



Bangladesh Marches On



Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
www.mof.gov.bd

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
September 2022

Bangladesh Marches On



Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
September 2022

Bangladesh Marches on

Bangladesh has been on the spotlight amidst the world polity due to its astonishing and sustained economic progress during the last decade. The country has also made significant strides in terms of the social indicators. Further, after progressing from a low-income country to a lower middle-income country in 2015, it received further recognition by qualifying for the graduation from a Least Developed Country and transition into a Developing Country. The economic feat achieved under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been widely appreciated.

Bangladesh registered an impressive 6.3 percent growth during 2009-2021, while developing economies' average growth rate was 5.1 percent. It achieved a record 7.88 percent growth in FY19. As the economy was affected by multiple waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the growth rate dropped to 3.45 percent in FY20; however, quick and decisive actions by the government, supported by the favorable external environment led to a much quicker rebound than initially expected. As a result, 6.94 percent growth has been achieved in FY21 despite the continued impact of COVID-19. This rebounded further in FY22 with an economic growth of 7.25 percent. The per capita GNI rose to USD 2,824 in FY22 from USD 759 in FY09. Moreover, Bangladesh has done exceedingly well in alleviating poverty and bringing about positive changes in social and economic indicators.

Bangladesh Marches on

The world economy is now facing a head-wind due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the global supply chain disruption and the resultant inflationary pressures, which has also affected Bangladesh economy. But the government is committed to maintain its growth momentum, and through pursuance of well-designed economic, fiscal, monetary and other measures it will be able to weather the challenges well as it did during the pandemic. The main strategy in this regard in FY23 is to increase the aggregate supply while reducing the growth in demand. Encouraging growth in revenue collection, expected growth in per capita income, opening of the Padma bridge along with the completion of a number of other mega projects, etc. will help the government effectively tackle the emerging challenges.

Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt the global production system and international trade and business activities for more than two years. Since January 2020, almost all sectors of the economy were severely affected by the pandemic. But owing to the adoption of timely and appropriate measures by the government under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister and their effective implementation, Bangladesh has been able to successfully overcome the economic impact of the pandemic. The government has implemented 28 economic, fiscal and monetary stimulus packages worth BDT 1,87,679 crore as countercyclical measures to address the adverse impact of the pandemic. As a result, the country's economy has bounced back. While economic

growth contracted in most of the world economies in FY20, Bangladesh achieved a positive GDP growth of 3.45 percent and higher growth in subsequent two fiscal years. The implementation of incentive packages has so far directly benefited about 73 million people and 2,00,000 organisations. The policy to provide free vaccination to more than 70 percent of the people has helped the government goal of protecting lives, as the full vaccination (with two doses) stands at 71.22 percent of the population as of September 2022. According to the May 2022 edition of the Nikkei COVID-19 Recovery Index, jointly published by the Nikkei Media Group of Japan and Financial Times of London, Bangladesh ranked 5th out of 121 countries and topped in South Asia.

Macroeconomic Stability and Global Inflation

Pursuance of pragmatic macroeconomic policies contributed in achieving sound macroeconomic fundamentals during the last decade. This has also enabled the economy to attain strong resilience against shocks which proved very effective in steering the recovery efforts during the pandemic. The post-pandemic inflationary pressures pose new challenges. According to the World Bank, “Bangladesh has made a strong economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but growth faces new headwinds as global commodity prices increase amid the uncertainty created by the war in Ukraine”. Compared to May 2021, in May 2022 there has been 65 percent increase in fuel price, 114 percent increase in the price of urea fertilizer, 29

Bangladesh Marches on

percent increase in soybean oil price, 85 percent increase in wheat price and 13 percent increase in sugar price. There has also been volatility in the prices of coal, oil, gas, edible oil and other important consumer goods. As a result, global inflation has risen to 4.2 percent which was around 2 percent in early 2021, with threats of economic recession looming in the developed countries. As Bangladesh is a net importer of major commodities, the imported inflation has created some pressures, with average inflation rising to 6.15 percent during FY22. Despite all these, the strong macroeconomic position of the country will enable Bangladesh to overcome this crisis as well. As the World Bank report titled ‘Global Economic Prospects’ (January 2022) states, Bangladesh is one of the few countries in the world to achieve high growth by overcoming the global recession.

Debt Sustainability

The government’s prudent fiscal management has enabled the country to maintain a good debt sustainability status. Debt sustainability analyses (DSA) by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have consistently shown that government debt (both the total debt and external debt) in Bangladesh remains at a low risk of debt stress. In the most recent DSA by IMF-IDA conducted in February 2022, the debt threshold for Bangladesh has been fixed at 55 percent of GDP and the external debt threshold has been fixed at 40 percent of GDP. Nevertheless, the external and domestic debt indicators for Bangladesh remain well below these thresholds both under the

baseline and stress test scenarios. According to the assessment, overall public debt-to-GDP was 41.4 percent at the end of FY21, which is expected to stabilize at around 41.8 percent by FY31 and thereafter. Besides, external debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to settle at around 11.6 percent by FY42. The DSA reported concluded that ‘fiscal discipline has kept Bangladesh at a low risk of debt distress’.

While the DSA considered GDP data with 2005-06 base year, when we consider data with 2015-16 base year, the debt to GDP ratio is reduced, with the total debt to GDP ratio and the external debt to GDP ratio at the end of FY21 now stand at 32.4 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively, which further strengthens the country’s debt sustainability position. The sovereign credit rating assessment of Bangladesh made by Standards & Poor in August 2022 gave a stable economic outlook for the country with a long-term rating of BB⁻.

Structural Transformation of the Economy and Digital Advancement

During the last 13 years, the country’s economy has been witnessing a structural transformation with the gradual movement from an agriculture-based economy to a manufacturing-based one. Provisional estimates of FY22 show that while the share of agriculture went down from 18.4 percent of GDP in FY09 to 12.1 percent of GDP in FY22, the share of industry to GDP has increased noticeably from 26.1 percent of GDP in FY09 to 36.0 percent of GDP in FY22. At the same time, contribution from the

Bangladesh Marches on

services sector has remained static, i.e. 51.9 percent. The manufacturing sector's evolution is evident from the rapid growth of the RMG sector supported by low-cost labour. In fact, the Bangladesh economy is slowly heading towards a desirable economic transformation where strong manufacturing sector will act as the key to sustain the current growth momentum.

