

Allah is Great

Joy Bangla

Joy Bangabandhu



Bangladesh on the march
towards Prosperity

Election Manifesto
2018

of
Bangladesh Awami League



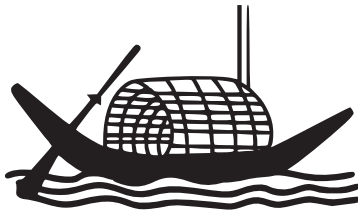
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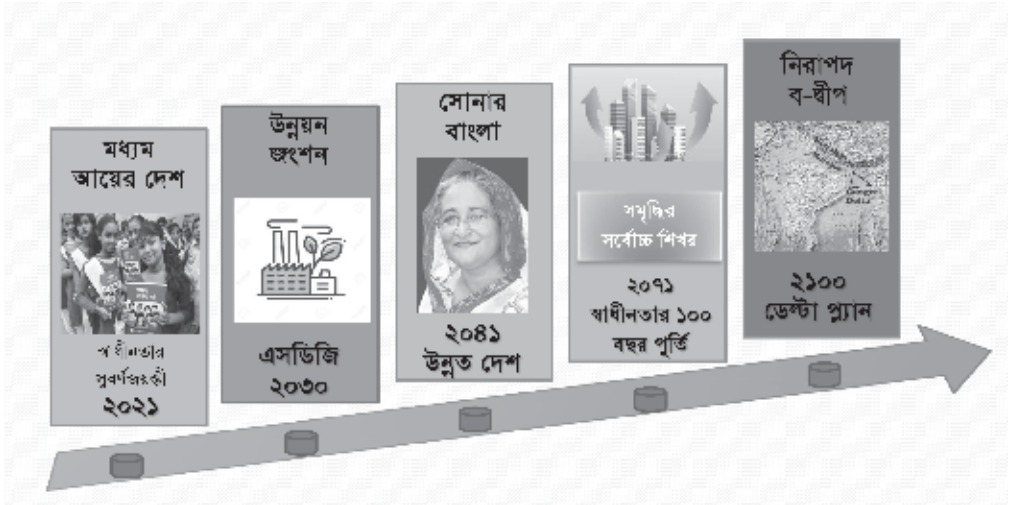
Election Manifesto 2018



Bangladesh Awami League

Bangladesh on the march towards Prosperity

11th National Parliament Election-2018 Election Manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League



Bangladesh Awami League

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1.0 OUR SPECIAL UNDERTAKINGS

My Village—My Town: extending modern urban facilities to every village

Power of youth—progress of Bangladesh: Transformation of the youth into skilled manpower and ensuring employment

- Adopting ‘zero-tolerance policy’ against corruption.
- Women empowerment, gender parity and child welfare.
- Ensuring nutritious and safe food
- Uprooting terrorism, communalism, militancy and drugs proliferation
- Speedy and proper implementation of the mega projects.
- Consolidating democracy and the Rule of law
- Elimination of poverty
- Upgrading the standard of education at all tiers.
- Increasing investments in public and private sectors
- Ensuring quality healthcare for all
- Increased utilization of digital technology in overall development in every sector
- Ensuring power and energy security
- Modern agricultural system: Mechanization is the goal
- Efficient and service-oriented Public Administration
- Citizen-friendly law enforcement agencies
- Blue Economy—development of marine resources
- Assurance of road safety
- Welfare of the elderly, disabled and autistic people
- Sustainable and inclusive development: a prosperous Bangladesh

The freedom will go in vain if the people of Bangladesh cannot have enough food. This freedom will remain incomplete if our mothers and sisters do not get clothing. This freedom will remain incomplete if our youth do not get employment or work.

— FATHER OF THE NATION

BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN

2.0 BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is poised to celebrate the 50th year of its independence and the 100th birth anniversary of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2021. At the time of celebrating the golden jubilee of our independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu, we commit to the nation to build a happy and prosperous future by implementing the Vision 2021. We have already achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) well ahead of the deadline and, thereby, ensured a hunger and poverty free Bangladesh. The average income and the life-expectancy of the people have increased. Children get education and enjoy better health now. Almost every house has electricity now; the curse of famine (*monga*) is no longer there. There are built-up roads in the villages and people are enjoying the advantage of digital communication to cope with the rest of the world.

The country earned its freedom through a war of liberation under the leadership of the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Raman at the sacrifices of 3 million martyrs and enumerable mothers and sisters. The least developed country that Bangabandhu had left behind by now have graduated to a developing country and will strive to be a developed country by 2041. Bangladesh Awami League is the visionary and leading political party that led the war of liberation, and is the architect of the progress and achievement of the country. And it is none other than the worthy daughter of Bangabandhu, the illustrious Mother of Humanity and president of Bangladesh Awami League Janonetry Desharatna Sheikh Hasina who firmly led the country to its present position among the comity of nations. Because of the farsightedness and strategic leadership of this world leader, Bangladesh has achieved the status of a middle-income country. The Government is working to implement the coordinated work-plan to achieve the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Government's multidimensional initiatives are contributing to generate productive employment opportunities for the meritorious youths of the country.

The brutal assassination of Father of the Nation along with his family on 15th August 1975 and, subsequently, the killing of the four national leaders on 3rd November that year had initiated a slide into a dark phase of autocratic rule by some undemocratic forces. As a consequence, the development agenda that was started on basis of our glorious independence came to a grinding halt. Both killer Mostaqe and Zia and gang, pushed the country towards military rule directly and indirectly. They dissected our Constitution and played foul with the

four fundamental principles of the state. Religious fundamentalists were rehabilitated by BNP and given the opportunity to be settled in society and state. Killing, coup d'état, counter coup, rape, terrorism and plundering led the country to the brink of grave crisis. Because of mismanagement of the agriculture sector, the country saw the spectre of food shortage, hunger and malnutrition. After 21 years of struggle under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, Awami League came to power in 1996 through people's mandate. Thus, ended the long years of autocracy and culture against the spirit of our liberation war. The ideal and spirit of our liberation war were reinstated in every level of the state and nation. Bangladesh found a solid footing among the nations of the world. This period of government will go down in history as the golden era of Bangladesh.

