

Joi Bangla

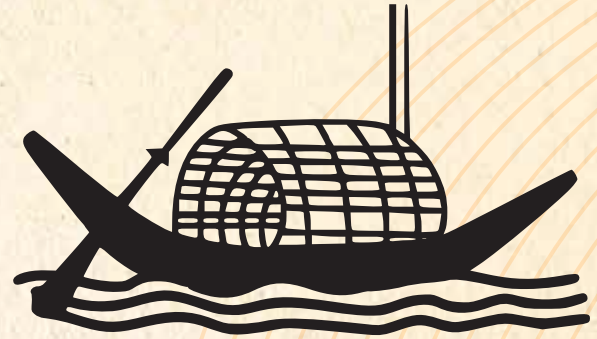
Allah is Almighty

Joi Bangabandhu



Smart Bangladesh
Where Development Shines
Accelerating Employment

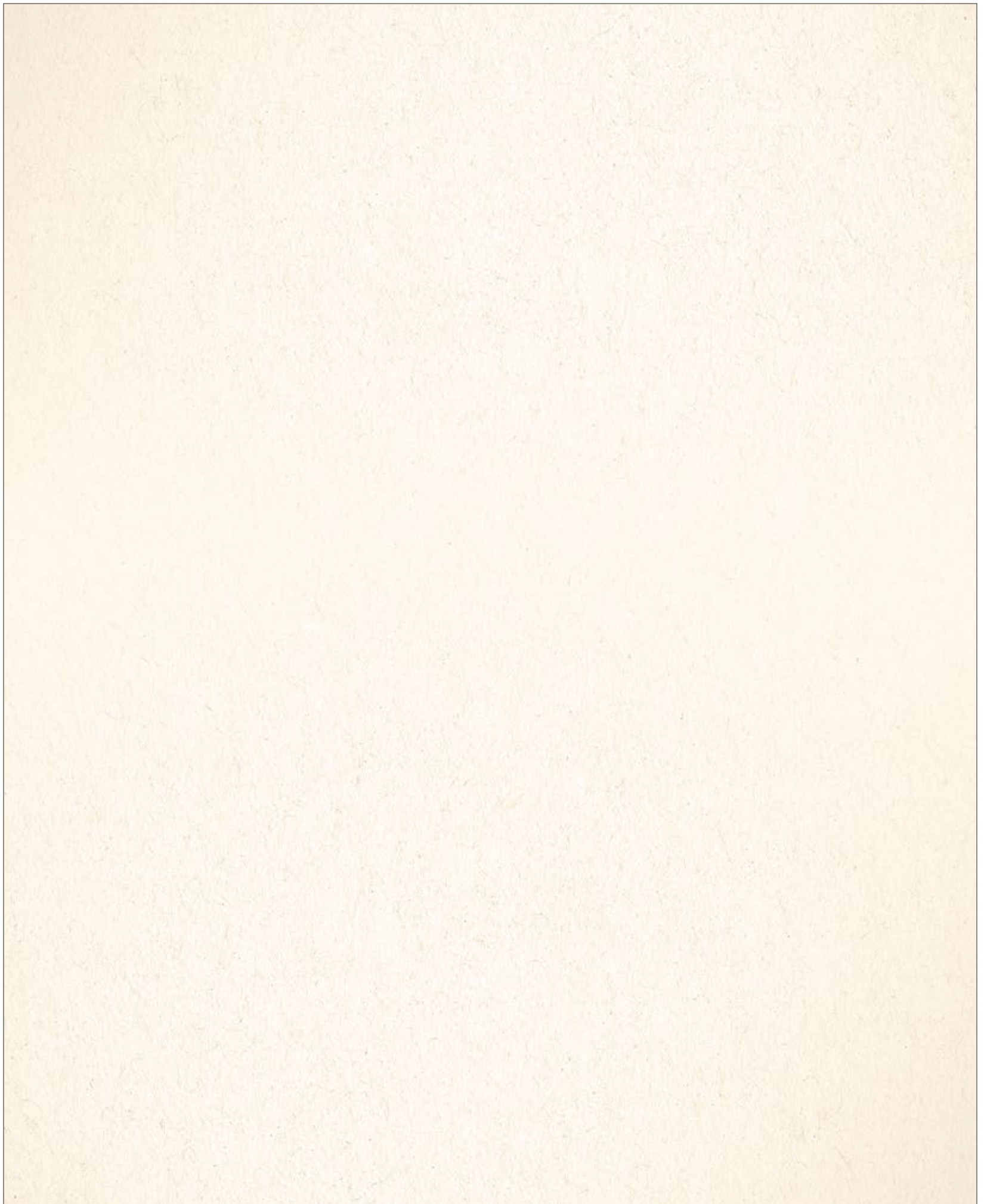
ELECTION
MANIFESTO
2024



Bangladesh Awami League

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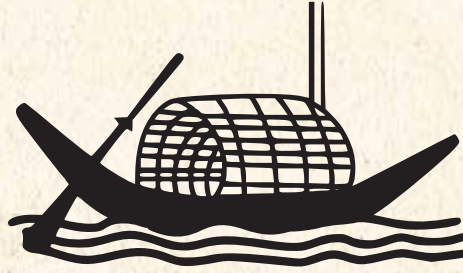
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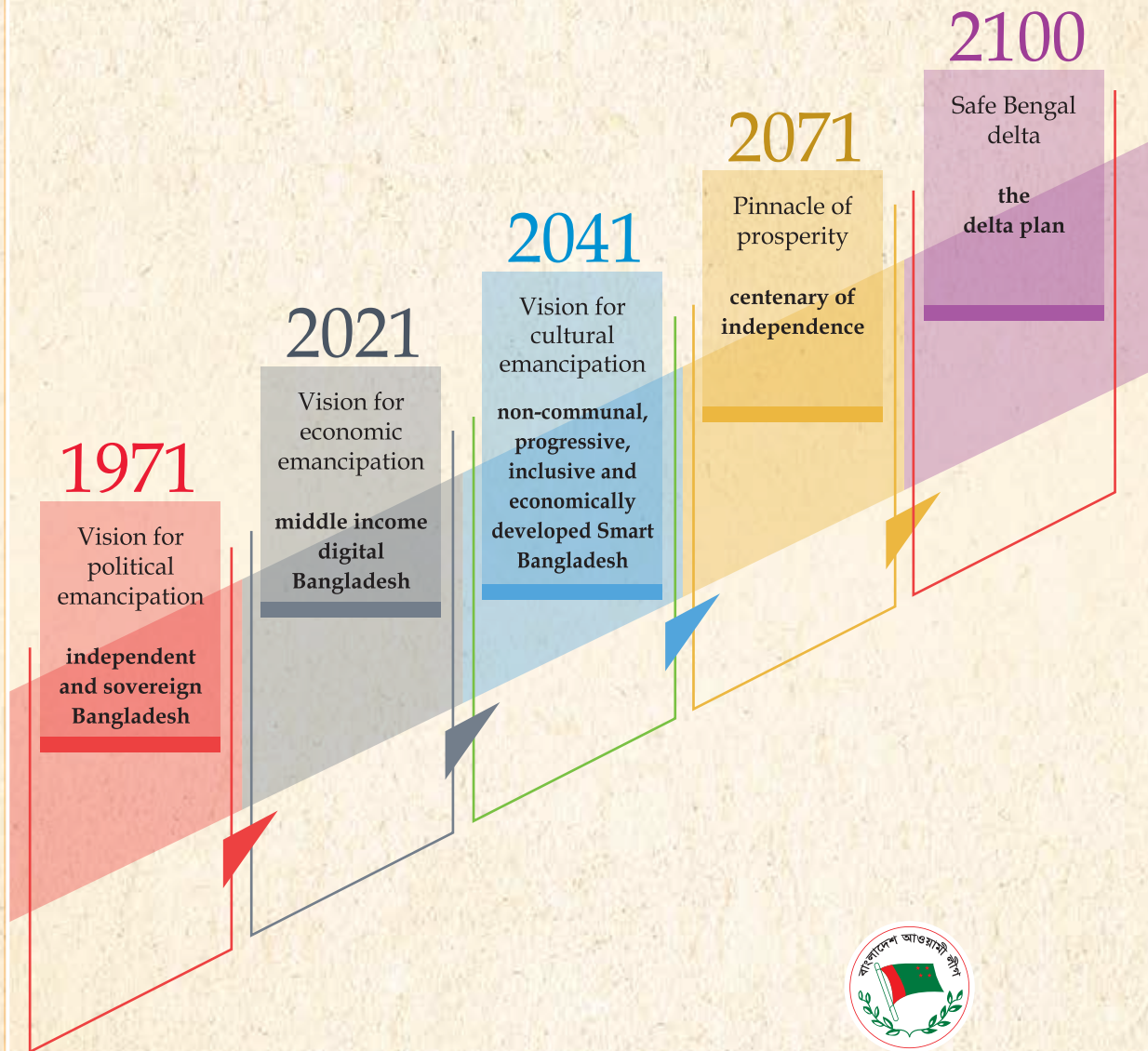
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Bangladesh Awami League

Smart Bangladesh

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Accelerating Employment



Bangladesh Awami League

12th National Parliament Election 7 January, 2024

Election Manifesto of the Bangladesh Awami League

Contents

1. Our Priorities	9
2. Background	11
2.1 The Glorious Five Years (June 1996 to July 2001) : The golden time for realizing the dream of liberation	14
2.2 The BNP-Jamaat Coalition Government (October 2001 to November 2006) : Mass resistance against looting, misrule and corruption	15
2.3 The Tenure of Caretaker Government : Conspiracies against democracy and the transition	16
2.4 Awami League Rule (January 2009 to December 2023) : The wondrous growth and prosperity that moved the world	17
3. Development and Progress during the Three Terms in Government (2009-2023) and Our Pledges (2024-2028)	21
3.1 Transition from Digital to Smart Bangladesh	21
3.2 Good Governance	22
a. Democracy, Elections and Effective Parliament	22
b. Rule of Law and Protection of Human Rights	24
c. Freedom of Media and Free-flow of Information	26
d. Welfare-oriented, Accountable and Smart Administration	28
e. People-friendly Law Enforcement Agencies	29
f. Adoption of Zero-Tolerance Policy against Corruption	30
g. Fighting Terrorism and Communalism	31
h. Local Government	32
i. Digital Land Management	34
3.3 Economics	35
a. Macroeconomics : High Income, Sustainable and Inclusive Development	35
b. Poverty Alleviation and Inequality Reduction	44
c. My Village-My Town (<i>Amar Gram-Amar Shahar</i>) : Extending Modern Urban Facilities to Every Village	46

d.	Young Generation : The Power of Youth and the Prosperity of Bangladesh	47
e.	Agriculture, Food and Nutrition	49
f.	Industrial Development	55
g.	Power and Energy	58
h.	Communication	61
i.	Mega Projects for Infrastructural Development	64
j.	Maritime Victory : Blue-Economy	65
k.	Achieving MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and Implementation Strategies (2016-2030) for SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)	67
l.	Delta Plan-2100	69
3.4	Social Security and Services	69
a.	Universal Pension Scheme	69
b.	Education	70
c.	Healthcare and Family Welfare	72
d.	Culture	75
e.	Sports	77
f.	Welfare of Freedom Fighters	78
g.	Child Welfare	80
h.	Welfare of the Disabled and Senior Citizens	82
i.	Ethnic Minorities and Religious Groups	86
j.	Underprivileged Communities	88
k.	Labor Welfare and Labor Policy	89
l.	Empowerment of Women	92
m.	Climate Change and Environmental Protection	95
n.	NGOs and Government	97
3.5	Independence and Sovereignty	97
a.	Foreign	97
b.	Defense : Security and Sovereignty	99
4.	Translating the Pledges into Actions by Sheikh Hasina, the Visionary Leader	103
	<i>Bangladesh Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's Address to the People of Bangladesh</i>	105

"You can't keep seventy million of people subjugated."

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



"The perpetrators of the August 21 attack fear the people. Those who aim to eliminate the people's party, Awami League, fail to comprehend that while individuals can be harmed, ideals and principles remain impervious to destruction."

- People's Leader Sheikh Hasina



1

Our Priorities



Taking all out efforts to reduce the price of goods and keep them within an affordable range



Ensuring education with employability skills and youth employment



Building a Smart Bangladesh based on modern technology



Increasing investments in agricultural mechanization and agro-processing to maximize profitability



Increasing funding for industry expansion



Enhancing efficiency and capacity of the financial sector, including banks



Ensuring affordable healthcare for low-income people



Introducing 'Universal Pension Scheme'



Ensuring effectiveness and accountability of law enforcement agencies



Preventing communalism and militancy



Promoting the protection and practice of democratic system at all levels



"The movement cannot be done with words alone. Public opinion has to be created for the movement. A movement must have ideals. One has to be a selfless worker for the movement. There must be people who make sacrifices. And above all, there needs to be unity and united support of the people."

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

2

Background



The nation, which the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his party, the Awami League, achieved by uniting its freedom-seeking people and assisting them in realizing their long-cherished dream of an independent motherland through prolonged struggles and war, is currently undergoing a golden phase. Bangladesh, which was accomplished through the sacrifices of three million martyrs, is on the highway of prosperity. It has become a role model for development around the world. It is on the right track to become an upper-middle-income country. In terms of national income, Bangladesh is currently positioned as the 33rd-largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP and 25th in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine War, the recent war in the Middle East, the crisis in world politics, and the worldwide slow pace of the economies, the country has continued to pursue development and growth even when other countries are struggling.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's government has successfully faced the economic crisis and maintained its trajectory of development and growth. It is under her laudable leadership that Bangladesh is getting the respect and dignity it deserves as a proud nation in the world. After the political changeover in 1975, the country had to overcome many challenges. Sheikh Hasina has earned global esteem for the country through her seamless pursuit of progress. The celebrations of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Mujib Year 2020, and the Golden Jubilee of Independence 2021, observed during her tenure, stand out as the most glorious events since our independence.

The country's visible development has drawn the appreciation of the international community. Today, electricity has reached every house in Bangladesh. The very poor homeless people are getting shelter under the shelter scheme. Remarkable achievements have been made in agriculture and food security. Education and health care are ensured for all children. All the benefits of the Internet and digital technology have reached people's doorsteps. The realized dream of the Liberation War has removed the darkness of deprivation and oppression by securing the people's basic rights of food, clothing, education, health, and housing mentioned in the Constitution.

Meanwhile, "*Amar Gram, Amar Sahar*" (My Village, My Town) and "The Strength of Youth for a Thriving Bangladesh", two special pledges made during the last election, are being

implemented. The youth force has emboldened us to adopt a transition from 'Digital Bangladesh' to 'Smart Bangladesh'. The youth's progress in the cultural and sporting arenas is contributing to the nation's revitalization. As a result of heightened economic activities facilitated by accessible services such as education, healthcare, and electricity, rural residents now have the privilege of experiencing the full range of urban amenities.

Bangladesh is presently flourishing in its attainment of success in the effective implementation and expansion of social security programs for the impoverished. This inclusive development strategy encompasses increased employment opportunities, women's empowerment, and enhanced quality of life for all segments of society, including workers and farmers. Notably, the nation has successfully mitigated radical armed militancy through a zero-tolerance policy. The government is committed to promoting democratic values, transparency, and accountability, ensuring the protection of human rights and upholding the rule of law. Visible efforts are underway to establish an efficient, service-oriented, and accountable administration, while maintaining the independence of the judiciary. Today, every citizen enjoys access to the law. This reflects a commitment to a just and inclusive society.

Bangladesh's approach is guided by the principle of 'friendship with all, malice to none', as enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution, amidst the present tumultuous and intricate global landscape where nations grapple with formidable challenges in formulating foreign policies. Under the steadfast leadership of people's leader Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh holds a robust and esteemed position in the international arena, a clear testament to her resolute dedication to fostering prosperity and global peace.

Leading up to the 12th National Parliamentary Election, the malevolent and anti-state alliance of BNP and Jamaat has orchestrated a sinister campaign involving arson, terrorism, and the loss of innocent lives. Under the guise of a movement, which is unjust and has no public involvement, they have targeted both civilians and law enforcing personnel, wreaking havoc on public and private property. This alliance not only rejects the nation's history, heritage, and the ideals of the Liberation War and the constitution, but also seeks to retaliate against the defeat of 1971 by undermining the people-centric advancements in development, rule of law, and human rights fostered under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina. Their agenda aims to regress Bangladesh to the dark days of radical militancy, terrorism, and plunder.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance is conspiring to replicate the conspiracies witnessed in the 2001 election with the assistance of the caretaker government. Bangladesh, however, resists reverting to the era of BNP-Jamaat misrule. The nation aspires to move forward, drawing from past experiences and relying on the talent, creativity, and formidable power of its youth, to shape a 21st-century Bangladesh.



For three consecutive terms, spanning from 2009 to 2023, the Awami League government, led by the esteemed people's leader Sheikh Hasina, has steered the nation towards the vision of constructing a democratic society founded on equality and justice. Over this 15-year period, the government has undertaken welfare-oriented and well-coordinated initiatives, laying a sustainable groundwork for the development of Bangladesh. Building upon this foundation, the current objective of the Awami League is to transform Bangladesh into a 'developed- rich-smart' nation by 2041, with the dynamic youth playing a pivotal role as the main architects.

The strategy involves harnessing the immense potential of the young population and creating a favorable environment for industrialization for both domestic and foreign investments, with the aim of generating substantial employment. These initiatives have the potential to mark a pivotal moment in Bangladesh's development history if they are effectively implemented during the 2024-2028 period. It will create a new trend in history. This period holds the promise of a revolutionary shift in productive power that will usher in a new era of progress and prosperity.

Under the guidance of people's leader Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League has successfully formed a government through persistent struggles, securing both the people's right to vote and access to essential staple food like rice. The track record has demonstrated tangible benefits for the populace when the Awami League assumes power. The current assertion to maintain the continuity of this government reflects the nation's aspiration to sustain the ongoing progress in the development and prosperity of the country.

The Awami League's election manifesto transcends mere promises; it stands as a vision that is both pragmatic and attainable. A significant portion of the pledges outlined in the last election manifesto has already been realized, with ongoing efforts for the implementation of medium- and long-term goals. Based on past experience, the general public strongly believes that the Awami League will effectively implement the promises, objectives, and programs presented in this year's election manifesto in collaboration with the people in the days to come. In charting the course for a promising future, Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emerged as a fearless and trustworthy leader dedicated to the creation of a happy, prosperous, and smart Bangladesh.

The Awami League, the country's largest party, with a robust heritage and rich history of leading the Liberation War and shaping the destiny of the people, is unveiling the 'Smart Bangladesh Manifesto-2024' to the nation. This manifesto follows the trajectory set by the election manifestos of the preceding three terms, under the guidance of Awami League President people's leader Sheikh Hasina.



2.1. The Glorious Five Years (June 1996-2001) :

The golden time for realizing the dream of liberation

Emerging from the shadows of the post-1975 era marked by darkness, negative schemes, and failures, the Awami League government's rule from 1996-2001 stands as a testament to success across the realms of nation, state, and social life after a prolonged 21-year period. Steeped in the spirit of the Liberation War, the administration prioritized accountability and transparency, taking significant strides to institutionalize democracy. A landmark 30-year Ganges Water-sharing Agreement with India was successfully negotiated in 1997. The Peace Treaty in the Chattogram Hill Tracts put an end to two decades of internal strife and bloodshed. A total of 1800 armed men surrendered their weapons and returned to normal life. To establish the rule of law and human rights, the infamous 'Indemnity Ordinance' was repealed, cleansing the historical stain of infamy. Consequently, barriers to completing the trial for the assassination of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were eliminated.

For the first time, the nation achieved self-sufficiency in food production. The inflation rate dropped to 1.5%, which is the lowest in the country's history. The country experienced an average growth rate of around 6 percent over a five-year period. Prices of essential commodities remained stable, and per capita income rose from US\$ 280 to US\$ 386. The human poverty index decreased from 41.6 percent in 1995-96 to 34 percent in 2001. Concurrently, the average human life expectancy increased from 58.7 years to 62 years, and the literacy rate saw an improvement from 44 percent during the BNP era to 65 percent. Power generation surged from 1600 to 4300 MW, and new industries along with export processing areas were established, contributing to an increase in foreign investment.

Priority was given to poverty alleviation, marking a historic moment for the nation. Some of the initiatives include : 'Elderly Allowance,' 'Widow and Abandoned Women's Allowance,' 'Insolvent Freedom Fighters Allowance,' 'Shelter Scheme,' *Grihayan* [housing project], and 'Adarsh Gram [Model Village],' as well as the 'Cluster Village' project that was launched during post-independence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's tenure. These programs stand as a testament to the government's commitment to supporting the genuinely vulnerable and impoverished. Additionally, comprehensive measures, including self-employment projects like 'Ekti Bari, Ekti Khamar [one house, one farm]' and the 'Employment Bank,' have been introduced. Steering clear of corruption, terrorism, and ad-hoc governance, concrete policies were taken across various sectors of the economy.

Notably, the first democratically elected government in Bangladesh's history gracefully transferred power to a non-partisan caretaker government on July 15, 2001, adhering to the constitutional mandate and promoting democratic progress. This historic event symbolizes the nation's return to a democratic system characterized by fair, neutral, and freely acceptable elections, distinguishing it from the post '75 era dominated by controlled elections and military rule.



2.2 The BNP-Jamaat Coalition Government (October 2001 to November 2006) : Mass resistance against looting, misrule and corruption

The coming to power of the BNP-Jamaat alliance through rigged elections under the scheming and biased so-called non-partisan caretaker government of Justice Latifur Rahman was a disgrace and misfortune for the nation. The defeated forces of 1971 who seized power after 1975 and started the process of military rule were nakedly repatriated in this process. Since the election, the Awami League leaders and activists, innocent voters, especially the minorities and women voters were brutally tortured, looted, vandalized and arson in the same manner, in a well-planned and indiscriminate manner similar to ethnic cleansing. All possibilities of development and prosperity were dead. The country became a Death Valley.

The vengeful BNP-Jamaat alliance, with a calculated blueprint to eradicate the Awami League's leadership and the spirit of the Liberation War, unleashed a series of armed attacks. The most heinous manifestation of this brutality occurred on August 21, 2004, in a grenade attack targeting people's leader Sheikh Hasina. The attack claimed the lives of 24 leaders and workers, including central Awami League figure Ivy Rahman, while injuring 500 others. Pursuing the same malevolent agenda, the alliance orchestrated the targeted killings of 21 thousand leaders and activists including former Finance Minister and MP Shah AMS Kibria, labor leader and MP Ahsanullah Master, Advocate Manzurul Imam and Montajuddin from Awami League, along with intellectuals, journalists, minority clergy, and notable figures like Manik Saha, Gopal Krishna Muhuri, and Gnanjyoti Mahathero. The rise of radical sectarian militant groups, supported by the then government, led to a surge in acts of terrorism, including grenade attacks and bombings, casting Bangladesh as a new hub for international terrorism. In the eyes of the world, Bangladesh became synonymous with dysfunctionality and terrorism.

Throughout the five-year tenure of the BNP-Jamaat coalition, the cost of essential items, including food, soared beyond the means of the people. In contrast to the preceding Awami League era, commodity prices surged by 100-200 times, pushing the inflation rate beyond 10 percent. Concurrently, the growth rate saw a decline from 5.92 percent to 5.4 percent. Over the seven-year governance of the BNP-Jamaat alliance, coupled with two years under the caretaker government, an additional 1 crore 20 lakh people found themselves newly categorized as impoverished. Both domestic and foreign investments experienced significant downturns.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance, having initially promised to combat corruption through Jihad, ironically saw corruption and looting become integral to the government's policy. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in collusion with her son Tarique Rahman, transformed his office 'Hawa Bhavan' into a parallel center of state power. Khaleda Zia and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, along with their children, ministers, and leaders, became embroiled in black money holdings and money laundering abroad. The staggering levels of corruption, abuse of power, looting, and extortion by BNP-Jamaat coalition members led Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to consistently rank Bangladesh as the most corrupt country globally for five consecutive times.



This pervasive corruption resulted in a halt to development, compounded by government inefficiency and mismanagement across all sectors. An acute crisis in both industrial and agricultural production gripped the nation, as evidenced by the tragic incident in Kansat, Chapainawabganj, where 20 farmers demanding electricity were shot dead.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance rendered the parliament ineffective and dismantled democratic institutions through its overwhelming majority. Through manipulative tactics in engineering elections, they transformed the Election Commission into a subservient party organ with the intention of consolidating and perpetuating their hold on power. In blatant disregard to the Constitution and the Supreme Court's directives, voter lists with 1 crore and 23 lakh fictitious voters were compiled, and over 300 party loyalists were appointed as election officials at the upazila level. The disenfranchisement and manipulation of the electoral process reached such an extent that the entire system lost its credibility, undermining the people's right to vote.

2.3 The Tenure of Caretaker Government : Conspiracies against democracy and the transition

In a scandalous departure from Sheikh Hasina's model, BNP-Jamaat alliance leader Khaleda Zia undermined democracy's basic principles. Unlike Sheikh Hasina's precedent of handing over power to a non-partisan caretaker government according to the constitution before the 9th National Parliamentary Election, Khaleda Zia engaged in various manipulations, including the farcical selection of a lackey Iajuddin Ahmed, the then president, as the chief advisor of the caretaker government. While implementing the BNP-Jamaat alliance's blueprint, Iajuddin eradicated any chance of free and fair elections being held. The misrule, corruption, condoning of terrorism and militancy by the BNP and Jamaat alliance government angered the people. The public also did not accept the 1 crore 23 lakh fake voter list, the subservient Election Commission and the appointment of President Iajuddin as the Chief Advisor to the caretaker government. The public, frustrated by the sham, took to the streets to boycott and resist the planned election on January 22, 2007. The mass upsurge culminated in the change of regime on January 11, 2007.