Economic transformation is also evident in the form of impressive digital advancement in the country. The government's success in establishing country wide digital infrastructure have created a solid base for promoting financial inclusion through mobile and internet services. Taking advantage of these facilities, financial services are being brought even to geographically disadvantaged locations through ATM, mobile financial services, and agent-banking. Steps have been taken to launch 5G in the country to implement the 4th Industrial Revolution effectively. The Central Aid Management System (CAMS) set up under the direction of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has proven extremely effective in implementing the direct cash transfer program through MFS in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developing Physical Infrastructure

Developing physical infrastructure is a precondition for a country like Bangladesh to enhance development. The Padma bridge not only facilitates road and rail connection of the capital with the southern parts of the country, it also symbolises the courage and determination of the nation. It opens a vista of

opportunity for the southern region to foster the regional economic growth. Implementation of the government's fast track and mega projects has got momentum. Of them, works on Padma Bridge Rail Link, MRT Line-6, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Matarbari Power Plant, Rampal Power Plant, Payra Sea Port, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel over Karnaphuli River are progressing fast. Apart from the communication infrastructure, generation of electricity has increased over 5 times compared to that in 2009. Total power generation capacity of the country (including captive and renewable energy) has increased to 25,758 MW. 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 for gas is being met by importing liquefied natural gas (LNG). To this end, two floating LNG terminals with a total capacity of 1,000 million cubic feet have been set up at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar district with a capacity of 500 million cubic feet each.

Improving Business and Investment Climate

The role of private sector is crucial if Bangladesh is to become a developed country by 2041. To ensure that feat the government needs to create an enabling environment for the private sector and the business community. To streamline business processes, the government has taken various reform initiatives. The One Stop Service Act 2018 was enacted to simplify and integrate the delivery of various services, facilities,

Bangladesh Marches on

licenses and permissions in a timely manner. The One Stop Service (OSS) portal system has been in place since 2019 to provide all investment related services from a single platform. As of September 2022, 58 services are being provided online with the target of providing 154 investment services through the portal. The Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) office has continued to provide support to line ministries in implementing projects under PPP to attract investment required for the implementation of the government's development plans. At present, as many as 76 projects are scheduled to be implemented under PPP, against which an investment of US\$ 27.76 billion has been mobilised. Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) has started works to establish 100 economic zones by 2030, which is estimated to create direct and indirect employment opportunities for around 10 million people and increase exports by an additional USD 40 billion. Such efforts have resulted in increasing net FDI inflow, which stood at USD 2.17 billion in FY22 with more than 60 percent growth over the previous year.

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Global Agenda 2030 recognizes that increasing economic growth, eliminating poverty, protecting negative effects of climate change, ensuring sustainable consumption and production, and building stronger institutions provide the foundation for development. Bangladesh aspires to achieve the SDGs within the stipulated time and our commitment to attain sustainable development is rooted in Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman’s dream. Our Father of the Nation always dreamt of ‘Sonar Bangla’ (Golden Bengal) where there will be no poverty and hunger. The pathway he chose to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality was to empower the poorest and most vulnerable people. Thus far, we have made strong progress in SDGs implementation. Our Hon’ble Prime Minister has been conferred with the ‘SDG Progress Award’ in September 2021. This is an international acknowledgment of Bangladesh’s success in responding to the universal call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

Impressive Accomplishments in Social Sector

Staying on the spectacular growth trajectory, Bangladesh has also continued to make impressive progress in many key socio-economic indicators. Average life expectancy in Bangladesh has risen to 72.8 years in 2020. Infant mortality rate of less than 1 year per thousand live births has gone down to 21, and maternal mortality rate per thousand is now only 1.63 persons. This remarkable success of the government has been duly reflected in the Human Capital Index, 2018 of the World Bank, where Bangladesh has secured 106th position out of a total of 157 countries surveyed, and scored ahead of India and Pakistan. Bangladesh’s ranking in the Human Development Index was 129th among 191 countries in 2021. In April 2018 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received Global Women Leadership Award 2018. Bangladesh secured 65th position in ‘The Global Gender Gap Report, 2021’ published by the World Economic Forum, among 156 countries, a significant jump from the rank in 91st among 115 countries in 2006.

Massive Social Protection to Reduce Poverty

Reducing poverty is one of the key strategies of the government. To combat poverty, the government is committed to pursue an inclusive growth strategy and adopt a coordinated approach combining various initiatives including the overall government development programs, private investment, and social security programs. The government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), 2015 to reduce poverty and discrimination, and has recently started implementing the NSSS Action Plan Phase 2 (2021-2026) after completing implementation of its Phase 1 (2016-2021). Further, allocation in social protection has witnessed a massive expansion from a mere BDT 13,845 crore in FY09 to BDT 1,13,576 crore in FY23, and the spending went up to cover 2.58 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 2020 from 40.0 percent in 2005 and the hard-core poverty reduced to 10.5 percent in 2020 from 25.1 percent in 2005.

March towards Development and Prosperity

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the country is moving along the growth trajectory with strong strides and a firm conviction. With the current pace in economic growth and associated socio-economic advancement, the country will be able to transform itself into a hunger and poverty-free society by achieving SDGs in 2030,

elevating into a higher-middle income country by 2031, becoming a knowledge-based, happy and prosperous developed country by 2041 and emerging into a secured delta by 2100. The most significant international recognition of Bangladesh's progress was the confirmation in 2021 of graduation from the LDC list, which was made possible by the right steps, policies and strategies of the government. Under the helm of the present government the economy of the country will similarly achieve its other goals.

Graduation into a developing country is seen not merely as achieving a milestone for Bangladesh, it is also viewed as a step forward to fulfilling the dream of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to become a *Sonar Bangla*. Under the prudent and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh is resolutely on track to attaining the mark of 'Developed country' by 2041 for a self-reliant, poverty-free, flourishing Bangladesh where prosperity will be shared by all.