But as ill luck would have it, through machination of vote, the BNP-Jamaat Alliance captured power in 2001 and introduced autocratic rule once again. They gave priority to their own benefits against development of the country and the people. Soon after the elections, innocent voters, Awami League leaders and workers and members of the minority communities were subjected to murder, rape, looting and abuses. 'Hawa Bhaban' became the parallel hub of power which provided guidance for plunder and terror. In the year 2003, bomb attacks were made in 500 spots in 63 districts simultaneously under government patronization. On 21st August of 2004, multiple grenade attacks were carried out to kill Sheikh Hasina in a public meeting. These incidents are some of the horrendous examples of the cruel and revengeful nature of that government. In order to perpetuate the Khaleda-Nizami regime, they created one crore 23 lac false voters and attempted to form Caretaker government with some of their lackeys in a bid to come to power through election engineering. This plan completely destroyed any possibility of a free and fair election.

As a consequence of BNP-Jamaat's undemocratic and evil activities, a change-over came on 11th January 2007 and a Caretaker government took over. The Caretaker government's excesses, application of force and the steps to implement the infamous "Minus Two" formula are now known to all. But Awami League faced those conspiracies and took part in the elections in 2008, won majority seats and formed the government. It was for the first time that a political party of the country started to implement the popular election manifesto called "Charter for Change". The defeated forces became alarmed and started their conspiracy again.

As part of their plan to create anarchy and instability and install illegal forces in power, the infamous BDR mutiny was planned and implemented. Despite achieving manifold increases in industrial and

agriculture production, achieving self-sufficiency in food, reducing hunger and poverty, development of health and education sectors, increase in per capita income and foreign currency reserve, the pro-liberation government had to face obstacles in every step of its way. The anti-government plan of the BNP-Jamaat Alliance saw its barbaric manifestations in 2014 when unprecedented street violence, destruction of people's property, hurling of petrol bombs and killing of innocent people and members of the law enforcement agency became everyday affairs.

The government of Sheikh Hasina displayed utmost restraints and patience in facing the violence and announced holding of elections to maintain constitutional continuity. The Sheikh Hasina government came to power once again. The forward march towards a prosperous Bangladesh continued along with socio-economic and cultural development. Bangladesh was hailed by the world community as the role-model of development.

The pace of development and achievements has to be maintained and that will be the primary responsibility of the democratically elected government in the upcoming election on 30th December 2018. There can be no alternative to becoming a middle-income country by 2021, achieving SDG by 2030, becoming a developed country by 2041 and implementing the Delta Plan by 2100.

Today the spirit of our liberation has found expression in peace, democracy, development and progress. The consecutive two terms in power from 2008 to 2018 has resulted in building a happy, prosperous democratic country based on equality and justice. Hence, it is a demand of time for the continuity of the government so that the forward march of the nation does not get hindered. Thus, the largest and historic political party that gave leadership in our liberation war and the current spate of development presents before the countrymen, 'The Election Manifesto 2018—Bangladesh on the march towards Prosperity'.

2.1 GLORIOUS FIVE YEARS (JUNE 1996-JULY 2001): THE GOLDEN PERIOD OF FULFILLING THE ASPIRATIONS OF FREEDOM

On coming to power after long 21 years, Awami League left behind the post 1975 legacy of misrule and failures and set examples of success in the national and social spheres. The country was ruled in line with the spirit of liberation war. With a view to giving democracy an institutional shape, the following steps were taken: Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who was known for his neutrality, was selected as the President of the

country; the Parliament was made the hub of all activities, the members of Parliament were made chairpersons of the parliamentary committees instead of the ministers, and direct question and answer session with the prime minister was introduced. Those steps ensured the government's transparency and accountability to the people. The 30-year term treaty on the Ganges water sharing was signed in this period. Signing of CHT peace accord helped in ending two-decade long bloodshed in the hills. In order to establish the rule of law and human rights, infamous 'Indemnity Ordinance' was repealed. This step removed all obstacles on way to holding the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The country become self-sufficient in food for the first time. Inflation rate came down to 1.59%. In five years, GDP increased at the rate of 6%. Price of essentials did not register any increase. The per capita income increased from US Dollar 280 to 386. Human poverty index came down from 41.6% (1995-96) to 34% in 2001. In the same period average longevity increased from 58.7 to 62 years. Literacy rate increased from 44% (BNP-rule) to 65% during AL rule. Electricity generation was increased from 1600 Megawatt to 4300 megawatts. New industries and factories started to be established and export processing zones were created. Overseas employment also increased.

In order to help the hapless poor people, top priory was given to poverty reduction. The government introduced for the first time 'Old Age Grants', 'Grants for the Divorced and Abandoned Women', 'Grants for the insolvent freedom fighters', 'Shelter projects', 'Housing', 'Ideal Village', 'Cluster Village Project' (which was started soon after the liberation of the country by the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) Besides, many innovative projects like 'One Family, one House' and 'Employment Bank' were initiated. Instead of running the country on an *ad hoc* basis like the post'75 Governments and giving space to rampant looting, corruption and terrorism, the AL government took up long term Education Policy, Industry Policy, Agriculture Policy, Agriculture Expansion Policy, Health Policy and Energy Policy.

Owing to the efforts of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 21st February was adopted as International Mother Language Day. In the sports arena, Bangladesh earned the status of playing test and one day crickets. Bangladesh became member of the UN Security Council and leader of the G-8 Group Sheikh Hasina received peace prize from UNESCO and she received 'Ceres' medal from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization for food production despite natural calamities. All these achievements put Bangladesh in a prestigious position among the comity of nations. Bangladesh's image as a secular democratic state became evident in the world forum.

It is for the first time that an elected government handed over power at the end of its 5-year tenure as per the Constitution on 15 July 2001. Contrary to the post'75 staged elections under the military rulers, this peaceful handing over of power to the Caretaker government for the sake of democracy will remain etched in golden letters in the history of Bangladesh.