A caretaker government under Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed imposed a state of emergency in response to the change in power, which resulted in a protracted ban on political activity. While this change offered a potential solution to the electoral crisis, certain groups within the caretaker government indulged themselves in excesses, coercion, depoliticization attempts, and conspiracies to implement the 'minus-two' formula, casting a shadow over the democratic future of the country.

During this period, people's leader Sheikh Hasina became the primary target under the pretext of building a 'King's Party,' with Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the forefront, and concealing the wrongdoings of Khaleda Zia, Tarique Zia, and the BNP-Jamaat alliance. The government endangered the life of the daughter of Bangabandhu by stopping her from coming home, leading to a widespread and intense movement. Ultimately, Sheikh Hasina's unwavering and



courageous role thwarted the conspiracy to isolate the daughter of Bangabandhu, and the transition to democracy in the country unfolded smoothly.

2.4 Awami League Rule (January 2009-December 2023) :

The wondrous growth and prosperity that moved the world

In 2008, the triumphant victory of the Awami League in the 9th National Parliamentary Election, led by Sheikh Hasina, served as a golden opportunity for the Bengali nation to overcome the profound economic, social, and political crises stemming from the extreme corruption and looting of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government, as well as the gross mismanagement of the military-backed caretaker government. The implementation of the popular election manifesto *Din badaler Sanad* (Declaration of Change) marked the beginning of a bright trajectory, reminiscent of the Awami League's 1996-2001 tenure.

During this period, significant strides were made, including the completion of the unfinished trial in the murder of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and his family. An international tribunal was established to initiate the trial of war criminals against humanity. Constitutional amendments aimed at reinstating national principles, acknowledging the contributions of freedom fighters, and constitutionally preventing undemocratic changes in the government were enacted. Visionary and groundbreaking decisions defined this transformative era.

However, the path to upholding the constitution and democracy, ensuring uninterrupted development, and governing in the spirit of the Liberation War faced obstacles. The BNP-Jamaat alliance boycotted Parliament and exerted all efforts to foment unrest, anarchy, and chaos through strikes, blockades, and arson. Domestic and international forces, particularly Pakistan, desperate to thwart the prosecution of war criminals, played a disruptive role.

Leading up to the 2014 general election, the anti-national terrorist character of radical-communal forces, including BNP and Jamaat, was laid bare before the nation. Similar to the events of 1971, BNP and Jamaat-Shibir killers targeted ordinary citizens, including law enforcement forces, protecting war criminals.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina extended an invitation for a dialogue with BNP leader Khaleda Zia to reach a compromise on the question of the government during the election period, aiming to safeguard the people's sacred deposit of voting rights. However, these calls for dialogue were rudely rejected, and the BNP-Jamaat alliance announced continuous strikes, blockades, and intimidation to disrupt the election.

Despite facing unimaginable and brutal violence from the BNP-Jamaat alliance, the election was completed. The new government, invigorated with renewed zeal, devoted itself to development programs, safeguarding people's fundamental rights, and the construction of a digital Bangladesh. As the government entered its second year amidst favorable conditions characterized by



developmental success and progress, defeated anti-communal forces once again adopted an undemocratic, unconstitutional path of violence and destruction from January 2015. The BNP-Jamaat alliance enforced a 90-day consecutive strike-blockade, displaying unprecedented levels of fiendishness and barbarity, even comparable to medieval times.

Throughout this period, innocent and free people, minorities, foreigners, mosque imams, Hindu priests, and Christian priests fell victim to attacks, and Buddhist-Hindu temples were demolished. The climax of this violence occurred with the ruthless killing of 22 innocent people, including 17 foreigners, in the attack on the Holey Artisan Cafe in Gulshan, Dhaka.

In response to this critical situation, people's leader Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen to unite against militancy. The government's policy of 'zero tolerance' in suppressing militancy swiftly gained widespread support. In contrast to the developed countries of the West displaying inhumanity towards helpless refugees, Bangladesh raised the flag of humanity by providing shelter to the Rohingya refugees who were unjustly expelled from Myanmar.

Forced into participation in the 2018 election, the BNP, already in disarray and plagued by misdemeanor and arson during its time in power, faced a challenging situation. Despite being rejected by the people and its leader, Tarique Rahman, who was overseas and facing punishment for corruption, terrorism and militancy, the party entered the elections. Initially accused of colluding with party nominations, Tarique Rahman, known for 'Hawa Bhavan' and 'Khwab Bhavan,' faced criticism from within the party. In a bid to counter the popularity of the Awami League, BNP adopted a strategy of forming an electoral alliance, aligning with Jamaat on one hand and Dr. Kamal's *Oikya Front* [united front] on the other. However, these moves led to disappointing overall activities and results for BNP in the elections.

Facing a weakened position, BNP, with little regard for the constitution and democracy, and with intentions of profiteering through conspiracies, saw its members of parliament resign without clear reasons, adopting a self-destructive strategy that further deepened the party's depression. Consequently, BNP once again engaged with Jamaat in killings, vandalism, and arson, reminiscent of the pre-election period in 2014. However, the public once again rejected this path.

In contrast, the Awami League government, led by people's leader Sheikh Hasina for 15 years across three terms, has exemplified a commitment to fulfilling political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic promises made to the people. Simultaneously, it has effectively tackled the rise of terrorism and militancy while upholding the rule of law and human rights. The government's resilience and success have instilled a new sense of confidence in the public. Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, serving as a fearless advocate, has become a key figure in safeguarding the nation's heritage, ensuring present development, and envisioning a happy, prosperous, and smart Bangladesh for the future.



"Politics must forge a connection between the people and the land. It should delve into the deepest core of society, showcasing the skill to reach and gain the trust of the people, thereby becoming a reliable friend."

- People's leader Sheikh Hasina



"I don't have peace in my mind until the poor farmers and laborers have smiling faces. This freedom for me will be real freedom only when all the miseries of the farmers, laborers and poor people of Bangladesh come to an end"

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

3 Development and Progress during the Three Terms in Government (2009-2023) and Our Pledges (2024-2028)



3.1 Transition from Digital to Smart Bangladesh

Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, emphasized the importance of a science-oriented mindset, science education, and the utilization of technology in independent Bangladesh. The 2008 election manifesto of Awami League, *Din badaler Sanad* (Declaration of Change), was committed to constructing a Digital Bangladesh. The Vision Plan 2010-21 was devised to realize the objective of building Digital Bangladesh, a pivotal aspect of Perspective 2021. This plan lays the groundwork for transitioning towards a Smart Bangladesh. Various programs with timelines for 2025, 2031, and 2041 have been initiated to achieve the goal of establishing a Smart Bangladesh by 2041. In this process, smart Bangladesh will be built by combining artificial intelligence with digital technology. The Awami League staunchly believes that the application of modern technology is integral to the country's and society's development, and it will contribute to the creation of a developed and prosperous Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on December 12, 2022, announced the government's decision to build a 'Smart Bangladesh.' A Smart Bangladesh will be affordable, sustainable, inclusive, knowledge-based, intellectual, and innovative, anchored on four pillars : Smart Citizen, Smart Economy, Smart Government and Smart Society.

Smart Citizen

Hundred percent literate citizens, combining new knowledge and technology with their innovative prowess, will enhance their quality of life and contribute to societal advancement. Connected through mobile phones, the internet, or computers, they will access goods and services from both public and private sectors, improving the country's economic and social landscape. Employing technology, citizens will solve their problems by themselves and will engage in the democratic process and play roles in local and central government policymaking.

Smart Economy

A smart economy will promote equal participation for all, regardless of religion, caste, gender, education, or geographical distance. 4IR tools such as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics will be employed in agriculture, industry, and service sectors; a favorable environment will be created

for small, cottage and medium businesses. To build a smart Bangladesh, cost-effective technologies innovated in the country will be encouraged to be applied in industry and trade. As a result, manual labor will be reduced, utilizing resources fairly, minimizing wastage, increasing productivity, reducing production costs, and expanding and diverse domestic and export markets. Data analysis with information technology will facilitate quick and informed decisions, enabling efficient management.

Smart Government

Technology will render government administration efficient, effective, and cost-effective, ensuring good governance. Every decision of a smart government will be knowledge and information based; each service will be demand based and integrated. Utilizing technologies like IoT, machine learning, cloud computing, etc., the government will make management decisions by analyzing information obtained from social media and other sources through artificial intelligence, connecting with smart representatives of smart citizens. This will enhance transparency and accountability at both the government and state levels.

Smart Society

Smart Bangladesh technology can eliminate social and economic inequalities. Citizens will have more opportunities to apply knowledge in a knowledge-based and inclusive smart society. Proper information flow will reduce unethical opportunities through the dissemination of wrong and false information. Technology use will increase time and opportunities for cultural practices, entertainment, and mental excellence.

In the era of the fourth industrial revolution, technological capabilities are crucial for survival in global competition. Engaging in global value chains requires comparable capabilities in new forms of industrial production. The visionary leader, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, initiated the development of Digital Bangladesh in 2008, and building on its success, the construction of Smart Bangladesh is advancing at an unstoppable pace.

3.2 Good Governance

a. Democracy, Elections and Effective Parliament

As an integral part of the Bengali liberation movement, the Awami League has spearheaded the democratic struggle for over seven decades since its inception. Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the nation, has been at the forefront of the democratic movement in this country for 43 years, credited with the re-establishment of the democratic system. The ongoing process of institutionalizing democracy is a testament to its enduring commitment. Elections play a crucial role in a democratic framework. Following the assassination of the Father of the



Nation, perpetrators and their illegitimate power successors sought to dismantle the electoral system to perpetuate their unlawful authority. The Awami League has ousted all unconstitutional, autocratic forces and their legacy in this country.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The Awami League government, led by Sheikh Hasina, has implemented 82 radical reforms aimed at ensuring true independence and strengthening the Election Commission. The objective is to conduct free, fair and impartial elections, elevating the electoral system to international standards.
- ⊙ The National Parliament has passed an Act to form an Election Commission consisting of impartial and qualified persons. The search committee constituted under the said Act recommends the list of names of the Chief Election Commissioner and the members of the Election Commission to the President. The President appoints the Election Commission from that list. This is a landmark initiative to ensure fair and impartial elections.
- ⊙ The Bangladesh Election Commission Secretariat Act of 2009, enacted during the Awami League government, has conferred the Election Commission with comprehensive administrative, financial, legal, regulatory, legislative, and policy-making powers. Consequently, the Election Commission now operates as a fully independent authority, free from government influence.
- ⊙ The Awami League government's liberal and democratic approach, coupled with its unwavering commitment to the rule of law, has fostered a departure from the partisanship observed in previous administrations. The democratic institutions of the country are now carrying out their duties in accordance with the principles of democratic values and the rule of law.
- ⊙ Addressing concerns such as the identification of 1 crore 23 lakh fake voters and the preparation of voter lists with invalid photographs, the Awami League-led Grand Alliance has implemented reforms. Transparent ballot boxes and voter IDs have been introduced to enhance the credibility of the electoral process.
- ⊙ Throughout the three terms of the Awami League government, the national parliament has emerged as the focal point for all state activities. The active engagement of parliamentary standing committees in ensuring transparency and accountability, regular participation in question-and-answer sessions by the Honorable Prime Minister and other ministers, and adherence to international parliamentary norms have collectively established the national parliament as the central hub of state activities.



- ◉ The global recognition of Bangladesh's democratic system is evident with the election of our Speaker as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and one of our MPs as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This underscores the global faith and trust in the quality of democracy in Bangladesh.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The practice of transparency, accountability, good governance, and democratic values will be well established in all aspects of state management.
- ◉ Educated, skilled, smart, and corruption-free people will be encouraged to participate in politics.

b. Rule of Law and Protection of Human Rights

The constitution of independent Bangladesh, drafted under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, established the principles of equality, justice, fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. Since the assassination of the Father of the Nation in 1975, a culture of lawlessness has been entrenched in this country, overshadowing the rule of law. Sheikh Hasina, as a statesperson, has been at the forefront of the struggle to re-establish democracy and the rule of law in this country for the past 43 years. Under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League has successfully reinstated the rule of law at all levels of the country.

Development and Progress

- ◉ The independence of the Judiciary was further ensured and strengthened through the 11th Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment imposes an obligation to seek the opinion of the Chief Justice in appointing judges to the High Courts. The Judicial Service Commission was formed to appoint judges to the lower courts.
- ◉ According to Article 22 of the Constitution, the determination to separate the Judiciary from the Executive Department of the Republic has been fully implemented during the government of Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina.
- ◉ Any attempt at the unconstitutional and illegal seizure of power through assassinations, coups, and conspiracies has been constitutionally closed forever.
- ◉ The unconstitutional and illegal power grabbers in this country have not only ceased prosecuting murderers to obstruct the rule of law but have also been rewarded. The Awami League has established the principle of the rule of law by putting an end to this culture of lawlessness.
- ◉ To ensure the independence of the judiciary, a reasonable salary structure and necessary facilities for judges, village courts to provide justice to rural people,



alternative methods of dispute resolution, legal aid systems in every district for impoverished people, and the training of judges have been introduced. The Judiciary is working independently and impartially with the conviction of establishing the rule of law in the country through initiatives and IT-based e-governance activities in judicial proceedings and judicial administration.

- ⊙ The stigma of the assassinations of the Father of the Nation alongside other family members has been redressed. Other achievements of the Awami League government include the prosecution of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, the prosecution of the August 1st grenade attack, and the prosecution of convicted criminals in terrorist and militant activities. Efforts to repatriate the killers of the Father of the Nation and bring them to justice will continue.
- ⊙ Bangladesh has been elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council three times in the last 15 years, considering its human rights situation as satisfactory.
- ⊙ Despite false propaganda by some domestic and foreign interest groups regarding human rights violations against Bangladesh in recent years, the Awami League government has remained committed to protecting the human rights of every person regardless of religion, caste, or gender.
- ⊙ The Awami League government has been following the provisions of all international human rights charters and conventions, including the declaration of universal human rights, with due importance. Under all these charters and conventions, the state has been presenting regular reports in appropriate forums. The government has signed and ratified various international conventions on the rights of workers, children, women, and persons with disabilities for the protection of human rights and has taken specific measures to implement them.
- ⊙ The 'Legal Aid Act, 2000' has been enacted to provide legal aid to the people. For the past 15 years under this law, legal aid has been provided at full government expense to litigants who are financially poor, helpless, and unable to get justice due to various socio-economic reasons.
- ⊙ Bangladesh is working tirelessly to establish one of the goals of the SDGs, 'Access to Justice' by 2030, by eliminating fear and discrimination, ensuring a safe life, and establishing justice.
- ⊙ With the establishment of the Human Rights Commission in 2009, the government has taken steps to ensure human dignity, equality, and justice for every citizen. The National Human Rights Commission investigates allegations of human rights violations and makes necessary recommendations to the government, which are considered with due importance. The National Human Rights Commission visits



prisons, hospitals, orphanages, and makes recommendations for improving the quality of life of those concerned, which the government takes into serious consideration and takes necessary measures.

Our Pledges

- ◉ We will continue to ensure universal human rights as well as counter any attempts to violate human rights.
- ◉ We will take strong action against any propaganda and misrepresentation about the human rights situation in Bangladesh.
- ◉ The independence and dignity of the Judiciary will be upheld.
- ◉ Basic human rights will be guaranteed by upholding the sanctity of the Constitution.
- ◉ Measures to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission will continue.

c. Freedom of Media and Free-flow of Information

Freedom of media and free flow of information are closely related to democracy, good governance, accountability, and development. The media is acknowledged as the fourth pillar of the state, making it indispensable for the development and progress of any nation. The practice of free media and the unrestricted flow of information, as opposed to controlled media, is essential. In addition to mirroring the aspirations of the people, free media serves as a guiding force for the nation. The present government, led by People's Leader Sheikh Hasina, has been committed to ensuring the freedom of the media and the unimpeded flow of information. Over the past 15 years, mass media has experienced significant growth, a trend that will be sustained in the future.

“Independent, neutral, people- oriented, and credible media is a prerequisite for democracy. We are fighting for democracy. ”

- People’s leader Sheikh Hasina

Development and Progress

- ◉ The government has enacted the Right to Information Act and established the Information Commission.
- ◉ A large number of newspapers are being published across the country due to the media-friendly policy of the government. Currently, the number of media-affiliated newspapers in the country is more than 700.



- ◉ 45 private TV channels, 27 FM radio stations and 31 community radio stations have been licensed under the Public Media Policy. A total of 14 IP TVs have also been approved.
- ◉ To make the media more mass-oriented, 185 online news portals and online versions of 182 dailies have been approved following the National Online Policy.
- ◉ At present, the print and electronic media of the country are running their activities completely independently. Programs and opinions of opposition parties are being aired freely in newspapers and TV channels of the country. Apart from this, discussants express their opinions freely in various programs including talk shows, discussions, and debates broadcast directly on TV channels. The government does not interfere with or create any obstacles to such free expression.
- ◉ Expeditious trial of killings of journalists, exemplary punishment of real criminals and torture of journalists, intimidation, and threats against them, etc. have been stopped.
- ◉ The government is providing support for non-discriminatory policies in distribution of advertisements in newspapers, end of partisanship and development of newspapers as an industry.
- ◉ About Tk. 40 crore has been provided to 13,510 journalists under Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust, a government grant for the welfare of media workers.
- ◉ 7,929 journalists have been given financial assistance of around Tk. 8 crore during the COVID-19 crisis.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The media bias and monopolization of media during the BNP-Jamaat coalition government undermined media freedom and the unrestricted flow of information. Conversely, under the current leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the government has put an end to one-sided party propaganda in state media and eliminated discriminatory practices toward officials, employees, artists, and craftsmen based on political considerations. The Awami League government has ensured and will continue to uphold the free and unrestricted flow of information.
- ◉ The Awami League has championed media freedom by licensing private TV and FM channels, as well as community radio channels – a commitment that will be preserved in the future. Efforts to expedite the trials of journalists' murders and punish the culprits have been initiated by the Awami League government. Measures will be taken to prevent torture, intimidation, and false cases against journalists.
- ◉ The government supports the use of information technology in news flow in alignment with the digitization policy. The Digital Security Act will be replaced by the newly



enacted Cyber Security Act, 2023, focusing on safeguarding individual privacy and data, and the government will continue to take appropriate measures to prevent misuse.

- ◉ The implementation of the 9th Wage Board Recommendations for Journalists is underway, and timely adjustments of salaries and other benefits will persist with the formation of the 10th Wage Board. The government is committed to preventing discrimination in the Wage Board's implementation.
- ◉ Financial and medical assistance to journalists will be further expanded under the Journalist Welfare Trust. There will be increased support for infrastructural development and cooperation with the National Press Club. The fair and balanced advertisement distribution policy will be maintained.

d. Welfare-oriented, Accountable and Smart Administration

The Bangladesh Awami League is dedicated to delivering enhanced and high-quality services to the citizens and promoting good governance through the establishment of a citizen-centric, transparent, accountable, knowledge-based, welfare-oriented, data-driven, automated, and integrated, efficient, and smart administration. The Awami League government is actively adopting and implementing comprehensive plans to achieve this objective. Consequently, the quality of government services has significantly improved, ensuring quicker, cost-effective, and hassle-free delivery, fostering a self-motivated service delivery attitude among government officials and employees.

Development and Progress

- ◉ To ensure transparency and accountability across all levels of administration, government information is now accessible through various websites.
- ◉ Efforts have commenced to integrate birth registration, national identity cards, and passports, allowing citizens to access their information from a unified platform.
- ◉ Recruitment, posting, and promotions of officers and employees are based on merit, honesty, competence, diligence, efficiency, fairness, and discipline.
- ◉ Special incentives have been introduced for government officials and employees to cope with the increased cost of living amid the global crisis, including the option to borrow up to 75 lakh taka from banks for home loans at a simple interest rate.
- ◉ In acknowledgment of the commendable efforts of proactive and people-friendly officers and employees, incentives such as the Bangabandhu Public Administration Awards are awarded to individuals demonstrating honesty in the workplace and setting unique examples.



Our Pledges

- ⊙ The commitment remains to establish an efficient, enterprising, IT-based, corruption-free, patriotic, and public-welfare-oriented administrative system through merit-based recruitment.
- ⊙ Initiatives will persist to eradicate corruption, bureaucratic complications, and all forms of harassment by expediting decision-making and implementation, avoiding procrastination during policy formulation.
- ⊙ The new pay structure will be aligned with commodity prices to ensure fair compensation for the workforce.

e. People-friendly Law Enforcement Agencies

Since the formation of the Bangladesh Awami League government, it has been working towards the formation of a modern, advanced, humane, and people-friendly law enforcement agency. Due to the continued efforts of the government, the capacity of the law enforcement agencies has been greatly enhanced.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Frequent operations by law enforcement agencies have brought individuals associated with terrorist organizations under legal scrutiny.
- ⊙ Through a comprehensive restructuring of the Bangladesh Police Cadre Composition, 3123 positions, including both existing and new roles, have been created.
- ⊙ Opportunities for women to join Police, Ansar and Village Defense Forces have been increased.
- ⊙ The allowances of policemen, including rations and uniforms of all ranks, have been increased.
- ⊙ Staff College has been established with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the Police.
- ⊙ In an effort to enhance transparency and accountability, the services provided by the Bangladesh Police Force are gradually being digitized, reflecting the ongoing modernization of other government institutions. Initiatives such as the online General Diary (GD), the introduction of e-traffic prosecution, and the launch of E-Service for Police Clearance Certificates are steps in this direction.
- ⊙ The restructuring of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defense Forces has led to the creation of 3094 new positions, recruitment of 484 battalion Ansars, and the promotion of 3107 personnel. To address cyber threats, the Cyber Security Act of 2013 has been



- enacted, ensuring cyber security, and enabling the detection, prevention, suppression, and prosecution of crimes committed through digital or electronic means.
- ⊙ Under the policies of the current government, significant strides have been made in securing the Sundarbans and reducing extremist violence. Various measures have been implemented to enhance the capabilities of the Bangladesh Coast Guard, enabling them to maintain law and order in sub-oceanic areas, combat drug smuggling, human trafficking, piracy, and forest banditry.
 - ⊙ The capacity of the Border Guard Bangladesh has been bolstered through the recruitment of 8197 members and the creation of 4,282 new posts.
 - ⊙ Additionally, 160 new Border Outposts (BOPs) have been installed, while 64 composite BOPs are under construction.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ In keeping with the advancement of information technology, the law enforcement agencies will be adapted to cope with the changing reality, making it smart and modern in line with the Smart Bangladesh initiative.
- ⊙ With the aim of building a people-friendly law enforcement force, efforts are underway to increase the manpower, physical infrastructure, logistics, and vehicles, as well as modern training facilities for entities such as Bangladesh Police, RAB, Ansar and Village Defense Forces, Narcotics Control Directorate, Coast Guard, and BGB.
- ⊙ Ongoing operations targeting extremism, sectarianism, terrorism, including drug eradication, cybercrime prevention, money laundering suppression, rumor control, and human trafficking prevention, will continue.
- ⊙ Dope Test Policy/Regulations will be formulated.
- ⊙ More modern (Scientific Investigation) DNA labs and forensic labs will be established to improve the quality of scientific investigations.
- ⊙ A border road will be constructed to make it easier for the ever-alert-border-protectors, members of the BGB force, to prevent any kind of border crime, maintain law and order, and ensure border security.

f. Adoption of Zero-tolerance Policy Against Corruption

Corruption stands as the primary impediment to the economic development, poverty alleviation, infrastructure improvement, and moral advancement of the nation. It hinders the realization of overarching developmental goals for the country. Combating corruption necessitates more than just law enforcement and punishment; it requires the establishment



of a social movement. The Awami League, with its zero-tolerance policy against corruption, is actively engaged in fostering joint initiatives with the people to eradicate corruption both from society and the state.

Development and Progress

- ⦿ Under the leadership of people's leader Sheikh Hasina, a zero-tolerance policy against corruption has been implemented, resulting in a reduction in the overall level of corruption in society.
- ⦿ Efforts to prevent corruption and alleviate people's suffering have been intensified through digitization across various sectors. Citizens can now access information related to corruption complaints freely from any location through the toll-free number 106 provided by the Anti-Corruption Commission.
- ⦿ To curb corruption and ensure transparency and accountability in public and private institutions, initiatives such as the formulation of the National Integrity Strategy, drafting the Citizenship Charter, enacting the Right to Information Act, and establishing a Grievance Redressal Mechanism have been introduced.
- ⦿ Adequate funding has been allocated through budgetary provisions to support the initiatives of the Anti-Corruption Commission in their quest to combat corruption effectively.

Our Pledges

- ⦿ The zero-tolerance policy against corruption will persist.
- ⦿ Strict measures will be implemented to eradicate illegal wealth acquisition, bribery, abuse of power, nepotism, muscle power violence, and racketeering.
- ⦿ Transparency and accountability in project selection, cost determination, quality audit of completed projects, and government procurement and tender verification will be consistently ensured.
- ⦿ The use of information technology will be expanded across all areas, including administration, the police department, courts, education, and healthcare, to prevent corruption in the administration.
- ⦿ Contents addressing the evils of corruption and preventive measures will be added to the curriculum to instill an anti-corruption attitude among students.

g. Fighting Terrorism and Communalism

The conspiracies and the development of terror-militancy by the BNP-Jamaat alliance pose significant obstacles to the security of lives and livelihoods of the people, particularly to



those of religious minorities and ethnic groups, creating an environment of fear and insecurity. The BNP-Jamaat alliance is intricately linked to both domestic and foreign conspiracies, engaging in criminal acts such as anarchy, arson, murder, and the breach of peace in the name of agitation. The Awami League, led by Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina, is dedicated to combating terrorism, ensuring the democratic rights of all citizens, and enhancing the quality of people's lives.