Fourteen Years of Success

Nikkei's COVID-19 Recovery Index: Bangladesh ranked 5th in the world and 1st in South Asia (as of April 30, 2022)

Rank	Country/Region	Total Score (out of 90)
1	Qatar	87.0
1	UAE	87.0
3	Cambodia	83.5
4	Rwanda	82.5
5	Bangladesh	80.0
6	Nepal	79.0
7	Dominican Republic	78.0
8	Chile	76.0
8	Kuwait	76.0
10	El Salvador	74.0
23	Pakistan	70.0
38	UK	67.0
50	Malaysia	65.5
62	Canada	63.0
62	Italy	63.0
62	Japan	63.0
62	Singapore	63.0
70	India	62.5
80	USA	60.0
108	Thailand	52.0

Socioeconomic Achievement

- ◆ During the last 14 years, the average GDP growth has been above 6 percent
- ◆ Real GDP growth rate was above 7 percent in FY18, and FY19; Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, GDP growth was 6.94 and 7.25 percent respectively in FY21 and FY22, which is remarkable
- ◆ According to an IMF report, Bangladesh was one of the three countries of the world that achieved highest economic growth in 2020.
- ◆ The average growth rate during the Sixth Five-Year Plan period was 6.3 percent, which increased to 7.6 percent during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period
- ◆ Per capita GNI increased to USD 2,824 in FY22 from USD 759 in FY09
- ◆ Share of industrial sector to GDP increased to 37.07 percent in FY22 from 26.54 percent in FY09
- ◆ Total investment to GDP ratio increased to 31.68 percent in FY22 from 26.2 percent in FY09
- ◆ Public investment scaled up to 7.62 percent of GDP in FY22 from 4.31 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

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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 72.8 percent of adult women in 2022 from 53.8 percent in 2009
- ◆ The presence of skilled health workers during childbirth has increased from 15.6 percent in 2004 to 59 percent in 2019
- ◆ Total revenue increased to 9.8 percent of GDP in FY22 from 9.16 percent in FY09
- ◆ Total public expenditure increased to 14.93 percent of GDP in FY22 from 12.6 percent in FY09; The size of government spending increased by more than eight times during the period
- ◆ Budget deficit was maintained at a reasonable level of around 5 percent during the period
- ◆ Financial deepening (M2/GDP ratio) increased to 42.96 percent in FY22 from 42.0 percent in FY09
- ◆ Remittances increased to USD 21.03 billion in FY22 from USD 9.7 billion in FY09
- ◆ Exports rose to USD 52.08 billion in FY22 from USD 15.56 billion in FY09
- ◆ Imports grew to USD 89.16 billion in FY22 from USD 22.5 billion in FY09



- ◆ Foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 41.83 billion in 30 June, 2022 from USD 7.47 billion in 30 June, 2009
- ◆ Exchange rate (BDT/USD) increased to 93.45 in June 2022
- ◆ The net FDI increased to USD 2.179 billion during FY22, which was USD 961 million in FY09
- ◆ Due to the recent rise in global prices of commodities and the supply chain backlog, average inflation rose to 6.15 percent in FY22; However, average inflation during FY16-FY21 was 5.6 percent
- ◆ Implementation of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the Perspective Plan (2021-2041) and the Delta Plan-2100 is underway
- ◆ The size of GDP has crossed BDT 39 lakh crore in FY22 from BDT 4,82,337 crore in FY06

Social Protection

- ◆ Allocation for social safety net has been increased to BDT 1,13,576 crore in FY23 which is 16.75 percent of the total budget; This allocation is more than eight-fold compared to that in FY09

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 29 percent of households have been covered by social safety net programmes
- ◆ After implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan 2016-21 under the National Social Security Strategy 2015, implementation of the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 has started
- ◆ 100 percent poor elderly people and widows & deserted women in the most poverty-stricken 262 Upazilas were brought under the coverage of 'old age allowance' and 'allowance for widows, deserted and destitute women' respectively in FY21 and FY22
- ◆ 100 percent physically challenged people have been brought under the 'Disability Allowance' by FY21
- ◆ In FY22, allowances were provided to 20.08 lakh disabled persons at the monthly rate of BDT 750, which was BDT 300 in FY10; In FY23, the number of beneficiaries will increase to 23.65 lakh, and the monthly rate will increase to BDT 850
- ◆ Number of beneficiaries for allowances provided to insolvent widows, women abandoned by husbands and destitute women increased from 9.20 lakh in FY10 to 24.75 lakh in FY22
- ◆ Number of beneficiaries of old age allowance raised from 22 lakh in FY10 to 57.01 lakh in FY22
- ◆ Beneficiaries of the maternity allowance and allowance for lactating mothers will increase to 12.54 lakh in FY23
- ◆ The food allowance for orphans increased to BDT 4,000 per person/month from January, 2022
- ◆ 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’. The work is going on to establish 211 new 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
- ◆ ‘Policy for Providing Housing for all Landless and Homeless People of the Country, 2020’ formulated
- ◆ ‘Ashrayan’ (Housing for homeless people) project is ongoing; A total of 5,07,244 families have been rehabilitated through the project
- ◆ On the occasion of Mujib Barsho, funds have been earmarked for the construction of a total of 1,83,157 semi-pucca single houses, each built on two decimal khaas land allocated to each family
- ◆ ‘Bangabandhu Disability Protection Insurance’ has been inaugurated under the Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust in 2022
- ◆ Sheikh Russell Child Training and Rehabilitation Centres, which provides services to disadvantaged children, are established and they accommodates a total of 2,291 children (1,088 boys and 1,203 girls)
- ◆ 100 percent payment of all social safety net allowances is planned to be brought under the G2P system by FY23. More than 60 percent of such payments are already brought under the system

Bangladesh Marches on



- ◆ Total number of beneficiaries of VGF programme has reached 18 million per month in FY21, which was 2 million per month in FY09
- ◆ The Family Card program of TCB has been launched in 2022 to distribute essential commodities at a subsidized price among one crore low-income families

Food Security

- ◆ National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2020 formulated
- ◆ Bangladesh Food Safety Authority has been established and is fully operational now
- ◆ The Open Market Sale (OMS) Policy, 2015, and the Food Grain Distribution Regulations, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The Food Friendly Programme Policy, 2017 formulated
- ◆ 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. It will be raised to 2.5 million metric ton by the end of FY23

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The Ministry of Food has formulated the Second Country Investment Plan (CIP-2) (2016-2020) for the development of nutrient sensitive food system
- ◆ To keep the market price of food grains stable during the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 2.28 lakh metric ton wheat and 1.27 lakh metric ton rice were distributed through OMS in FY21; The distribution in FY22 was 5.70 lakh metric ton of rice and 4.85 lakh metric ton of wheat
- ◆ In FY09, the total production of food grains was 3.29 crore metric tons, which increased to 4.44 crore metric tons in FY21
- ◆ Micronutrient-enriched fortified rice (Pushti Chal) was introduced has been introduced under OMS; Pushti Chal is distributed in 170 Upazilas through VGD
- ◆ Paddy is procured directly from the farmers through “Farmers’ App” in 16 Upazilas
- ◆ Mobile food safety laboratory launched
- ◆ Grading of 33 hotel-restaurant/food establishments and regrading of 22 hotel-restaurant/food establishments have been provided with stickers

Women and Children Welfare

- ◆ Family Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010 enacted, and Family Violence Prevention and Protection Rules, 2013 formulated
- ◆ DNA Act, 2014 enacted
- ◆ Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ ‘Gender-responsive budget’ being prepared annually since FY10

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Separate bank credit facilities ensured for women entrepreneurs
- ◆ A total of 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells (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
- ◆ 85 child day care centres, 9 working women's hostel are currently functioning around the country for the children of working mothers
- ◆ A total of 102 no. of 10-bed Mother and Child Welfare Centre at Union level have been constructed, and another 57 centres are under construction
- ◆ 'Adolescent Friendly Health Service Corner' has been set up in 1,103 service centres
- ◆ According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, Bangladesh ranks 65th out of 153 countries in the world in the Gender Inequality Index, which is the highest in South Asia
- ◆ Child Care Centres have been set up in 6,160 industrial factories and establishments across the country.



