22

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- ◆ 100 percent physically challenged people have been brought under the ‘Disability Allowance’ by FY21
- ◆ Monthly allowances for old age person increased to BDT 500 in FY20 from BDT 300 in FY09, and for insolvent physically challenged persons increased to BDT 750 in FY20 from BDT 300 in FY10
- ◆ Number of beneficiaries for allowances provided to insolvent widows, women abandoned by husbands and destitute women increased from 9.20 lakh in FY10 to 20.50 lakh in FY21
- ◆ Number of beneficiaries of old age allowance raised from 22 lakh in FY10 to 49 lakh in FY21
- ◆ A centralized call centre for ‘Child Helpline 1098’ established in the Social Welfare Directorate to assist disadvantaged children
- ◆ For physically challenged people, 103 care and service centres have been set up in 39 Upazilas of 64 districts having ‘Autism Resource Centres’
- ◆ Interest-free credit introduced for creating employment opportunities for the hard-core poor
- ◆ Disability Information System was introduced to collect information of disabled persons
- ◆ ‘Providing Housing for all Landless and Homeless People of the Country Policy 2020’ formulated
- ◆ ‘My House My Farm’ programme received an allocation of BDT 1143.50 crore for FY20
- ◆ Total number of beneficiaries of VGF programme has reached 18 million per month in FY21 which was 2 million per month in FY09

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- ◆ ‘Ashrayan’ (Housing for homeless people) project being continued; 4,42,608 families have been rehabilitated through the project



Food Security

- ◆ National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2020 formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh Food Safety Authority has been established, which is now fully operational
- ◆ The Food Safety Act, 2013 enacted; From August 2015 to June 2019, 5,667 mobile courts have been conducted under the Safe Food Act, 2013
- ◆ The Open Market Sale (OMS) Policy, 2015, and the Food Grain Distribution Regulations, 2016 formulated
- ◆ To keep the market price of food grains stable during the COVID-19 pandemic, rice and flour were distributed through OMS at about 727 locations, including city corporations, district headquarters and municipalities during FY21
- ◆ The Food Friendly Programme Policy, 2017 formulated

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- ◆ Food friendly programme initiated targeting 50 lakh beneficiaries
- ◆ Storage capacity for food grains raised to about 2.18 million metric ton, which was 1.7 million metric ton in 2009. Storage capacity of another 0.6 million metric ton to be added soon
- ◆ A total of 2.28 lakh metric ton wheat and 1.27 lakh metric ton rice distributed through OMS in FY21 to stabilize market price
- ◆ Internal Food Grain Procurement Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ A total of 23.78 lakh metric ton paddy/rice and 1.03 lakh metric ton wheat procured from the domestic market in FY21 for providing price support to farmers and maintain food security
- ◆ The Ministry of Food has formulated the Second Country Investment Plan (CIP-2) (2016-2020) for the development of nutrient sensitive food system

Women and Children Welfare

- ◆ Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010 enacted, and Family Violence Prevention and Protection Rules, 2013 formulated
- ◆ Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ DNA Act, 2014 enacted
- ◆ National Women Development Policy, 2011 and the Action Plan for National Women Development 2013-25 formulated
- ◆ Prevention of Violence against Women and Children (Amendment) Act 2020 enacted
- ◆ The Child Day Care Act 2021 enacted
- ◆ ‘Gender-responsive budget’ being prepared annually since FY10

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- ◆ ‘Child focused budget’ being prepared annually since FY16
- ◆ Separate bank credit facilities ensured for women entrepreneurs
- ◆ ‘JOYEETA Foundation’ established to promote women entrepreneurship
- ◆ A total of 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells including 47 in district sadar hospitals and 20 in Upazila health complexes has been established
- ◆ Dedicated desks introduced in all banks and nonbank financial institutions to provide all types of assistance to women entrepreneurs
- ◆ 94-day care centres, 8 working women’s hostel are currently functioning around the country for the children of working mothers
- ◆ Maternity leave increased to 6 months
- ◆ Around 129 lakh women are given training on various awareness programme to ensure women empowerment



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- ◆ VGD programme has been expanded; Under the programme, 71 lakh destitute women have been provided with 30 kg rice each for 24 months during FY09 to FY18
- ◆ From FY19 the amount and duration of maternity and lactating mother's allowances increased to BDT 800 and 36 months respectively
- ◆ Instant support provided through the mobile app 'Joy' for women and children
- ◆ Conducted training to 12,02,654 women in various trades with a view to develop their skills
- ◆ Loans of BDT 225.16 crore has been distributed to 90,063 unemployed women for women empowerment

Welfare of Freedom Fighters

- ◆ Designated Freedom Fighter Allowance Distribution Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ Bir Muktijoddha Honorary Allowance Distribution Order, 2020 issued
- ◆ Ration Order of Martyrs, Titled and War Wounded Freedom Fighters, 2021 issued
- ◆ Order for distribution of honorarium to martyrs, awardees and war wounded freedom fighters, 2021 issued
- ◆ Initiatives taken to preserve historical places of liberation war; 65 Monuments of Liberation War constructed in 35 districts
- ◆ The number of beneficiaries receiving freedom fighter allowances increased to 2.0 lakh
- ◆ Monthly allowances for freedom fighters increased to BDT 20,000 per month in FY22 which was BDT 12,000 earlier; Festival Allowance and New Year Allowance granted

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- ◆ Work has started for building 30,000 'Bir Nibas' for the freedom fighters at a cost of BDT 4122 crore to ensure their accommodation
- ◆ 60 District Freedom Fighters Complex Building constructed
- ◆ A total of 2,962 houses for landless and insolvent freedom fighters have been constructed
- ◆ Foreign friends and organizations of different countries honoured in recognition of their remarkable contribution to our War of Independence; So far, 346 foreign individuals and organizations honoured
- ◆ Medical assistance provided to freedom fighters honoured with national gallantry awards

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Youth and Sports, Culture and Religion

- ◆ 29,11,996 unemployed youths have been provided training for development of efficiency in 83 trades during 2009 to June 2020
- ◆ Under the 'National Service Programme', up to 2020, a total of 2,29,737 beneficiaries were provided training, out of which 2,27,402 were given employment
- ◆ Loans amounting to BDT 1026.29 crore has been distributed to 4,03,794 persons for poverty alleviation during 2009 to June 2020
- ◆ To make the activities of youth organizations more dynamic in socio-economic development activities, BDT 15,51,85,000 have been provided as grants to 7,105 registered youth organizations
- ◆ Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute was established in 2018