Development and Progress

- ◉ A zero-tolerance policy in anti-terror and militancy activities, under Sheikh Hasina's strong leadership, has brought relief to public life and garnered appreciation from the global community.
- ◉ The verdict of the case in the grenade attack of August 21, 2004, in which there was an assassination attempt on the Awami League leaders including Sheikh Hasina has been executed.
- ◉ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's policy of 'Religion is Private, Festivals are Public' is pursued to both foster a secular Bangladesh and prevent any communal incitement.
- ◉ The 'Law Reform Commission,' established by the Awami League government, is actively recommending legal reforms for the swift delivery of justice.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The supremacy of the constitution in the governance of the state, the establishment of rule of law and the creation of a society free from terrorism will be ensured.
- ◉ Awami League will engage people of all faiths and professions to fight terrorism, militancy, and sectarianism through peaceful and legal means.
- ◉ All the terrorist activities which took place during the coalition government like bombing, arson, grenade attacks at around 600 places at the same time are properly investigated and tried under the existing law at various stages, and the process of completing the trial will be expedited.
- ◉ All-out efforts will be made to bring back to the country the convicted fugitives who killed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family and to implement the verdict.

h. Local Government

In alignment with one of the core principles of Sheikh Hasina, the development of villages and towns, the government aims to establish an efficient, accountable, and service-oriented local government system that brings services directly to the people's doorsteps. One of



Awami League previous electoral pledges highlighted bridging the rural-urban gap to guarantee equal benefits for all citizens across the country. To fulfill this commitment, we are actively engaged in various initiatives, including the “*Amar Gram–Amar Shahar*” (My Village–My Town) program.

Development and Progress

- ◉ Construction, renovation, and preservation of essential infrastructure in rural and urban areas are integral to economic development and civic amenities. The road network coverage in rural areas has increased to 39.42 percent, with the construction of roads, bridges, and culverts in both urban and village settings.
- ◉ Visible improvements in water supply and sanitation have occurred over the last 15 years. The Dhaka WASA system loss, which was 40 percent in 2009, has been reduced to 22.29 percent. The Dhaka Water Supply Network Improvement Project, implemented by Dhaka WASA, aims to provide safe water to all city dwellers, including low-income groups and slum dwellers.
- ◉ 98.2 percent of people are being provided with clean water. 97.32 percent of people enjoy sanitation facilities.
- ◉ Over 55,000 safe water sources and wash basins have been constructed nationwide, and work is underway to establish 6 lakh safe water sources to achieve 100% coverage.
- ◉ Approximately 30% of the total population resides in urban areas (city corporations and municipalities), with the establishment of 5 new city corporations in the last 15 years. City corporations and municipalities are transitioning their services online.
- ◉ To address waterlogging in Dhaka city, two city corporations are managing 26 canals previously overseen by Dhaka WASA. Additionally, re-excavation of 36 canals, construction of 24 canal bank retaining walls, and building 54 bridges and culverts are underway in Chattogram city to alleviate waterlogging.
- ◉ The Local Government (Union Council) Amendment Act, 2023 is in progress to modernize and make the Union Council Act more service friendly.
- ◉ Democratic rights are upheld through elected representatives in Union Parishads, Upazila Parishads, Zilla Parishads, Municipalities, and City Corporations.
- ◉ Manuals such as the Upazila Parishad Financial Management Manual, 2022, and Parishad Committee Activities Management Guidelines have been prepared. Amendments to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, are being considered.
- ◉ Construction is ongoing to generate electricity from waste at the Aminbazar Landfill, and Sylhet and Chattogram City Corporations are also working on waste-to-energy projects.



Our Pledges

- ◉ The commitment to infrastructure development and maintenance, including roads, bridges/culverts, and cyclone shelters, will persist based on the requirements.
- ◉ Efforts will be intensified to enhance the safe water supply and sewage system, with plans to make the water supply system environmentally friendly by 2028. Five sewage treatment plants are in the pipeline to increase the city's treatment capacity from 20 percent to 100 percent by 2030.
- ◉ Waste management will be established up to district, upazila and union level.
- ◉ A comprehensive action plan has been initiated to establish safe water sources, install water treatment plants, implement waste management, and ensure hygienic sanitation systems for every household in rural areas.
- ◉ Decentralization of powers will be prioritized to enhance the capacity and autonomy of municipalities and city corporations, including Union, Upazila, and Zilla Parishads.
- ◉ Local governments at various levels will continue to build capacity for budget formulation and project implementation, ensuring balanced development as an integral part of the central budget. The revenue-sharing process between the central government and local government institutions will be expanded for enhanced financial self-reliance.
- ◉ The transfer initiative from the central government to local government institutions will be sustained, focusing on clear delineation of responsibilities among Zilla Parishad, Upazila Parishad, and Union Parishad.

i. Digital Land Management

The Awami League government has undertaken significant initiatives to address the longstanding challenges in land management, stemming from issues such as land scarcity, a protracted management process, and inherent complexity. Beginning on July 1, 2019, the government achieved 100% e-mutation in 61 districts (excluding 3 hill districts) through the Land Development Tax Management System. Subsequently, online land development tax collection and holding entry activities were introduced in these districts, starting from the fiscal year 2021-22. In Dhaka city, a pilot implementation of E-registration and land development tax collection has been conducted through the Mobile Land Service, with plans for future expansion. A dedicated call center (16222) has been established to provide information services on land matters. Additionally, to facilitate the accessibility of Khatian and Mouza maps, the postal department is delivering these documents to the addresses of



Bangladeshi citizens domestically and abroad, with applicable delivery charges. Moreover, a comprehensive Land Information Management System (LIMS software) has been developed for Assistant Commissioners (BCMs), empowering them to efficiently complete the majority of their tasks in a digital format.

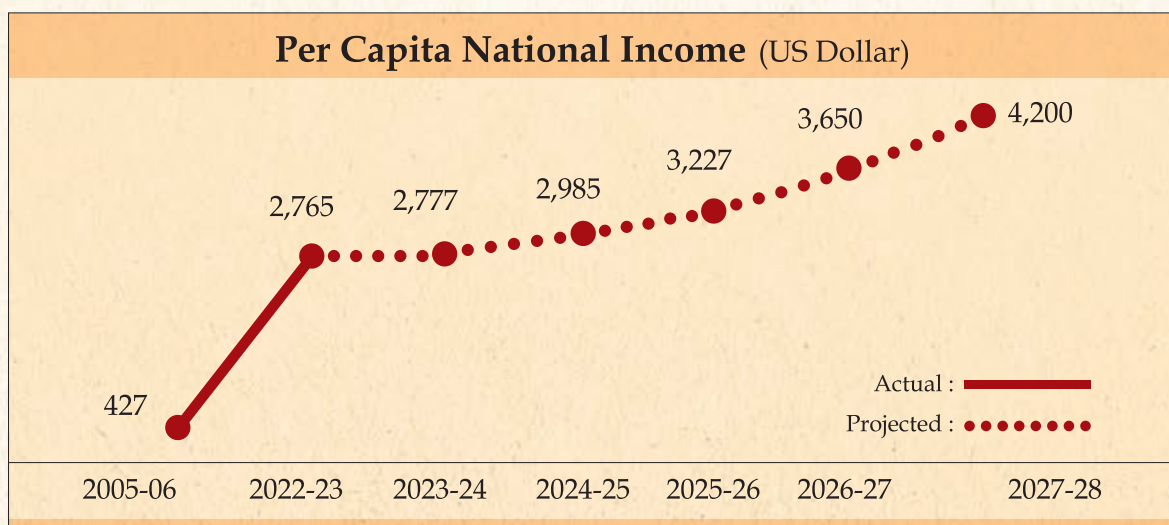
3.3 Economics

a. Macroeconomics : High Income, Sustainable and Inclusive Development

The socio-economic development plan of the Awami League reflects both the constitution and the social development philosophy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Over the last fifteen years, Bangladesh has emerged as a dynamic and rapidly growing economic power on the global stage. Presently, it holds the 33rd position in the world in terms of national income. During this period, revolutionary changes in the agriculture, industry, and service sectors have led to a substantial increase in the production and supply of various products and services. This has, in turn, created a sizable internal consumer market by boosting the purchasing power of people from diverse classes and occupations. Notably, there has been a significant reduction in poverty. The ongoing unprecedented improvements in the electricity, energy, and communication systems, primarily due to the government's implementation of various development projects, continue to serve as the driving force behind the nation's economy.

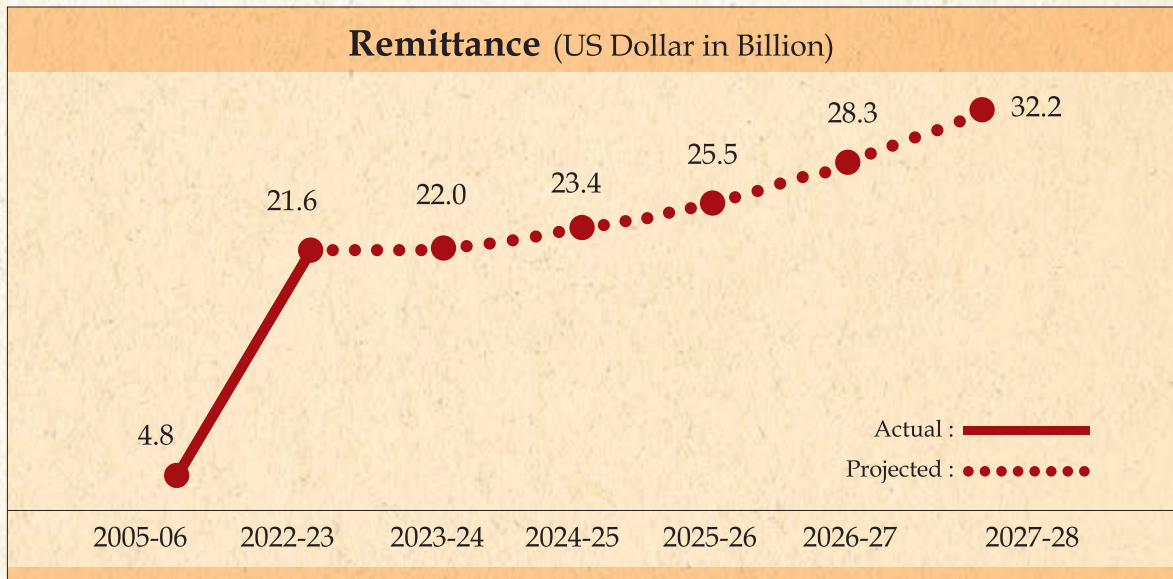


Over the past 15 years, Bangladesh has experienced a commendable average GDP growth rate of 6.30 percent. The 2018 election saw the Awami League championing the slogan 'Bangladesh on the development march.' The pinnacle of this economic progress was marked by the highest growth rate of 7.88 percent achieved in the financial year 2018-19. Despite the disruptive impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, coupled with ongoing geopolitical unrest and conflicts, Bangladesh exhibited remarkable resilience with a GDP growth rate of 3.45 percent. This underscores the robustness and capability of the economy to withstand shocks. Subsequently, Bangladesh sustained a growth rate of around 7 percent in subsequent years. In comparison to the fiscal year 2005-06, domestic income has surged more than 11 times by the fiscal year 2022-23. This period also witnessed significant shifts in the economic structure, with agriculture contributing about 11 percent, industry 38 percent, and services 50 percent of the national income. Notably, Bangladesh has transformed into an exporter of agricultural products, catering not only to its domestic needs but also contributing to international markets.

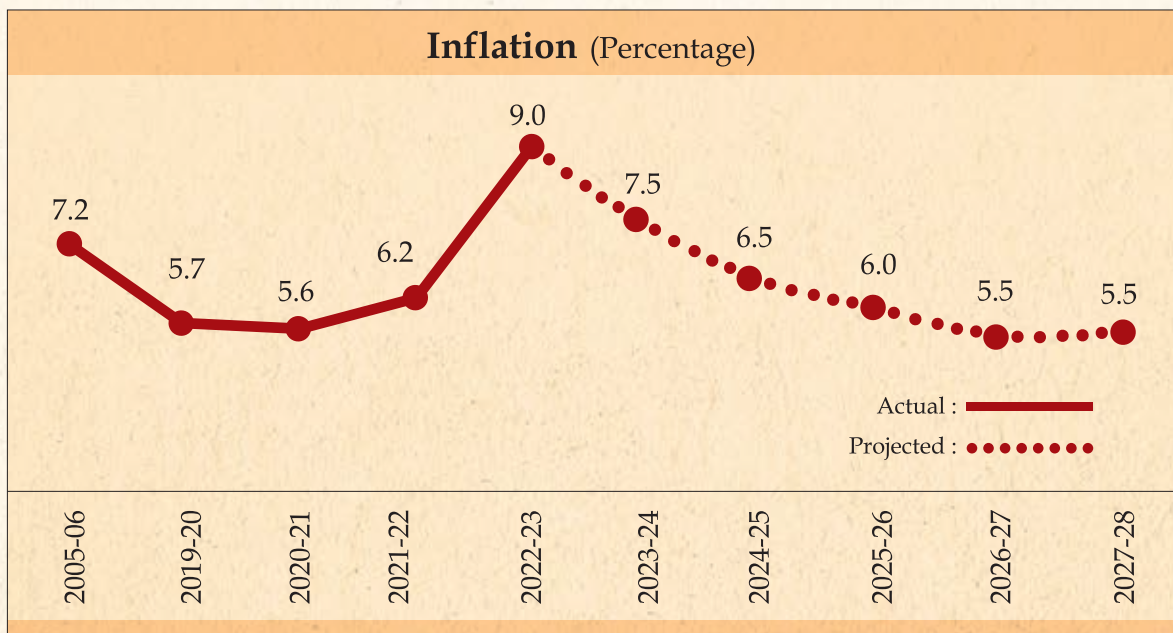


On the other hand, the government has always been vigilant about keeping inflation at a level that is tolerable for the masses, which was below 6 percent in FY21 or the previous five years. Since dollar appreciates on impact of global recession, the increase in prices of imported commodities such as wheat, edible oil, fuel oil and liquefied gas (LNG), fertilizers, cotton and pulses, sugar etc. has put pressure on the market. Inflation went beyond human tolerance. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina countered the impact of the global recession, curbed inflation and reduced public suffering by discouraging the import of luxury goods, facilitating foreign investment offering, special incentives for remittance of expatriate income, increasing agricultural and industrial production, bringing every inch of land under cultivation, and providing marginal and low-income people. She eased the sufferings of the common people by arranging for the supply of daily necessities at low prices.





Acknowledging its comprehensive economic advancements, Bangladesh transitioned from being classified as a low-income country to attaining the status of a lower-middle-income country in international assessments in 2015. Subsequently, from 2018 to 2021, the United Nations recognized Bangladesh as a developing country, moving it out of the category of least developed countries (LDC). The discernible trajectory of development and sustained high growth underscores Bangladesh's progression on the path of development, democracy, peace, and prosperity.



Development and Progress

- ◉ The export revenue in 2005–2006 amounted to 10.5 billion USD, experiencing a remarkable surge of 5.3 times, reaching 55.6 billion USD. Over the past 15 years, the average annual increase in earnings from exports has been 16%. Concurrently, import-related expenses have surged nearly fivefold.
- ◉ The registration period for both imports and exports has been standardized at 5 years, with the entire registration process transitioning to a digitalized platform.
- ◉ Various policy supports and incentives have been implemented to foster export growth and facilitate market expansion.
- ◉ The management of Joint Stock Company accounts and NTT profiles will be streamlined through a digital management system.
- ◉ The effective implementation of the Consumer Rights Law of 2009 is underway, with the introduction of a dedicated software system to safeguard consumer rights.
- ◉ Simplification of remittances through formal channels and provision of remittance incentives etc. resulted in annual remittances increasing by about 4.5 times compared to 2005-06. Due to continuous high inflow of exports and remittances, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased from US\$ 3.9 billion in FY 2005-06 to a maximum of US\$ 46.39 billion at the end of FY 2020-21. Due to the ongoing economic crisis, foreign exchange reserves declined to US\$ 31.20 billion at the end of FY 2022-23 and stood at US\$ 26.50 billion at the end of October 23, enough to meet nearly 5 months of import expenditure.
- ◉ Per capita income has now risen to \$2,765, up from just \$427 in 2006.
- ◉ In fiscal year 2022-23, the GDP was around 44 lakh 39 thousand crores, which was 4 lakh 82 thousand crores in 2005-06 fiscal year.
- ◉ In the financial year 2023-24, the budget size is 7 lakh 61 thousand 785 crores, in the financial year 2005-06 it was 61 thousand 58 crores. During this period, the size of the budget has increased almost 12 and a half-times. The budget deficit has been limited to 5 percent of GDP for the last 10 years as expected.
- ◉ Private investment increased by 9.5 times compared to FY 2005-06 to accelerate economic growth. In the last financial year 2021-22, investment stood at 31.68 percent of GDP, which was 25.8 percent in 2005-06. Public investment increased to 7.62 percent from 4.13 percent in 2005-06.
- ◉ Growth in revenue collection has been sustained, thereby enabling incremental budget implementation to accelerate development. The total revenue income increased to Tk 4 lakh 33 thousand crore in FY 2022-23, which was Tk. 44.2 thousand crore in FY 2005-06.
- ◉ The measures such as creation of income-generating jobs, increase in minimum wage for workers, expansion of the coverage of social security programs, new pay scale and



10% annual salary increase (with an additional 5% to account for inflation) have increased the real income and purchasing power of the people. During the last period 2009-18, the salary has increased by 343 percent.

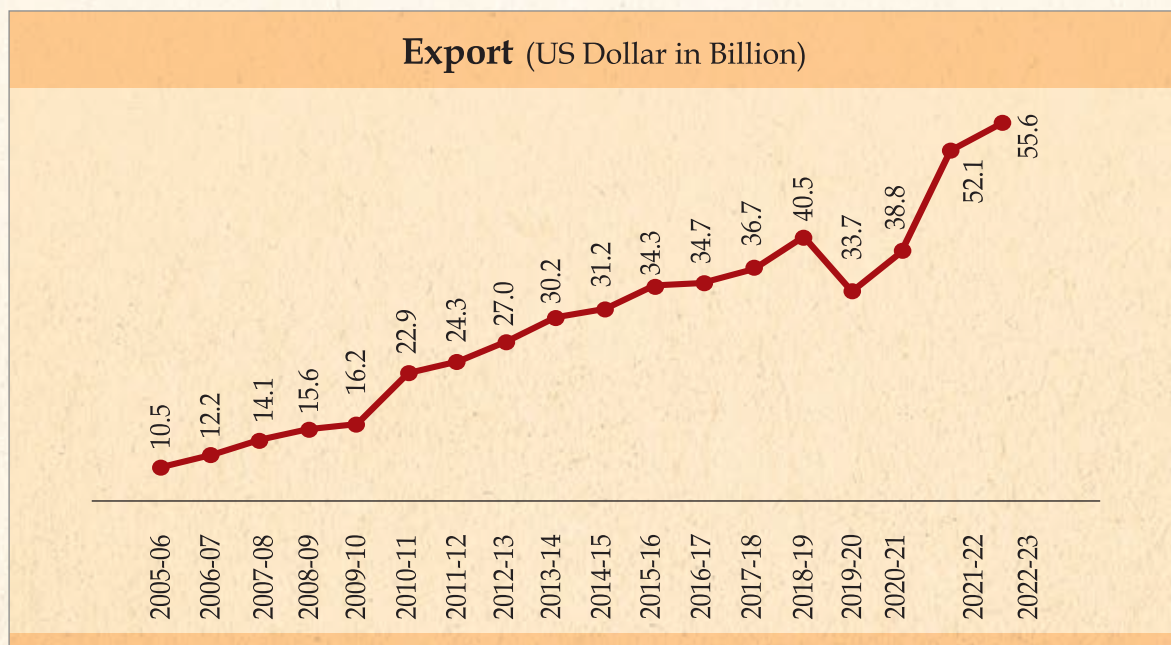
- ⦿ As the population growth rate declines (2015-30) and becomes negative (2025-30), per capita income growth will be higher than gross national income.

Our Pledges

- ⦿ The Awami League is dedicated to crafting and executing the necessary policies and strategies to realize its objectives and plans. At the core of this development and growth agenda is the paramount goal of elevating the standard of living for the people, with a specific emphasis on creating employment opportunities. The Awami League will launch a tailored action plan to specifically tackle the challenges related to youth employment.

Foreign Trade

- ⦿ The Awami League has significantly broadened the scope of foreign trade over the past fifteen years, and these proactive initiatives will persist into the future.
- ⦿ Engage in negotiations with foreign trade partners from the European Union, the UK, and other nations to secure a grace period for quota benefits, even post-graduation to middle-income status.
- ⦿ Implement measures for product diversification and identify new markets with the goal of achieving the established export target of 150 billion USD by 2030.



- ⊙ Provide policy support to access markets for agricultural items, seafood, halal products and services, light engineering items, pharmaceuticals, and IT services.
- ⊙ Strengthen existing trade agreements for partnership, open market access, and priority trade with countries such as India, China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- ⊙ Conduct feasibility studies on the South American common market of Mercosur, Russia, and East European markets to inform strategic trade expansion.
- ⊙ Introduce training programs specifically designed to enhance trade negotiation and market research skills.

Market Management and Inflation

- ⊙ A connection between market price and earnings will be established, ensuring fairness.
- ⊙ For products reliant on domestic production and suppliers, extensive efforts will be made to set equitable prices, ensuring affordability for consumers.
- ⊙ Encouragement will be provided for the adoption of advanced technology and efforts to enhance productivity and to reduce production costs.
- ⊙ As a result of reduction in inflation, commodity prices will come down and commodities will be within the purchasing power of all.

Money Supply and Banking System

- ⊙ Effective management of the money supply and inflation will primarily rely on policy interest rates as the key instrument.
- ⊙ Initiatives will be taken to extend loans to employable, trained youth for self-employment ventures.
- ⊙ Facilitating access to loans for small and medium industries, as well as women entrepreneurs, will be a priority, with efforts directed towards simplifying the loan application process.
- ⊙ In accordance with the central bank's planning, there will be a commitment to maintaining sufficient reserves of foreign currency, striking a balance between the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) and the Nominal Exchange Rate (NER).
- ⊙ To ensure stability, measures will be implemented to maintain a balanced trade between imports and exports, minimizing uncertainty in foreign exchange supply.
- ⊙ Reform activities in the management of banks, financial sectors, and investors will be undertaken, with active engagement and incorporation of advice from various experts.



- ⊙ Enhancing the efficiency of banking services will be a focal point, aiming to streamline processes and improve overall service delivery.
- ⊙ The enforcement of laws for the recovery of defaulted loans will persist, emphasizing that banks adhere to the required reserves mandated by law to address default loans effectively.

Investment and Development

- ⊙ The objective of increasing savings from 31 percent to 33 percent of national income and raising investment from 32 percent to 34 percent during 2024-2028 will be actively pursued.
- ⊙ To attract foreign investment, regulations will be simplified, and procedural complications will be eliminated.
- ⊙ To bolster investment and spending capacity, the growth targets for import duty, Value Added Tax, and Income Tax revenue will be increased from 9 percent to 11 percent of national income. Additionally, the total revenue growth target will be elevated from 10 percent to 11.5 percent.
- ⊙ Government investment and expenditure will prioritize human resource development, including education and health, as well as communication and other critical infrastructure, power, and energy, essential for all financial sectors.
- ⊙ Sustained emphasis will be placed on ensuring transparency and accountability in project selection, costing, quality audits of completed projects, government procurement, and tender verification. If needed, laws will be amended to consolidate and perpetuate this commitment.
- ⊙ The Awami League will persist in underscoring the vital role of the private sector in economic development, actively exploring opportunities for joint investments between the public and private sectors in suitable cases.
- ⊙ Coordination between tax structure and administrative reforms will be a key focus to encourage investment and generate more revenue.
- ⊙ Efforts will be directed towards realigning tariff concessions and incentives to enhance productivity, stimulate new product development, and create new export markets.

Enhancing Efficiency and Capacity of the Financial Sector

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The legislative landscape aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing has seen significant advancements with the passing of the Prevention of Money



Laundering Act 2012 (amended in 2015) and the Anti-Terrorism Act 2013. These acts serve as critical frameworks in fortifying the financial sector against illicit activities.

- ◉ To ensure the effective implementation of anti-money laundering measures, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has been instituted. This specialized unit is dedicated to addressing issues related to money laundering and terrorist financing. A national coordination committee, led by the finance minister, and an executive committee, comprising members from relevant ministries and secretaries of various financial institutions, have been established to oversee and coordinate efforts in this regard.
- ◉ Bangladesh's commitment to international collaboration in combating financial crimes is exemplified by its membership in the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) since 1997. Following a comprehensive mutual evaluation by APG, Bangladesh received recognition as a compliant country and was subsequently removed from the risk list.
- ◉ In 2013, Bangladesh further solidified its global partnerships by joining the Admont Group, an international organization comprising intelligence units from 170 member countries. This association facilitates ongoing information exchange on money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ◉ Efforts to enhance information sharing have been extended through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 81 countries. Bangladesh remains actively engaged in sharing relevant information with various member countries, fostering international cooperation in combating financial crimes.
- ◉ The country's standing in the Basel AML Index, an independent ranking of money laundering and terrorist financing risks set by the Bank of International Settlement, reflects notable improvement in 2023. This signifies Bangladesh's dedication to mitigating the risks associated with financial crimes on the global stage.
- ◉ Recognizing the significance of monitoring credit approval information, steps have been taken to make it mandatory. This measure aims to prevent over-invoicing and under-invoicing, fortifying the financial system against deceptive practices.