2.2 BNP-JAMAAT ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT (OCT. 2001 TO NOV. 2006): PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE AGAINST PLUNDER, MISRULE AND VIOLENCE

The one-sided Caretaker government of Justice Latifur Rahman organized a highly controversial election to bring BNP-Jamaat alliance to power. This was unfortunate and disgraceful for the nation. Just like the post'75 governments, the Alliance Government also let loose a reign of terror, looting, raping and killing targeting AL supporters, women and minority group and embarked upon ethnic cleansing. The immense possibilities that emerged during the 5-year rule of Sheikh Hasina came to miserable ends during the misrule of BNP-Jamaat in next five years.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance, soon after coming to power, took up the task of making Awami League, the largest political party of the country, leaderless. And to this effect they carried out the most barbaric grenade attack for killing the people's leader Sheikh Hasina on 21st August 2004. AL's central leader Ivy Rahman and 24 other leaders and workers were killed and 500 were injured at that grenade attack. BNP-Jamaat cadres also killed former Finance Minister and Member of Parliament Shah AMS Kibria, labour leader and MP Ahsanullah Master, Advocate Manzurul Islam, Momtaz Uddin, Manik Shaha, Gopal Krishna Muhuri, Gayanjoti Mohathero, Prof. Yunus and about 21,000 workers and supporters of Awami League. With the full patronization of the government, the extreme communal terrorists group under the leadership of Shaiokh Abdur Rahman, so called 'Bangla Bhai' Mufti Hannan and others got the opportunity to carry out communal activities including killing of opponents. Bangladesh thus became target of international fundamental extremists. The ideals and spirits of the liberation war were trampled under the feet. Unlawful killing became the order of the day. The rule of law totally broke down. The international community began to consider Bangladesh as a failed and terrorist state.

During the tenure of BNP-Jamaat alliance, prices of daily essentials shot up beyond the means of the people. Compared to the immediate past AL government, prices increased 100-200 percentage and the rate

of inflation jumped from 1.59% to 10%. On the other hand, the average growth rate came down from 5.92% to 5.4. Though the population increased by 1 crore in 5 years, food production came down to 2 crore 61 lac ton from 2 crore 68 lac of the Awami League regime. The yearly poverty reduction rate once again came down to 0.50%. The number of poor people started to increase. During the 5-year rule of BNP-Jamaat and 2-year period of Caretaker government additional 1 crore 20 lac people were added to the poverty block. Local and foreign investment started sliding down.

Though BNP-Jamaat alliance came to power declaring war on corruption, the main principles of the government turned out to be corruption, plunder and criminalization. At the approval of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman established a parallel centre of state power named *Hawa Bhaban*, and it became the hatchery of corruption, terrorism and militancy. Prime Minister Khaled Zia and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman became owners of huge amount of black money and their sons and ministers and leaders of the governments got involved in money laundering. Transparency International Bangladesh marked Bangladesh champion on corruption five times consecutively due to the unbridled corruption and misuse of power of the Alliance Ministers, Members of Parliament, leaders, workers and the civil administration.

Rampant corruption, inefficiency, mismanagement and misrule caused all development initiatives to come to a halt. During the 5-year period, the Alliance Government could not add even one MWT electricity to the national grid. On the other hand, misuse and plundering caused the electricity sector to suffer loss in terms of millions of taka. Scarcity of electricity led to the fall in industrial and agriculture production. When a group of farmers staged demonstrations in Kansat (Chapai Nawabganj district) for electricity, 20 person were shot dead.

During the rule of the Alliance government, stagnation gripped all sectors like education, health, communication and women development. Politicization of civil administration, police, armed forces, judiciary, universities, Public Service Commission and other organizations of the government was effected through unlawful recruitment, promotion and placements. In a bid to have the Chief Advisor of the Caretaker government a party lackey, the Constitution was amended and the age of the Supreme Court chief justice was increased by two years. Some inefficient and corrupt people were given appointment as judges so that they could put a party man as chief of Caretaker government, by doing so the judiciary was pushed to the brink of destruction.

By taking advantage of brute majority, BNP-Jamaat Alliance rendered the Parliament nonfunctional. It destroyed all democratic institution during its tenure. They resorted to vote engineering to perpetuate their rule and made the Election Commission a party organ. Defying the Constitution and the Supreme Court verdict, they created a list of 1 crore 23 lac false voters and gave appointment to 300 party cadres at the upazila level as election officials. They took the scraping of voting rights and vote rigging to such an extent which destroyed the confidence on the total election system. People's right to vote was trampled under the feet.

2.3 THE REGIME OF CARETAKER GOVERNMENT: CONSPIRACY AGAINST DEMOCRACY AND WAY TO OVERCOME

Before the holding of 9th national elections in order to uphold democracy and constituency, Sheikh Hasina had set an example by handing over power to the Caretaker government. But Khaleda Zia did exactly the opposite. In order to organize a tailored election, a party puppet President Dr. Iajuddin was made the Chief Advisor to the Caretaker government who proceeded to implement the blueprint of BNP-Jamaat alliance. Thus, the possibility of a free and fair election was denied. On 22nd January 2007, masses went out to the street to protest the tailored election of the Alliance Government. The world witnessed an unprecedented mass upsurge. The people protested the unbridled corruption and autocratic rule of the government and its attempt to organize a controversial election. Because of the dishonest and conspiratorial plan of BNP-Jamaat axis, the change came on the 11 January of 2007 with the installation of the Dr. Fakhruddin-led Caretaker government. Emergency was declared in the country and all sorts of political activities came to a standstill.

The change of power on 11th January 2007 opened ways to solve the ongoing political crisis. But the excess use of force, attempt at depoliticization and introduction of the 'Minus Two Formula' promoted by a section of people in the government jeopardized the future of democracy in the country. They first targeted Sheikh Hasina to destroy the Awami League in order to hide the misdeeds of Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and BNP-Jamaat Alliance. The Government imposed ban on the return of Sheikh Hasina to the country and on her return, they put her behind the bars to destroy her life. There was an attempt to create the 'King's Party' misusing the state power and in order to destroy Awami League. The Caretaker government imposed a ban on the return of Sheikh Hasina to the country and, subsequently, put her behind bars to destroy her life. As a result, the entire scenario changed. Strong public opinion against such developments grew at home and

abroad. Angry protests took place everywhere. But because of the unwavering, fearless and uncompromising resolve of Sheikh Hasina, the “Minus One” conspiracy, that is excluding Sheikh Hasina from politics and from her beloved countrymen, failed.

The army-backed and civil society supported Caretaker government stayed in power for two years. This government implemented the project for preparing voter list with photograph. People praised the armed forces for completing the project efficiently. The government also reformed election laws and the procedure. In the free and fair general elections held on 24th December 2008, the Awami League led grand alliance came out victorious. The victory in this election was not an easy affair. It was a victory of the masses. This victory cleared the road for the forward march of democracy. The dawn of changes and the path of moving towards democracy opened.