- ◆ National Sports Council Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan Act, 2020 enacted

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- ◆ Bangabandhu Sports Welfare Foundation Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The Youth Welfare Fund Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ The National Youth Award Policy, 2010 and the National Youth Policy, 2017 formulated
- ◆ National Plan of Action for Implementation of National Youth Policy, 2017 formulated
- ◆ 131 Sheikh Raseel Mini Stadiums were established at the Upazila level



- ◆ The Small Ethnic Groups Cultural Institution Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Bangla Academy Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ The Kabi Nazrul Institute Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Public libraries in 39 districts constructed
- ◆ National public library was modernized, and digital library was introduced
- ◆ The historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage

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Agriculture and Rural Development

- ♦ Ministry of Agriculture has completed enactment of 15 laws including Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award Trust Act, 2018, Seed Act, 2018, Pesticides Act, 2017, Fertilizer Management (Amendment) Act, 2018 and Protection of Plant and Farmer Rights Act, 2019
- ♦ National Organic Agriculture Policy, 2018; Integrated Small Irrigation Policy, 2018; National Agriculture Policy, 2020; National Agricultural Extension Policy, 2020; and Mechanization Policy, 2020 formulated
- ♦ Average growth rate of the agriculture sector stood at 4.03 percent over the last 4 years



- ♦ Bangladesh secured the third position in rice and vegetable production; In addition, Bangladesh is in 7th position in mango and potato production
- ♦ Till now 656 new crop variety developed by agricultural research institutes

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- ◆ BADC has produced 15,13,500 metric tons of seeds since 2009-10
- ◆ According to FAO report “The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2018”, Bangladesh ranked 3rd in inland open water capture production and 5th in world aquaculture production
- ◆ To modernize agriculture through mechanization of farms, about 69,868 combined harvesters, reapers, ciders, power tillers and other agricultural machinery provided to farmers during 2010-2020
- ◆ Agricultural machinery being provided at a subsidized rate of 70 percent for the farmers of the southern coastal and haor areas and 50 percent for the farmers in other areas
- ◆ Self-sufficiency achieved in food production; The total grain production in 2019-20 was 453.43 lakh metric ton (rice 366.04 MT, wheat 10.29 MT, maize 54.02 MT)



- ◆ Geographical Indication (GI) Registration Certificate has been achieved for our Jamdani sharee, Hilsa fish, Khirshapati mango, Dhaka Maslin, Rangpur Shatranji,

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Rajshahi Silk, Dinajpur Kataribhog & Kalizira rice and Bijoypur clay

- ◆ BDT 10 no-frills bank accounts were opened for 1.07 crore farmers
- ◆ 2.08 crore Agricultural Input Assistance Cards provided to farmers
- ◆ Special agricultural loan introduced at 4 percent interest rate under interest subsidy for producing 24 crops including pulses, oils, spices and maize
- ◆ A total of 499 Agricultural Information and Communication Centres (AICCs) have been set up across the country to spread agricultural information at the rural level
- ◆ The Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award Trust Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ To ensure fair prices for agricultural products 'Farmers' Market' has been initiated in 41 districts across the country
- ◆ Genome Sequencing of jute invented
- ◆ Irrigation coverage expanded by 11.12 lakh hectares
- ◆ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognizes the Bangladesh floating garden farming system as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System
- ◆ The Bangladesh Veterinary Council Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ The Animal Welfare Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ Development of 'Livestock Diary' mobile application
- ◆ Digitalization of Artificial Insemination Service and Innovation of E-Vet Service
- ◆ 27.52 crore doses of 17 different types of vaccine produced by the Livestock Research Institute for animal and poultry for the prevention of infectious diseases

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- ◆ Production of milk, meat and eggs increased by 246.69 percent, 262.23 percent and 181.72 percent respectively during 2010 to 2020



- ◆ Livestock population increased to 42.22 crore in FY21, compared to 34.14 crore in FY12
- ◆ Modern internationally recognized biosafety labs for the diagnosis of avian influenza, SAARC PPR Regional Leading Lab, Poultry Disease Diagnostic Lab and Standard Food Safety Lab established
- ◆ Subsidy/development assistance of BDT 9,500 crore provided in FY21
- ◆ The mystery of '*Macrophomina phaseolina*' has been unveiled which is a harmful fungus of various crops including jute
- ◆ The Integrated Livestock Manure Management Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ The Plant Quarantine Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The Pesticides Act, 2018 enacted

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- ◆ The Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The National Organic Agricultural Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The Integrated Small Irrigation Policy, 2017 formulated
- ◆ The Fish Feed and Animal Feed Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Fish Feed Rules, 2011 and the Animal Feed Rules, 2013 formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh ranks 1st among 11 hilsa producing countries in the world; ranks 4th in tilapia production in the world (3rd in Asia)
- ◆ Mobile market system has been introduced to facilitate marketing of fish and fish products and animal and livestock products
- ◆ The Fisheries Quarantine Act, 2017, Marine Fisheries Act, 2020; Fisheries and Fisheries Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Act, 2020; The Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ The National Co-operative Policy, 2012 formulated
- ◆ Immediate expert advice on problems related to agriculture, fisheries and livestock can now be obtained by making a call to 16123
- ◆ Expert advice or service related to agriculture can now be obtained by making a call to 3331
- ◆ Initiatives taken to introduce ‘Traceability’ system in shrimp production
- ◆ Under the project of ‘My House, My Farm (Amar Bari Amar Khamar)’ around 95,386 co-operatives have been organized until March, 2019; The total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries is 2.12 crore

Physical Infrastructure

- ◆ Bus Rapid Transit Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ Railway Nirapotta Bahini Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ The Metro Rail Act, 2015 enacted
- ◆ Road Maintenance Fund Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ The Bangladesh Road Transport Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ The Real Estate Development and Management Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Integrated Multimodal Transport Policy, 2013 formulated
- ◆ A 20-year revised Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (2015-35) formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Lighthouse Act, 2020 enacted
- ◆ The National Shipping Policy, 2010 formulated
- ◆ Toll Rules, 2014 promulgated
- ◆ The container handling capacity of the Chattogram Port has increased from about 27,000 TEUs in 2009 to 49,018 TEUs at present
- ◆ Chattogram Port has gained recognition in the list of 100 container ports, and has ranked 64th position in 2019 in just 10 years, which is 34 notches above
- ◆ Construction of the Bay Terminal on the coast of Patenga-Halishahar is underway
- ◆ Construction of Deep-Sea Port at Matarbari with 16 metres draft and daily container handling capacity of 8,000 TEUs is ongoing
- ◆ Dredging work of 119.45 lakh cubic metres has brought the facility of handling ships having 10.5 metres draft up to the Harbaria area of Mongla port