Our Pledges

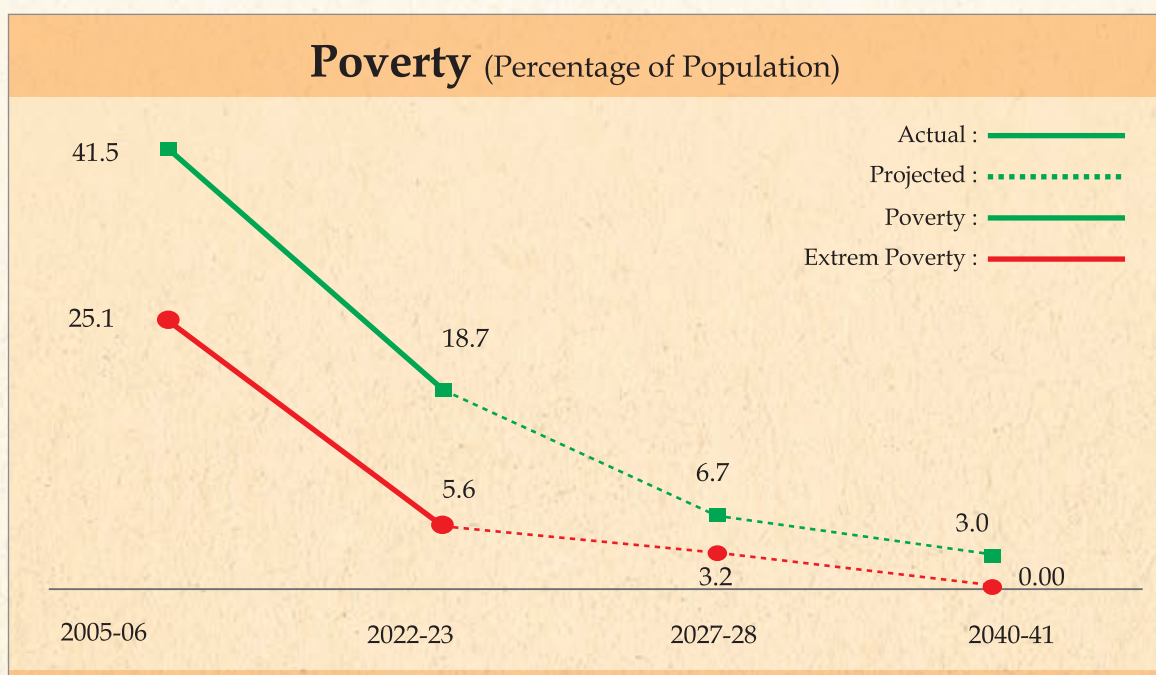
- ◉ We will rigorously combat crimes related to financial transactions and illegitimately seizing of unfair opportunities.
- ◉ Bribery and corruption at all levels of the state and society will be eradicated. We will scrutinize income acquired through unlawful channels and prosecute debt-tax evaders and corrupt individuals through the judicial system, leading to the confiscation of their illicit money and assets.



- ◉ We will persist in controlling borrowing opportunities by consistently rescheduling defaulted loans. Efforts will be made to amending and effectively enforcing bankruptcy and other laws for the revitalization of ailing industries. Commercial banks will be exempted to ensure objectivity in the management and evaluation of loan proposals, and the efficiency and capacity of the central bank will be enhanced.
- ◉ We will continue implementing robust measures to prevent under- and over-invoicing, duty evasion, money laundering abroad, transactions through hundi, artificial crises created through hoarding and syndicates, and excessive profit in import-export.
- ◉ The Awami League government will utilize the legal and institutional frameworks in place to counter money laundering and terrorist financing. Criminals involved in money laundering will face trials, and initiatives will be undertaken, in collaboration with concerned countries, to repatriate laundered assets.

b. Poverty Alleviation and Inequality Reduction

Poverty, often seen as a barrier to a nation's unleashing of talent and creativity, is considered a detriment. Bangladesh's noteworthy success in poverty alleviation has earned global acclaim. The substantial progress in reducing poverty is grounded in inclusive growth-promoting (OPP) policies and strategies, thanks to large-scale social safety net program. In the quest for poverty alleviation, the government has proactively endorsed private sector development, concurrently guaranteeing the fair redistribution of wealth through robust social security programs.



Development and Progress

- ⊙ According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022, the poverty rate in the country is 18.7 % and the extreme poverty rate is 5.6 percent. In 2005, these rates were 40 % and 25.1% respectively.
- ⊙ Inequality in Bangladesh is 0.30-0.32 based on consumption, which has reduced the impact of income inequality. Economists believe that consumption expenditure is a more reliable measure of inequality. Regional disparity has decreased, the gap between rural and urban areas has decreased.
- ⊙ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that not a single person in Bangladesh will remain homeless in the Mujib Year. Sheikh Hasina's announcement has been praised all over the world. Since 1997, 8,61,623 families have been provided houses and land through shelters and other schemes adopted for the homeless, with over 42,80,000 beneficiaries.
- ⊙ The world's first special shelter project to resettle climate refugee families was launched in Mujib Year. So far, 4,409 families have been resettled under this project.
- ⊙ Construction of 1,04,612 houses has been completed so far through the creation of Housing Fund and lending. Apart from this, hostels have been constructed for women workers in the industry and houses for resettlement of uprooted families.
- ⊙ A total of 334 upazilas under 21 districts have been free of landless and homeless people.
- ⊙ As a result of increased employment and income under various programs, a worker can buy 10-12 kg of rice with a day's wages, the highest real wages in the history of Bangladesh. In the fiscal year 2006-07, only 3 to 4 kgs of rice could be purchased with one day's wages. Taking the price of rice as an indicator, it can be seen that real labor wages have increased more than 3 times in 15 years. This is one of the reasons for the decrease in poverty rate in Bangladesh.
- ⊙ The National Social Security Strategy Paper has been formulated for more targeted and successful implementation of social security programs to accelerate poverty alleviation. Total expenditure on social security has been increased, which is 2.55 percent of GDP. At present, the total number of beneficiaries of poverty alleviation and discrimination programs is around 10 crore people.
- ⊙ In 2006, a total of Tk. 2,505 crore (4.01% of the total budget) was allocated to the social security sector, currently Tk. 1,26,272 crore (16.58% of the total budget) has been allocated in the fiscal year 2022-23, which has increased 50 times compared to 2006.
- ⊙ In 2006, the total number of beneficiaries in the social security sector was 21,49,356, which has increased by 8 times to 1,81,23,554 in 2023.



- ⊙ The old age allowance program was implemented from the financial year 1997-98, which was paid at the rate of Tk. 100 per month. In 2006, 14,85,000 people were receiving old age allowance, which has increased four times in 2023 to 58,01,000 people, each of whom is receiving allowance at the rate of Tk. 600 per month.
- ⊙ The number of widows and widowed women receiving allowance was 5,24,000 in 2006, which has increased 5 times to about 26 lakh in 2023.
- ⊙ In 2006, 97,000 people received disability allowance, which increased 24 times to 29 lakh 15 thousand in 2023.
- ⊙ The number of beneficiaries in 114 social security programs of food security and employment such as VGD, VDF, VWB, TR, GR, FFW, FFC, EGP, and OMS have risen to 4 crore 61 lakh 15 thousand and 756.
- ⊙ The number of beneficiaries of the VGD program was 4,30,000 in 2006, which increased to 10,77,000 in 2023.
- ⊙ 56,77,000 families have been selected as beneficiaries by forming 1,20,325 village development societies under the project Amar Bari, Amar Khamar. 2086 crore members own savings deposit, Tk. 2,000 crore welfare grant and Tk. 3,200 crore revolving loan fund and societies have collected Tk. 490 crore as service fee.
- ⊙ 8 Lakh people are being given 80 days of employment at an average cost of Tk. 1,000 crore per year in the 'Employment for the Very Poor' project across the country, including extremely poverty-stricken areas (Northern areas, sub-tropical areas, and char areas etc.).
- ⊙ Financial security for all has been ensured by introducing universal pension.
- ⊙ Rice is being distributed to 62.5 lakh poor families at the rate of Tk. 10 for 5 months.
- ⊙ In order to ensure food security for low-income people, the government is distributing food items at low prices in the open market. In the year 2022-23, 1 thousand 720 crores have been allocated to this sector.
- ⊙ The government launched the scheme in 2008-09 to increase the employment and purchasing power of the very poor in rural areas. In the financial year 2022-23, 1 thousand 830 crores have been allocated to this sector. 5.18 lakh people will get the benefits.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Awami League's one of the most important and prioritized goals is to alleviate poverty and bring smiles to the faces of the suffering people. In order to achieve this goal, Awami League's declared policy is to ensure the equitable distribution of resources along with the highest growth and bring down the increasing income inequality in the society to a tolerable level.



- ⊙ One of the strategies for poverty alleviation is the growth and dynamism in agriculture and rural life. The ongoing process of ensuring social security of the poor, distressed and marginalized people will be strengthened. Begging and vagrancy will be completely eradicated from the country.
- ⊙ The party has set targets to reduce the poverty rate to 11 percent by 2028, end extreme poverty by 2031, and reduce the poverty rate to 3 percent by 2041.
- ⊙ We will transform the rural agrarian economy into an industrial and digital economy with the help of the future service sector.
- ⊙ We will eliminate all forms of inequality by connecting all to the mainstream of the economy through financial and digital inclusion.

c. My Village–My Town (*Amar Gram–Amar Shahar*) : Extending Modern Urban Facilities to Every Village

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, recognizing the need for radical transformation in rural areas, incorporated into the constitution the commitment to foster an agricultural revolution, rural electrification systems, cottage industries, education, communication systems, and public health. This initiative aimed to eliminate urban and rural disparities, with the village as the core idea of development and prosperity, holding special importance in the Awami League election manifesto during the last election.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Roads have been upgraded and expanded in each upazila, linking every village to the upazila headquarters and connecting the upazila to the district headquarters, and national highways.
- ⊙ Every village has been ensured a reliable electricity supply, with established water and sewage systems that are continually improved and expanded.
- ⊙ Government support for primary and secondary schools is provided, including financial assistance for teachers' salaries in private schools.
- ⊙ 50-bedded hospitals in upazilas are being upgraded to 100 beds, and community clinics are extending healthcare services to rural doorsteps.
- ⊙ Computer and internet service centers have been established in every union, providing employment opportunities for village youth, and connecting remote villages with the country and abroad.
- ⊙ Rural production and market systems have accelerated with the expansion of telecom, electricity, and internet services. This has led to increased availability of agricultural



inputs, expanded markets for agricultural products, technological advancements in agriculture, and the growth of cottage and small-scale industries in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ To provide every village with modern urban facilities, including improved roads, communication infrastructure, clean water, modern healthcare and medical treatment, quality education, sewage and waste management, increased electricity and fuel supply, and computer and high-speed internet facilities.
- ⊙ Encourage and support the installation of biogas plants and solar panels on a group basis for a reliable energy supply.
- ⊙ Expand rural mechanization services through the establishment of agricultural machinery service centers and workshops at the village level. This will include training of rural youth and agricultural entrepreneurs, along with providing loans and investment assistance to marginal and small entrepreneurs in the private sector for manufacturing and marketing light machinery.
- ⊙ Enhance cultural, sports, and recreational programs in harmony with the economic development of the village.
- ⊙ Implement self-employment schemes in the village to discourage the migration of young people to cities. The government will provide all possible support to encourage youth engagement in agriculture, industry, and business.

d. Young Generation : The Power of Youth and the Prosperity of Bangladesh

Energetic youth is the pride of Bangladesh, constituting one-third of the total population. The youth, being the primary force in building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh, has been a central theme in Bangladesh Awami League's election manifesto since 2018. Embracing the concept that 'Youth power means the prosperity of Bangladesh,' the party aims to harness the demographic advantage and address 21st-century challenges for socio-economic development.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The unemployment rate, which stood at 6 percent in 2009, has decreased to 3.6 percent in 2022.
- ⊙ The Department of Youth Development is implementing training programs and development projects to transform youth into skilled human resources, providing guidance, technical knowledge, and skill-enhancing training.



- ⊙ Programs have been launched nationwide to motivate and train youth, encourage self-reliance through post-training projects, provide youth loans, and alleviate poverty.
- ⊙ The 'Sheikh Hasina Youth Volunteer Award' was introduced in 2022 to reflect the Prime Minister's influence and global recognition among the youth.
- ⊙ Skill enhancement training has been provided to 3.31 crore youth in 83 trades, with 7.54 lakh individuals becoming self-reliant through self-employment.
- ⊙ 4,064 youth organizations have been registered in the last 5 years, receiving financial support from the Youth Welfare Fund.
- ⊙ Loans totaling 2,057 crore taka from principal and revolving funds have been provided to 12.1 lakh beneficiaries for youth training projects.
- ⊙ The National Service Program has created employment for 1.47 lakh trained youth in various jobs.
- ⊙ Initiatives like the 'Youth Research Center' and 'National Youth Council' have been established to conduct research and mobilize youth activities nationally.
- ⊙ Various laws, rules, and policies, including the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy and Youth Training Policy, have been enacted in the last 5 years.
- ⊙ Bangladesh has become the second-largest provider of services in the online labor market, with freelancing training provided to 6.5 lakh educated youth.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Integrating the young force into the mission of transforming and developing Bangladesh.
- ⊙ Widening employability for skilled youth and providing training to 31 lakh individuals for self-reliance.
- ⊙ Employing an additional 1.5 crore people by 2030 to reduce the unemployment rate to 3% by 2028.
- ⊙ Initiating vocational training for illiterate individuals and increasing provisions for easy loans for self-employment projects.
- ⊙ Creating more opportunities in the online job market and adding new jobs in various sectors.
- ⊙ Gradually extending youth empowerment programs under national services to upazilas.
- ⊙ Establishing youth training and employment centers in all upazilas to strengthen grassroots programs.



- ⊙ Reducing the rate of young individuals outside education, training, and employment programs to 7%.
- ⊙ Disbursing a youth loan of 750 crore taka among 2,50,000 young people and making 2,50,000 people self-employed.
- ⊙ Redesigning polytechnic and vocational institutes for technological advancements and creating Smart Youth Hubs for holistic youth development.
- ⊙ Installing libraries in each upazila and creating special cells to assist young entrepreneurs in accessing financial services.
- ⊙ Ensuring education, training, or treatment schemes for young people with disabilities and hardships.
- ⊙ Implementing plans to integrate drug addicts and radicalized youth into mainstream society.
- ⊙ Infrastructural growth for Sheikh Hasina Youth Institute to accommodate more manpower.

e. **Agriculture, Food and Nutrition**

Agriculture stands as a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, providing sustenance and livelihoods for its people. Beyond meeting the nutritional needs of the population, agriculture plays a vital role in rural employment, raw material supply for industries, and the enhancement of export earnings. Following the nation's independence, the visionary leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman initiated the agricultural revolution, prioritizing increased production and food security. Building on this legacy, the Awami League government, led by Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina, remains committed to the development of agriculture, placing it at the forefront of state management.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Having attained self-sufficiency in cereal production, the upward trajectory of production has persisted. In the preceding year, 2022-23, rice production reached an unprecedented 4 crore 15 lakh 69 thousand metric tons, setting a new all-time record. Comparatively, during the 2008-09 fiscal year, the aggregate production of food grains, including rice, wheat, and corn, stood at 3 crore 28 lakh 96 thousand metric tons. However, by the financial year 2022-23, this figure had surged to 4 crore 66 lakh 88 thousand metric tons.
- ⊙ Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader in agricultural output, ranking third in rice production, third in vegetable and onion production, second in jute production, fourth in tea production, and seventh in potato and mango production worldwide.



- ⦿ Progress is also being made in domestic and foreign fruit cultivation. Farmers are encouraged to grow non-traditional crops including coffee, cashew nut, pepper, malta (oranges), and dragon fruit. In the fiscal year 2022-23, the total fruit production in the country is about 11.5 million metric tons. Per capita consumption of fruit was 55 grams in 2006, which increased to 85 grams in 2023.
- ⦿ In the last 15 years, 699 tolerant, improved, and high yielding varieties of crops and about 708 technologies have been developed in the country.
- ⦿ Good governance is ensured in the distribution of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, and other agricultural inputs. Prices of agricultural inputs have been reduced and are being delivered to the doorsteps of farmers. To keep the production cost of the farmers at a low level, the government has given a total subsidy of more than 1 lakh 29 thousand crore taka in fertilizer, electricity, irrigation etc. from 2009 to 2023.
- ⦿ There are efforts to modernize agriculture through agricultural mechanization. A subsidy of 50%-70% is given on the purchase price of agricultural machinery to enable farmers purchase machinery at a lower price. From 2010 to 2023, about 1 lakh 33 thousand agricultural machinery including combine harvesters, reapers, seeders, power tillers have been supplied. The implementation of the agricultural mechanization project worth Tk. 3000 crore is ongoing.
- ⦿ Prioritization of agricultural transformation and production enhancement programs is essential to ensure food security and nutrition. As part of the agricultural transformation process, High-value export-oriented crops are being produced to expand commercial agriculture. Cultivation is being extended to uncultivated land and uncultivated land in hilly, haor, barren and all difficult areas.
- ⦿ Eco-friendly agriculture system is being developed through efficient and proper use of water resources and solar energy and good agricultural practices. The agricultural system of the country is being transformed from 'subsistence' agriculture to 'commercial agriculture'.

Our Pledges

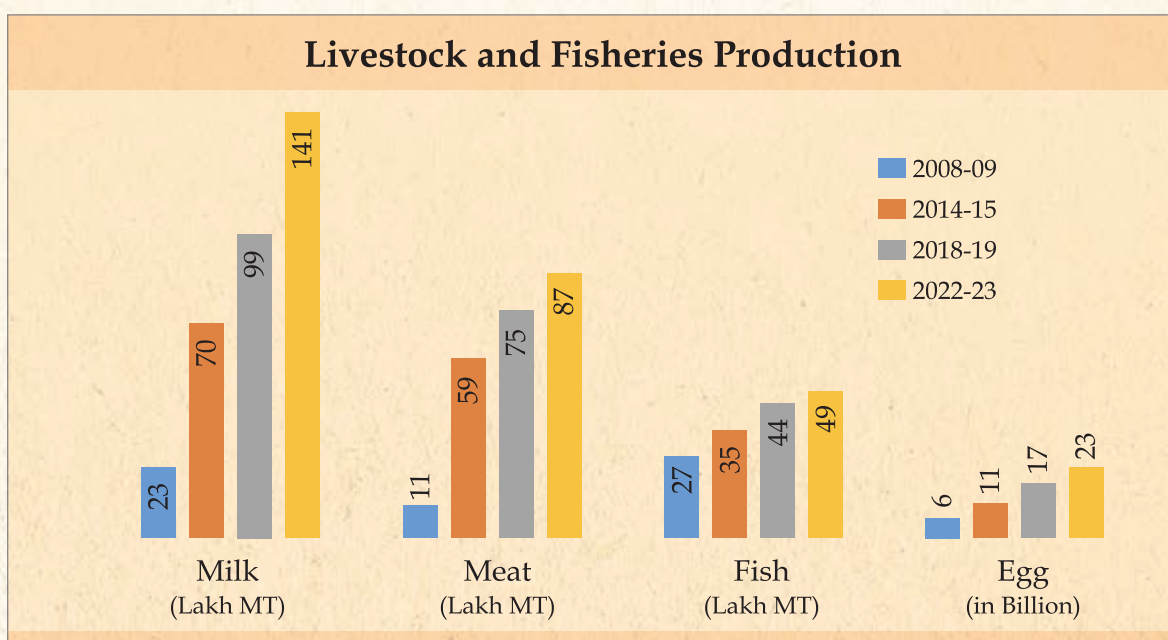
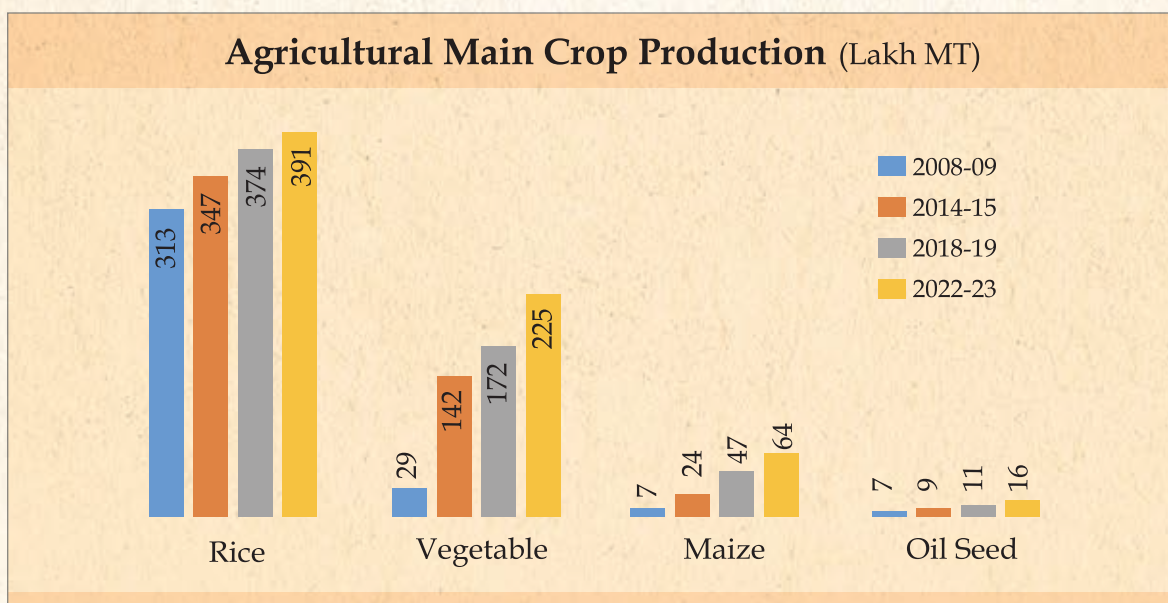
- ⦿ "Food for all" is the main goal and commitment of Awami League. The sustainable development strategy will continue to be followed based on the perspective plan made for the development of agriculture, farmers' livelihoods and rural economy. The strategy aims to meet the nutritional needs of the growing population, ensure supply and access to nutritious food for all, development of commercial agriculture, expansion of agro-based industries, development of rural physical infrastructure, increase in exports of agricultural and non-agricultural products and poverty alleviation and improvement of



living standards of the rural population through diversification. Increase in annual budget allocation and private investments in the rural sector will be encouraged.

- ⊙ The Awami League government has taken various programs to increase agricultural production, which will be expanded in the future. Agricultural loans will continue to be given at a subsidized interest of 4 percent with a view to making agricultural loans accessible and affordable. The central bank will refinance commercial banks at a rate of 0.5 percent. As a result, commercial banks will be more encouraged to distribute agricultural loans.
- ⊙ The number of small farmers in the country is about 1,54,81,350 and agriculture is dependent on small farmers. Smallholder farmers have insufficient resources to invest in agricultural inputs. Awami League will continue to aid and subsidies for agriculture as well as investment support in agricultural inputs with the aim of increasing agricultural production.
- ⊙ The Awami League government is already implementing the policy of bringing all lands under cultivation with the aim of further increasing agricultural production. No land will remain uncultivated.
- ⊙ Easy-to-use agricultural machinery will be made available to address labor shortage and increase productivity in agriculture. Subsidies on agricultural machinery will continue. Emphasis will be given on integrated farming.
- ⊙ Suitable strategies will be adopted to deal with globalization including those for Commercial agriculture, biotechnology, genetic engineering, robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and development of rural non-farm sector. With the aim of increasing agricultural production, special importance will continue to be laid on modernization of agriculture, technological innovation and increasing facilities for agricultural research.
- ⊙ The issue of environmental protection will be given serious consideration in the use of various inputs used in agriculture.
- ⊙ Installation of multi-purpose cold storage and crop processing initiatives at local level will be encouraged. Considering the importance, special initiatives will be taken to develop an efficient supply chain and value chain of agricultural products and support will continue.
- ⊙ Initiatives will be taken to increase the service length of the most successful and efficient agricultural scientists.
- ⊙ In the context of globalization, appropriate strategies will be formulated to protect the interests of Bangladesh's agriculture and farmers and to counter the negative effects of globalization. At the same time, the opportunities created by globalization will be exploited to the maximum.





Fisheries and Livestock

Ensuring food security of Bangladesh, meeting nutritional needs, creating employment, alleviating poverty, expanding export trade, and above all, the importance of fisheries and livestock sector is immense in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. This sector continues to play a role in creating entrepreneurs, creating employment, and keeping the rural economy alive to meet the animal protein needs of the growing population.