2.4 THE AWAMI LEAGUE TENURE (JANUARY 2009-DECEMBER 2013): TRANSCENDING CRISES AND MARCH TOWARDS A NEW DAWN

The historic win of Awami League in the 4th National Elections held in 2008 opened up windows of opportunities for the Bangalee nation. Against the backdrop of socio-economic and political crisis created out of extreme criminalization, plunder and mismanagement of the Caretaker government, a golden door opened up. In the year 2020 the nation will celebrate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s birth centennial and in the year 2021 the nation will celebrate the 50th year of our independence. With these two events in focus, implementation of the AL Election Manifesto “Charter for Change” started and soon the country went on the way to development like the 1996-2001 period. Facing all political crises effectively, the nation began a new journey on the express-way of development.

The lifelong dream of Father of the Nation was to make the life of poor people happy and place Bangladesh in a respectable position in the world. The new government brought back the spirit of the liberation war in all spheres of life besides speeding up economic development. Completing the unfinished trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, the setting up of the International Tribunal to start the trial of war criminals for crime against humanity in 1971, amendment of the Constitution to reinstate the four national principles, recognizing the role of the freedom fighters and plugging all lacuna to grab state powers through undemocratic steps were some of the far reaching and innovative decisions taken by the government at that tenure.

The journey towards upholding the Constitution and democracy, removing obstacles on way to development and running the country with the spirit of liberation was not smooth. The defeated forces like BNP-Jamaat axis could not accept the people's verdict in elections. In a bid to avenge their defeat they resorted to violence and other, undemocratic and unconstitutional means to create anarchy and, thus, jeopardized democracy and development initiatives. The defeated forces boycotted parliament and called for *hartal* (shut down) and took every opportunity to create anarchy, disorder and chaos throughout the country. In order to obstruct the trial of war criminals they resorted to charging petrol bombs on the general people. Their aim was to stop the wheels of the economy of the country. Some local and foreign forces made all attempts to stop the trial of war criminals. The defeated forces used communalism, terrorism and violence as their weapon. Backed by Pakistani intelligence agencies, BNP-Jamaat alliance believed that violence, terrorism and money would help them snatch state power. The government led by Janonetry Sheikh Hasina brought back social stability and harmony to ensure economic development throughout the 5-year tenure, after challenging all those adversities. The nation witnessed unprecedented progress and development.

In the days ahead of the 5th January elections in 2014, anti-liberation and extremist anti-national stakes and extreme communalist characteristics of BNP-Jamaat became exposed to all. In a bid to destroy democratic process in the country the anti-Bangladesh elements carried out all kinds of violent activities including murder, communal violence and religious madness. Killing of people including the members of the law enforcing agencies was reminiscent of the 1971 days. But, Sheikh Hasina, with her wisdom and charisma, managed to thwart all attempts engineered for toppling her Government. Once again democracy was salvaged by her.

On the issue of election time government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called Khaleda Zia over phone for dialogue on the issue of election-time government. But Khaleda Zia refused the call for dialogue offensively and went out to pull down the government through conspiracy and violent means. She rejected the proposal for the all-party election-time government and let loose terrorist activities by calling for non-stop shut down. The alliance goons hurled petrol bombs on the common people and commuters indiscriminately. They created a precarious situation in the country in an attempt to invite some illegal forces to power. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina faced the situation with courage and stood firmly against them with the people behind her.

2.5 AWAMI LEAGUE TENURE (JANUARY 2014 TO DECEMBER 2018): BANGLADESH – A MIRACLE ON THE WAY TO DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

The new government started to implement various development projects; safeguarding people's basic rights, and building a digital Bangladesh with new vigour. Government's steps to control terrorism were praised by the international community and at the same time all destructive undertakings by the conspirators were equally condemned by them. As the AL government entered the second year of successful implementation of development projects, the defeated forces once again went for undemocratic and unconstitutional activities against the incumbent. The BNP-Jamaat axis declared non-stop shutdown and blockade from January 2015, for the next 90 days. The anarchic situation continued for an indefinite period, which was tantamount to taking the country on the path of civil war. The horror and barbarism of the days surpassed even the brutality of the middle-age.

The Sheikh Hasina government set a bright example of maintaining peace and order in the country. When the country was going in the right direction, once again the known fundamentalist groups sent religious extremist elements to the fields for actions. They started killing progressive people, members of minority groups, Imams of mosques and Christian and Hindu religious leaders. They also attacked Hindu and Buddhist temples. The worst possible attack took place in Holey Artisan Café in Gulshan that resulted in the deaths of 22 people including 17 foreigners. The bloody incident had stunned the entire world. The law enforcing agencies thwarted a terrorist plan to launch attack on Sholakia Eid congregation field. Two innocent persons and a member of the police force died in the attack. For the first time the nation witnessed the emergence of a terrorist 'suicide squad'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent the clarion call to the countrymen to stand united against militancy and all sorts of terrorism. "Rise up Bangladesh" and "Resist Terrorism" are two slogans with which the people of Bangladesh expressed their resolve to resist terrorism. This brought the masses together. The law enforcing agencies achieved success in controlling militancy with skill and wisdom.

People in general supported the government's zero tolerance policy towards terrorists as it helped bring peace and ensure security in the country. The international community also highly applauded government's efforts in restraining terrorism in the country. The AL government enhanced the anti-terrorist image of Bangladesh manifold. On the other hand, by giving shelter to the hapless Rohingya refugees on the soil of Bangladesh, the government set a illustrious example

before the world. This humanitarian act speaks volume about the insightfulness and humanity of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the plan and strategy of her government.

In the last ten years, Awami League set examples of fulfilling its pledges of political, socio-economic, cultural and diplomatic development given to the people. Government's success in facing violence and militancy increased people's confidence in them. Through opening the golden gate of opportunity Sheikh Hasina became the trusted guide for the people to embark on a journey towards a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

3.0 RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT ON TWO TERMS: SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN (2009-2018)— OBJECTIVES AND PLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (2019-2023)

3.1 DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND FUNCTIONAL PARLIAMENT

The forward march of democracy and development in all spheres of state and social life are interlinked. For the political, economic and overall emancipation of the nation, and for establishing people's democratic rights, Awami League since inception has been working for last 7 decades. The Awami League always led from the front with the people to end military and autocratic rule. Today, democracy has been restored in the country—thanks to the leadership of the daughter of Bangabandhu. Now, efforts are being given to institutionalize democracy. Election is an integral part of democracy. After the assassination of Bangabandhu, his killers had totally destroyed the electoral system to legalize their illegitimate ascent to power. But, today, no one will dare destroy democracy – one of the four national principles, through conspiracy.