- ◆ From FY19 the amount and duration of maternity and lactating mother's allowances increased to BDT 800 and 36 months, respectively
- ◆ Initiated instant support provided through the mobile app 'Joy' for women and children
- ◆ 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
- ◆ In FY21 a total of 10,40,000 no of poor women were provided 3,74,400 metric ton rice through VGD and provided income generating training as well
- ◆ Disbursement of loans among the rural poor and helpless women is being made in 488 Upazilas of 64 districts on a revolving basis

Welfare of Freedom Fighters

- ◆ Designated Freedom Fighter Allowance Distribution Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ Bir Muktijoddha Honorary Allowance Distribution Order, 2020 issued

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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



- ◆ 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
- ◆ Medical assistance provided to freedom fighters honoured with national gallantry awards
- ◆ Management Information System (MIS) with comprehensive information of valiant freedom fighters and an integrated list have been prepared

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ Initiatives taken to preserve historical places of liberation war; 115 Monuments of Liberation War have been constructed

Youth and Sports, Culture and Religion

- ◆ A total of 37,20,787 no of youths have been provided training for development of efficiency in various trades from FY09 until February 2022
- ◆ Loans amounting to BDT 1,342.95 crore have been distributed to a total of 4,65,105 persons for poverty alleviation since 2009 until December 2021 through Department of Youth Development
- ◆ To make the activities of youth organizations more dynamic in socio-economic development activities, BDT 15.52 crore have been provided as grants to 7,105 registered youth organizations
- ◆ Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute was established in 2018



Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan Act, 2020 enacted
- ◆ 131 Sheikh Rasel Mini Stadiums established at the Upazila level
- ◆ The Bangla Academy Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ Public libraries in 39 districts constructed
- ◆ The historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage
- ◆ Bangladesh Film Artists Welfare Trust has been formed in 2021 for the welfare of film artists
- ◆ ‘e-Hajj Management’ has been introduced to modernize the Hajj management system
- ◆ The Hajj and Umrah Management Act, 2021 has been framed
- ◆ The Sheikh Kamal National Sports Council Award has been introduced for the eminent athletes/organisers
- ◆ The Sheikh Hasina Youth Volunteer Award has been given to 110 people who are involved in various praiseworthy social works



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
- ◆ Bangladesh secured the third position in rice and vegetable production; In addition, Bangladesh is in the 7th position in mango and potato production
- ◆ Up until now 661 new crop variety developed by agricultural research institutes

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ From 2009 to 2021, 17 lakh 64 thousand 895 metric tons of seeds have been produced and 16 lakh 30 thousand 510 metric tons of seeds have been supplied to farmers through BADC.
- ◆ Over 150 advanced technologies in soil, water and fertilizer management for modern rice cultivation have been developed and scaled up at the farmer level in the last 13 years
- ◆ 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 71,502 combined harvesters, reapers, ciders, power tillers and other agricultural machinery provided to farmers during 2010-2021
- ◆ Agricultural machinery being provided at a subsidized rate of 70 percent for farmers of southern coastal and haor areas and 50 percent for farmers in other areas



- ◆ Geographical Indication (GI) recognition has been achieved for our Jamdani sari, Hilsa fish, Khirsapati mango, Dhaka Maslin, Rangpur Shatranji, Rajshahi Silk, Dinajpur Kataribhog and Kalizira rice and Bijoypur clay.
- ◆ BDT 10 no-frills bank accounts were opened for 1.07 crore 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 have been set up across the country to spread agricultural information at the rural level
- ◆ A total of Tk. 26,500 crore agriculture and rural loan was disbursed to 30 lakh 55 thousand small and marginalised farmers in FY21
- ◆ ‘Krishi Batayon’ has been launched to deliver agricultural services to the doorsteps of farmers
- ◆ Two online agricultural market platform ‘Hortex Bazar’ and ‘Food for Nation’ have been launched
- ◆ To ensure fair prices for agricultural products ‘Farmers’ Market’ has been initiated in 41 districts across the country
- ◆ Regional SAARC Seed Bank established
- ◆ Post Entry Quarantine Centre established
- ◆ Genome Sequencing of jute invented
- ◆ The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recognizes the Bangladesh floating garden farming system as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ ‘Livestock Diary’ mobile application developed
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The mystery of ‘*Macrophomina phaseolina*’ has been unveiled which is a harmful fungus of various crops including jute

- ◆ Bangladesh ranks 1st among 11 hilsa producing countries and 4th among in tilapia production in the world (3rd in Asia)
- ◆ Fish production in FY21 stood at 46.21 lakh metric ton, which is 50.91 percent more than the total production (30.62 lakh metric ton) in FY11
- ◆ Hilsha production increased by more than two-fold; Its production grew to 5.65 lakh metric ton in FY21, which was 2.99 metric ton in FY09
- ◆ Mobile market system has been introduced to facilitate marketing of fish and fish products and animal and livestock products
- ◆ 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)’, a total of 1,20,325 co-operatives have been organized until June 2021; The total number of beneficiaries is around 57 lakh poor families
- ◆ Per capita availability of milk, meat and egg rose to 193.38 ml/day, 136.18 gm/day and 121.18 no./year respectively in FY21
- ◆ The number of cattle and poultry in the country in FY21 stood at 563.30 lakh and 3,658.50 lakh respectively
- ◆ In the last 13 years, 69,002 km of paved roads, and 4,05,099 meters of new bridges constructed in rural areas

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 1,767 Union Parishad Complex buildings constructed, and 354 Upazila Parishad Complex buildings constructed/expanded
- ◆ 2,689 growth centres and hat-bazaars have been developed
- ◆ 1,075 cyclone shelters have been constructed or rebuilt