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- ◆ Construction of the largest bridge of the country ‘Padma Multipurpose Bridge (6.15 km.)’ has reached a new milestone with the completion of road slab placement work on 23rd August 2021. Up to August 2021, cumulative progress is 84.5 percent with the completion of more than 93% work of the main bridge



- ◆ The Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority established, and is fully operational
- ◆ A number of flyovers constructed to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka and along the major highways
- ◆ 64.25 percent of the construction work (1st Tranche) of Dhaka Elevated Expressway is ongoing
- ◆ About 50 percent of the 4.5 km. elevated way which is a part of Gazipur-Airport 20 km. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT-3) has been completed
- ◆ Construction work of the 3.32 km long Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel at the bottom of the Karnafuli River is underway and 65% of the physical work has already been completed

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- ◆ Construction of 24 km. long Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Savar EPZ via Ashulia is expected to start in FY22
- ◆ Upgrading of the link roads at both sides of the Bangabandhu Bridge into 4 lanes is ongoing
- ◆ Feasibility study to construct a series of underground Subways throughout the Dhaka city has been completed, and the government decided to construct a number of subways
- ◆ Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) has been established to reduce traffic congestion and improve the environment of Dhaka Metropolitan and it's adjoining areas
- ◆ A total of 453.07 km of national highways has been upgraded to 4-lane and above. Among them, Bangladesh's first Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway and 4-lane Dhaka-Chittagong National Highway, Dhaka-Mymensingh National Highway and Nabinagar-Chandra Highway are notable



- ◆ A total of 1209 bridges and 5561 culverts have been constructed / reconstructed from 2009 to 2020 to make the communication system in the highway network uninterrupted and time saving

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- ◆ The National Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2020 has been formulated to reduce road accidents and the work of formulating the action plan for 2021-2024 is underway
- ◆ Ride Sharing Policy has been formulated and final approval has been given to 12 ride sharing service providers till March 2021
- ◆ Implementation of the 30-year 'Railways Masterplan (2016-2045)' at a cost of BDT 5,53,662 crore is ongoing. This master plan will materialize 230 projects in 6 phases
- ◆ Bangladesh Railway connects 44 districts of the country with a 2,929.50 km rail line. Activities are going on to bring the other parts of the country under the railway network
- ◆ Projects have been taken up to establish Padma Bridge Rail Link, Trans-Asian Railway and Regional Railway Network, and connect nearest suburbs with important cities like Dhaka, Chattogram, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Sylhet, etc. by introducing improved commuter train service
- ◆ To facilitate regional connectivity between India and Bangladesh, passenger trains named 'Bandhan Express' between Khulna-Kolkata and 'Mitali Express' between Dhaka-Chilahati-Haldibari were launched



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- ◆ Under the Revised Strategic Transport Plan (2015-35) the construction of the first Metro Rail in Bangladesh, MRT Line-6 from Uttara to Motijheel is in its advanced stage
- ◆ Construction of 31.24 km MRT Line-1 from Airport to Kamalapur and Purbachal is expected to commence from March 2022



- ◆ Construction of MRT Line-5 (Southern Route) is also expected to begin soon
- ◆ The test run of Bangladesh's first-ever metro train service on the viaduct in the capital has begun. Commercial operation to begin by late 2022
- ◆ Construction of Kanchpur-2, Meghna-2 and Goumti-2 bridges completed
- ◆ Implementation work on the Jamuna Rail Bridge and Rupsha Rail Bridge projects is well in progress
- ◆ Electronic toll collection system introduced at the Meghna and Meghna-Gomati Bridges
- ◆ Introduction of e-ticketing in railway stations and commencement of mobile app "Rail Seba"

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- ◆ Development of infrastructure/ support facilities for the operation of Payra Deep Seaport is in progress
- ◆ Bangladesh Biman has added four new 777-300ERs, two new 737-800s and four new 787-8 (Dreamliner) and three Dash-8 aircraft to its fleet
- ◆ Construction of the third terminal at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is in progress to enhance its passenger handling capacity to 12 million people
- ◆ Development of Cox's Bazar Airport (Phase-1) to an international airport and extension of its runway to enable landing of wide-bodied aircrafts (e.g., BOEING 777) is ongoing
- ◆ Bangladesh has scored 74.76 percent EI (Effective Implementation) in the Safety Standard Compliance of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and has been awarded the 'ICAO Council President Certificate'
- ◆ To create public awareness on road safety, Bangladesh started observing 22nd October as the 'National Safe Road Day'

Power and Energy

- ◆ The Electricity Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Electricity Rules, 2020 formulated
- ◆ The Natural Gas Allocation Policy, 2019 drafted
- ◆ The Private LNG Import Policy, 2019 drafted
- ◆ The Bangladesh Energy & Electricity Research Council Act, 2015 enacted to encourage new innovations in the power and energy sector
- ◆ The Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Act, 2012 enacted to ensure the promotion of renewable energy and energy conservation initiatives

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- ◆ The Power and Energy Fast Supply Enhancement (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 enacted (Amended in 2015) to accelerate installation of power plants
- ◆ The Bangladesh Gas Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ Natural Gas Allocation Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ Prepaid/ Smart Metre Purchase and Installation Rules, 2019 promulgated
- ◆ Domestic Natural Oil and Gas Exploration Rules, 2019 promulgated
- ◆ Gas Distribution Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ LPG station Installation, Import and Distribution (Private Sector) Rules, 2019 Promulgated
- ◆ Granite Marketing Rules, 2019 promulgated
- ◆ Petroleum Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ White Clay Extraction and Marketing Guidelines, 2014 promulgated
- ◆ LPG (Auto Gas) Refuelling Station Rules, 2016 promulgated
- ◆ The Mines and Minerals (Control and development) Rules, 2012 promulgated
- ◆ LPG Bottling Plant Installation Rules, 2016 promulgated
- ◆ Gas Development Fund Rules, 2012 promulgated
- ◆ Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority was formed as a separate entity on 12th February 2013
- ◆ Nuclear Power Plant Act, 2015 enacted
- ◆ Generation of electricity at the moment is more than 5 times higher compared to that in 2009. Total power generation capacity of the country (including captive and renewable energy) has increased to 25,235 MW as of May 2021