Success and Achievements

- It is the National Parliament, which has been the centre of all state activities during the last ten years.
- The independent and powerful Election Commission, equipped with sufficient budget allocations and manpower, has arranged for a free, fair and neutral election after following all electoral laws and rules.
- The Election Commission was constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and other relevant laws and in conformity with the practices of other democratic systems of the world by the Hon'ble President as per the recommendations of a 'Search Committee' and the opinions of the people of all classes and professions, in a transparent and independent process.
- The Awami League government is devoting its activities to resolve all discriminations based on religion, group, caste, gender or the place of birth. Efforts are going on to stop the misuse of religion in politics, elimination of hatred, involving all the marginalized people including the third gender in the process of development, and making the civil liberties and benefits available to the people.
- Right to Information Act, independent Information Commission, 44 private television channels, numerous community radios, print and electronic media including the online news portals, social

communication media and the countrywide internet access have ensured the rights to information of the people by creating free flow of information, which is unprecedented.

- Creating awareness on the fundamental rights of the people by meeting their basic requirements a suitable environment for its protection has been ensured.
- Freedom of expression as per the Constitution, independent Human Rights Commission, independent Anti-Corruption Commission, independent media, independent and strong judiciary and the National Integrity Strategy are making important contributions to the protection of the basic rights of the people.
- The effective role of the Parliamentary Standing Committees in ensuring government's transparency and accountability and regular participation in the question-answer sessions by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other Ministers, lively discussions on the national issues in the parliament, the constructive performances of the government and the opposition, have kept the Parliament free from any indecent, unacceptable and unconstitutional behaviour.
- The Speaker of the 10th Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury was elected the chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), composed of the speakers and MPs of all national and local parliaments of the Commonwealth countries, and Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a member of the 10th National Parliament, was elected the President of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). This are unprecedented demonstration of the unwavering trust put on the 10th Parliament and the Awami League Government led by Sheikh Hasina by the democratic world.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has upheld the democratic values by overcoming all conspiracies and obstacles, and with the participation of all the parties, the 11th parliamentary election is going to be held on December 30, 2018.

Objectives and Plan

- **Democratic values and consciousness will be upheld, and the Constitution will be the highest document for running the government.**

3.2 THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

The key point of rule of law is that all are equal in terms of law; nobody is above the law. Another meaning of this principle is that the state will be governed only on the basis of the laws made by the Constitution and the elected parliament. After 15th August 1975, the rule of law had

been dashed to the ground for a long period of time, due to killings, coup and conspiracy, and also due to the ruling the country in violence of the Constitution. Under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Awami League led the long struggle for the restoration of rule of law in the country. Until now, Awami League under the leadership of Janonetry Sheikh Hasina came to the power for three terms and established rule of law at all levels of the state.

Success and Achievements

- As per the verdict of the highest court of the country, the special provisions of constitutional protection ‘constitutional entrenchment’ was included in the 15th amendment of the Constitution in 2011. According to the provisions of paragraphs 7a and 7b, Article 150 and the 4th schedule, there remains no legal opportunity to legalize any illegal steps taken beyond the Constitution, or against the constitution, and validating those later on.
- The effort for establishing justice for the general people is progressing through the infrastructure development of the judiciary, ensuring the transparency in the process of recruitment of judges, setting up of reasonable pay structure and other facilities for the judges, establishment of village courts for ensuring the justice of the grassroots people, use of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods to resolve the disputes, legal aids in the districts, and enhancing the efficiency and the capacity of the judiciary through advanced trainings for the judges.
- The illegal power grabbers had indemnified the killers and even rewarded them to obstruct the course of the rule of law. Bangladesh Awami League has reversed this culture of impunity.
- The trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, the trial of the war criminals, the trial of the grenade attack on 21st August, the trial of the BDR killings have been completed and the verdict was executed for those who had been under custody. Efforts to bring the fugitive convicts back to the country are continuing.

Objectives and Plan

- **The opportunities for getting protection and assistance from law will be opened for all.**
- **The independence and the esteem for the judiciary will be upheld.**
- **Besides ensuring universal human rights, any attempts to violate human rights will be prevented. The system of ensuring the independence and effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission will continue.**

3.3 EFFICIENT, SERVICE-ORIENTED AND ACCOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATION

We are committed to establishing good governance by providing quality services. There is no alternative to planning and taking steps to build an efficient and accountable administrative system for achieving the goals of the developed Bangladesh as envisaged in Visions 2021 and 2041. The efforts of the government have increased the efficiency and scope of work of the government offices owing to the excellence of information technology and modern trainings. Various initiatives have been taken to control unnecessary delays and the complexity of work by applying the science-based methods in the area of providing services. This trend has to be taken forward in order to establish good governance.

Success and Achievements

- The initiatives to introduce e-governance have already been implemented in all the departments of the government.
- Right to Information Act 2009 was implemented to create statutory compulsion to provide information related to the services of the public service providers.
- Seniority is not the only criterion for recruitment, posting and promotion of the employees in the public sector of the Republic. The qualifications, efficiency, honesty, devotion, discipline and unconditional loyalty to the people and the Constitution are also under consideration. For this, necessary legislations are being made and implemented along the reforms in public administration.
- To improve the work environment and the standard of living of the government officers and staff, and for an honest living, the pay and allowances have been increased significantly in the backdrop of inflations. The salary increased by about three and a half times (344 per cent) in two steps during the last 10 years between 2009 and 2015.
- Government employees can borrow up to Taka 75 lac as loan from banks; this increase was made in 5 phases (30 July 2018 notification).
- Up to Deputy Secretary level all military and civilian employees will get Taka 30 lac interest-free loan to purchase a car and Taka 50,000 monthly allowance for maintaining it.
- The monthly pension was revived to the retired employees who had surrendered their pension in full. Orders have been made to re-establish pension facilities for those who had commuted 100% pension at a time, and passed 15 years thereafter. The retired employees and their family will be entitled to this facility.