Physical Infrastructure

- ◆ Bus Rapid Transit Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ The Metro Rail Act, 2015 enacted
- ◆ The Integrated Multimodal Transport Policy, 2013 formulated
- ◆ A 20-year revised Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (2015-35) formulated
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The latest 2022 edition of Lloyd's List's One Hundred Ports has ranked the Chattogram Port in the 67th position in 2021
- ◆ For the last 10 years, the handling of goods in Chattogram Port has been increasing at an average rate of 8-10 percent; Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Port achieved a growth of 12.99 percent in cargo handling (metric tons) and 13.19 percent in container handling (TEUs) in 2021

- ◆ Construction of the first-ever Deep-Sea Port of Bangladesh at Matarbari with 16 meters draft and daily container handling capacity of 8,000 TEUs is ongoing
- ◆ Vessel Traffic Management and Information System (VTMIS) has been introduced at the Mongla Port
- ◆ More than 60 percent of the scheduled 3rd and 4th jetty construction work of Mongla Port has been completed through PPP with an objective to enhance the capacity to handle 2 lakh TEUs containers
- ◆ Implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code has been completed and the UN Locator Code has been allocated by the United Nations for the security of the channel and outer anchorage of Payra Port
- ◆ Construction of 6.15 km long ‘Padma Multipurpose Bridge’, the largest bridge in the country, has been completed, and it has been opened for on 25 June 2022



- ◆ During FY09 to FY21, a total of 458.87 km of National Highway have been upgraded to 4-lane or more

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ From June, 2009 to June, 2021, a total of 1,401 bridges and 6,360 numbers of culverts were constructed or reconstructed to establish a seamless and time-efficient highway network
- ◆ The 1.5 km long Payra Bridge was opened for traffic on 24 October 2021 and the 1.5 km long Bekutia Bridge was opened for traffic on 04 September 2022; The bridges connect the cities of Kuakata and Pirojpur respectively with the rest of the country



- ◆ Construction of 61 bridges under the Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project has been completed, and opened for traffic movement
- ◆ The Government is implementing 10 cluster projects in 10 different zones of the country to upgrade 1,140 km of regional highways to appropriate standard and width



- ◆ From June, 2009 to June, 2021, 15 railway overpasses and 15 flyovers have been built to reduce traffic jam and road accidents on highways



- ◆ The Time-bound Action Plan 2030 formulated to establish a state-of-the-art network of public transport system under DMTCL consisting of 6 Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) routes covering a total distance of 129.901 km (68.729 km Elevated

Bangladesh Marches on

and 61.172 km Underground lines) in Dhaka and its adjoining areas

- ◆ The Government plans to commence commercial operation of the First Metro Train (MRT Line 6) between Uttara and Agargaon in December 2022



- ◆ Construction of the First Dhaka Elevated Expressway from Airport to Kutubkhali, and the Gazipur-Airport Bus Rapid Transit is going on in full swing
- ◆ National Road Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 has been formulated to reduce road accidents
- ◆ Until February 2022, a total of 33,73,219 sets of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and retro-reflective number plates have been added to vehicles
- ◆ Until February 28, 2022, a total of 33,02,742 smart card driving licenses have been prepared and distributed
- ◆ The Electric Motor Vehicle Registration and Operation Policy 2021 and the Sustainable Management and Control Policy of Three-Wheeler and Equivalent Motor Vehicles 2021 have been framed

- ◆ Implementation of the 30-year Railways Masterplan (2016-2045) at a cost of BDT 5,53,662 crore is ongoing
- ◆ Activities are ongoing to bring all parts of the country under the railway network
- ◆ Construction of the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project to build a 169 km rail line from Dhaka to Jashore through the Padma bridge is going on in full swing
- ◆ In the last thirteen years, the government has established 563.95 km of new railway tract, converted 278.10 km of Meter Gauge railway to Dual Gauge and reconstructed or renovated 1278.74 km of railway
- ◆ During the period, the government has established 109 new railway stations, constructed 643 new railway bridges and introduced 144 new trains
- ◆ 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 in addition to the existing 'Moitree Express' between Dhaka-Kolkata
- ◆ Implementation work on the Bangabandhu Rail Bridge over Jamuna river and the Rupsha Rail Bridge projects is well in progress

Bangladesh Marches on



- ◆ 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’
- ◆ Increase in the Pavement Classification Number (PCN) of the runway at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from 70 to 116 has made it suitable for safe landing of Boeing 777-300 type aircraft on the runway of the airport.
- ◆ Construction of the 3rd Terminal at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka in progress to enhance its passenger handling capacity to 12 million people and its cargo handling capacity



- ◆ Cox's Bazar Airport's runway has been upgraded to 9,000 feet; Besides, the increase in PCN has made the Boeing 737 type of aircrafts suitable for air traffic through the Airport
- ◆ The existing 10,250-foot runway overlay at Sylhet Osmani International Airport has been completed

Power and Energy

- ◆ During the last thirteen years, power generation capacity has increased by more than five times [from 4,942 MW in 2009 to 25,514 MW in 2022]
- ◆ The population with access to electricity has increased from 47 percent in 2009 to 100 percent in 2022
- ◆ Per capita power generation has increased from 220 kWh in 2009 to 560 kWh in 2021
- ◆ Electricity facilities have been provided to 2 crore people in off-grid areas by installing 60 lakh solar home systems
- ◆ A total of 5,213 circuit km of new transmission lines and 3,61,000 km of distribution lines have been constructed

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) Act, 2012 enacted to ensure the promotion of renewable energy and energy conservation initiatives
- ◆ The Power and Energy Fast Supply Enhancement (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 enacted (Amended in 2015) to accelerate installation of power plants
- ◆ Uninterrupted power supply has been ensured for irrigation work
- ◆ Power distribution system loss has been reduced from 14.33 percent in FY09 to 8.49 percent in FY21
- ◆ Mega power projects are being implemented by identifying Payra, Maheshkhali and Matarbari areas as power hubs considering the availability of land, energy transport facilities and load centers
- ◆ Construction of the 1,320 megawatt coal-fired Rampal power plant is nearing completion, with the first unit (660 mw) going for commercial operation in October 2022
- ◆ Construction of the 1,300 megawatt coal-fired Matarbari power plant is going on in full swing



- ◆ Power generation has already started from the Payra 1,320 MW Thermal Power Plant Project since March 21, 2022



- ◆ "Net Metering Guidelines" have been formulated to popularize solar power generation on the roof of buildings
- ◆ With the construction of 5,213 circuit km new transmission lines during the last 13 years, the length of transmission lines increased to 13,213 circuit km
- ◆ With the construction of 3,61,000 km new distribution lines, the length of distribution lines increased to 6,21,000 km