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- ◆ Percentage of total population brought under electricity coverage has been increased from 47 in 2009 to 99.50 in 2021
- ◆ Per capita electricity generation per hour has risen to 560 MW in 2021 from 220 MW 2009
- ◆ The number of electricity generation plants has increased from 27 in 2009 to 146 in 2021
- ◆ The highest electricity generation rose to 13,792 MW (2021) from 3,268 MW (January 6, 2009)
- ◆ Overall system loss reduced from 14.33 percent in FY09 to 8.49 percent in FY21
- ◆ Grid Substation Capacity has risen from 15,870 MVA in 2009 to 52,364 MVA
- ◆ Distribution line increased from 2.60 lakh km (2009) to 6.13 lakh km (2021)
- ◆ Total transmission line has now increased to 12,692 circuit kilometres
- ◆ Number of electricity subscribers increased from 1.08 crore to 4.07 crore in FY21

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- ◆ By 2030, the number of transmission lines will be increased to 28,000 km and the number of distribution lines to 6.60 lakh km
- ◆ ADP allocation for the power sector has increased by 9 times from 2677 crore in 2009 to 23760 crore in 2021
- ◆ Two Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) for LNG have been set up at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar district each with a capacity of 500 million cubic feet



- ◆ After regasifying imported LNG, an average of 600 to 700 million cubic feet of natural gas is being added to the national grid daily
- ◆ Four new gas reserves have been discovered in Sundalpur, Srikail, Rupganj and Bhola North
- ◆ In 2009, natural gas production in Bangladesh was 1,744 million cubic feet, which has now increased to about 2,525 million cubic feet
- ◆ There is an initiative to set up a land-based LNG terminal with a capacity of 1,000 million cubic feet per day in the Matarbari area of Cox's Bazar district

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Digital Bangladesh

- ◆ One Stop Service Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ Guidelines on Private Software Technology Park Declaration, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The One Stop Service (Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority) Rules, 2019 formulated



- ◆ The Digital Security Act, 2018 enacted, and the Digital Security Rules, 2020 formulated
- ◆ National Strategy for Robotics formulated
- ◆ National Digital Commerce Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ Public E-mail Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ The Information and Communication Technology (Amendments) Act, 2013 enacted, and The National Information and Communication Technology Rules, 2015 formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority established
- ◆ The Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority Rules, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The National Information and Communication Technology Policy, 2018 formulated

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- ◆ Office of the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), established
- ◆ All districts and divisions in the country have been brought under the 4G network; Preparations to rollout fifth generation (5G) mobile services underway



- ◆ The Bangladesh National Digital Architecture (BNDA) platform has been created to ensure inter-portability among all government offices
- ◆ A total of 39 Hi-Tech Parks/Software Technology Parks are being set up in different parts of the country, out of which 7 are ready for investment
- ◆ High-speed internet connection has been established through optical fibre cable in 18,434 government offices (integrated) and 2,600 unions across the country
- ◆ Bangabandhu Satellite-1 has been launched; all public and private TV channels in the country started to broadcast their programmes through this satellite

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- ◆ As of June 2020, more than 13,000 people have been directly employed in various parks and as of June 2020, about 16,000 people have been trained in various IT disciplines
- ◆ Construction of Sheikh Kamal IT Incubator & training centre, Rajshahi has been completed and construction of the same in 8 other places is underway
- ◆ The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority won the WITSA GLOBAL ICT EXCELLENCE AWARDS-2019 Award
- ◆ Two companies named the Data Centre Company Limited and the Start-up Bangladesh Limited have been formed
- ◆ Setting up of 'Bangabandhu High-Tech City on 355 acres of land in Kaliakoir of Gazipur is ongoing
- ◆ Bangladesh Computer Council established 804 video conferencing systems across the country
- ◆ High-tech specialized computer labs have been set up in 26 public and private universities to create opportunities for research and innovation at the university level and to make themselves proficient in the wake of the 4th Industrial Revolution

- ◆ More than 100 start-ups have been provided with a 1-year incubation facility; One floor in each High-Tech Park is being provided free of charge for start-ups
- ◆ To create skilled human resources with technical knowledge, about 6 lakh people have so far been given training in technology
- ◆ IT training has been provided to 57,683 women through caravan buses
- ◆ A total of 4,184 ‘Sheikh Rasel Digital Labs’ have been set up all over the country to spread ICT education
- ◆ 259 projects of innovative ideas have been provided with funds
- ◆ The Innovation and Entrepreneur Development Academy has been established
- ◆ Tier-3 Certified and Tier-4 Certified National Data Centres have been set up in the country, and Disaster Recovery Centre has been set up in Jessore
- ◆ There are now about four crore mobile banking customers in the country and the daily turnover of mobile banking is around BDT 2,300 crore. The monthly turnover under BEFTN, RTGS and BACS was BDT 54,490 crore, BDT 1,44,411 crore and BDT 89,063 crore respectively
- ◆ More than 40,000 officers now use the e-Nothi system to ensure transparency, accountability in government work
- ◆ To resolve the problem related to the interoperability of E-Governance implementation, Bangladesh National Digital Architecture has been established
- ◆ Bangladesh has dedicated access to 2600 GBPS Bandwidth through SEA-ME-WE 4 and SEA-ME-WE5 submarine cables. It has taken a project to get 7200 GBPS Bandwidth through the SEA-ME-WE6 submarine cable
- ◆ The total number of mobile phone subscribers reached 176.41 million at the end of June, 2021

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- ◆ The total number of internet users reached 120.95 million at the end of June, 2021
- ◆ Emergency police, fire service and ambulance services being provided to all citizens through National Emergency Service 999
- ◆ 333 call centres have been launched for providing information and services by government officials
- ◆ 31,824 government websites and 46000+ offices are connected to the national information window
- ◆ e-mutation and e-settlement activities started; e-mutation service introduced in 4509 offices
- ◆ e-Procurement and e-Monitoring systems introduced for government purchases
- ◆ An SDG Tracker has been established to ensure the framing of the right policy and the equitable distribution of resources, and the framing of information-based policy and the up-to-date online database suitable for proper decision-making
- ◆ Application of digital system to tackle impact of COVID-19
- ◆ The Central Aid Management System (CAMS) has been set up to provide cash assistance to 35 lakh families
- ◆ The Covid-19 vaccine management system “Suraksha” app has been developed to manage vaccine registration by citizens and vaccine delivery activities
- ◆ The ‘Porichoy’ service has been launched for personal identity verification using the National ID Card Database
- ◆ A website named www.corona.gov.bd has been set up to deal with the pandemic
- ◆ A unique service platform connecting 8045 offices has been launched to make all government services (186 services so far) easily available at one address for the citizens