Objectives and Plan

- **The task of building a modern, technologically efficient, corruption-free, patriotic and mass-oriented administrative system will continue.**
- **Transparency, accountability, justice and serviceability of the administration will be ensured. Implementing the prescribed policies and executive directive will be the responsibility of the administration.**
- **Efforts on ending delay in decision-making and implementation, corruption, bureaucratic complexities and ending of all harassment will continue. Specifically, different layers of decision-making will be strictly minimized.**
- **The administration will be disciplined and the task of building the administration as a public servant will be taken forward.**

3.4 DEVELOPING A CITIZEN-FRIENDLY LAW AND ORDER ENFORCING AGENCY

People were afraid of the law enforcing agencies in the past. The Awami League government has been working relentlessly to remove this fear, and develop a citizen-friendly law enforcing agency. The precondition of a country's economic development and security of the people's lives and livelihood is a stable law and order situation.

Successes and Achievements

- The people-police ratio is at present 1:801 compared to 1:1355 in 2009.
- To increase the efficiency of the police, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), Tourist Police, Marine Police, Special Security and Protection Battalion, Rangpur Range, Rangpur RRF, Mymensingh Range, 2 RAB Battalions, Cyber Police, Ghazipur and Rangpur Metropolitan Police, Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) , Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC), and other specialized Police units have been established. To ensure a congenial atmosphere in the country's industrial areas, the Industrial Police was also set up. This has ensured security and discipline in such important areas as the garments sector.
- A special allowance has been introduced for the Police Inspectors. They are now getting one month's basic salary as an annual allowance. Jail Guards, Coast Guards, and Ansars have been awarded the 10th grade of the National Pay Scale. Employees of lower ranks are also getting a risk allowance.

- After forming government in 2009 a zero-tolerance policy has been put in place with regard to acts of terrorism and violence. Because of the uncompromising stand of the government, terrorism has been almost eradicated.
- The surrender of bandits in the Sundarbans is a great achievement in the government's effort to ensure security and improve law and order in the South-Western coastal area of the country. The Sundarbans have been freed of pirates.
- A zero-tolerance policy has been adopted as regards drugs. A huge amount of drugs have been seized, and a large number of drug dealers have been arrested. This operation is still underway.
- In order to make the police Citizen-friendly, the service through telephone 999 has been introduced.
- For the welfare of the members of the Police, a Police Welfare Trust and the Community Bank have been established.
- A monthly allowance has been introduced for the Ansar and VDP members.

Objectives and Plan

- **Over the next five years the requisite number of human resources would be added to the Police and other law enforcing agencies. Work related to reforming the organizational structure would continue in the future.**
- **The ongoing task of modernizing all law enforcing agencies, including the Police, inconsonance with the needs of time, will continue over the coming years. For effective and prompt service sufficient equipment and transport will be provided. To control terrorist acts and cybercrimes, and to transform these agencies into self-sufficient bodies, requisite land and infrastructure will be provided. Also, training capability will be increased and a master plan will be implemented in the light of expanding welfare activities of the members.**

3.5 POLICY OF ZERO TOLERANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Corruption is a multidimensional malaise. Corruption is rooted in brute physical force and crime. This has resulted in a widespread decadence in our society from which such important areas as the economy, politics, education, health, administration, etc. are no longer immune. To eradicate corruption, political commitment and the implementation of law are definitely important; however, along with the government the people are also responsible. We feel that a combined effort of the government and the people are indispensable for eradicating the curse of corruption from our country.

Success and Achievements

- The Hon'ble Prime Minister of the present government Sheikh Hasina has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. As a result, the people are getting the benefits of the policy.
- To eradicate corruption the Anti-corruption Commission has been empowered to work independently and neutrally. The government is providing full cooperation in this regard.
- To facilitate the people for easily submitting corruption related allegations, an 'Complaints Box' has been set up in the office of all Deputy Commissioner in all the districts.
- The Anti-Corruption Commission after evaluating its need asks the government for budget allocation that the government earmarks for the Commission.

Objectives and Plan

- **The Anti-Corruption Commission will be modernized in keeping with its work environment and efficiency. To this end, the government will ensure the easily available of information and modern technology for use by ACC.**
- **The Standing Parliamentary Committees for different Ministries will be further strengthened with a view to ensuring the transparency and accountability of the respective ministers. Importance will be given to analysis, observation and overseeing to achieve this goal**
- **Alongside the legal approach to resist corruption, political, social and institutional measures to this end will also be strengthened.**
- **Bribery, unearned income, black money, extortion, earning through manipulated tender, and muscle power will be eradicated.**

3.6 VIOLENCE, TERRORISM, COMMUNALISM AND ERADICATION OF DRUGS

Communalism, terrorism, violence and drugs are obstacles to the establishment of rule of law, peace, democracy, development and progress. The anti-liberation forces are using violence, terrorism, and communalism as political weapons to take revenge of their previous defeats, and to regain political power. During the rule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance, the country was criticized as a 'terrorist state'. But at present Bangladesh is a role-model in the comity of nations for success in uprooting terrorists.

Success and Achievements

- Under the firm leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, steps taken against terrorism and violence have been praised by the international community particularly in the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- The people and the country have been protected from the nefarious activities of ultra-communal and terrorist forces.
- The government has completed the trials of the war criminals. National and international conspiracies to thwart the trials have been successfully offset by the Awami League government.
- Import of illegal arms and ammunition, smuggling of arms and drugs, selling and buying of these have been strictly prohibited.
- A nationwide drive has been undertaken to increase the awareness, protest, consciousness and activities of the people as regards violence, terrorism, communalism and the use of drugs.

Objectives and Plan

- **The government is committed to a zero-tolerance policy in the future as regards terrorism, communalism, violence and drug abuse.**
- **Terrorists and their godfathers, along with those who protect them and provide them with shelter, will be identified and given exemplary punishment by arresting them and bringing them before law.**
- **Terrorism, land grabbing, robbery, mugging and similar ant-social activities will be uprooted.**
- **The ongoing zero-tolerance policy and measures against drugs will continue. Drug addicts will be rehabilitated in centres set up at the behest of government. More such centres will be set up throughout the country.**
- **Agencies responsible for maintaining law and order will be modernized and strengthened with a view to further improving the law and order situation, ensuring the safety and security of citizens.**

3.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT: EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE

The need for a functional and viable local government to meet the multifarious needs of the people at the grassroots level is undeniable. To reduce poverty and to minimize income inequality among people, an effective, autonomous and efficacious local government is absolutely necessary. The Union, Upazila and Zilla Parishads, and Municipalities and

City Corporations have been strengthened by decentralizing the power structures. They have been given more autonomy, power and responsibility. The Awami League is committed to carry forward this process.