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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
- ◆ For quick, easy and cost-effective offloading of imported refined and crude oil, the “Installation of Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline” project has been taken
- ◆ Activities for enhancing the capacity of Eastern Refinery is under progress
- ◆ Four new gas reserves have been discovered in Sundalpur, Srikail, Rupganj and Bhola North
- ◆ Construction of the “Indo-Bangla Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)” to bring refined diesel to Bangladesh from Numaligarh, India is progressing



Digital Bangladesh

- ◆ To protect lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, ICT was used with its fullest potential; Registration and vaccination activities of about 10 crore citizens have been completed till April 2022 through "Suraksha" apps developed by domestic IT engineers
- ◆ The price of internet bandwidth per Mbps has been brought down from BDT 78,000 before 2009 to below BDT 300 at present
- ◆ A total of 18,500 government offices in the country have come under the same network
- ◆ High-speed internet connection has reached 3,800 unions
- ◆ Currently, there are more than 180 million mobile SIM users in Bangladesh and the number of internet users are more than 130 million
- ◆ The government has created a national database of 52,000 websites, in which more than 9.5 million contents have been added
- ◆ The government has digitized about 2,000 government services so far
- ◆ Owing to the provision of online services, citizens have saved 1.92 billion hours of time during the last 13 years, reduced costs by BDT 8.14 billion and reduced commuting by 1 billion times
- ◆ The government is determined to ensure 100 percent of government services through online system by 2025
- ◆ Since the introduction of e-filing system, about 1.66 crore files have been disposed of till March 2022

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ Until March 2022, tenders worth Tk 5,55,481 crore were invited through e-GP System
- ◆ The government has set up 33 Specialized Labs in different universities of the country
- ◆ 13,000 Sheikh Russel Digital Labs have been set up in different academic institutions in the country



- ◆ Oxford Internet Institute (OII) ranks Bangladesh the second in the online labour force in the world
- ◆ As per the direction of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Freelancer Cards are being given to the freelancers; Currently, a total of 6.5 lakh freelancers are engaged in outsourcing
- ◆ Exports from the ICT sector have exceeded \$1.4 billion; The government aims to increase ICT exports to US\$5 billion and generate employment in this sector for 3 million by 2025
- ◆ The government is constructing a total of 39 hi-tech/IT/IT incubation centres in the country; Business activities have already started in 9 of them



- ◆ So far, private investment in the ICT parks is around BDT 2,000 crore and foreign investment is around USD 439 million
- ◆ The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority won the WITSA GLOBAL ICT EXCELLENCE AWARDS-2019 award
- ◆ The government has established 'Start-up Bangladesh Limited' to develop and patronize innovative initiatives
- ◆ There are currently more than 2.5 thousand start-ups in the country; So far, the sector has received an investment of USD 1 billion and created direct and indirect employment for 1.5 million people
- ◆ The government has established a Tier 4 data centre at the Bangabandhu hi-tech city which is the 7th largest public data centre in the world

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ For the security of public information and also to facilitate the control and investigation of cybercrimes, the Government has established Digital Forensic Laboratory and Cyber Defence Training Centre which have received international recognition
- ◆ 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 Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority Rules, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The National Information and Communication Technology Policy, 2018 formulated
- ◆ Office of the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) established
- ◆ To resolve the problem related to the interoperability of E-Governance implementation, Bangladesh National Digital Architecture has been established
- ◆ e-mutation and e-settlement activities started; e-mutation service introduced in the country
- ◆ e-Procurement and e-Monitoring systems introduced for government purchases
- ◆ Bangladesh has ranked 11th in the Asia Pacific region and 53rd in the world in the Cyber Security Index of the United Nations ITU

- ◆ According to the report of the e-Governance Academy, Bangladesh is 1st in South Asia and 32nd in the world in the National Cyber Security Index
- ◆ Guidelines on Private Software Technology Park Declaration, 2015 formulated
- ◆ The One Stop Service (Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority) Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ Establishment of 1,09,000 WiFi connectivity in village digital centre and establishment of 25,000 Sheikh Russel Digital Lab
- ◆ 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

Education

- ◆ The National Education Policy 2010 framed and is being implemented in phases
- ◆ The government has introduced e-book, established Upazila ICT Training and Resource Centers and converted one private school in 315 upazilas into a model school
- ◆ Since 2012, the government has nationalized a total of 352 secondary schools and 369 private colleges
- ◆ The government has nationalised 26,193 primary schools simultaneously in 2013 and 208 private primary schools in three hill districts in 2017
- ◆ The government has been providing financial assistance to poor and meritorious students for admission and one-time financial grants to poor and meritorious students seriously injured in accidents since FY15

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The Creative Talent Hunt Policy 2012 formulated
- ◆ The 'Creative Talent Exploration' program is being organized to recognize the best talents
- ◆ A project titled "Establishment of Integrated Educational Information Management System (IEIMS)" is taken to establish student profiles and databases and formulate an integrated education information management system
- ◆ Competency Based Training and Assessment Programme (CBTA) introduced in the form of piloting in technical institutes
- ◆ Technical education programmes started in 271 Madrashas
- ◆ Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary level increased to 98 percent
- ◆ From 2009 to 2022, a total of 141.78 crore free textbooks were distributed to primary and pre-primary level students
- ◆ Since 2017, free textbooks and learning materials written in their mother tongue are being distributed to the students of small ethnic groups (pre-primary to 3rd grade)
- ◆ Since 2009, the government has constructed 1,01,435 additional classrooms in 26,704 schools under various schemes
- ◆ A total of 47,610 wash blocks have been constructed and 68,609 tube wells have been installed
- ◆ The SLIP (School Level Improvement Plan) program is being implemented with the aim of formulating local development plans at the school level
- ◆ From 2009 to 2020, a total of 2,00,737 primary school teachers have been appointed; Process of recruitment of a total of 32,577 vacancies including pre-primary is ongoing

- ◆ Integrated education programs have been launched to ensure access to education for all children including children with special needs; Fund is allocated to purchase and distribute wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, etc. to children with special needs
- ◆ Initiatives have been taken to introduce pre-primary education of 2 years by including children of 4+ age
- ◆ Leadership training was provided to a total of 79,332 headmasters
- ◆ Master Trainer training of Mathematics Olympiad has been provided to 2,305 education officers
- ◆ To set up multimedia classrooms, a total of 58,921 laptops, multimedia projectors, internet and sound-systems have been provided in 50,416 government primary schools
- ◆ The government has trained a total of 1,05,755 teachers on ICT to create digital content; The use of digital content has increased children's attention and interest in lessons
- ◆ E-monitoring system has been introduced in all government primary schools
- ◆ The dropout rate in the primary education cycle has reduced to 17.20 percent in 2020 from 45.1 percent in 2009
- ◆ 100 percent primary school students are given educational stipend
- ◆ At the school level, the "Yellow Bird" program has been started for girls
- ◆ The 'Students' Council' has been formed in primary schools with the aim of practicing democratic values, inculcating a sense of leadership, showing tolerance and respect for the opinion from the childhood