Education

- ◆ The National Education Policy, 2010 framed
- ◆ Enrolment in technical education increased from 1 percent in 2009 to 16.25 percent in 2019
- ◆ Four engineering colleges established in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Barisal Divisions, and another four engineering colleges are under construction at Chottagram, Rajshahi, Khulna and Rangpur Divisions
- ◆ Female quota has been increased to 20 percent at the diploma level admission instead of 10 percent earlier
- ◆ 2nd shift system started to increase the enrolment for technical students
- ◆ Under the 'Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)', 100 percent female scholarship and a good number of male scholarships introduced to disadvantaged students in public-private polytechnic institutes
- ◆ At the diploma level some 2,80,951 students (including all female students) been given monthly scholarship of BDT 800 per month
- ◆ Total 5,80,000 students from 50 government and 50 private institutes (including all female students) are being provided with scholarships
- ◆ Around 8,000 students of SSC Vocational Level will be trained through the Apprenticeship Programme
- ◆ Competency Based Training and Assessment Programme (CBTA) introduced in the form of piloting in technical institutes
- ◆ A total of 2000 TVET teachers and officers trained at Singapore and China

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- ◆ Laptop, speaker and smart multimedia interactive boards provided in 322 selected Madrasahs under the project of ‘Multimedia classrooms for 653 Madrasah’; rest of the equipment will be provided by December 2019
- ◆ Technical and vocational institutions have signed MOUs with 553 business and industrial organizations to develop the linkage between industry and education
- ◆ Technical education programmes started in 271 Madrasahs
- ◆ Initiatives taken for the equilibrium of Madrasah Education with general education, and Honors courses have been started for 5 subjects in 52 Madrasahs
- ◆ A total of 2.67 lakh secondary school teachers have already been provided with training in different fields
- ◆ Dropout rate has been reduced from 45.1 percent in 2009 to 17.2 percent in 2020
- ◆ ICT training and resource centres established in 125 Upazilas in the country, and the process for establishing the same in another 160 Upazilas is underway



- ◆ E-books were introduced, Upazila ICT training and resource centres established; 1 private school in each Upazila has been transformed into a model school, and multimedia classrooms in 32,667 schools established
- ◆ From 2012, 343 non-government secondary Schools have been nationalized and in 2018 and 2019, 303 non-government colleges have been nationalized
- ◆ The Private University Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ Projects for establishing the Barisal University, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Islamic Arabic University, the Sheikh Hasina University and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University are being implemented
- ◆ The Creative Talent Hunt Policy, 2012 formulated
- ◆ Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary level increased to 98 percent
- ◆ National School Meal Policy 2019 formulated
- ◆ 1,495 new government primary schools have been set up under the project named 'Establishment of 1,500 Schools in Areas where there are Currently no Schools'

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- ◆ A total of 80,638 classrooms have been constructed in 21,556 schools
- ◆ Pre-primary education programme launched in all government primary schools for children aged 4+. and 37,672 posts for pre-primary teachers created
- ◆ To overcome the adverse impact of COVID 19 pandemic, the primary level lessons broadcasting programme titled 'Learning at Home' is being implemented through broadcast by Sangsad Bangladesh Television
- ◆ The e-learning platform of 'Muktopath' has opened 10 free tutorials on COVID-19 awareness
- ◆ Implementation of 'Primary School Mill Project' for the period from July, 21 to June, 26 in accordance with the National School Mill Policy
- ◆ Recruitment of 1,97,864 teachers including head teachers and assistant teachers in government primary schools since 2009, upgrading the post of headmaster to 2nd class and raising the salary of assistant teachers by two grades
- ◆ Interactive Digital Textbook introduced

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- ◆ Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund has been constituted with an amount of seed money of BDT 1000 crore to ensure the education of poor students
- ◆ The National Skill Development Policy, 2011 formulated
- ◆ The National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) established, and is fully operational
- ◆ National Human Resources Development Fund (NHRDF) established
- ◆ National Technical and Vocational Qualification Framework (NTVQF) introduced
- ◆ Curriculum on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) introduced from class iv and made compulsory up to the higher secondary level
- ◆ Through the 'Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)', training was provided to 4,28,313 participants, out of which 77.75 percent got employment

Health and Family Welfare

- ◆ The Mental Health Act, 2018 enacted abolishing the Lunacy Act of 1912
- ◆ The Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2018, and the Community Clinic Health Assistance Act, 2018 enacted and a trust has been established
- ◆ The National Health Policy, 2011 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Population Policy, 2012 formulated
- ◆ Publication of Price Guide of Medical Equipment
- ◆ Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act 2010 enacted
- ◆ As soon as the coronavirus infection was first detected in Bangladesh in March 2020, the National Preparedness and Response Plan was prepared to combat and control the virus

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- ◆ A total of 89 COVID-dedicated hospitals are now in operation
- ◆ The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan formulated under the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to protect the lives of people from the COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ Plans have been devised to vaccinate 80 percent of the people against COVID-19 in phases
- ◆ Steps have been taken to set up a Medical University in each division. After the operationalization of Rajshahi, Chattogram and Sylhet Medical Universities, the construction of Sheikh Hasina Medical University, Khulna is in progress
- ◆ Modernisation and expansion of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and establishment of Nephrology Units and Kidney Dialysis Centres in Government Medical College Hospitals and all District Sadar Hospitals are underway
- ◆ An 'Integrated Health Science Research and Development Fund' has been set up for the development of research in the field of health education and technology
- ◆ 'Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032' finalized. In line with the strategy, the 'Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi (SSK)' has been formulated to finance healthcare services for people living below the poverty line
- ◆ To expand the neo-natal medical service, Special Care New-born Units (SCANU) have been established in 10 district hospitals and 61 Upazila hospitals
- ◆ Construction of 14,384 community clinics have been completed of which 13,881 are currently providing services
- ◆ Maternity services are provided in 4,000 community clinics across the country