Development and Progress

- ⦿ The achievements of the fisheries sector have established Bangladesh at a unique height in the international arena. Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in fish production from FY 2016-17. In the fiscal year 2022-23, fish production was 49.15 lakh MT, which is 61.42 percent more than the total production of 2010-11 (30.62 lakh MT).
- ⦿ According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report, Bangladesh ranks third in the world in fish production in inland open ponds, fifth in closed pond cultured fish production, 8th and 11th in marine and subtropical crustaceans and finfish production respectively. Among 11 hilsa producing countries in the world, Bangladesh ranks 1st and 4th in the world and 3rd in Asia in tilapia production.
- ⦿ The country currently exports fish to more than 50 countries. In the last fiscal year 2022-23, 74,000 metric tons of fish and fish products were exported and earned 5,192 crore taka, which is 27 percent more than last year.
- ⦿ The Department of Fisheries is running three International Standard Fisheries Quality Control Laboratories to ensure safe supply of fish to the country and abroad.
- ⦿ As a part of native fish conservation, 37 species of indigenous endangered fish breeding techniques and farming methods have been developed. A live gene bank of indigenous fish has been established for the first time. So far, 102 species of fish have been preserved in the gene bank.
- ⦿ Bangladesh has already achieved self-sufficiency based on the minimum animal meat requirements set by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The production of milk, meat, and eggs in the financial year 2008-09 was 22.86 lakh metric tons, 10.84 lakh metric tons, and 469.61 crore respectively, which in the financial year 2022-23 was 130.74 lakh metric tons, 92.65 lakh metric tons and 2335.35 crores respectively. Milk production has increased by 4 times, meat by 6 times and eggs by 3 times in the past period.
- ⦿ As a result of the development and expansion of the Black Bengal breed of goats, Bangladesh has achieved the fourth position in goat production and the fifth position in goat meat production in the world. For the past four-five years domestic cattle have been meeting the demand for sacrifice during Eid-ul-Adha without any need to import.
- ⦿ In order to protect animal health, the government initiative has increased the production and application of vaccines. Mobile veterinary clinics have been launched in 360 upazilas to bring veterinary services to the doorstep of the farmers keeping in mind the principle of 'Animals assisted by Vets, Sheikh Hasina's Gift'.
- ⦿ Marine Fisheries Act, 2020 including formulation and implementation of short, medium, and long-term action plans for proper management of fishery resources and



development of green economy in the marine waters of Bangladesh; Marine Fisheries Policy, 2022 and Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023 have been formulated and implemented.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Livestock productivity will be increased by 1.5 times by 2028.
- ⊙ Providing loans on easy terms, necessary subsidies, technical advice, and policy support to establish commercial dairy and poultry farms, increase self-employment and eradicate poverty.
- ⊙ Increasing domestic production of quality animal feed ingredients, promoting processing technology and ensuring reasonable prices.
- ⊙ Diversification of animal products, expansion of processing and export-oriented industries.
- ⊙ Expansion of commercial farm mechanization and automated production systems in preparation for the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- ⊙ To ensure sustainable fish production to achieve food security by optimum utilization of resources, the total fish production will be raised from 49.15 lakh crore MT to 58.40 lacs MT and per capita fish intake will be increased from 67.80 gm / day to 75gm / day to meet the nutritional needs.
- ⊙ Strengthening the sound management of marine fisheries resources and responsible fishing will be ensured to develop the blue economy.
- ⊙ Delta hotspot-based projects/programs will be undertaken to improve the quality of life, adaptation, and capacity building of the local population to deal with the adverse effects of climate change.
- ⊙ Ensuring sustainable use of fisheries resources through value chain development, production of diversified value-added fish and fishery products will reduce fish wastage by 10% and create employment for about 6 lakh people in the next 5 years in this sector.
- ⊙ The private sector will be encouraged to produce and market export-oriented fish and fish products to increase the export of fish and fish products; the fish expo will be organized to encourage importers to expand new markets outside the country, and the export income will be increased from Taka 4790 crore to Taka 15000 crore through the establishment of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for fish processing.
- ⊙ The ongoing program will be expanded to increase livestock production. Facilities will be increased for processing, marketing, and value addition of these products.
- ⊙ Improved varieties of fish, feed, and treatment of diseases will continue to be provided for the further expansion of fish farming in ponds and rice fields where possible.
- ⊙ Affordable capital and electricity connection and other facilities will be provided to the farmers.



f. Industrial Development

Since the Awami League formed government in 2009, Bangladesh has witnessed remarkable progress in industrial production. Over three consecutive tenures, the nation has developed essential infrastructure, positioning itself to emerge as a sophisticated industrial powerhouse. Boasting a proficient, trained, and expert workforce, Bangladesh currently stands at the pinnacle of its demographic dividend. The country is actively pursuing industrial revitalization, with a strategic roadmap in place. This roadmap encompasses harnessing the potential of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, as well as leveraging local resources and raw materials. The overarching goal is to transform Bangladesh into a high-income nation by the year 2041, a vision that involves job creation, revenue augmentation, and the expansion of the domestic market.

This economic expansion is set to introduce new products, fostering diversification that will enhance our economy. Moreover, the broadened spectrum of products will extend the reach of export destinations, contributing to the overall growth of the nation's economy. Sheikh Hasina, the revered leader of the people, is progressively steering Bangladesh towards the attainment of a robust heavy industry sector.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Bangladesh is already being dubbed as the global capital of the garment industry.
- ⊙ Televisions, refrigerators, household appliances, motorcycles, light appliances, mobile phones, and other electronic products are being manufactured in the country. Dependence on imports has reduced significantly.
- ⊙ 17 laws, 20 policies, 2 guidelines, 5 directives and 6 rules have been formulated in the last 15 years for the development of the industry.
- ⊙ A ten-year 'National Productivity Master Plan' has been formulated to increase productivity at the national level.
- ⊙ Construction of sewage treatment plants has been made mandatory in every industrial establishment keeping in view of environmental protection.
- ⊙ The contribution of the industrial sector to domestic production was 26.53 percent in FY 2008-09, which increased to 36.92 percent in 2021-22. During this period, the contribution of the industrial sector to the national economy increased by 10.39 percent. Appropriate plans and targets have been formulated to further increase the contribution of this sector in future.
- ⊙ Considering the demand of the general consumer, 43 new daily essential products have been brought under BSTI's mandatory quality certification. A world class National Metrology Laboratory has been set up at BSTI with the support of UNIDO.



- ◉ A total of 80 industrial cities have been set up across the country to make the industrial sector environmentally friendly, where the number of industrial plots is 12,313.
- ◉ The dangerous chemical godowns of old Dhaka has been removed and two temporary warehouses have been constructed at Kanthaldia in Tongi and Shyampur in the capital. Besides, with the aim of permanently shifting the warehouse of all flammable chemicals to a safe place, the Basic Chemical Industrial Park project is being implemented in Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj.
- ◉ To offset the unplanned development of light engineering industry in various areas of the country including the capital Dhaka, initiatives have been taken to set up dedicated light engineering industrial parks in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Jashore, Bogra and Narsingdi districts.
- ◉ Despite many challenges, the tannery industry has been shifted from Hazaribagh to Savar, an eco-friendly leather city, and two more tannery villages have been set up in Chattogram and Rajshahi.
- ◉ A total of 17 products have been recognized as GIs (Geographical Indications) under the Geographical Indication Product Ownership Protection.
- ◉ The demand for eco-friendly jute products is increasing due to the global ban on environment-destroying polythene and plastic products. Through product diversification, sarees, bags, shoes, curtains, bed covers, and furniture are now being made from jute. Meanwhile, with the help of the government, Bangladeshi scientists have discovered the genome sequence of jute and invented an alternative to polythene golden bags.
- ◉ The government has undertaken a program to set up 100 public and private economic zones for planned industrialization. Industrial production started in 11, work on 28 more is in progress. Industrial investment in the economic zone will increase export earnings by \$40 billion and create employment for 1 crore workers.
- ◉ In FY 2008-09, the growth rate of manufactured goods production was only 6.69 percent, which has increased to 11.41 percent in FY 2021-22. The sector's growth was highest at 12.33 percent in 2018-19, the year before the outbreak of the Coronavirus epidemic.
- ◉ The AL Govt. has already completed the construction of 10 hi-tech parks. Another 92 parks are in progress.
- ◉ 449 industries have been set up in EPZs in the last 15 years. 4 economic zones have been reserved for friendly countries such as China, Japan, Korea and India.
- ◉ To ensure an uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer, Ghorashal-Palash Urea Fertilizer Factory has been inaugurated with state-of-the-art technology and a production capacity of 10 lakh metric tons of urea fertilizer per year.



- ◉ The addition of the Pajero Sport CR-45 through Pragati Industries and a joint venture between Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) and Honda Motors Company of Japan is manufacturing and marketing the Honda brand of motorcycles.

Our Pledges

- ◉ More than 2 million people join the labor force in the country every year. One of the main goals of the Awami League is to create employment opportunities for each of them through the development of the industrial sector and the establishment of new industries.
- ◉ Cottage, small and medium industries are the most likely to generate employment opportunities. The sector will be made stronger, well-organized and dynamic by removing barriers, providing training in management skills and reducing dependence on foreign human resources.
- ◉ The Awami League government will formulate appropriate policies and programs to attract the entrepreneurial class. Short-, medium-, and long-term visionary plans will be implemented, including competitive market systems, innovative technologies, appropriate physical infrastructure, and internal market expansion policies.
- ◉ With the aim of simplifying company registration and legal obligations in the field of business and commerce, specialized courts will be set up connectable from all the divisional cities of the country, with the facility of virtual courts by amending the Companies Act and settling legal cases related to companies.
- ◉ Leather and leather products are the second largest foreign exchange earning sector in the economy of Bangladesh. The government has set a target of 5-billion-dollar export income from this sector by 2024. A vigorous program to increase export earnings will be taken.
- ◉ Small, medium and cottage industries, handloom and silk industries will be preserved, and competitiveness enabled to expand employment. Banarasi and Jamdani crafts will be encouraged.
- ◉ The demand for jute and jute products is increasing globally due to eco-friendly considerations. To take advantage of this opportunity, jute products will be diversified and initiatives to make the jute industry profitable will continue. Private sector initiatives in the jute industry will be encouraged.
- ◉ The government will continue special initiatives for the development of blacksmiths, potters, and potters. Incentives will be given as per need for these industries.
- ◉ Development of IT industry, expanding and adding high value products to readymade garments and textiles, agro-processing, shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, leather, chemicals; Priority will be given to the development of new knowledge-based industries including toys, jewelry, furniture.



- ◉ Studies will be conducted and data analyzed for the service sectors to materialize its growth and employment potentials.

g. Power and Energy

Supply of electricity and energy at adequate, reliable, and affordable prices is a prerequisite for the overall economic development of every developed or developing country. In 1972, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established state ownership of all natural resources, including energy and mineral resources, to permanently stop foreign exploitation and protect national interests. 21 years after the assassination of Bangabandhu, during the first Awami League government (1996 to 2001) led by leader Sheikh Hasina, some groundbreaking steps were taken in the energy and power sector. From 2001 to 2006 BNP-Jamaat's rampant looting, mismanagement and inefficiency created a dire situation in the energy and power sector. During the three terms of Sheikh Hasina's government since 2009, groundbreaking and revolutionary developments have been made in the country. As a result, industrial and commercial sectors are getting electricity as per requirement. Electricity has been ensured in every house of the country including rural areas.

Development and Progress (Power Sector)

- ◉ The government of Sheikh Hasina has adopted the policy of power diversification by abandoning the wrong policy of the previous governments of relying on a single energy source. Quality and uninterrupted power and energy supply has been ensured.
- ◉ 100% of the country's population has been brought under electricity coverage.
- ◉ Per capita power generation has increased from 228 kWh (in 2008) to 609 kWh.
- ◉ The power generation capacity has increased to 28,566 MW as against only 3,267 MW in December 2008. A total of 2656 MW of power has been brought from India by adding 1496 MW of power from Jharkhand to our national grid.
- ◉ The power generation capacity from clean energy has been increased to 1200 MW. Arrangements have been made to set up wind-based power plants and generate electricity from waste.
- ◉ The following mega projects have been implemented in the power sector.
 - Payra 1320 MW Thermal Power Plant;
 - Rampal Maitree Super Thermal 1320 MW coal-fired power plant
 - Matarbari 1200 MW coal-fired power plant project,
- ◉ In the financial year 2021-22, electricity distribution lines increased to 6 lakh 29 thousand km, which was 2 lakh 60 thousand km before 2009.



- ⦿ Rooppur Nuclear Power Project is being completed successfully. In the first phase, 1200 MW power will be added to the national grid by 2024.
- ⦿ The electricity distribution system loss has been reduced to single digit. Before 2009, the system loss was 18.85 percent.

Our Pledges

- ⦿ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the only head of government in South Asia and the developing world who has established energy security as an important element of national security. This policy will be implemented continuously.
- ⦿ Uninterrupted and quality power and energy supply will be ensured.
- ⦿ A long-term plan will be implemented to increase the power generation capacity to 40,000 MW by 2030 and 60,000 MW by 2041.
- ⦿ Retirement of rental and inefficient power plants will be done in phases.
- ⦿ 10,000 megawatts of electricity will be produced from clean energy sources. Grid will be made suitable for transmission of electricity generated by renewable and nuclear power plants.
- ⦿ Import of hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan will be accelerated.
- ⦿ The number of transmission lines will be increased to 24,000 circuit kilometers.
- ⦿ Construction and operation of transmission lines under Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be undertaken.

Development and Progress (Energy Sector)

- ⦿ Gas production rose to 2,752 million cubic feet per day in June 2022, from 1,744 million cubic feet per day in January 2009.
- ⦿ An Integrated Power Energy Masterplan (IPEM)-2023 has been jointly adopted by the Mineral Resources Department and Electricity Department as part of the government's long-term plan for the power and energy sector under Vision 2041.
- ⦿ Six new gas fields (Sundalpur, Srikail, Rupganj, Bhola North, Jokiganj, and Elisha) have been discovered. In addition, the capacity of the national organization BAPEX has been increased (rehabilitation of 1 rig, purchase of 4 new rigs, and purchase of necessary exploration equipment) to reduce foreign dependence in the field of natural gas and oil exploration.
- ⦿ A total of 1,523 km cubic feet of gas transmission pipeline has been constructed during the current government to expand the countrywide gas network, including the northern and southern regions, with the aim of balanced development of the country.



- ◉ To meet the increasing gas demand, two Floating Terminals (FSRU) of 500 Mcf capacity each have been set up to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Activities are underway to set up the third and fourth FSRUs at Payara in Patuakhali and at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar, respectively, and to construct a 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Land Based LNG Terminal' with a capacity of 1,000 million cubic feet per day in Matarbari area of Cox's Bazar to increase the capacity of the existing pipeline in Maheshkhali.
- ◉ The stockpile of fuel increased from 9 lakh metric tons in 2009 to 13.09 lakh metric tons in FY 2022-23, increasing the country's fuel oil demand/storage period from 30 days to 40-45 days.
- ◉ A 131.50 km long India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline has been established from Numaligarh Refinery's Siliguri Terminal in India to Parbatipur, Dinajpur in Bangladesh to ensure the smooth supply of necessary fuel to the northern part of the country.
- ◉ A Deep-sea floating unloading facility of Single Point Mooring (SPM) with double pipeline installation of imported oil has facilitated fast, easy, safe, and cost-effective unloading from ships directly through a pipeline. Implementation of the SPM system will save about Tk. 800 crore annually in the oil transportation sector.
- ◉ At present, almost the entire part of the country's petrol and octane demand is being met from domestic sources through condensate fractionation plants and Catalytic Reform Unit (CRU) established by the government and private sector.
- ◉ The construction of an oil pipeline (249.57 km) from Chattogram to Dhaka is under implementation to ensure the supply of fuel oil. Besides, the construction work of about 21 km pipeline is going on for the direct and uninterrupted supply of fuel oil Jet-A-1 to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka and Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram

Our Pledges

- ◉ Gas production has increased at a significant rate due to the drilling of new wells. This streak of success will be accelerated. Gas supply will be ensured in the northern and western regions of the country; The supply of gas and LPG will be greatly increased. For this purpose, the state institutions will be made more efficient.
- ◉ Coal Policy has been formulated keeping in view of the national interest. Based on this policy, special importance will be given to exploration and extraction of coal and mineral resources.
- ◉ The interests of the country will be upheld in the contract of exploration and development of oil and gas with foreign companies. Quantification of natural gas reserves, discovery of new gas fields, extraction and rational utilization of gas will be ensured.



- ⊙ The capacity of the country in terms of technology, economics and international regulations in the energy sector will be upgraded to world standards.
- ⊙ The fuel oil refining capacity of Khox Eastern Refinery will be increased from 1.5 lakh metric tons to 4.5 lakh metric tons.

h. Communication

The importance of communication infrastructure in the socio-economic development of the country is immense. The unprecedented success of the country in economic development is achieved through the development of a robust communication system. The Awami League government under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina has set the goal of building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh by 2041. To achieve this goal, a comprehensive program has been implemented in the last 15 years to build a secure, quality and development-friendly advanced communication system. As a result, a new milestone has been created in the communication system.

Development and Progress (Highways and Bridges)

- ⊙ The construction of the dream Padma bridge is at the top of the government's success in the communication system. Dream Padma Bridge, a symbol of national dignity and glory, was opened for traffic on June 26, 2022. This largest project was implemented with Bangladesh's own funding without any form of foreign aid and ignoring domestic and foreign conspiracies, with the strong decision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. On the one hand, it is a symbol of Bangladesh's economic capacity, on the other hand, it is a symbol of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's courage and determination.
- ⊙ Construction of 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel' under the Karnaphuli river is another big success. In 2009, the project of construction of this tunnel was taken up. The construction of the tunnel has already been completed and opened for traffic on 28 October 2023.
- ⊙ A total of 129.90 km metro rail network construction project with 6 sections and 105 stations has been undertaken to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka city and its surrounding areas. Already Diabari to Motijheel section has been launched. Railtrack extension works to connect Kamalapur Station is ongoing. The project will be completed by 2030.
- ⊙ Several other mega projects have been taken up to develop world-class communication systems. Among the mega projects under implementation, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project are notable.
- ⊙ 5,659 bridges and 6,122 culverts have been constructed/reconstructed in the last one and a half decades with an aim to build a seamless highway network.



Railway

- ◉ The current government since coming to power in 2009 has given special importance to the development of railways. On the instructions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Railway Division was elevated to an independent Ministry on December 04, 2011. More money has been allocated for the development of railways than at any time in the past.
- ◉ With the objective of establishing and facilitating rail communication with the south-western and north-western regions of the country, the railway link on the Padma Bridge has been inaugurated. The work of Second Bangabandhu Rail Bridge is progressing rapidly.
- ◉ Direct rail link from Dhaka to the tourist-friendly city Cox's Bazar has been established. The extended railroad network includes both Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.
- ◉ In order to meet the expectations of the people and to fulfill the promises of the government, a total of 142 new train services have been launched since 2009 and 44 train routes have been increased.

The Skyway

- ◉ Biman Bangladesh has entered a new era of fleet modernization by purchasing a total of 12 new aircrafts (2011-2019) including four 787-8 Dream liners, two 787-9 Dream liners and three Dash-8Q400 aircrafts.
- ◉ A picturesque airport capable of landing superior aircraft is being established at Cox's Bazar. Saidpur airport is being upgraded to an international airport to increase regional connectivity with Nepal and Bhutan.
- ◉ Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport expansion project (Terminal 3), installation of new radar and construction of pipeline to supply jet fuel has been completed. Terminal 3 has created an additional 12 million passenger handling and 4 million tons of cargo handling capacity at the airport annually. The airport will have an additional 26 boarding bridges and other necessary facilities of international standards.

Ports and Waterways

- ◉ Various activities including modernization of seaports, modernization of waterways, preservation of waterways, installation of navigational equipment, procurement of rescue ships for rescue of boats on the waterways are ongoing in order to make the waterways of Bangladesh along the rivers safe, passenger-friendly, modern and up-to-date.
- ◉ A plan has been adopted to develop waterways and modernize shipping for goods and passenger transport.



- ⊙ Plans for construction of navigable and wide waterways around the capital have been taken up.
- ⊙ Payra Port, the third seaport of the country under the fast-track project of the government.
- ⊙ The country's only deep seaport construction project is underway under the Matarbari Port Development Project. Re-dredging of Mongla-Ghasiakhali channel has been done to make Mongla Port more operational.
- ⊙ Four new marine academies have been constructed in Pabna, Barishal, Rangpur and Sylhet with the landmark decision of the Prime Minister. The educational programs of these marine academies have already been started.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ The work of developing well-built and well-managed transport infrastructure will continue to speed up the development process.
- ⊙ 12 expressways will be constructed by 2041. Expressways are : Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Chattogram (elevated), Dhaka-Mymensingh, Dhaka Outer Ring Road, Dhaka-Bogra, Mirsarai-Cox's Bazar, Mymensingh-Bogra, Gabtali-Paturia-Kazirhat, Feni-Barishal, Paturia-Daulatdia, Jhenaidah-Kushtia-Dashuria. At present there is one expressway in the country (Dhaka-Bhanga).
- ⊙ National Highway and other important highways are being upgraded to four lanes. All roads and highways will be converted to four lanes in phases.
- ⊙ Construction of MRT-1 (Airport-Kamalapur and New Bazar-Purbachal Depot), MRT-2 (Gabatli-Kanchpur Bridge), MRT-4 (Kamalapur-Narayanganj) and MRT-5 (Savar-Bhatara) is planned to be completed by 2030.
- ⊙ Construction of Dhaka-Chattogram Expressway and Express Railway is under active consideration.
- ⊙ Railway line is being constructed from Chilahati to Border to re-establish connectivity with India.
- ⊙ The dredging of major and minor rivers will continue, ensuring the cleanliness of the rivers and year-round navigability and modernizing the old navigation systems across the country. It will reduce the cost of transportation.
- ⊙ By ensuring the navigability of the rivers around Dhaka, a circular navigation system will be developed. It will reduce the cost of goods transportation along with public transportation.
- ⊙ Land port capacity will be enhanced to facilitate and expand regional trade.



- ⊙ AL Govt. will develop quality international airports and construct new airports to improve connectivity between East and West. Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chattogram, Barishal airports will be further developed.
- ⊙ The construction of Bagerhat Khan Jahan Ali Airport will be considered with priority.
- ⊙ State-of-the-art aircraft have been added to Bangladesh Biman and initiatives will be taken to turn the company into a profitable company on a commercial basis.
- ⊙ Steps will be taken to enact and implement a Road Safety Act to make roads safer.

i. Mega Projects for Infrastructural Development

The pursuit of high growth is intrinsically tied to the successful implementation of mega projects. Bangladesh faced a significant impediment to its development in the form of inadequate infrastructure across multiple sectors, such as roads, electricity, energy, and ports. Addressing this challenge, the Awami League government, led by the visionary Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has undertaken and executed numerous large-scale projects, commonly known as mega projects, over three terms. These endeavors, including the iconic Padma Bridge, a symbol of national pride, are anticipated to progress as envisioned, contributing significantly to the nation's development.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ On June 25, 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Padma Multi-purpose Bridge, the country's largest bridge implemented with our own funding. As a result of the Padma Bridge, a safe, reliable, sustainable, and integrated system has been created, overcoming major obstacles to communication across the country. It will be a part of the Asian Highway Network.
- ⊙ The railway connected with the Padma multipurpose bridge was inaugurated on October 10, 2023. As a result, many districts of the southern region have come under rail connectivity with Dhaka.
- ⊙ The Metrorail is a step towards building Smart Bangladesh. As a result of this, the city dwellers will be freed from the unbearable traffic congestion of Dhaka city and the level of air pollution and noise pollution in the capital will be reduced. Economic mobility will increase as connectivity becomes easier; Metrorail will save man hours.
- ⊙ As a result of the construction of a 3.32 km tunnel under the River Karnaphuli in Chattogram, connecting Anwara with Patenga in Chattogram, the port city of Chattogram has been developed after the "One City, Two Towns" model.
- ⊙ With the inauguration of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on October 7, 2023, a new horizon of air communication has been opened.



- ⊙ Bangladesh entered the era of Bangladesh Expressways on September 2, 2023 by inaugurating the Kaola-Farmgate section of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway.
- ⊙ The Matarbari deep seaport channel inauguration and first terminal foundation stone laid on November 11, 2023. Once this port is opened, container and cargo ships will be able to enter the port at the same time.
- ⊙ On November 11, 2023, the much awaited 102 km long railway line from Chattogram's Dohazari to Cox's Bazar was inaugurated. With the opening of this railway, Bangladesh will be connected to the Trans Asian Railway Corridor with Myanmar and China and Cox's Bazar will become a smart city.
- ⊙ The installation of reactor pressure vessels of the first and second units of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant was inaugurated on 10 October 2021 and 18 October 2022 respectively. Through this, Bangladesh became the 33rd country to become a member of the nuclear club.
- ⊙ The Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of the Government of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India jointly inaugurated the Rampal Coal Based Power Plant on September 6, 2022. The production capacity of this power plant is 1320 MW.
- ⊙ The first LNG terminal in the country to convert gas for the national grid was installed in August 2018. Then in April 2019, the second LNG terminal became operational. The daily production (regasification) capacity of each terminal of LNG floating storage at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazar is 500 million cubic feet.
- ⊙ The Payra Seaport, the third port of the country, has been built along the Ravanabad channel on the outskirts of the River Andharmanik at Kalapara in Patuakhali. On August 13, 2016, container ships started anchoring at the port for the first time as a result of ensuring infrastructure development.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ A number of expensive projects have been suspended in consideration of cost-effective economic management, which will be reconsidered in due course and initiatives will be taken to implement reasonable projects. Economically viable new projects will continue to be considered and accepted.

j. Maritime Victory : Blue-Economy

Throughout history, the maritime economy has been a significant contributor to the global economy. Approximately 90% of world trade relies on sea transport, with a staggering 3 to 5 trillion US dollars of global economic activity revolving around the oceans annually.



Recognizing the pivotal role of the sea and the diverse potential of the Bay of Bengal, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, laid the foundation with the formulation of 'The Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974.' Building upon this legacy, the Awami League reaffirmed its commitment to maritime development by incorporating the issue into its 2018 election manifesto.

Development and Progress

- ◉ Due to the visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea-ITLOS) in 2011 settled the dispute with Myanmar and determined the maritime boundary with India in 2014 in the judgment of the International Court of Arbitration. At present, the total sea area of Bangladesh is 1,18,813 square kilometers.
- ◉ In the last decade and a half, the Awami League government has given priority to the 'Blue Economy' as a new area of potential in the overall development of the country. To ensure maximum utilization of marine resources, proper management, extraction and utilization of marine resources and its contribution to the economy has been prepared by 'Blue Economic Development Action Plan'.
- ◉ The Awami League government established Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute at Cox's Bazar Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University and four Marine Academies for marine research and human resource development.
- ◉ Dredging continues to protect Payra port navigability. The implementation of the plan to extend the jetty at Matarbari deep seaport to accommodate ships will continue.
- ◉ The government has taken various measures including banning the harvesting of fish and marine animals in the economic zone of Bangladesh for harvesting fish from the sea. The people of Bangladesh are getting the benefits.
- ◉ The number of commercial ships has doubled. Due to the government's emphasis on coastal tourism, Bangladeshi ships are successfully participating in coastal tourism management on a commercial basis and the number of ships is gradually increasing.