Success and Achievements

- Local government institutions have been delegated with more financial and administrative power.
- Elected district councils have been formed.
- Democratic rights have been upheld through representatives elected through nominations of the political parties in the Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad, Zilla Parishad, and Municipalities and City Corporations.
- The government's support and initiatives will continue on improving and expanding education, health, electricity and other citizen facilities of City Corporations and Municipalities. Various development projects and modern architectural monuments in the city are under implementation. A splendid Hathirjheel has enhanced the beauty of Dhaka city, and the area has become a popular centre of entertainment.
- In order to increase the financial capacity of the Union Parishad and to directly involve the people in development activities, total 4570 Union Parishads of Local Governance Strengthening Project-3 (LGSP-3) are being implemented.
- The salary and allowances of Village Police have been increased.
- Formulation of Integrity Strategy, Formation of Innovation Teams, E-filing System, E-Mobile Court System, forming E-service Roadmap and District-Branding Strategy, 2018 have been completed.
- 25,000 information portals of the government have been updated.
- A public hearing system on specific dates has been set up for direct settlement of field level complaints.

Objectives and Plan

- **For the purpose of balanced development, the district-wise budgets will be formulated taking into account the population and the geographical locations. The budget for the local governments will be formulated at different levels.**
- **Division of responsibilities among Zilla Parishad, Upazila Parishad and the Union Parishad will be specified.**
- **Appropriate training will be arranged for relevant officials and employees of the local government institutions.**
- **Land-use plan for cities and towns, planned development and greater transparency in town planning, accountability and greater participation of people in urban management will be ensured.**

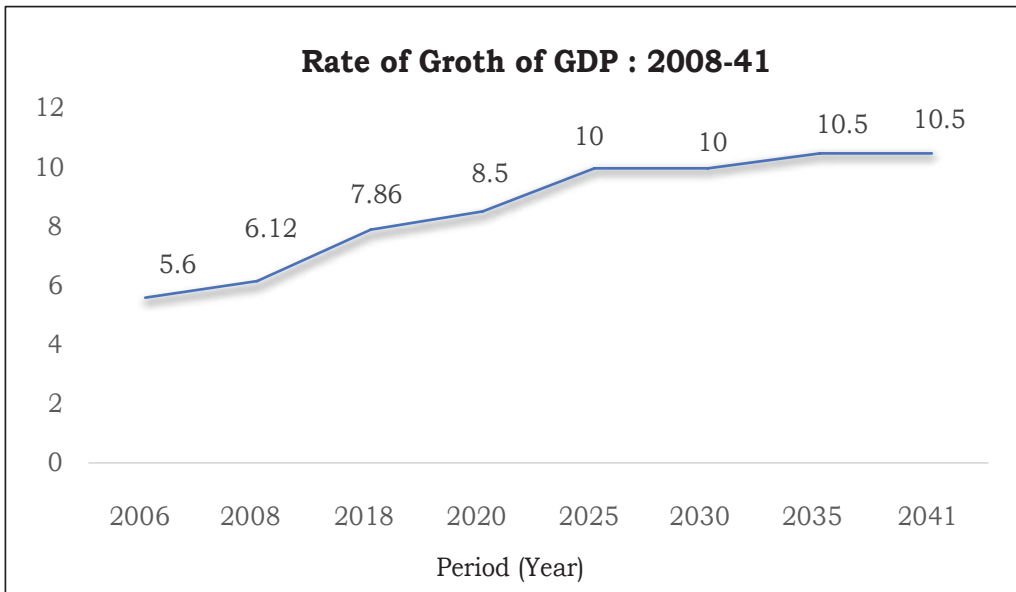
3.8 MACROECONOMY: HIGH INCOME, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

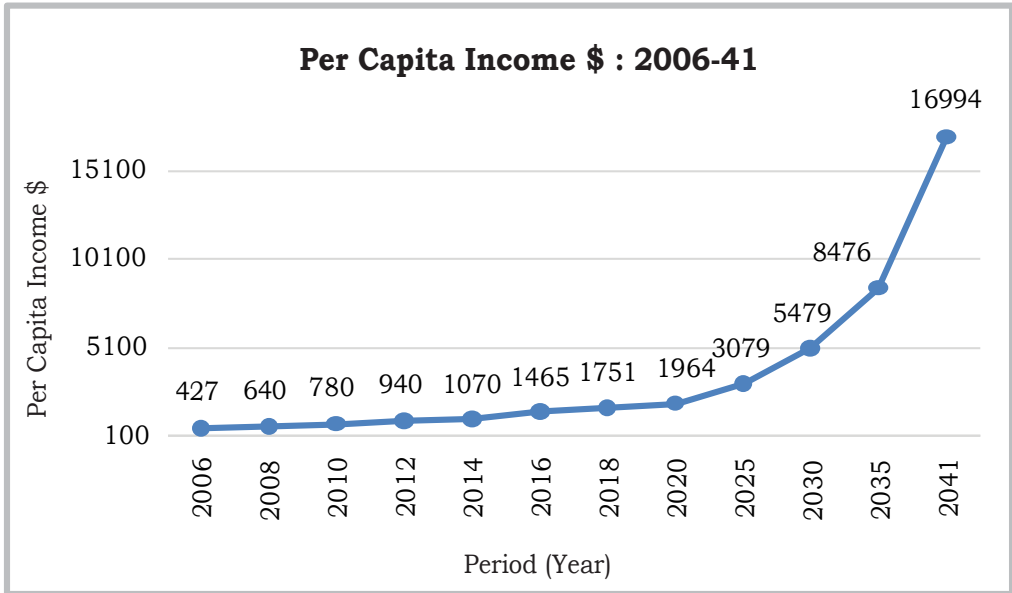
Bangladesh Awami League formed government under the leadership of Janonetry Sheikh Hasina at a critical time immediately after the global recession and economic slowdown, and a crisis during FY 2007-08. The successes and achievements the government attained in terms of development during its two tenures over the last ten years, overcoming various obstacles and economic depression brought forth by the misrule of the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance, and the shortsighted steps taken up by the one-eleven Caretaker government, are unprecedented in country's history and have set an example in international arena. Taking forward this trend in the macroeconomy is a challenge for the coming days.