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- ◆ 3,000 posts for midwives have been created with a view to reducing the maternal mortality rate
- ◆ 5,100 senior staff nurses were recruited in 2018
- ◆ To provide treatment to coronavirus patients, more than 2000 doctors and 6000 nurses have been recruited on an urgent basis
- ◆ Healthcare workers, including 386 medical technologists and 2654 lab-attendants were recruited on outsourcing basis
- ◆ A total of 1200 medical technologists, 1650 medical technicians and 150 cardiographers all together more than 3000 posts have been created
- ◆ Telemedicine services introduced in 94 hospitals
- ◆ Health call centre 16263 introduced
- ◆ The number of medical colleges have risen from 46 in 2006 to 118 in 2020, of which 37 are public, 6 under Bangladesh Army and 70 are private
- ◆ The number of seats in the MBBS course increased from 2,050 in 2006 to 10,765 in 2021

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- ◆ Three nuclear medical physics institutes with ultramodern laboratory facilities been established to promote cancer treatment management
- ◆ More than 90 percent success achieved in treatment of TB cases under DOTS programme
- ◆ Significant success achieved in identifying the leprosy disease
- ◆ The Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases established
- ◆ Compliance Handbook of Bangladesh's Plastic and Light Engineering Industry formulated
- ◆ The Registered Exporter System (REX), introduced in FY 2019-20, enables exporters to issue the 'Statement of Origin' in the case of exports to the European Union
- ◆ A total of 603 Adolescent Friendly Health Corners have been opened at Union Health and Family Welfare Centres and another 979 adolescent-friendly corner will be established by 2022

Industrialization and Tourism

- ◆ The Civil Aviation Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ The Hotel and Restaurant Act, 2014 enacted
- ◆ The Hotel and Restaurant Rules, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The National Industrial Policy, 2016 and the National Salt Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The National Tourism Policy, 2010 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Tourism Board was established
- ◆ The Bangladesh Travel Agency (Registration & Control) Act, 2013 enacted, and The Bangladesh Travel Agency (Registration & Control) Rules, 2014 formulated
- ◆ The Iodised Salt Act 2021 enacted

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- ◆ The EPZ Workers' Welfare Association and Industrial Relations Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Industrial Organisation Nationalization Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ The Weight and Measurement Standards Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ The Reprocessing of Ships in Bangladesh Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Sugar (Road Development Cess) Repeal Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Industrial Design Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ The Laws on The Enriching of Vitamin A in Edible Oils and The Mandatory Sale, Preservation, Supply and Distribution of Edible Oils Rich in Vitamin A, 2013 enacted
- ◆ Geographical Indication Products (Registration and Protection) Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ Public Interest Related Information Disclosure (Protection) Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Shipbuilding Policy 2021 formulated
- ◆ Ship breaking industry zone established
- ◆ National Industrial Biotechnology Policy Guideline 2019 circulated
- ◆ Leather and Leather Product Development Policy 2019 declared
- ◆ SME Policy 2019 declared
- ◆ Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Industrial Award Policy 2019 formulated
- ◆ National Innovation and Intellectual Resources Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ National Motorcycle Industry Development Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ National Quality (Goods and Services) Policy 2015 formulated

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- ◆ CIP (Industry) Election Policy-2014 formulated
- ◆ CIP (Industrial) Form, Hand and Crafts Policy-2015 formulated
- ◆ The Ship Breaking and Recycling Rules, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The Bangladesh Tourism Reserved Area and Special Tourism Zone Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Trademarks Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ The Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ The Policy and Strategy for Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), 2010 formulated
- ◆ Digital e-Purji introduced for sugar cane farmers
- ◆ Bangladesh has been elected as the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia for the period of 2017-2019 in the 22nd General Assembly of UNWTO held in Chengdu, China in September 2017
- ◆ As a member of IATA, Bangladesh Biman connects the country with 16 key cities around the world
- ◆ A company called Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Water Treatment Plan Company Ltd under BSCIC has been formed to manage the Leather Industrial City smoothly
- ◆ Steps have been taken to set up leather industrial cities, especially in Chattogram and Rajshahi
- ◆ The Government is working to raise the contribution of SME sector to 24 percent of GDP by 2024
- ◆ More than 97 percent of our domestic demand for medicines is being produced locally
- ◆ 43 companies are exporting various medicines and medicinal raw materials to about 92 countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States

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- ◆ An API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) industrial park with all kinds of infrastructural facilities and a central waste treatment plant has been set up at Gazaria in Munshiganj district
- ◆ ‘National API and Laboratory Reagents Production and Export Policy’ formulated
- ◆ SEIP has introduced specialized advanced management courses for the mid-level managers of the RMG industry in collaboration with leading universities

Employment and Expatriate Welfare

- ◆ The Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ The Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010 formulated
- ◆ The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Labour Policy, 2012 formulated, and The Bangladesh Labour Rules, 2015 implemented
- ◆ Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation established
- ◆ The National Occupational Health and Safety Policy, 2010 formulated
- ◆ ‘The National Service Programme’ introduced to create employment opportunity for all
- ◆ An emergency fund of BDT 5,000 crore has been created on March 31, 2020 to provide salary support to the workers of the export-oriented industries amid the COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ A stimulus fund of BDT 1500 crore has been created for the retrenched workers due to shut down of RMG, leather and footwear industries during the pandemic
- ◆ The government has declared eight industries sectors of the country including ready-made garment, shrimp industry,

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tannery, glass, export- oriented leather and footwear, ceramic, ship recycling and sericulture sectors free of child labour



- ◆ Bangladesh has been re-elected as a deputy member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the 2021-2024 term
- ◆ Number of Labour Courts increased to 10; The process of establishing 4 new labour courts is on going
- ◆ A total of 4,224-day care centres established in different industries
- ◆ The Overseas Employment & Migrants Act, 2013 enacted, and The Overseas Employment and Migration Management Rules, 2017 formulated
- ◆ The Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ Insurance Scheme for expatriate workers has been inaugurated to bring all Bangladeshi workers going abroad under compulsory insurance
- ◆ To expand labour markets, Bangladesh has started sending workers to new countries, such as Poland, Albania, Romania, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Vietnam