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ Interactive Digital Textbook introduced
- ◆ Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund with an amount of seed money of BDT 1000 crore has been constituted to ensure the education of poor students
- ◆ The National Skills Development Authority established and made operational
- ◆ National Human Resources Development Fund (NHRDF) established and made operational
- ◆ National Technical and Vocational Qualification Framework (NTVQF) introduced
- ◆ Introduction of 'Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)'
- ◆ Curriculum on Information and Communication Technology introduced from class IV and made compulsory up to the higher secondary level
- ◆ Enrolment in technical education has now increased to 17.25 percent from less than 1 percent in 2009
- ◆ 5 percent quota has been reserved for admission of students with special needs in technical education
- ◆ Women's quota in admission has been increased from 10 percent to 20 percent to increase women's participation in technical education
- ◆ 453 Competency Standards and 504 Competency Based Learning Materials have been developed for 218 occupations
- ◆ A "Research and Knowledge Management Cell" has been formed in the Directorate of Technical Education
- ◆ Industry Institute Linkage MoU has been signed with 581 industrial organizations

- ◆ The Disability Inclusion Advisory Group has been formed to ensure the facilities of students with special needs in the field of technical education
- ◆ Through the ‘Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)’, training was provided to 5,16,439 participants, out of which more than 77.6 percent got employment

Health and Family Welfare

- ◆ The Mental Health Act, 2018 enacted abolishing the Lunacy Act of 1912
- ◆ The number of government medical colleges has increased to 38 from 17 in 2009
- ◆ The number of private medical colleges increased to 72 from 40 in 2009
- ◆ The number of Medical Assistant Training School has increased to 22 from 7 in 2009 and the number of Institute of Health Technology has increased to 26 from 6 in 2009
- ◆ 16 nursing institutes upgraded to nursing colleges, and three new nursing colleges established
- ◆ A total of 1,103 adolescent-friendly health care corners have been established to ensure health services for adolescents
- ◆ To provide services on information and advice on family planning, emergency maternity services, new-born and child services, adolescent and reproductive health on a 24x7 days basis, 'Sukhi Paribar' (16767) call center has been set up
- ◆ The rate of population growth has declined to 1.37 percent in 2020 from 1.43 percent in 2004
- ◆ The current family planning system user rate (CPR) is 63.9 percent, up from 52.6 percent in 2008

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The total fertility rate (TFR) has decreased to 2.04 from 2.3 in 2008
- ◆ The maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births has now declined to 163 from 348 in 2008
- ◆ The infant mortality rate in the age group of 0-1 years has now declined to 21 per 1,000 live births, from 41 per 1,000 live births in 2008
- ◆ Bangladesh Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Survey 2019-20 final report and results published
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The National Deployment and Vaccination plan formulated to protect the lives of the people against COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ As of 04 September, 2022, the government has vaccinated 71.22% of the population with 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines
- ◆ The Government has taken initiatives to establish a high-quality medical facility for manufacturing all types of vaccines including that for coronavirus
- ◆ A Venom center of very high quality has been established at Chattogram Medical College
- ◆ The government has set up a target to make Bangladesh free from Malaria by 2030

- ◆ Chikungunya management guideline has been formulated
- ◆ National Dengue Guideline has been formulated and diagnosis charges at the hospitals have been reduced
- ◆ Child Development Centre has been established in 16 Medical College Hospitals; It will be done in another 15 Medical College Hospitals and 9 District Hospitals
- ◆ To achieve Universal Health Care Coverage, steps have been taken to formulate 'Health Protection Law'
- ◆ 'Infection Protection Guideline' has been prepared for community clinics
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The Government has started establishing Burn Units at Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Rangpur and Faridpur Medical Colleges
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The 'Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032' has been 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

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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
- ◆ To provide treatment to coronavirus patients, more than 2000 doctors and 6000 nurses have been recruited on an urgent basis
- ◆ 3,000 new posts for midwives have been created to reduce the maternal mortality rate
- ◆ Healthcare workers, including 386 medical technologists and 2,654 lab-attendants were recruited through outsourcing
- ◆ New posts have been created for 1,200 medical technologists, 1,650 medical technicians and 150 cardiographers
- ◆ Telemedicine services introduced in 94 hospitals
- ◆ Health call centre 16263 introduced
- ◆ Three nuclear medical physics institutes with ultramodern laboratory facilities have 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

Industrialization and Tourism

- ◆ The Civil Aviation Act, 2017 enacted
- ◆ The Hotel and Restaurant Act, 2014 enacted

- ◆ The National Industrial Policy 2016 and the National Salt Policy, 2016 formulated
- ◆ The National Tourism Policy 2010 formulated



- ◆ Bangladesh Industrial Organisation Nationalization Act, 2018 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Industrial Design Act, 2016 enacted
- ◆ The Trademarks Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ Geographical Indication Products (Registration and Protection) Act, 2013 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh Shipbuilding Policy 2021 formulated
- ◆ 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

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ National Innovation and Intellectual Resources Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ National Motorcycle Industry Development Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ National Quality (Goods and Services) Policy 2015 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Tourism Reserved Area and Special Tourism Zone Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ The Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh was elected as the Chair of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia for the period of 2017-2019 in the 22nd General Assembly of UNWTO
- ◆ As a member of IATA, Bangladesh Biman connects the country with 16 key cities around the world
- ◆ 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 contribution of industrial sector in the GDP of Bangladesh has been raised to 35.36 percent in FY21 from 17.7 percent in FY08.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The Registered Exporter System (REX), introduced in FY20, enables exporters to issue the ‘Statement of Origin’ in the case of exports to the European Union