Our Pledges

- ◉ Bangladesh produces about 1.5 million metric tons of salt every year to meet the country's demand. Inventing and using advanced technology in salt cultivation will create an opportunity to export salt abroad.
- ◉ By constructing deep seaports and creating facilities at seaports, they will be developed as internationally important ports.



- ⊙ Opportunities will be increased to acquire the capacity to build large ships to increase export earnings. In this case, adequate research and use of advanced technology will be expanded to prevent marine and sub-tropical environmental pollution.
- ⊙ A 60 MW wind power plant has been set up at Khurushkul in Cox's Bazar. Apart from this, initiatives will be taken to generate electricity and energy by using ocean waves and tides.
- ⊙ A number of foreign companies, including BAPEX, are working on oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal. In addition, heavy minerals have been found there. Research activities in exploration and extraction of subsea mineral sands and precious metals will also be strengthened.
- ⊙ Necessary research activities will be undertaken on how to expand the coastal zone by providing adequate recreation and a pleasant environment. A comprehensive action plan will be adopted and implemented in a well-planned manner to attract domestic and foreign tourists.
- ⊙ The seas of Bangladesh have commercial potential marine plant species, which will play a significant role in the green economy. Cultivation and harvesting of marine fish and other animal resources will ensure food security, increase export earnings, and alleviate poverty.
- ⊙ Development of the shipping industry, sustainable use of fisheries and other marine resources to create productive employment and improve tourism services will continue to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of the coastal and island areas.
- ⊙ Research vessels will be procured for offshore oil and gas extraction, deep sea fishing and conducting scientific research.

k. Achieving MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and Implementation Strategies (2016-2030) for SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

Bangladesh has distinguished itself as a trailblazer among developing nations in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Particularly noteworthy are the strides made in poverty alleviation, ensuring food security, boosting primary school enrollment, achieving gender equality at primary and secondary levels, curbing infant and under-five mortality, reducing maternal mortality, enhancing vaccination coverage, and mitigating the prevalence of infectious diseases.

In a seamless continuation of these achievements, Bangladesh, alongside representatives from 193 countries, actively participated in the formulation and endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on September 25, 2015. The country's proactive engagement from the inception underscored its commitment to the SDGs.



Development and Progress

- ◉ Since the SDG launch period and the Seventh Five-Year Plan formulation period are the same, the SDG goals and targets are integrated into the goals and indicators of the most important development document of the Government of Bangladesh. In the later period, the government has made significant progress in the implementation of SDGs in the first seven years (2016-2022) due to the establishment of the SDG Implementation and Review Committee, the creation of the post of Principal SDG Coordinator, and the adoption of the Whole of Society Approach. In this context, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded the 'SDG Progress Award' on 20 September 2021 by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network created under the auspices and support of the United Nations as Bangladesh achieved the most progress in the five years of 2016-2020.
- ◉ Bangladesh has done well in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2023, Bangladesh was 101 out of 166 countries. This information was highlighted in an independent assessment by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) led by renowned US economist Professor Jeffrey Sachs. This assessment shows that Bangladesh has made consistent progress in implementing the SDGs.
- ◉ According to the assessment report, the country is on the right track for two goals (quality education and moderate consumption and sustainable production). Apart from this, six (poverty eradication, hunger eradication, good health and welfare, safe water and sanitation, affordable and pollution-free energy and industrial innovation and infrastructure) have improved moderately. Five goals (gender equality, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and towns, climate action and partnership in achieving the goals) remain unchanged. That is, there is an opportunity to develop them.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The goals that deserve the most attention are job creation and economic growth, protection of aquatic life and peace, justice, and effective institutions. The challenge in front of Bangladesh is to deal with the impact on trade that will come as a result of transition from least developed country status in 2026. Bangladesh needs to adopt more innovative creative and effective roles, especially building a knowledge-based society, creating an investment-friendly environment, increasing investment in the private sector, maintaining political stability, increasing the capacity to extract domestic resources, improving the effectiveness of corruption-free services and government institutions, creating high value export products and diversifying export.



1. Delta Plan-2100

Delta Plan or Delta Plan 2100 is basically an adaptive technical and economic master plan, which has been made considering the effects of water resources management, land use, environment and climate change and their interactions on the development results. This plan has been formulated as the key to the future development of Bangladesh with the advice and cooperation of the European country the Netherlands. The vision of the plan is to develop safe, prosperous deltas resilient to climate change. The mission of the master plan is to adopt robust, integrated and time-changing effective strategies, and to ensure sustainable water and food security, economic growth, and environmental stability by addressing natural disasters, climate change impacts and other delta-related issues.

The national level objectives of the plan are : 1. eradicating extreme poverty by 2030; 2. Achieving upper-middle income country status by 2030, and 3. Achieving the status of a prosperous country by 2040. Delta Plan 2100 has 6 objectives. These are : 1. ensuring security from floods and climate change-related disasters; 2. Ensure greater water efficiency and safe water; 3. Ensuring integrated and sustainable river basin and estuary management; 4. Ensuring the conservation of climate and ecosystems and their appropriate use; 5. Building effective institutions and good governance for the sound management of intra- and inter-country water resources and 6. To ensure optimal integrated use of land and water resources.

3.4 Social Security and Services

a. Universal Pension Scheme

Universal Pension is a public welfare initiative introduced by the Awami League government. This benefit varies depending on a person's age as well as calculation of his/her contribution. The monthly pension amount will be free of income tax. The Universal Pension Law was enacted in January 2023 and on 17 August 2023, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Universal Pension scheme.

More than eight crore people of the country will come under this scheme. Till now in Bangladesh only the officers and employees of government, semi-government or autonomous organizations get pension benefits after retirement. But the Bangladesh government has enacted a new law to bring all the working people of the country under the pension benefit. This universal pension system is designed to provide social security and government assistance to citizens suffering from unemployment, sickness, disability or old age and extending a sustainable safety net to the aging population.

The average life expectancy of people in Bangladesh is now 73 years. By 2031, more than two crore people will be over 60 in the country. Currently in Bangladesh, the government



provides a monthly allowance of 500 taka to the poor elderly above 65 years of age. However, more than 40 percent of people above the age of 65 do not receive any kind of pension or old-age allowance. By adopting universal pension as a ground-breaking initiative, a sense of security will be cultivated among the people in the future. The way old people think about their future today will be significantly changed.

b. Education

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said that investment in education is the best investment. Under his guidance, initiatives were taken to change the colonial education system and build an education system suitable for an independent country. Following that policy, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working tirelessly to develop skilled human resources who are inspired by the spirit of the Liberation War and have human qualities and are rich in science and technology to meet the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. As a result, there has been a massive expansion and groundbreaking development of education during 2009-2023.

Development and Progress

- ◉ National Curriculum 2022 has been formulated to build patriotic, productive, and international citizens inspired by the spirit of the Liberation War. Under this initiative a new curriculum from Class 6 to Class 10 has been formulated and implemented. In 2013, a unique precedent was set by nationalizing 26,193 private primary schools and nationalizing the jobs of around 14,000 teachers.
- ◉ By 2023, about 5,100 more private schools and colleges have been enrolled in MPO, benefiting about 98,000 teachers and staff.
- ◉ 1,495 government primary schools have been set up in the areas without schools.
- ◉ 2 lakh 737 teachers have been recruited from 2009 to 2020.
- ◉ The 'dropout rate' in primary education was 50 per cent in 2008, falling below 14 per cent in 2022. The net enrollment rate of students at the primary stage is almost 100%.
- ◉ Literacy rate increased to 76 percent in 2020.
- ◉ Bangladesh is now a role model for the world in distributing new textbooks free of charge up to class 10th or equivalent on the first day of the year through organizing the 'Book Festival'. Distribution of books has increased enrollment and reduced dropouts.
- ◉ From 2010 to 2023, more than 260 crore copies of textbooks have been distributed free of charge to students of Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary, Ibtidayi, Dakhil, Dakhil (Vocational), SSC (Vocational) and Technical level students.



- ⊙ In the academic year 2022, 2,13,288 copies of textbooks have been distributed free of cost to the students of five minority ethnic groups. Free braille books have been distributed to visually impaired students.
- ⊙ A significant achievement of the present government in the field of education is gender equality. The female enrollment rate in 2021 was 54.67% at the secondary (6th-10th) level and 52.13% at the higher secondary (college) level, which is a good reflection of the present government's concerted efforts to promote women's education and is appreciated all over the world.
- ⊙ In 2015, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the nationalization of at least one school and one college in each upazila. By 2023, 673 secondary schools and 663 colleges have been nationalized.
- ⊙ Nationwide 'mid-day meal' program has been adopted to ensure the nutrition of students. Before the onset of Covid-19, the 'mid-day meal' program was running in 7,000 establishments across the country.
- ⊙ At secondary school level teacher recruitment 65 thousand 126 (growth rate 30.51%) and college level 56 thousand 716 (growth rate 65.73%) has increased compared to 2009 in government school-college and technical institutions. Transparency is ensured as the Private Teachers Registration Authority (NTRCA) is attached to the process.
- ⊙ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has encouraged the expansion of education at the university level. Currently there are 56 government universities and 113 private universities in the country.
- ⊙ An initiative has been taken to build a government technical school and college of international standard in every upazila by emphasizing career-oriented, technical, and vocational education.
- ⊙ The government has established 4 Engineering Colleges, 23 Polytechnic Institutes, 4 Women Polytechnic Institutes, 2 new Survey Institutes and another 2 Survey Institute expansion projects are being implemented.
- ⊙ Actions have been taken to transform the Madrasa education curriculum into contemporary and action-oriented education.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Article 17 of the Constitution states that the aim of the educational policy is: 'the State shall a. establish a system of mass-oriented and universal education of the same system, b. make education compatible with the needs of the society and for the citizens properly trained and motivated to fulfill those needs, c. by law Effective measures will be taken to eliminate illiteracy within the stipulated time. The Awami League government remains committed to follow and implement this policy.'



- ◉ Education is a catalyst for development activities, overall national development, and poverty alleviation. From this belief, Awami League will give reasonable allocation in the education sector and ensure its effective use.
- ◉ The Salary Assistance (MPO) program for teachers of private secondary educational institutions will be expanded.
- ◉ The ratio of women teachers in primary and secondary education will continue to increase gradually.
- ◉ In order to implement the plan of Smart Bangladesh, more importance will be given to language, higher mathematics, and science education at the secondary and higher secondary levels. Appropriate laboratories for science education will be extended to village level. Special scholarships will be awarded to meritorious science and mathematics students.
- ◉ Conspiratorial attempts to propagate extreme communal militant ideologies and build militancy in madrasas and other educational institutions are being strictly controlled. Appropriate curriculum formulation and implementation has been undertaken to modernize madrasa education.
- ◉ The stipend will continue to increase in line with the expansion of women's education. Children of poor and weaker sections will have more access to higher education.
- ◉ The only criteria for appointment of teachers, officers and employees will be merit, qualification, and experience.

c. Healthcare and Family Welfare

Ensuring universal health and nutrition services has been adopted by the Awami League as its principle of governance. In continuation of Vision-2021, the program of Vision-2041 will improve and expand basic health and family welfare services.

Development and Progress

- ◉ The government's success in curbing the Covid-19 pandemic has been widely appreciated across the world. Since the invention of the vaccine, 370 million doses have been given free of charge.
- ◉ The number of Government Medical College Hospitals in 2006 was 14 and the total bed capacity was 35,579. At present the number of hospitals is 37 and the general bed capacity has increased to 71,000. Bangladesh had only one medical university for higher education of doctors in 2006, now there are 5.
- ◉ There were 26 private medical colleges in 2006, which at present has increased 3 times to 73. There are 6 Medical Colleges run by the Army. Dental colleges and units have increased from 3 to 10, while there are 27 private dental colleges.



- ⊙ There were 7 Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS) in 2006 and 13 at present. IHT (Institute of Health Technology) was 3 in 2006, currently 14.
- ⊙ The number of beds in 42 district hospitals under the Ministry of Health has increased from 100 to 250. Upazila Health Complex 31 beds to 50 beds.
- ⊙ 17000 Community Clinics and Union Health Care Centers have been launched to bring health care to people's doorsteps. During the BNP-Jamaat era, more than 10,000 clinics were closed due to political violence. Community clinics are accredited by the United Nations.
- ⊙ The number of doctors in Bangladesh has increased almost 3 times from 10,338 to 30,173 in the past decade and a half. The number of nurses and non-medical staff has more than doubled.
- ⊙ Government nurses were 13,602 people in 2006, which has increased by about 3.2 times to 44,357 people in 2023.
- ⊙ The number of medical technologists increased 3 times from 1,888 in 2006 to 6,264 in 2023.
- ⊙ The use of ICT technology in the health sector has facilitated access to services. There are currently 244 telemedicine centers operating through National Call Centers and the National Health window, none of which existed earlier.
- ⊙ The life expectancy of people in Bangladesh is 72.4 years, which was only 59 years in 2006.
- ⊙ The infant mortality rate has been reduced four times more than since 2006 to 21 per thousand. Neonatal mortality has reduced more than doubled. The maternal mortality rate has been brought down to 156 per 1 lakh, which is less than half the rate in 2006.
- ⊙ In collaboration with Dhaka University and expatriate Bengali scientists, an initiative has been taken to develop a Covid vaccine.
- ⊙ The coverage rate of EPI was only 75% in 2006, which has increased significantly to 94% under the current government.
- ⊙ 98.7% of children aged 6 to 59 months have been covered under the National Vitamin A Plus campaign program for the prevention of night blindness and proper physical and mental development of children.
- ⊙ Children's health has improved significantly since 2006. The number of stunted children under 5 has almost halved to 24 percent and the number of wasted children has dropped to just 11 percent. The number of underweight children is 22 percent, which has almost halved compared to earlier.



- ◉ 98% of the national demands of pharmaceutical drugs are met with domestically manufactured products. The pharmaceutical industry's export revenue is 600 million US dollars, which is 22 times higher than in 2006.
- ◉ There were only 5 nursing colleges in 2006, now there are 69 and 11 more nursing colleges are in process. At present, the number of private nursing colleges is 350.
- ◉ The contraceptive prevalence rate under the family planning program is currently 64%, compared to only 48% in 2006; 70 percent of deliveries are completed by trained attendants.
- ◉ Bangladesh has been recognized by WHO as the first country in the world to eliminate hay fever.

Our Pledges

- ◉ To ensure digital health care, a unique health ID will be issued to every person in the country and hospital automation management will be introduced.
- ◉ To ensure equal health-care for all citizens, a universal health system will be introduced, and super specialized hospitals of international standards will be established.
- ◉ A Public Health University will be established to increase people's awareness about health related matters.
- ◉ Health insurance will be introduced to ease health expenditure.
- ◉ Centers for non-communicable diseases treatment and rehabilitation of seniors will be set up under the Healthy Aging Scheme.
- ◉ The health care institutions of the country will be kept ready with all the equipment and manpower to deal with the possible epidemic/pandemic. Activities for setting up quality laboratories in the divisional cities will be taken up.
- ◉ A vaccine research center of international standard will be set up to achieve self-sufficiency in production of vaccines.
- ◉ Joint initiative of Non-resident Bangladeshi scientists and research institutions will be highly encouraged for vaccine invention.
- ◉ For the pharmaceutical industry to overcome challenges related to intellectual property rights following the country's graduation to a middle income one, the API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) industry in the country will be encouraged and the use of domestically produced APIs will be prioritized.
- ◉ Mental health and autism healthcare delivery at all levels will be made more effective.



d. Culture

Culture stands as a cornerstone in the formation and evolution of the Bengali nation, playing a pivotal role in both the quest for Bangladesh's independence and the subsequent efforts to establish the principles of the Liberation War within the state and society in the post 1975 revolution. The Awami League recognizes culture as a vital force that enriches and develops civilization, humanity, universality, and nationality. Committed to fostering the practice and advancement of culture, the Awami League pledges full cooperation in this endeavor.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The Mujib centenary has been celebrated with due dignity at the initiative of the Ministry of Culture in line with the national level program.
- ⊙ A joint production of Bangladesh and India has produced the movie 'Mujib-Ek Jatir Rupkar' (Mujib, an architect of a nation), which is being screened overseas in the country. This popular film has created an opportunity to learn about the glorious history of Bangladesh and the contribution of Bangabandhu.
- ⊙ Arrangements have been made for the production and exhibition of biographical documentaries of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nesa Mujib and Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal.
- ⊙ In all libraries of the country Bangabandhu and Liberation War Corner 1971 has been installed. Genocide Torture Archive and Museum, Chattogram Muslim Institute Cultural Complex, Shailjaranjan Sanshur Kendra, Ukil Munshi Memorial Center, Manipuri Lalitkala Academy and eight new district chapters of Shilpakala Academy have also been constructed.
- ⊙ The Biennial Asian Art Exhibition Festival is being organized under the initiative of the Shilpakala Academy, in which around 100 countries of the world have participated.
- ⊙ Through the cultural institutions of 10 ethnic groups, the language, ceremonies, traditions etc. of the ethnic groups continue to be practiced and developed.
- ⊙ Under the Nationwide Mobile Library Project, library services are running at the doorsteps of the public in 3200 designated areas in 64 districts.
- ⊙ Cultural agreements with 44 countries with another 37 more countries in the pipeline are conducted with the aim of highlighting the culture and cultural heritage of Bangladesh to the outside world.
- ⊙ As a result of the initiative of the Awami League government since 2009, Bangladesh's Baul songs (2008), Jamdani weaving industry (2013), Mangal Shobhajatra (2016) and Shitalpati (2017) have been included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage, increasing the image and reputation of Bangladesh in the outside world.



Our Pledges

- ◉ The Awami League government will continue to support the excellence of Bengali language and literature, music, arts, drama, film, and creative arts with the aim of preserving the existing traditions of Bengali culture and creating harmony with world culture.
- ◉ National Culture Policy, 2006 will be revised to form and implement a specialized National Council on Culture.
- ◉ Showing due respect to the teachings and values of all religions and giving special importance to social awareness, science-mindedness, cultural practice, and creation of liberal human spirit.
- ◉ Folk culture and folk heritage and language, culture and lifestyle characteristics of ethnic groups shall be protected.
- ◉ Literary and cultural institutions such as Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Shishu Academy, Kabi Nazrul Institute, Bangladesh National Museum, Film Development Organization will be run in the light of the spirit of Liberation War. Proper management will be ensured by connecting wise and competent people.
- ◉ Efforts will continue to eliminate the obstruction of communal evil forces, attacks by militants and propaganda against folk traditions such as fairs, processions, dramas, films, dance-songs, and other wholesome entertainment programs.
- ◉ To explore the history and heritage of Bangladesh, research, archaeological excavations, emphasis on archeological preservation and museums will be developed.
- ◉ State sponsorship will be increased for continuous excellence and expansion of all branches of art including Bengali language and literature, arts and crafts, recitation, music, travel, drama, film, creative publishing.
- ◉ With the aim of creating, marketing and presenting products with the logo of historical establishments in an attractive form to local and foreign tourists, special 'souvenir shops' will be set up and approval measures will be taken.
- ◉ Construction of upazila cultural center and expansion of public library directorate activities will be done at the upazila level.
- ◉ Support programs for destitute artists and cultural workers will be further expanded through the Artists Welfare Trust.
- ◉ Ethnic Cultural Institute, office cum multifunctional building at Rangamati will be constructed.
- ◉ Assistance will be extended for translation of science and technology books as well as literature.



- ⊙ Initiatives for cultural activities involving the new generation will be encouraged.
- ⊙ Encouragement will be extended to entities which engage in promotion of creative work.

e. Sports

The role of sports is immense in developing citizens with patriotism, democratic practice, morality, and open mindedness and in building a prosperous and strong Bangladesh. The Awami League government is committed to the physical and mental development of students and youth through sports practice and training. The government is giving special priority to sports to develop manpower free from terrorism militancy and drug addiction and possessing a healthy body and strong mind. It is the government's aim to achieve international level competitiveness by improving national level standards in every field of sports.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Government to continue progress in sports sector National Sports Council Act, 2018; Bangladesh Sports Educational Institutions Act, 2020; Sheikh Kamal National Sports Council Award Policy, 2021; Sheikh Kamal National Sports Council Award Policy, 2021 Bangabandhu Sports Scholarship Policy, 2023 formulated.
- ⊙ Bangabandhu Sports Scholarship has been launched in the financial year 2022-23 to encourage sports at the school, college, university level.
- ⊙ 150 Sheikh Russell mini stadiums have been constructed in 150 upazilas in the last 5 years. 161 are under construction.
- ⊙ Modernization of existing 28 tennis courts has been completed including construction of 2 stadiums, 4 swimming pools, 2 women sports complexes, 12 indoor stadiums, 1 handball stadium at the district level.
- ⊙ 1 roller skating complex, 1 boxing stadium, 1 handball stadium and 1 indoor stadium have been constructed at national level.
- ⊙ Sports programs for disabled and autistic children have been included across the country under the Sports Directorate. 3,200 disabled and autistic children are participating in these activities every year.
- ⊙ From the year 2022, 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Inter-College Football Tournament' has been launched with the participation of students from all higher secondary and equivalent educational institutions of the country.
- ⊙ By *Bangabandhu Krirasevi Kalyan Foundation* financial and medical assistance is being provided to poor, sick and disabled sports persons and 'Bangabandhu Sports Scholarship' is being given to sportspersons.



Our Pledges

- ⊙ Sports clubs will be formed in all educational institutions and union level and sports materials will be distributed free of charge. Planned initiatives will be taken at the union level for the development of playgrounds, enhancement of sports infrastructure facilities, expansion of training facilities for sports-related players, coaches, and officials.
- ⊙ Necessary steps will be taken with the aim of popularizing rural traditional sports across the country, taking cricket to a stronger position in the international arena, as well as promoting potential sports such as football, hockey, shooting, archery, and kabaddi to international standards.
- ⊙ Planned initiatives have been taken to improve management, increase infrastructural facilities at district and upazila levels, and expand training facilities to achieve international standards in football and other sports. More than 1000 playgrounds will be developed at the union level.
- ⊙ To build and develop a National Sports Complex, Women's Sports Complex and Sports Complex for Physically Handicapped in Divisional Cities at each divisional level with the aim of further development of the existing sports infrastructure with the aim of creating a smart youth free from drugs and terrorism.
- ⊙ Construction of indoor stadiums and swimming pools and sports complexes for youth at district level.
- ⊙ To complete the program of establishing 1 regional center of BKSP in all divisions of the country with the aim of increasing the overall quality of sports.
- ⊙ To introduce science-based training courses such as Sports Psychology, Biomechanics Sports, Physiology, Sports Training and Sports Medicine to produce international quality players, organizers and coaches following the developed world.

f. Welfare of Freedom Fighters

The spirit of the Liberation War is indestructible, the path to achieve the nation's goals. Freedom fighters are the best children of the nation. After the 1975 era, there was an attempt to spoil the spirit of the Liberation War and humiliate the freedom fighters. It is unfortunate for the nation that this mischief continues. Therefore, Awami League is to promote the history of the great Liberation War among the people, especially the youth, enrich them with the spirit of the Liberation War, preserve the traditions and memories of the Liberation War, uphold of proper honor and dignity of the freedom fighters, and ensure the overall welfare of the freedom fighters and take appropriate and effective measures to prevent the distortion of history.



Development and Progress

- ⊙ The government is taking and implementing various programs for the overall welfare of valiant freedom fighters, war-victims, and martyr family members. The freedom fighters are getting due respect and dignity in the state and society.
- ⊙ Formulation, implementation, and coordination of programs for various national days, preparation of integrated list of heroic freedom fighters, publication of gazette, issuance of certificates and certificates, payment of honorarium through the formulation of policies/rules related to the rights and privileges of heroic freedom fighters etc.
- ⊙ Preservation and development of burial places of martyred freedom fighters and other brave freedom fighters, preservation of historical places of Liberation War and construction of Liberation War memorial museum, construction of independence pillar in Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka, construction of monument in memory of the martyred members of the allied forces during the Liberation War, conservation and construction of memorials the places used by the Pakistani invading forces for genocide. Implementation of Bangabandhu's ideals and spirit of Liberation War, project titled Bir Gatha in the voice of the hero, construction of library and museum, construction of freedom fighter complex building in all districts and upazilas etc. development projects are ongoing.
- ⊙ Honorary allowance of freedom fighters is Tk. 20,000 instead of Tk. 10,000, currently 27,000 to 45,000 depending on the category of war wounded freedom fighters, 30,000 to the family of martyred freedom fighters and Tk. 20,000 to 35,000 to the families of titled freedom fighters.
- ⊙ Freedom fighters are being given a 2,000-taka Bangla New Year allowance and a 5,000-taka Great Victory Day allowance per person.
- ⊙ A maximum of 75,000 taka is paid annually for the treatment of valiant freedom fighters. A maximum of Tk. 3 lakh can be spent by the specialized hospital if the treatment of a complex disease or emergency operation is required in the specialized hospital.
- ⊙ Since the present government assumed responsibility, the housing scheme 'Bir Nibas' has been adopted for the socio-economic development of the poor freedom fighters and their families. Through this project, a plan has been taken to build a total of 30,000 residences across the country. Already 5000 Bir Nibas have been constructed and handed over to the brave freedom fighters.
- ⊙ 1,82,352 brave freedom fighters have been given digital certificates and 95,245 brave freedom fighters have been given smart ID cards.