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- ◆ The Overseas Employment and Migrants (Recruiting Agent License and Conduct) Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ The Overseas Employment and Migrants (Recruiting Agent Classification) Rules, 2020 formulated
- ◆ Expatriate Welfare Bank established to provide credit support at a minimal interest rate to aspirant migrant workers
- ◆ Training on 55 different trades, 6 different languages through 64 technical Training Centres (TTC) and 6 institute of Marine Technology (IMT) are ongoing
- ◆ The 'Job development Policy Credit' program has been implemented with the financial assistance of the World Bank for the period 2018-2020
- ◆ Automated migration management system introduced
- ◆ Smart cards for Bangladeshi migrant workers and visa checking through mobile app (Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bahrain, Qatar, Malaysia and Oman) has been developed
- ◆ Expatriate Welfare Desk opened in every airport and in every Deputy Commissioner's office
- ◆ 30 new labour wings opened in different countries to serve the workers
- ◆ Six safe homes have been established in Jeddah and Riyadh of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan and Libya for the female worker victims from 2009 to June 2019
- ◆ 'Female Workers Grievance Management Cell' has been set up at BMET
- ◆ Under BMET's service automation, 17 modules including Database Management, Immigration Management, Employment Service Management, Human Resource Management have been developed

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Good Governance

- ◆ Automation in land management is underway across the country for the purpose of mutation, payment of land development tax, collection of parchas, and making delivery of all services quick and free from hassle
- ◆ The ‘Land Registration Management Automation’ project has been launched to digitise the land registration
- ◆ To ensure protection of agricultural land and food security, national digital land zoning based on mouzas and plots will be conducted across the country
- ◆ The Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ The Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 2021 enacted
- ◆ Two e-Judiciary projects have been undertaken to bring the lower courts of the country under the ICT network
- ◆ National Justice Co-ordination Committee has been formed
- ◆ The Right to Information (Information Release and Dissemination) Regulations, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Public Interest Related Information Disclosure (Protection) Act, 2011 enacted
- ◆ A Toll-free Hotline (106) is introduced, whereby people can easily file complaints of corruption directly to the Anti-Corruption Commission
- ◆ The City Corporation (Election Behaviour) regulation, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The Public Service Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Public Servants Retirement (Amendment) Act, 2012 enacted

- ◆ Database of pensioners, pension payment through EFT, e-Invoicing window for the public to deposit money in government treasury, database of government employees, online pay bill submission system, digitalization of savings scheme introduced
- ◆ National Pay Scales, 2015 implemented
- ◆ Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act, 2020 enacted
- ◆ The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 enacted
- ◆ The Pornography Control Act, 2012 enacted
- ◆ The Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 enacted
- ◆ The Drug Control (License and Permit Fees) Rules, 2014 formulated
- ◆ The One Stop Service (OSS) portal system has been in place since 2019 to provide all investment related services from a single platform. A total of 42 services of 12 companies are being provided online in the current financial year with the target of providing 154 investment services of 35 companies through One Stop Service (OSS) portal
- ◆ The e-GP (Electronic Government Procurement) guidelines approved
- ◆ Almost 50 lakh people are receiving EFT services through G2P (government-to-person) system under the social safety net

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- ◆ Central Database for Large Credit (CDLC) established for close monitoring of large loans and strengthening the monitoring system of banks and financial institutions
- ◆ A fund of 200 million Euro refinancing scheme called Green Transformation Fund (GTF) has been set up to ensure sustainable development of export-oriented textile and leather industries

Budget and Planning

- ◆ The 8th Five-Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) formulated emphasizing on accelerated prosperity and inclusive growth
- ◆ Bangladesh adopted Vision 2041 and Second Perspective Plan, 2021-2041
- ◆ The 7th Five Year Plan that has been implemented incorporated 82 percent of sustainable development targets. As a result, the country is well on track in achieving the SDGs
- ◆ All ministries/divisions brought under the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF)

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- ◆ Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 approved
- ◆ The government has so far (as of June 2021) adopted and started implementing a total of 28 fiscal and stimulus packages amounting to BDT 1876 billion (6.23 percent of GDP) to tackle the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic
- ◆ As part of the stimulus packages, BDT 73,000 crore has been allocated to provide working capital loans with a subsidised interest rate to the affected industry and service sector businesses
- ◆ BDT 40,000 crore subsidised working capital loan has been provided for the Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSMEs) during the economic downturn due to Covid-19 pandemic
- ◆ The size of the Export Development Fund (EDF), introduced by the Bangladesh Bank, has been increased from USD 3.5 billion to USD 6 billion
- ◆ The Government has announced to provide interest subsidy of BDT 2,000 crore against loans distributed by all commercial banks to various affected businesses
- ◆ A new Pre-Shipment Credit Refinance Scheme has been launched by Bangladesh Bank with a total fund size of BDT 50 billion
- ◆ The Public Money and Budget Management Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ Action Plan for SDG Implementation approved
- ◆ The “SDG Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective” published
- ◆ “Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Perspective” prepared and published

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- ◆ The “Climate Financing for Sustainable Development, 2019-20” published
- ◆ Bangladesh has already qualified for the LDC graduation, and is poised to be a Developing Country in 2026

Revenue Administration

- ◆ Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012 has been enacted. It has been implemented from 1 July, 2019
- ◆ The Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty Rules, 2016 formulated, and has been implemented from 1 July, 2019
- ◆ The Development Surcharge and Levy (imposition and Collection) Act, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The National Board of Revenue has introduced Online Return submission in July 2019
- ◆ E-payment services have been initiated through establishment of necessary interfaces with the Bangladesh Bank for online payment of taxes
- ◆ In January 2021, a total of 1,01,338 VAT returnees have submitted their returns under the Online Return Submission system
- ◆ The National Board of Revenue and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) have jointly introduced Document Verification System (DVS) to determine the authenticity of the audited statements of accounts submitted by the taxpayer companies
- ◆ So far, more than two lakh taxpayers have received 13 digits registration number online
- ◆ The VAT Online Project is working for bringing transparency in VAT collection and establishing an ICT based VAT administration system since 2013. This initiative has resulted submission of about 70 percent online VAT return so far

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- ◆ To ensure easy, transparent and hassle-free VAT collection, from August 2020, The NBR has started installing EFD (Electronic Fiscal Device)/ SDC (Sales Data Controller). More than 3,000 EFDs/ SDCs have so far been installed in business establishments in Dhaka city
- ◆ A new Customs Act, 2021 has been drafted, received Cabinet approval and now awaits enactment
- ◆ Customs processes are being operated under the Web-based ASYCUDA World system interfacing with the computer system of the Bangladesh Bank, the Sonali Bank, the Navy and the Chattogram Port Authority
- ◆ Piloting of electronic return filing (e-return) has been initiated in Tax Zone-6 of Dhaka for submission of income tax returns online
- ◆ The government has taken a project that aims to automate the bond management system by June 2022
- ◆ The Authorized Economic Operators Programme has been taken to strengthen supply chain security
- ◆ The National Single Window (NSW) project has been taken to connect all the stakeholders, which will provide facilities of One Stop Service in all activities related to imports and exports
- ◆ E-TDS System has been designed to bring the income tax deducted at source under an automated system and it is being piloted in several tax zones of Dhaka
- ◆ The submission of income tax returns has been made mandatory for all TIN holders with some reasonable exceptions. As a result, the total number of return submissions till March of FY21 stood at 25,43,337