- ◆ 43 companies are exporting various medicines and medicinal raw materials to about 92 countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States
- ◆ An API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) industrial park with infrastructural facilities and a central waste treatment plant has been set up at Gazaria in Munshiganj district
- ◆ 'National Active Pharmaceuticals Ingredients (API) and Laboratory Reagents Production and Export Policy' formulated
- ◆ From FY10 to FY22 (up to February), a total of 19,246 industrial projects, including local, joint and cent percent foreign, have been registered with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
- ◆ Under the One Stop Service Act, 2018, the "One Stop Service (BIDA) Rules, 2020" has been formulated in 2020
- ◆ Guidelines for outward remittance repatriation for payment of Royalty, Technical Knowledge/Technical Know-how fee(s), Technical Assistance Fee(s) and Franchise Fee(s) 2020' has been formulated
- ◆ The Ease of Doing Business National Steering Committee and the National Committee for Monitoring Implementation of Doing Business Reforms (NCMID) are formed
- ◆ Growth in real foreign investment inflows was about 22 percent on an annual average from FY15 to FY19
- ◆ In 2019, Bangladesh has been included among the top 20 reforming countries in the world in the development of various business indicators of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business
- ◆ The Public and Private Partnership Act, 2015 has been enacted

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ Rules for Viability Gap Financing for Public-Private Partnership Projects, 2018 and Rules for Public-Private Partnership Technical Assistance Financing, 2018 have been issued
- ◆ Procurement Guidelines for PPP Projects, 2018 and Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals, 2018 have been issued in revised form to determine the process of selection of private partners
- ◆ Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) was established in 2010; BEZA has a target of setting up 100 economic zones of which 28 are already set up or at different stages of implementation
- ◆ A Japanese economic zone is being set up on 1,000 acres of land at Araihasar in Narayanganj district
- ◆ Sabrang Tourism Park at Teknaf and Naf Tourism Park at Jaliardwip are being constructed under BEZA
- ◆ Work is underway to launch a mobile app called 'Bangladesh Tourism Digital Service'



- ◆ BSCIC has established a total of 74 industrial estates throughout the country to foster the growth of small and cottage industries

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
- ◆ 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 export-oriented industries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ A stimulus fund of BDT 1,500 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 industrial sectors of the country including ready-made garment, shrimp industry, tannery, glass, export-oriented leather and footwear, ceramic, ship recycling and sericulture sectors free of child labour
- ◆ Labour Inspection Management Application (LIMA) App introduced to inspect mills and factories online
- ◆ Online trade union registration system has been initiated

Bangladesh Marches on



- ◆ Bangladesh has been re-elected as a deputy member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization for the 2021-2024 term
- ◆ Number of labour courts increased to 10; Establishment of another 4 labour courts is ongoing
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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) have 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 victims among the expatriate workers from 2009 to June 2019
- ◆ 'Female Workers Grievance Management Cell' has been set up at BMET

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 hassle free
- ◆ The Digital Land (Development) Tax System has won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2022
- ◆ The Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 2021 enacted
- ◆ Two e-Judiciary projects have been taken to bring the lower courts under the ICT network
- ◆ National Justice Coordination Committee has been formed

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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) has been 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
- ◆ 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, pensioner's life verification App introduced
- ◆ Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act, 2020 enacted
- ◆ The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 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. As of September, 58 services are being provided online with the target of providing 154 investment services through the portal
- ◆ The e-GP (Electronic Government Procurement) guidelines approved

- ◆ Government provided houses to 3.53 million poor homeless people



- ◆ 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
- ◆ All ministries/divisions brought under the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF)
- ◆ Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 approved in September 2018

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The government has so far (as of June 2022) adopted and started implementing a total of 28 fiscal and stimulus packages amounting to BDT 1876 billion 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 Public Money and Budget Management Act, 2009 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh successfully achieved the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
- ◆ Received ‘SDG Progress Award’ in recognition of SDG implementation progress
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The “Climate Financing for Sustainable Development, 2019-20” published

- ◆ Bangladesh has qualified for LDC graduation, and is poised to become 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 National Board of Revenue has introduced Online VAT 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 July 2022, a total of 2,40,407 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
- ◆ Upto July 2022, a total of 3,65,725 taxpayers have received online VAT registration
- ◆ The government has implemented the VAT Online Project, which worked to bring transparency in VAT collection and establish an ICT based VAT administration system
- ◆ 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 8,000 EFDs/ SDCs have so far been installed in business establishments

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ A new Customs Act, 2021 has been drafted, received Cabinet approval and now awaits enactment
- ◆ To streamline the bonded warehousing system, reduce its misuse and make it transparent, the government has automated the bond management system
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Electronic return filing (e-return) has been rolled out in all Tax Zones for submission of income tax returns online
- ◆ The National Single Window (NSW) project has been taken to connect all stakeholders, which will provide facilities of One Stop Service in all activities related to imports and exports
- ◆ Electronic tax deducted at source (e-TDS) system has been launched to automatically settle claims of tax and refund advance income tax for taxpayers
- ◆ 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 2022 stood at 2.9 million
- ◆ As of March 2022, the total no of TIN-holders has reached to more than 7 million

Financial Sector

- ◆ Public Financial Management Action Plan (PFM Action Plan 2018-23) has been formulated
- ◆ Financial Reporting Act, 2015 enacted

- ◆ Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) has been introduced
- ◆ Pension payment through EFT initiated to reduce the hassle of pensioners
- ◆ Programme is taken to bring all government expenditure under Treasury Single Account (TSA) to ensure efficiency and transparency
- ◆ Automated chalan (A CHALAN) has been introduced to receive all government dues from individuals and businesses in real time
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Cash transfers under all major social security programmes are done 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* bond to integrate with the evolving trend in development finance
- ◆ Government of Bangladesh Investment Sukuk Guideline, 2020 formulated
- ◆ Agent banking has been introduced across the country to bring banking services to rural areas in a safe and cost-effective manner

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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 Banker's Book Evidence Act, 2021 enacted
- ◆ The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2022 enacted
- ◆ Special tribunal working for quick disposal of law suits relating to the capital market formed
- ◆ 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 Patent Act, 2022 enacted
- ◆ Trade Organizations Act, 2022 enacted
- ◆ Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ One Stop Service (Bangladesh Export Processing Zone) Rules, 2019 formulated
- ◆ The Bangladesh Private Economic Zones Policy 2015 formulated

- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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

Climate Change and Environment

- ◆ National Environment Policy 2018 formulated
- ◆ The Forest Act, 2019 drafted
- ◆ Hazardous waste (e-waste) management policy, 2021 formulated

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ The Bangladesh Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2010 enacted
- ◆ For the implementation of BCCSAP, a Climate Change Trust Fund has been set up
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kiln Establishment (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2019 enacted
- ◆ 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



- ◆ Bangladesh has submitted its 1st Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in August 2021
- ◆ The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Bangladesh has been drafted
- ◆ A circular issued to ensure the mandatory use of 100 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
- ◆ 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 FY18, each year a report titled "Climate Financing for Sustainable Development" is being presented to the National Parliament during the presentation of the budget
- ◆ 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

Bangladesh Marches on

- ◆ 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