Our Pledges

- ⊙ Discrepancies in the list of freedom fighters will be removed and necessary corrections will be made.
- ⊙ The welfare measures taken by the Awami League government for the recognition of the contribution of freedom fighters and their welfare will be continued. a. Monthly and festival allowance; b. old age maintenance and free medical treatment for destitute and aged freedom fighters; c. Housing construction for freedom fighters will continue in the upazila. These welfare programs will be improved gradually.
- ⊙ Freedom fighters aged 60 and above will continue to enjoy free travel in trains, buses and launches as respected citizens.
- ⊙ Special activities will continue to protect the memory of the Liberation War, prevent distortion of history, and highlight true history.
- ⊙ Activities to ensure the inclusion and teaching of the History of Liberation War in educational institutions, especially in all madrasas including Qaumi, Ibtedayi, will continue.
- ⊙ A hotline service will be launched under the Ministry of Liberation War to listen and solve the problems and grievances of the freedom fighters.

g. Child Welfare

For the welfare and protection of children, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman guaranteed all the rights of children in the 1972 constitution and made child law in 1974 and compulsory primary education. Following this, in the last 15 years, the Awami League government has implemented various programs for child welfare, safety and development. At present, about 30 percent of the country's population are children. These children will grow up and lead the country in the future. For that, efforts will be continued to develop children and adolescents as patriotic and capable good citizens for the future by providing proper development and security.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The existing maternity allowance for poor pregnant mothers in rural areas and lactating allowance for low-income working mothers in urban areas are being implemented under the name 'Mother and Child Support Program'. This program plays an important role in fulfilling the nutritional needs, physical growth, and mental development of the child from the mother's womb to the age of four years under the life cycle social security framework. In the future, maternal mortality and child mortality will be reduced, and the number of stunted and stunted children will be further reduced.



- ⊙ A program is underway to bring one lakh child laborers engaged in hazardous work back to normal life by imparting non-formal and technical education. Already the National Action Plan 2021-25 has been prepared to eliminate child labor. Eight vulnerable sectors have been declared 'Child Labor Free'.
- ⊙ The program of establishing children's rooms in factories and institutions for children will continue as before. Work is underway to create a child-friendly workplace.
- ⊙ Services are being provided to abused women and children through One-Stop Crisis Centers and One-Stop Crisis Cells for the safety of women and children. Eight Regional Trauma Counseling Centers have been set up in Divisional and District level Medical College Hospitals.
- ⊙ Bangladesh Shishu Academy has constructed modern complex buildings in 6 district branches for child development and welfare. About 35,000 children receive training in various subjects in Shishu Academy every year, through which children's intellectual development is being promoted.
- ⊙ There are 205 Child Welfare Primary Schools and 9 Technical Training Centers across the country under Shishu Kalyan Trust. Its beneficiaries are about 35 thousand. Children's homes have been established by the government to maintain, rehabilitate and socialize orphaned children. Currently there are 73 children's homes in Bangladesh.
- ⊙ 112 children's families have been established by the government to raise orphans and needy children in a family environment. 48 orphanages have been established across the country with government approval to nurture orphans. Apart from this, 56 child rehabilitation centers have been set up across the country to rehabilitate distressed children.
- ⊙ 5 schools for the visually challenged, 7 for those with hearing impaired and 5 vocational training centers have been established in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Chattogram to ensure overall welfare and education of disabled children.
- ⊙ The Child Welfare Trust Act, 2023 has been enacted to improve the fortunes of underprivileged children.
- ⊙ A target of eradicating child marriage by 2030 has also been set under the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ The program will continue to create suitable opportunities for nutrition, education, and entertainment in proper physical and mental development with the aim of making the children and adolescents into good citizens of the future.



- ◉ Rehabilitation and safe housing of street children, establishment of orphanages for destitute and deprived children and primary and vocational education programs will be implemented and expanded.
- ◉ To stop child labor, the program of building a social security system will be undertaken in stages.
- ◉ Awami League will take necessary measures to prevent the involvement of children and teenagers in politics and their use in political activities. Discrimination against girl children, torture will be stopped, and their safety will be ensured.
- ◉ The globally recognized policies and actions required for autistic children will be pursued and implemented.
- ◉ Empowerment of Young Adult program will continue through providing bicycles for all school going girls.
- ◉ Playgrounds and children's parks will be developed in the public and private sectors to expand recreational facilities for children and adolescents.
- ◉ Effective measures will be taken to ensure safe social media and safe internet for children and adolescents.
- ◉ Special initiatives will be taken to address malnutrition among children under 5 years of age.

h. Welfare of the Disabled and Senior Citizens

Disabled

People with disabilities are part of society. There are currently 3.2 lakh persons with disabilities in the country, which is 2.8 percent of the total population. The Awami League government has taken up programs aimed at developing the talents of disabled people and establishing them in a normal life, which will be continuously expanded across the country. Bangladesh Awami League is determined to integrate disabled people at all levels of society by ensuring their rights and dignity.

Development and Progress

- ◉ Awami League was the first in the country to promise in the election manifesto of 2008 to enact laws to establish the rights of disabled people.
- ◉ Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act, 2018 and Disability Special Education Policy, 2019 have been enacted.
- ◉ The Awami League government has formulated the 'National Strategy and Action Plan : 2016 to 2030' to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.



- ⊙ 'The National Disability Development Foundation Act, 2023' has been enacted to establish the National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons
- ⊙ In FY 2023-24, the number of disability allowance beneficiaries has been increased to 29 lakhs and the monthly allowance has increased from 600 taka to 850 taka.
- ⊙ The amount of stipend for disabled students has been increased from Tk. 800 to Tk. 950 taka at the secondary level. In addition, at the higher secondary level, this has been increased to Tk. 950 from Tk. 900.
- ⊙ A total of 103 disability service and aid centers were opened in 64 districts and 39 upazilas of the country. The number of registered service recipients from these service centers till 2023 is 8,09,380 and the total number of services provided is 1,05,48,715.
- ⊙ A total of 11 Special Schools for Children with Autism including 4 in Dhaka, 6 in 6 Divisions, 1 in Gaibandha have been opened and training has been provided to 792 parents and guardians of children with autism and NDD.
- ⊙ Apps called 'Smart Autism Barta' and 'Bolte Chai' (Want to Speak Up) have been launched under government initiative to identify and measure autism.
- ⊙ Through 32 special types of mobile vans with different types of therapy equipment and facilities, therapeutic services are being offered for the disabled people in the remote areas.
- ⊙ For the rehabilitation of disabled persons, a male and female hostel with capacity of 20 seats has been opened for disabled persons seeking employment. The number of seats has increased from 30 to 40 in the financial year 2019-2020.
- ⊙ 'Bangabandhu Suraksha Bima' has been introduced to ensure health protection of children and persons with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities (NDD). To ensure their health protection and improve their quality of life, a trust has been set up through the 'Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Protection Trust' Act.
- ⊙ The World Health Organization awarded Saima Wazed Putul with the WHO Excellence Award in September 2014 and selected her as the WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia in 2023 for her relentless work and her role in creating awareness about autism.
- ⊙ The program of establishing 14 'Autism and NDD Service Centers' as a pilot project in 14 places of the country is ongoing. This program will be gradually expanded throughout the country.
- ⊙ Salaries of teachers and staff of 74 special schools are being paid by the government through the National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons under the Integrated Special Education Policy for Disability, 2019.



- ◉ Job fairs have been organized for the disabled to widen their employment opportunities. According to the National Skills Development Policy, the concerned ministries and departments are working to ensure a minimum of 5 percent participation of persons with disabilities in all kinds of skill development programs.

Our Pledges

- ◉ Opportunities for inclusion of persons with disabilities in national capacity building and national action plans will be expanded.
- ◉ To ensure that children with special needs can learn in an environment suitable for them, measures and steps will be taken and government services will be made disability friendly.
- ◉ Disabled persons will be provided with government grants and loans on easier terms and appropriate steps will be taken to create suitable employment for them.
- ◉ Special measures will be extended to make education, employment, mobility, communication, and treatment easier for people with disabilities and to establish their social status.
- ◉ 422 more disability service and assistance centers will be set up across the country in two phases.
- ◉ Eight treatment, education and rehabilitation centers will be established in eight divisions for children and persons with neuro-developmental disabilities (NDD).
- ◉ Legal complexities will be removed in the implementation of the Directorate of Development of Persons with Disabilities.
- ◉ Efforts will continue to formulate a uniform national scribe policy in education and job recruitment examinations. In addition, efforts will continue to ensure the proper implementation of quota allocated for persons with disabilities in all government recruitments including BCS.
- ◉ With a view to empowering persons with disabilities politically, they will be encouraged to participate in political parties and cast their votes.

Senior Welfare

Elders are like banyan trees in society. The society and the state progress under the auspices of the efforts and experience of the elders. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1972 gave instructions to properly organize the Welfare Association for the Elderly. Due to the increase in the average life expectancy in the country, the number of elderly people is increasing. Bangladesh currently has an elderly population of about 1.5



crore, which is 9 percent of the total population. In 2025, the number of senior citizens in Bangladesh will increase to 2 crore and in 2050 it will increase to 4.5 crore. The Awami League government is taking concerted steps to keep the elderly active, increase their contribution to the progress of society and the state, and protect them.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ The government has approved the 'Senior Citizen Policy', 'National Senior Citizens Policy, 2013' and 'Parents' Maintenance Act, 2013'. As a result, it is being ensured that the financial burden of the elderly on their family and social life is reduced; their dignity is increased and their functional, healthy, and safe lives are upheld.
- ⊙ The 'Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine' established for the welfare of the elderly has been registered with some functional institutions including the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. In addition, arrangements for annual grants have been made.
- ⊙ Initiatives have been taken to increase donations to the senior healthcare sector by philanthropic organizations for the protection of senior citizens and to set up a Senior Citizen Development Foundation.
- ⊙ In the financial year 2023-24, a total of 58,01,000 people has been given senior citizen allowance and the amount of allowance has been increased from Tk. 500 to Tk. 600.
- ⊙ Eight *Shanti Nibas* [Peace Home] have been set up in 8 divisions across the country to ensure quality accommodation for senior citizens without relatives and home.
- ⊙ 100% of the senior citizens of 262 upazilas have been brought under the senior citizen allowance scheme. The senior population of all upazilas will be brought under the senior citizen allowance scheme gradually.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Initiatives will be taken to bring senior citizens under social insurance on a priority basis.
- ⊙ Steps will be taken to intensify education and public awareness with a view to building intergenerational relations, solidarity and partnership and creating family ties, solidarity, and unity between generations.
- ⊙ Initiatives will be taken to provide loans under easy conditions and introduce a ration system for income-generating activities of senior citizens.
- ⊙ Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure access for senior citizens to all facilities. Furthermore, equality of digital technology and use of advanced and modern information technology will be ensured for the welfare of senior citizens.



- ⊙ New initiatives will be undertaken to introduce special courses, degrees and treatment services related to Geriatric Medicine (related to health and care of the elderly) in hospitals. In order to simplify and modernize geriatric health services, steps will be taken to create separate degrees in medical colleges.
- ⊙ There is a hospital for the elderly, Probin Hospital, in the Agargaon area of Dhaka. Geriatric services have already started in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Effective steps will be taken to introduce geriatric services in all government hospitals of the country.

i. Ethnic Minorities and Religious Groups

At present there are more than 3 million people of about 45 ethnic groups living in Bangladesh. Their lives, traditions, culture, history, and aspirations are closely related to Bangladesh. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recognized the equal rights and dignity of people of all communities including ethnic minorities, ethnic groups, religious minorities in the constitution of Bangladesh. Inspired by this, Bangladesh Awami League wants to mitigate all kinds of discriminatory behavior towards ethnic minorities and religious minorities; Various activities have been continued on a priority basis to protect their lives, property, places of worship and dignity and to improve the quality of life. Various programs including social security programs are being implemented to bring them into the mainstream of society and development.

"Communalism should not rear its head. Bangladesh is a secular country. Muslims are free to observe their rituals. Hindus are free to observe their rituals. Buddhists are free to observe their respective rituals. No one can interfere with the other."

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Provisions have been made for the protection of lands, habitations, places of worship, forests, water bodies and other resources of religious and ethnic minorities. The Land Commission continues to protect the rights of small ethnic groups in land and forest areas.
- ⊙ Children of backward and underdeveloped minorities and tea plantation workers continue to receive special quotas and facilities in education and employment.
- ⊙ Education and health services for minority people have been extended to remote areas. Roads, electricity, and other infrastructural facilities have been increased.



- ⊙ The government is encouraging the preservation and showcase of the diverse customs and traditions of the ethnic minority communities.
- ⊙ The government has taken positive steps to increase the participation of ethnic minorities in the decision-making process to ensure greater political representation and social inclusion.
- ⊙ In accordance with different clauses of the Chattogram Hill Tracts Peace Agreement, the Regional Councils and District Councils have been entrusted with stated authorities and responsibilities. As a result, development activities are being formulated and implemented considering the local geographical and socio-economic environment.
- ⊙ Special measures have been taken to develop the tourism industry and small and medium industries including food processing and traditional cottage industry in the three hill districts. People-oriented measures like cultivation of high-value spices, coffee-cashew nut cultivation, cotton cultivation and solar power among others are being implemented.
- ⊙ Donations and development activities are continuing for the development of temples, crematoriums, pagodas, churches, and cemeteries. Through Hindu, Buddhist and Christian religious welfare trusts, regular activities are continued for the overall welfare of the followers of the respective religions.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Article 23(a) of the Constitution states, "The State shall take measures to preserve, develop and foster the unique characteristics of regional culture and heritage of various tribes, ethnic minorities, ethnic groups and communities." Efforts will continue to protect this section of the Constitution.
- ⊙ During the tenure of the Awami League Government, the National Parliament has amended the Property Act and taken steps to resolve problems related to property. Obstacles to the enforcement of this law will be removed.
- ⊙ To protect the interests of minorities, the National Commission for Minorities will be constituted, and the Special Protection of Minorities Act will be enacted. Awami League will continue to take necessary steps to ensure the security of life and livelihoods of religious minorities, small ethnic groups, and backward communities.
- ⊙ The country's religious minorities and small ethnic groups were subjected to violent attacks and discrimination under the 'ethnic cleansing' policy of the BNP-Jamaat Coalition Government. Countless men and women of religious minorities and small ethnic groups were killed, and countless women were raped. Their houses, lands and businesses were seized and looted. Awami League will not allow these inhuman incidents to be repeated.



- ◉ Bangladesh Awami League upholds the policy of ending terrorism, discriminatory treatment and human rights violations against religious minorities, small ethnic groups and people working in tea plantations, protecting their lives, property, dignity and ensuring equal rights in all aspects of state and social life.
- ◉ Balanced development of all the backward areas of the country including slums, Char, Haor, Baor and coastal areas will be ensured and the quality of livelihoods of the people of those areas will be prioritized.

j) Underprivileged Communities

Dalits and other Marginalized Communities

Dalits, Harijans and *bede* (water gypsies) communities form a part of the total population of Bangladesh. This population is extremely neglected, isolated, and marginalized in society. Awami League is committed to implementing programs to improve their quality of life and bring them to the mainstream.

Development and Progress

- ◉ In the financial year 2012-2013, through a pilot program, the livelihoods improvement program of the Bede and backward communities started in 7 districts. In the financial year 2015-16, this program has been continued in 64 districts by expanding the program to new 43 districts including the previous 21 districts.
- ◉ In the financial year 2019-20, the Livelihoods Improvement of the Bede Community Program and the Livelihoods Improvement of the Underprivileged Communities Program were divided into two separate programs. Both programs have been kept open for public benefits.
- ◉ The number of beneficiaries has increased to 82,503 under the Livelihoods Improvement of the Underprivileged Communities Program. The number of special allowance beneficiaries has increased to 54,300 people. Scholarships have also been provided for the concerned students.

Our Pledges

- ◉ Social security programs will be continued to improve the livelihoods quality of poor and underprivileged communities.
- ◉ Vocational training will be provided to enhance the skills of the disadvantaged and underprivileged communities. The purpose is to ensure that they can join mainstream society by engaging themselves in income generating activities.



- ⊙ Cash assistance and accommodation programs for the underprivileged community will be expanded across the country.

Hijra (Third Gender) Community

The Hijra community is a small part of the total population of Bangladesh. Since time immemorial, these people have been living an inhumane life, isolated and neglected from society and state life. The Awami League government has taken various welfare programs aimed at preserving the fundamental rights of the Hijra community and ensuring social justice and involving them in mainstream society.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Under the social security program, the implementation of the program to improve the quality of life of the Hijra population began in the financial year 2012-13. The number of beneficiaries of the Hijra community was 1012 in 2006, which increased 6 times to 6,884 in 2022-23. 5,620 people from the community get special allowance.
- ⊙ In 2014, the Hijra community was recognized as a 'third gender'. In 2019, transgender people gained the right to vote with a distinct gender identity.
- ⊙ Allowance, education stipend and training programs for Hijra community are being implemented in 64 districts from FY 2015-16. From the financial year 2021-22, cash allowance and education stipend of this program is being transferred to the mobile accounts of the beneficiaries.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Hijras will be included in mainstream society and their fundamental rights will be preserved, social justice ensured, and their education, housing and quality of life improved and social security ensured.
- ⊙ Cash assistance and accommodation programs for the Hijra community will be expanded across the country.

k. Labor Welfare and Labor Policy

As a result of the implementation of multifaceted programs in labor policy and labor welfare during the Awami League regime, there has been incredible success in creating a safe working environment for workers, maintaining peaceful industrial relations, eliminating child labor and increasing productivity through the creation of skilled labor force. The progress of production and the peaceful environment of industry and trade will



be maintained by ensuring good relations between workers, employers and the government while maintaining the prevailing laws and international labor standards of the country.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Minimum wages have been fixed/refixed in 43 industrial sectors. The wages of workers working in the garment industry have gradually increased from Tk. 1,662 to Tk. 12,500.
- ⊙ Wages of workers working in state-owned industries have gradually increased from Tk. 4,150 to Tk. 8,300.
- ⊙ In the last 10 years, 23,387 workers have been given financial assistance of Tk. 11 crore 12 lakh from Bangladesh Labor Welfare Foundation. Financial assistance of Tk. 196 crore has been provided to 20 thousand workers in the last 06 years from the central fund for accidental and family reasons of the workers.
- ⊙ Wage disparity between male and female workers has been eliminated.
- ⊙ According to the ILO Convention, a mega project named 'Child Labor Elimination and Rehabilitation Project' has been taken up at a cost of Tk. 2500 crores to eradicate child labor.
- ⊙ 43 jobs have been identified as hazardous for children. So far 1 lakh and 90 thousand children have been withdrawn from hazardous work.
- ⊙ 'Green Factory Award Policy' has been formulated to ensure a quality work environment and create a positive image.
- ⊙ In order to ensure transparency and discipline in the payment of salaries and allowances to the workers, a database containing the information of the workers in the garment factories has been prepared. Work is going on to gradually include the information of all the workers of the country in the database software.
- ⊙ A 9-month diploma course in mid-level management is being conducted through 4 public and private universities to reduce the dependence on foreign manpower at managerial level in the export-oriented sectors.
- ⊙ About 6 lakh people have been trained in the last 7 years through the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) project, of which 4 lakh 23 thousand people have been employed, 35 percent of whom are women.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ Labor rights and welfare provisions stated in ILO Conventions and Legislations will continue to be observed.



- ⊙ Barriers to women's labor participation will be removed and women's labor organizations will be strengthened.
- ⊙ The right to form and organize trade unions, safe and healthy working environment, statutory working hours, security of employment, compensation for accidents at work, health care, accommodation, recreation, and access to labor welfare and other facilities prescribed by the Labor Act shall continue to be guaranteed.
- ⊙ The activities of creating a central database related to employment including new employment creation, education and training are ongoing. Through this database, according to the current and future labor market needs, the connection between the job seekers and employers will be established and assistance will be provided regarding employment.
- ⊙ Emphasis will continue to be given to preventing planned strikes in the garment industry and establishment of peace and harmony in the industry.

Foreign Employment

Remittances sent by expatriate workers are an important driver of Bangladesh's economy. Awami League is committed to further expanding the initiative to enhance and protect the skills of expatriate workers, which will result in increased employment abroad.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ On the occasion of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, services are being provided to the expatriate workers through the 'Bangabandhu Wage Earners Center', which has been built for the temporary stay of the expatriate workers during their international departure and arrival at minimum costs.
- ⊙ Because of expansion and decentralization of women workers, selection of trainees and orientation activities at the district level, around 10 lakh women workers have got employment opportunities abroad.
- ⊙ Foreign employment of about 81.5 lakh workers in professional, skilled, semi-skilled and low-skilled categories has been confirmed.
- ⊙ The search for new labor markets has made it possible to send Bangladeshi workers to Poland, Seychelles, Albania, Romania, Slovenia, Uzbekistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia.
- ⊙ Pre-departure notification to workers and skill development training in various technical courses are being provided to increase remittances. Courses in Japanese, English, Korean and Chinese languages have been introduced at the Technical Training Centers.



- ◉ Smart card/exit pass with microchips is being issued to every worker going abroad.
- ◉ Various programs including insurance for expatriate and returnee workers, expatriate death compensation, scholarships for their meritorious children, financial assistance for medical treatment of disabled expatriate workers and online grievance redressal system are in progress.

Our Pledges

- ◉ To increase the export of skilled manpower, the system of trade-based training will be expanded considering the international demand.
- ◉ Awami League will continue adopting effective measures to provide legal assistance to workers working abroad.
- ◉ To take legal measures to preserve fair treatment of women workers abroad.
- ◉ Initiatives will be taken to link domestic mobile banking systems with foreign banks to facilitate efficient flows of expatriate income through the banking channel.

1. Empowerment of Women

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman guaranteed women's development, empowerment, and equal rights in Article 27 and 28 of the Constitution in 1972, guaranteeing equal rights of men and women at all levels of state and public life. Accordingly, Awami League National Women's Policy 2011 has been formulated with the aim of ensuring women's empowerment, development, gender equality and equal rights. According to the National Women Development Policy, the government is constantly working in every field. The progress of women is visible today as a result of the strong and timely action of the people's leader Sheikh Hasina.

Development and Progress

- ◉ The number of reserved seats in the National Parliament has been increased by 5 to 50 with the aim of empowering women. To create opportunities for increased participation of women in politics, provision has been made for increasing the number of women seats in Union Parishads, Municipalities and City Corporations to one-third through direct elections.
- ◉ The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 to provide legal aid for the protection of women and children and The Women and Child Abuse Act, 2020 have been enacted. The action plans are being implemented accordingly.
- ◉ Women's labor force participation rate has increased from 36 percent in 2010 to 43 percent at present due to improving women's working environment, expanding



employment and self-employment opportunities, increasing skills and capabilities through training and awareness activities.

- ⊙ In Narayanganj and Chattogram, 1530 working women workers have been provided with low-cost accommodation.
- ⊙ To support and assist women's business ventures through Joyeeta Foundation, an online marketplace 'e-Joyeeta' program has been launched to market products produced by women.
- ⊙ A total of 14 one-stop crisis centers, 47 district headquarters hospitals and 67 one-stop crisis cells in 20 upazila health complexes have been established to provide services to women and children. In addition, a 24-hour hotline service 109 has been launched to prevent violence against women and children and prevent child marriage.
- ⊙ An e-commerce marketplace 'laalsobuj.com' platform has been developed with the aim of involving rural women entrepreneurs in e-commerce. At present, nearly 14,500 entrepreneurs are registering and selling products by uploading them to 'laalsobuj.com'.
- ⊙ With the objective of ensuring access of underprivileged rural women to information technology, a project 'Tottho Apa : Digital Bangladesh' is under implementation in 490 upazilas of the country. The project aims to make women self-reliant and empowered.
- ⊙ Adopting a gender sensitive policy for gender equality as well as ensuring its effective implementation, Bangladesh has risen to the 59th position among 146 countries in 2022 in terms of gender gap. Bangladesh is at the top among the SAARC countries.
- ⊙ 125 Child Day Care Centers are providing day care to 5730 children to ensure that working mothers can work smoothly.
- ⊙ The initiative to create decent work for women continues. 2.27 lakh people are being provided micro-loans through 488 upazilas of 64 districts to improve their self-employment and socio-economic status outside the regular social security programs for women. To make women economically self-reliant, SME loans of up to Tk. 25 lakh have been provided without any guarantee.
- ⊙ In the past decade and a half, the education rate of women has increased tremendously due to stipends, free distribution of educational materials and free education. For example, the enrollment rate for girls in primary schools is now 51 percent and in secondary schools it is 53 percent, while it is 47 percent for boys.
- ⊙ In addition to the education sector, the participation of Bangladeshi women in the economy is increasing. Women's contribution to GDP is about 20 percent.
- ⊙ To facilitate the participation of working women, maternity leave has been increased to 120 days; day-care centers have been established and village-based community clinics have been opened to provide health care to marginalized women.



- ◉ In all districts separate courts have been set up under the jurisdiction of a District Judge (equivalent) for cases related to violence against women.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The development and administration activities of the government will continue to align with the policies for women.
- ◉ It will continue the activities of women empowerment, gender equality, economic empowerment, and creation of a supportive environment for women development. Rural women's social status will be improved and opportunities to participate in labor will be increased.
- ◉ More and more women are being elected for general seats from Awami League. Awami League aims to ensure at least 33 percent participation of women in political parties and political processes.
- ◉ It will ensure safety of women at the workplace, friendly working environment, maternity leave, and other facilities. It will continue implementing the programs of construction of day-care centers for breast-fed children and hostels for working women in Dhaka and district headquarters.
- ◉ The Awami League government has strengthened regional cooperation to crack down on trafficking in women and children and to prevent trafficking, which will be more proactive and effective.
- ◉ It will ensure financial support, mentoring and resources for women entrepreneurs and startups, especially in the technology and innovation sector. Access to capital will be facilitated through grants, loans and investment initiatives for women or women-owned businesses linked to e-commerce.
- ◉ Banking and credit facilities, loan refinancing, technical and other facility enhancement programs will be expanded for women entrepreneurs.
- ◉ The proportion of female and male students at the secondary and higher secondary levels in the country is almost equal and at the university level, female students are 36.30 percent. To increase the participation of women students in higher education, all necessary steps will be taken including providing stipends to women students at the higher education level and addressing employment challenges.
- ◉ The effective role of 'Joyeeta' Foundation' will be expanded towards developing women entrepreneurs and business personnel. Under the Joyeeta Foundation, women-friendly marketing infrastructure will be developed at all departmental headquarters including Dhaka and at the district and upazila levels.