Financial Sector

- ◆ The Public Financial Management Reform Strategy (2016-21) has been formulated
- ◆ Public Financial Management Action Plan (PFM Action Plan 2018-23) has been prepared and implementation is ongoing
- ◆ Financial Reporting Act, 2015 enacted
- ◆ Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) has been introduced
- ◆ Pension payment through EFT initiated to reduce the hassle of pensioners
- ◆ IBAS++ (Integrated Budget and Accounting System) software developed by local experts has been fully launched in budgeting, budget implementation and accounting activities in all civil administration, defence and railways
- ◆ The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) established in 2010, and is fully operational
- ◆ All major social security programmes including old age allowance, widow allowance, disability allowance, freedom fighter honorarium, maternity allowance, education stipend is being expedited through the G2P system to respective mobile wallets and bank accounts to bring transparency and improving efficiency
- ◆ The Fund Release Procedure, 2018 formulated, which radically simplified project fund release process to accelerate project implementation
- ◆ Government has introduced a Shariah-compliant investment instrument or Sukuk to integrate evolving trend of the economy into development finance
- ◆ Government of Bangladesh Investment Sukuk Guideline, 2020 formulated

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- ◆ The challans used for depositing money in the government treasury have been fully automated
- ◆ Agent banking has been introduced across the country to bring banking services to rural areas in a safe and cost-effective manner
- ◆ A new Prudential Guidelines for Agent Banking Operations in Bangladesh has been issued consolidating all the guidelines issued earlier for smooth management of this system
- ◆ The uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) system has been introduced
- ◆ The government is working with 15 laws related to the financial sector, including Payment System Act, Secured Transaction Act, Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act, Asset Management Company Act etc
- ◆ Special tribunal set up for quick disposal of law suits relating to the capital market
- ◆ The National Insurance policy, 2014 enacted
- ◆ The Life Insurance Customer Security Funds Regulation, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The Provision of House Building Loan through Banking System Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ New Budget and Accounts Classification Code (BACC) introduced

Business Environment

- ◆ Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ One Stop Service (Bangladesh Export Processing Zone) Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Private Economic Zones Policy, 2015 formulated

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- ◆ The Bangladesh Economic Zones (Construction of Building) Rules, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Economic Zones (Workers Welfare Fund) Policy, 2017 formulated
- ◆ The Customs (Economic Zones) Procedures, 2017 formulated
- ◆ Investors Guide (Information for Investors) prepared
- ◆ Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 enacted to facilitate the simplification of trade and commerce and include the provision of one-person companies
- ◆ Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited established to provide long term financing for PPP projects
- ◆ The Leather Sector Environmental Compliance Guidelines, 2018 formulated
- ◆ To make the country's industry and business sector competitive, the interest/profit on loans/investments has been fixed at a maximum of 9 percent
- ◆ PPP Office established to support line ministries to identify, develop, tender and finance PPP projects
- ◆ A PPP Unit under Finance Division established to foster an environment of fiscal responsibility and sustainability in PPP projects
- ◆ Rules for Public-Private Partnership Technical Assistance Financing, 2018, and Rules for Viability Gap Financing for Public-Private Partnership Projects, 2018 formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh's position in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index has improved from 176th to 168th in 2019
- ◆ The Procurement Guideline for PPP Projects, 2018 and the Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals, 2018 formulated

Climate Change and Environment

- ◆ National Environment Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ The Forest Act, 2019 drafted
- ◆ Hazardous waste (e-waste) management policy, 2021 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Environment Court Act, 2010 (with amended version) enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2009 implemented
- ◆ For the implementation of BCCSAP, a Climate Change Trust Fund has been set up
- ◆ The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan of Bangladesh (2016-2021) formulated
- ◆ The Disaster Management Plan 2016-20 adopted
- ◆ 16 round-the-clock air monitoring centres are being set up in Dhaka and other cities to get information on the level of air pollution
- ◆ The Water Resources Planning Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ The Biodiversity Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ Forest Information Preservation and Exchange Policy 2019 formulated
- ◆ The National Institute of Bio-Technology Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ 30 lakh saplings planted on the occasion of “National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair” 2018 to pay tribute to 30 lakh martyrs of the country's Liberation War
- ◆ Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kiln Establishment (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2019 enacted

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- ◆ Honourable Prime Minister won the 'Champion of the Earth' award in 2015, which is the highest honour related to Environment given by the United Nations



- ◆ A circular issued to ensure the mandatory use of cent percent eco-friendly blocks instead of bricks by 2025 in government construction, repair and renovation works
- ◆ Zero Discharge Policy been adopted in favour of 335 industries to remove pollution through industrial waste
- ◆ The Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules, 2016 formulated
- ◆ "Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience" project is being implemented. As of now 25 Ministries/Divisions have enabled the climate change dimension in their Ministry Budget Frameworks
- ◆ The Climate Fiscal Framework adopted by the government in 2014 has been updated in 2020 and its remit has been broadened to include innovative financing issues including private sector participation in climate finance

- ◆ Since FY2017-2018, each year a report titled "Climate Financing for Sustainable Development" is being presented to the National Parliament during the presentation of the budget
- ◆ The Bangladesh Rubber Board Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ The Environmental Impact Assessment Rules, 2016 and the ECA Rules 2016 formulated
- ◆ ‘Ratargul’ swamp forest in Sylhet District has been declared as a Special Biodiversity Conservation Area
- ◆ The Wildlife (Conservation and Control) Act, 2012 enacted
- ◆ The Bio-safety Rules, 2012 framed
- ◆ To develop and conserve environmental biodiversity, 13 affected and important areas have been declared as ecologically critical areas and different activities have been initiated and implemented for these areas
- ◆ Pet Bird Management Rules, 2020 formulated
- ◆ Crocodile Rearing Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ Crab and Crab Production Management Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ Snake Farm Management Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Vulture Conservation Action Plan 2016-2025 formulated

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