- ⊙ The system of providing legal aid at government expense to the plaintiffs in individual court cases related to violence against women will be made more effective.
- ⊙ More effective measures will be taken to implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017.

m. Climate Change and Environmental Protection

According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, Bangladesh ranks seventh among the 10 countries most affected by climate change. Addressing and adapting to the impacts of climate change successfully is the biggest physical-natural challenge for Bangladesh. At the same time, the environmental impact of increased industrialization, urbanization, modernization and population-production-consumption growth is another major challenge. The Awami League government has achieved considerable success in dealing with these two challenges in the past and is committed to continue this in the future.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was honored with the 'Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award' at the 2023 Climate Summit (COP-28) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as a voice of leadership in climate action and in recognition of her global contribution to people at risk of climate change. She was awarded this prize by the Global Center for Climate Mobility (GCCM), supported by the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration.
- ⊙ In order to protect Bangladesh from the adverse effects of climate change, the 2009 Climate Action Plan was initiated. A Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund of about 400 million dollars has been formed with its own funding. A significant number of projects are being taken up and implemented under the patronage of this fund.
- ⊙ In 2018, the government formulated a 'National Adaptation Plan' in consultation with stakeholders. In this plan, 14 climate change related disasters and 11 'climate sensitive areas' have been identified and actions taken.
- ⊙ It was decided to withdraw from the 10 proposed coal-fired power projects. Among them, 5 projects were completely canceled and the remaining 5 were decided to convert to gas instead of coal.
- ⊙ Bangladesh signed the UN 'Paris Agreement' in 2015 and committed to reducing the current greenhouse gas emissions unconditionally by 6.7% and conditionally by 15.1% by 2030.
- ⊙ The 'Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan' has been adopted for climate finance through international cooperation.



- ⊙ To reduce damage caused by cyclones and floods in sub-oceanic areas, about two lakh hectares of afforestation and 28 thousand 458 km of narrow plantations, including mangrove forests, have been created between 2009-10 and 2021-22 under a comprehensive program of coastal green belt and afforestation.
- ⊙ In order to control industrial pollution, 2,220 waste treatment plants (ETPs) have been set up in industrial establishments till 2021 and initiatives have been taken to reduce the use of single-use plastic products and increase the use of natural alternatives across the country to reduce plastic waste.
- ⊙ Various effective programs are being implemented to control air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution with the aim of providing a livable environment to the countrymen.
- ⊙ Legal measures to prevent hill and dune cutting and filling of ponds and reservoirs will continue.
- ⊙ 25 million people are benefiting from solar power so far with the goal of increasing renewable energy. Installation of solar irrigation pumps is being encouraged as an alternative to diesel powered water pumps in agriculture.
- ⊙ 20 lakh improved stoves have been provided to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cooking.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ We want to protect Bangladesh from the effects of climate change and global warming to create a pollution-free environment and to protect water resources. In addition, we will continue implementing all the policies and plans that have already been adopted by the government.
- ⊙ The following programs will continue to be implemented to address climate change risks : a) productive/social forestry increased to 20 percent; b) improvement of air quality in Dhaka and other major cities; c) promotion of zero emission/disposal in industrial waste; d) conservation, restoration and protection of water bodies in various cities according to law; e) construction of 500 meters wide permanent green belt in sea-coastal areas.
- ⊙ In order to control the negative impact of plastic products on the environment, the use of environmentally friendly and biodegradable plastic will be made mandatory in the use of plastic products.
- ⊙ Stronger efforts will be undertaken to achieve 20% share of renewable energy in the country's total energy by 2041.
- ⊙ Rational use of surface water will be ensured.



- ⊙ Effective measures will continue to protect the country's forest resources, forest creation, wild animals, guest birds and other biodiversity with priority in forest conservation of Sundarbans and Chattogram Hill Tracts.
- ⊙ Expansion of irrigation facilities and measures to curb salinity and alleviate freshwater scarcity in the Sundarbans and other basin areas will be enhanced.
- ⊙ Short- and long-term projects will be undertaken to protect the natural environment of the vast Haor and Bhati regions of the country.
- ⊙ Efforts will be made to get Bangladesh's fair share in the Saptakoshi project with Nepal and India.

n. NGOs and Government

- ⊙ All private institutions will be registered as per the rules of Government. The government will monitor and evaluate their activities.
- ⊙ Private institutions will be governed by their own rules. Their right to work according to their own rules and regulations regarding poverty alleviation, socio-economic development and provision of small loans will be continued.
- ⊙ Coordination between government institutions/departments and local governments and private institutions will be made more effective.
- ⊙ All activities and income-expenditure accounts of funding NGOs should be transparent and accountable to local people and government regulatory bodies.
- ⊙ If an NGO invests in commercial and industrial establishments subject to the approval of the government or engages in industry and trade, it will fall under the existing laws of the country and will not get any special privileges as an NGO. The portion of the dividend which is spent on public service will be considered for tax exemption.

3.5 Independence and Sovereignty

a. Foreign

Countries of the world are facing difficult challenges in a turbulent world system to determine their foreign policies. Positioned in such a complex reality, Bangladesh holds the principle of 'friendship with all, enmity with none' as indicated in Article 25 of the Constitution. This became largely possible because of Awami League's successful foreign policy. The country has been able to occupy a strong and prestigious seat in the international arena. Significant progress of the nation in various fields including economic development, diplomatic relations and political strategies and crisis management continues to testify the steadfast commitment to prosperity and global peace of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership.



Development and Progress

- ◉ It has resolved long-standing issues with India by demarcating land boundaries and exchanging enclaves. This achievement has encouraged continued multilateral cooperation and friendly relations with India.
- ◉ Despite the war in Ukraine and other global conflicts and tensions, Bangladesh has maintained good relations with major powers through an effective and balanced foreign policy.
- ◉ The successful settlement of maritime boundaries with Myanmar and India is a significant achievement of Bangladesh's foreign policy. Through this, the immense potential of the Blue Economy has been opened.
- ◉ Bangladesh has received unwavering support from the international community by hosting more than 10 million Rohingya refugees. Bilateral and international diplomatic efforts to repatriate Rohingyas to Myanmar continue. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina became known as 'Mother of Humanity' to the world communities for her brave, magnanimous, compassionate, and liberal policy.
- ◉ Diverse cooperation opportunities have been created with Russia, China, and ASEAN countries. By this, the government is encouraging strong diplomatic ties and regional partnerships.
- ◉ Bangladesh's active participation in 10 global peacekeeping missions, including the deployment of over seven thousand peacekeepers, is a manifestation of Bangladesh's significant contribution to international peace and security.
- ◉ Bangladesh announced the Indo-Pacific Framework in April 2023 to promote open, peaceful, secure, inclusive, and equitable prosperity for all.
- ◉ Bangladesh has been able to mark a significant diplomatic success by procuring vaccines in the fastest time possible to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. This success of Bangladesh was widely applauded by the world leaders.

Our Pledges

- ◉ The overall development of the country is the primary goal of the government. To this end, Bangladesh is committed to strengthen and diversify development cooperation with the United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Japan, Canada, and other developed countries.
- ◉ It will continue to cooperate with India in various areas including cross-border connectivity, transit, energy partnership and equitable water sharing. The government will also continue bilateral trade and security cooperation with India. In addition, the government will open up new areas of cooperation with India-Bhutan-Nepal for hydropower generation and joint management of common river basins.



- ⊙ Bangladesh is willing to strengthen relations with China in terms of development financing. Initially, the government will work to build a strong friendship with Russia to expand the energy sector. Apart from this, one of Bangladesh's goals is to strengthen relations with ASEAN countries for mutual development and growth.
- ⊙ Bangladesh is determined to prevent the presence of militants, international terrorists, and separatist groups in its territory. The Awami League government will play a robust role in forming the South Asia Task Force to combat terrorism and militancy, with the aim of eliminating it from the entire region.
- ⊙ Bangladesh will specifically cooperate with Muslim countries on solidarity, security and counter-terrorism. In addition, the government intends to further strengthen financial transactions within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- ⊙ Diplomatic relations with SAARC, BIMSTEC, other regional and international forums will be continued.
- ⊙ The government will continue new activities to increase relations with South African and South American countries. This will be useful for the expansion of the market. Likewise, efforts will be undertaken to develop better and closer relations with Australia and countries in the Pacific region.

b. Defense : Security and Sovereignty

The country's defense forces are currently at their peak in terms of strength and discipline. Not only have modern weapons, vehicles, and technology been integrated into the Army, Navy, and Air Force, but measures have also been taken to enhance the skills of the defense personnel. In line with the 'Defense Policy, 1974,' envisioned by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to bolster the defense capabilities for the protection of national security, sovereignty, and integrity, the formulation and execution of 'Forces Goal-2030' are underway. Aligned with this policy, the Bangladesh Awami League remains committed to keeping the armed forces beyond any controversies. The facilities for force members have been expanded to meet contemporary needs, and the defense forces have evolved into a symbol of public confidence and pride, representing a modern, intelligent, and professional force.

Development and Progress

- ⊙ In the light of the 'Forces Goal-2030' of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, 03 corps are being formed for the Army as part of the strengthening of the country's defense system and the development and expansion of the Bangladesh Army. Apart from this,



establishment of 04 cantonments including Sylhet, Ramu (Cox's Bazar), Barishal and Mithamoin in Kishoreganj, 03 new infantry divisions in the Army, Padma Bridge Composite Brigade, Army Aviation Group, Para Commando Brigade and 1 Air Defense Brigade in air security have been established.

- ⊙ In order to modernize and increase the strength of the armed forces, new generation tanks, anti-tank weapons, artillery guns, air defense missile systems including locating radars, armed drones, aircraft and helicopters, radio communication systems, cyber security technology, etc. are being added to the army, along with upgrading of old weapons and equipment.
- ⊙ As part of increasing the capacity of the armed forces, the country is also producing various weapons and ammunition with the aim of reducing dependence on foreign countries. In addition, various expansion and modernization activities are in progress.
- ⊙ Participation of women on the basis of merit at all levels has been ensured along with men and the program to increase their numbers every year is continuing.
- ⊙ The implementation of the multi-faceted welfare programs undertaken in the Armed Forces including promotion, upgradation of posts, increase in pay, education, medical, housing and retirement facilities to the members has continued.
- ⊙ Post-retirement leave for members of the Defense Forces is one year instead of six months; encashment of leave has been increased to eighteen months instead of twelve months; pensionable service has been fixed at 10 years instead of 15 years; compensation grant has been increased and family pension on death of a member has been increased to 100 percent instead of 30 percent. Apart from this, the process of increasing the ration allowance of the retired army personnel in line with the rise in commodity prices is underway.
- ⊙ The government continues efforts to increase greater participation in UN peacekeeping forces.
- ⊙ With the concerted efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, the protection of marine resources has been ensured by initiating successful actions by the Bangladesh Navy to intensify security and surveillance and prevent accidents, smuggling, piracy and other destructive activities in the maritime area of Bangladesh.
- ⊙ To protect the marine resources of the country and to reach quick help to various areas during disasters, the establishment of Naval Air Station 'Banouja Sher-e-Bangla' and submarine base 'Banouja Sheikh Hasina' with a naval base in the southern part of the country with full facilities is underway.
- ⊙ The Meteorological Department has introduced BMD Weather App for regional weather updates and BMD Aquaculture App to increase fish production. Moreover,



Automatic Weather System, Thunderstorm and Lightning Detection System, Air Quality Monitoring System and Digital Seismometer for monitoring of earthquakes have been installed.

- ⊙ Bangladesh Survey Directorate has constructed a Digital Mapping Center and published digital maps of 8 divisions and 64 districts.
- ⊙ Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARSO) is currently providing data on extended flood-affected areas, damaged houses, crops, and flood-affected population through a space-based flood monitoring system.
- ⊙ SPARSO has undertaken various plans including setting up satellite ground stations, placing Bangladesh's own remote sensing satellite in orbit and setting up a space industrial park.

Our Pledges

- ⊙ The Awami League government has constructed Forces Goal 2030 in the light of the 1974 Defense Policy formulated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu. Guided by this, the efficiency and discipline of the defense forces will improve, and their efficient management will continue.
- ⊙ The Awami League government will continue the policy of keeping the armed forces, the valiant and vigilant guard of our independence and sovereignty, free from the influence of political parties.
- ⊙ The principles of qualification, talent, efficiency, and seniority will continue to be followed in the recruitment, posting and promotion of the Defense Forces.
- ⊙ Necessary measures will continue to be undertaken according to the capacity of the country to increase the professional skills of the officers and soldiers of the armed forces and their job opportunities.
- ⊙ To ensure the security of the country and its people, the capacity building of the defense forces will continue.
- ⊙ New schemes and programs for the welfare of all ranks of the armed forces will be undertaken.



Bangladesh would like to act not only as
peacekeeper but also as an ambassador
to the world as peacemaker.

- People's leader Sheikh Hasina



4

Translating the Pledges into Actions by Sheikh Hasina, the Visionary Leader



The distinguished leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the President of the Awami League and daughter of Bangabandhu, has elevated our nation to unprecedented heights on the global stage. In the realm of contemporary politics, she not only serves as the backbone and wealth of our political party but also stands as a beacon for the entire country. Sheikh Hasina's influence resonates globally, characterized by her unwavering morale, resolute leadership, decisive decision-making, and, above all, a compassionate humanitarian approach. Her commendable role in international politics, transcending our national borders, has contributed significantly to global peace and earned remarkable success, not only in political diplomacy but also in economic realms. This universal recognition has been duly acknowledged through numerous accolades from renowned universities and international organizations, including the United Nations, acknowledging her outstanding contributions in fields such as food safety, environmental protection, women's empowerment, youth mobilization, and counter-terrorism.

Sheikh Hasina as the deserving daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the President of the Awami League stands as an undisputed and luminous leader in Bangladesh's developmental journey. Her well-conceived plans and development ideals have garnered immense trust and confidence from global development partners. As an undisputed leader of the developing world, Sheikh Hasina's recognition has instilled confidence and enthusiasm among our citizens.

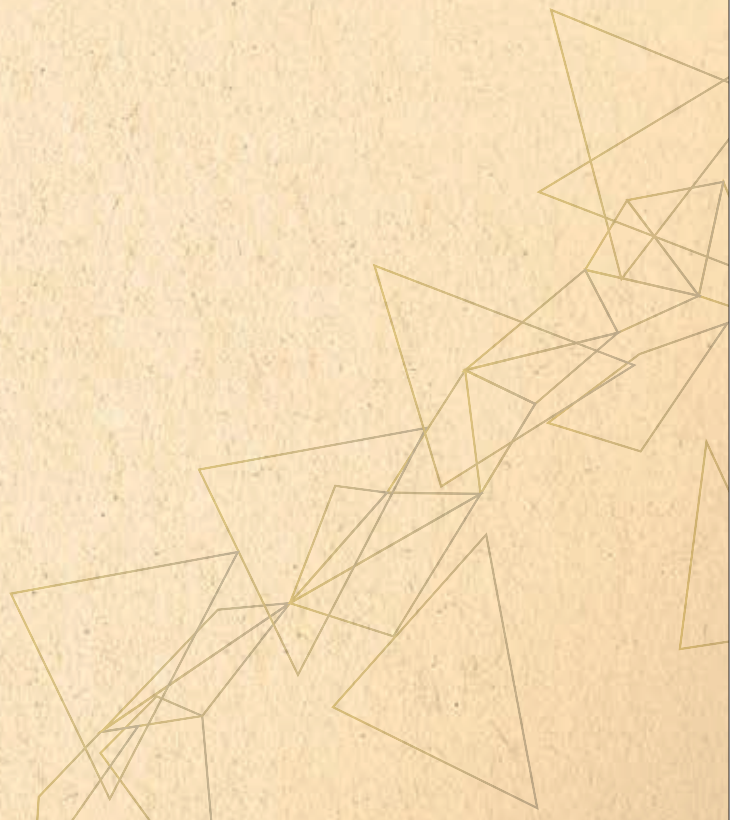
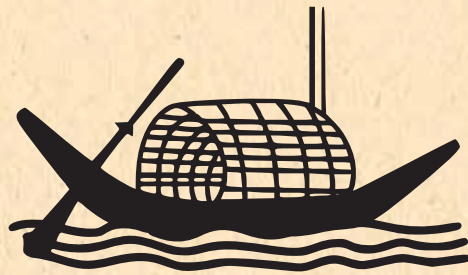
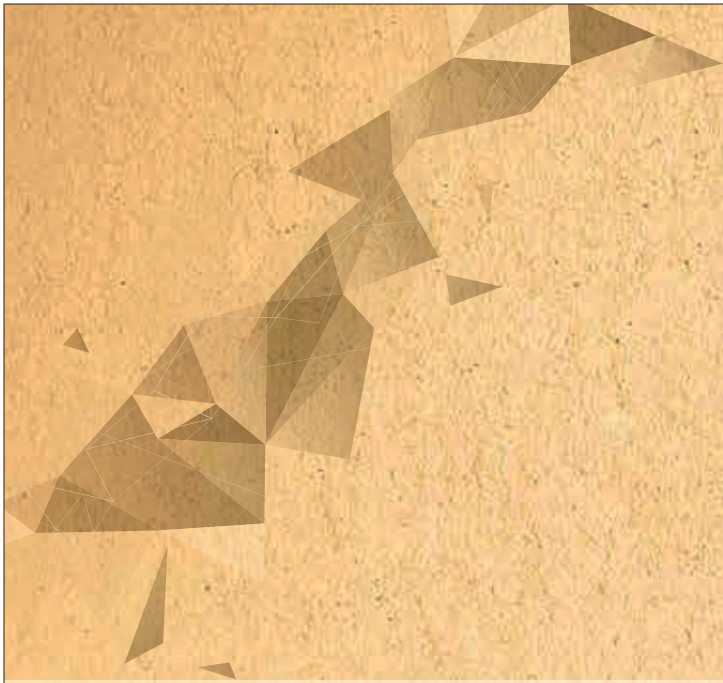
We firmly believe that the successful realization of this year's manifesto, "Smart Bangladesh," will build upon the achievements of the past three terms under her guidance.

People's leader and the president of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, has always upheld the idea, as shared by Tagore in her poem Swadesh,

“Free from fear, unleash strength, win over yourself.
Save the weak, shove evil,
Never consider yourself unprotected and feeble.
Free from fear, self-reliance must not be a hindrance.
Humbly and silently wish to offer your life –
Should ethics warrant with a conch blow.
Free from fear, express your toughness in difficulties certain.”

(Tagore, Swadesh 11)







Bangladesh Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's Address to the People of Bangladesh

Dear Countrymen,

I wish you all a happy new year.

As we approach the 12th National Parliamentary Election scheduled for January 7, 2024, I find it fitting to pay homage to the Architect of Independent Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as well as my mother and brothers who tragically lost their lives on August 15, 1975. I extend my deepest respect to the millions of martyrs who sacrificed for our Great War of Independence. Additionally, my warm greetings and best wishes to you all on the occasion of the English New Year.

In the midst of the ongoing democratic-constitutional progress and developmental strides under the leadership of the Awami League government, this election holds immense constitutional significance for our nation. It is imperative to conduct a fair, free, and neutral election, as voting is both your sacred duty and right. The Awami League firmly believes that the people are the ultimate source of power, and thus, I earnestly appeal to you to exercise your valuable votes, paving the way for the realization of our nation's cherished goals achieved through the Liberation War.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Bangladesh stands as a marvel of unparalleled development, serving as an exemplary model for developing countries. As we approach the completion of fifteen years of remarkable success, we take pride in our continuous journey toward building the Golden Bangla envisioned by the Father of the Nation. The Awami League government, with steadfast support from the people, has tirelessly worked to enhance the quality of life for citizens across farms, factories, villages, towns, cities, and ports. Visible signs of development are evident everywhere, propelled by a transformative agricultural sector and increased food production, ensuring food security and eradicating hunger and poverty.

Our focused investments in various sectors, including agriculture, industry, trade, education, health, and infrastructure, have led to increased employment opportunities and elevated our



per capita income to approximately USD 2,765. Bangladesh now holds a dignified position on the world stage, and our ability to stand tall in the international arena is a testament to our collective achievements.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine War, and global economic recessions, the Awami League government, in its third term, has sustained economic momentum, effectively managed the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued improving living standards, including food and housing, for our citizens.

The strength of the Awami League government lies in the unwavering trust of the people. Empowered by this trust, we have undertaken ambitious infrastructure projects such as the Padma Bridge, Metro Rail, expanded air and seaports, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Payra Port, Karnaphuli Tunnel, and a deep-sea port. The implementation of these state-of-the-art infrastructures will further accelerate our development.

As we celebrated fifty years of independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu, the whole world commended our achievements, and you, the citizens, played a crucial role in this success. On behalf of the Bangladesh Awami League, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have realized the dream of Digital Bangladesh, providing internet, mobile phones, and online connectivity to rural areas with electricity reaching every household. Moving forward from Digital Bangladesh, our next goal is to build a Smart Bangladesh, characterized by a sustainable society rich in advanced technology. The youth and women will be the driving force behind this transformation, and we promise to empower them as the main architects of Smart Bangladesh.

The Awami League is committed to the development of women and youth, fully harnessing their immense energies for productive purposes. Significant expansions in physical infrastructure, communication networks, and gas and electricity transmission, coupled with the construction of employment-oriented economic zones, EPZs, and hi-tech parks, have attracted both local and foreign investments. These initiatives have already generated desirable employment opportunities, and we foresee even more multi-dimensional employment opportunities in the future. Through proper training, including language skills development, we are identifying new employment opportunities abroad for our youth, creating a conducive environment for the growth of the information technology industry.

Efforts to ensure effective representation and economic empowerment of women at all levels continue, and we remain committed to supporting both the public and private sectors as vital forces for economic development and employment growth. The introduction of the Universal



Pension scheme is a significant step toward inclusive development, providing financial security to citizens above 60 years of age.

Having graduated from a Least Developed Country to a Developing Country, we are on track to attain Developed Country status by 2041. The Awami League, as the primary force behind the Liberation War, remains steadfast in its commitment to building a non-sectarian, happy, and beautiful Bangladesh. The harmony between the Awami League government and the people empowers us to thwart domestic and foreign plots against the ideals and values of the Liberation War.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

The benefits of development are palpable when the Awami League is in power. We believe in continuous efforts for the welfare of the people, and our pledge this year is to build a Smart Bangladesh. Public and private investments will increase to support this endeavor, and in alignment with our promise of "*Amar Gram—Amar Shahar*," modern facilities of the city will reach every village. Agricultural mechanization will alleviate the struggles of workers, reduce farmers' expenses, and increase production and profits, making agriculture a profitable and respectable profession.

The politics of terrorism, militancy, arson, blockades, and chaos only bring destruction and hinder development. Recent disruptions by anti-democratic forces have caused loss of life and terror among the public, and we advocate for an end to such activities. We seek a fair, free, and impartial election within a democratic environment, pledging to eradicate drugs, corruption, and injustice while upholding democratic values and good governance.

As we approach the 12th National Parliamentary Election, there is a significant groundswell of support for the Awami League. We urge you to cast your votes in favor of the 'boat'—Haque-Bhasani-Suhrawardy's 'boat,' Bangabandhu's 'boat,' and Awami League's 'boat.' This collective support will propel the development achieved in the past fifteen years.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

My life has been marked by tragedy for 48 years since losing my parents and brothers on that fateful night in 1975. Despite being abroad, my two sisters and I survived. However, I could not turn away from serving the country, even from afar. In 1981, the Awami League elected me its President, and in the face of threats and attacks, including the grenade attack of August 21, 2004, I remained steadfast in my commitment to the people.

As we approach the 12th National Parliamentary Election, I recall my return to Bangladesh, stating, 'I did not come back to become the leader of Awami League. I want to be by your side as your sister, as a daughter, and as a worker of Bangabandhu's ideology...I have nothing to lose. I



have come to you having lost all my parents, brothers, and sisters. I want to get them back among you.' These words remain true today, and despite facing 19 attacks, I stand with you, firm in my belief that you will stand with me.

It was my earnest desire to enhance food production, connect every house with electricity, increase the rate of education, and expand the health network. Your kind support has enabled me to successfully realise these goals. I sincerely hope that you will render your support to give me the opportunity to serve the country and its people once again.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The upcoming election is an opportunity to build a Smart Bangladesh, imbued with the spirit of our Liberation War. It is an election for continuous development and prosperity, a choice between progress and stagnation. I urge you to consider our tireless efforts and development achievements and cast your valuable votes in favor of Awami League, contributing to the welfare, peace, harmony, stability, and prosperity of our nation and serve you for another five years till 2028. Support the 'boat' again in the journey of building the Golden Bangla envisioned by Bangabandhu and achieved at the cost of the blood of millions of martyrs. There can be some misgivings while governing the country. With your validation, we want to amend our mistakes and respect the verdict you will render. We pray for your support to make us victorious and give us the opportunity to serve the people again. Please vote for 'boat'.

Let me end with the wise words of the poet Satyendranath Dutta, who voiced,

“Don't be afraid when you see clouds
Behind it the sun smiles,
The lost smile of the lost sun
Comes back in the dark.”

My heartfelt felicitations and best wishes.

Jai Bangla Jai Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh live forever.