Success and Achievements

- Bangladesh achieved 7.86 percent GDP growth in the fiscal year 2017-18, which is much higher compared to those of other developing countries.
- Bangladesh now ranks 33rd in the world economy in terms of GDP in purchasing power parity (PPP).
- Per capita income has risen to USD1,751, which was USD427 in 2006.
- The size of GDP has increased to Tk 22 lac crore in FY 2017-18, which was Tk 4 lac 80 thousand crore in FY 2005-06. This means the GDP has grown five times in these 12 years.
- The size of national budget for FY 2018-19 is Tk 4 lac 64 thousand 571 crore, which was Tk 61 thousand 58 crore in FY 2005-06. This means the GDP has grown five times over 12 years.
- The estimated development budget stands at Tk 1 lac 73 thousand crore in FY 2018-19, which was Tk 22 thousand crore in FY 2005-06.
- Budget deficit in the last 10 years has been kept below 5 percent of the GDP as planned.
- As compared to the past, investments have risen by Tk 6 lac 60 thousand crore. It is now 31 percent of the GDP while it was 25.8 percent in FY 2005-06. Government investment has increased to 7.60 percent of GDP while it was 4.13 percent in FY 2005-06.
- Export earnings, in FY 2017-18, have increased 3.5 times to reach USD 36 billion from USD 10.5 billion in FY 2005-06
- Exchange rate of Taka against the US Dollar has been kept stable.
- The foreign currency reserve is now around USD 34 billion, which is capable of meeting the import bill for of more than seven months.

- Growth rate of revenue collection has been maintained, as a result of which it has been possible to implement the increasingly bigger budgets to expedite the development. The gross revenue earning has reached Tk 2 lac 59 thousand 454 crore in FY 2017-18, which was Tk 44.2 thousand crore in FY 2005-06.
- The overall inflation rate has come down below 5.43 percent in the current fiscal. Food inflation is 5.1 percent, which is the main reason for the decrease in the overall inflation
- The actual income and purchasing power of the people have increased as a result of different programmes such as creation of income-generating jobs, hike in the minimum wage of workers, expansion of the coverage of social safety programmes, formation of new pay scale and payment of dearness allowance. Salary of government employees have been raised by 343 percent in last 2009-18 tenure. Although salaries were increased by 123 percent, the highest ever in the country's history, in FY 2015-16, it did not impact inflation.
- In recognition of the continuously high growth in overall economy, Bangladesh was declared as a lower-middle income country by the World Bank in 2016. By attaining all three criteria set by the United Nations, Bangladesh in 2018 graduated as a 'developing country' from the 'least developed country' status.
- The growth rate of per capita income will be higher than that of the gross national income as a result of a decline in population growth during 2015-30 and a negative growth during 2025-30.





Objectives and Plan: From Golden Jubilee of Liberation in 2021 to 70 Years of Independence in 2041

The astounding progress made in different development indicators over the last 10 years of Awami League regime and the improvement in people’s lives and livelihoods have made the people so much confident that they now sincerely believe that transforming the country into a developed and prosperous one by 2041 is quite possible. We have to achieve the targets set for the golden jubilee of independence and steadily march forward to reach the goals set for the 70th year of independence. To materialize the target, future development plans for Bangladesh, far-reaching strategies and wide-ranging programmes will be adopted.

- **In this development plan, as per the pledge, the future development plan and aims will be incorporated with the targets and programmes for 2019-23 period so that the country persistently keeps marching forward to the far-reaching goals. While celebrating Golden Jubilee of its liberation in 2021, Bangladesh will be a middle-income country; it will become a higher-middle income country by 2030; and by 2041 it will stand tall in the world as a developed nation.**
- **As per this plan, Bangladesh’s per capita income will be more than USD5,479 in 2030.**

- **In this plan, the overall poverty rate has been targeted to be zero by 2041.**
- **Bangladesh will have to maintain an average GDP growth of 9 percent in the 20 years between 2021 and 2041. The GDP growth rate of 7.84 percent achieved in last fiscal year testifies to the fact that the government headed by Sheikh Hasina is well on the track to attain this target.**

Different Macroeconomic Indices of Bangladesh

Index	FY 2005-06 BNP-Jamaat Regime	FY 2017-18 Awami League	Target for FY 2023-24
Rate of growth of GDP	5.40	7.86	10.00
Per Capita Income (USD)	427.00	1751.00	2750.00
National Savings Ratio (Percentage of GDP)	27.70	29.00	37.00
National Investment Ratio (Percentage of GDP)	24.70	30.50	37.00
Government Budget (Crore Taka)	64,383	4,00,266*	10,00,000
Foreign Exchange Reserve (bn USD)	3.88	34.00	50.00
Export Earnings (bn USD)	10.05	36.60	72.00
Imports (bn USD)	14.70	56.00	110.00
People under poverty line (In percentage of population)	41.51	21.50	12.30
People in extreme poverty line (In percentage of population)	25.10	11.30	4.50
Power Supply Capacity (MWT)	3,782.00	20,400.00	28,000.00

** The volume of government budget for FY 2018-19 is Taka 4.64 trillion.*

3.8.1 STRATEGIES AND MEASURES

In order to increase the rate of new capital generation in the private sector:

- The rate of investment will have to be raised to 40 percent of the GDP.
- Adequate infrastructure services will have to be provided.
- Competitiveness will have to be increased in export markets.
- Services of banking and insurance sectors will have to be expanded; skills and accountability will have to be ensured.

- Capital market will have to be extended, increasing its depth and diversity and flow of capital resources. Already, a Chinese Consortium has made strategic investment in Dhaka Stock Exchange.
- Participation of institutional investors will have to be increased.
- Transactions of small to medium capital companies and institutions investing in venture capital will be settled quickly.
- Investment training programmes will be spread across the country to create awareness about investing in the capital market.

In order to utilize demographic dividend:

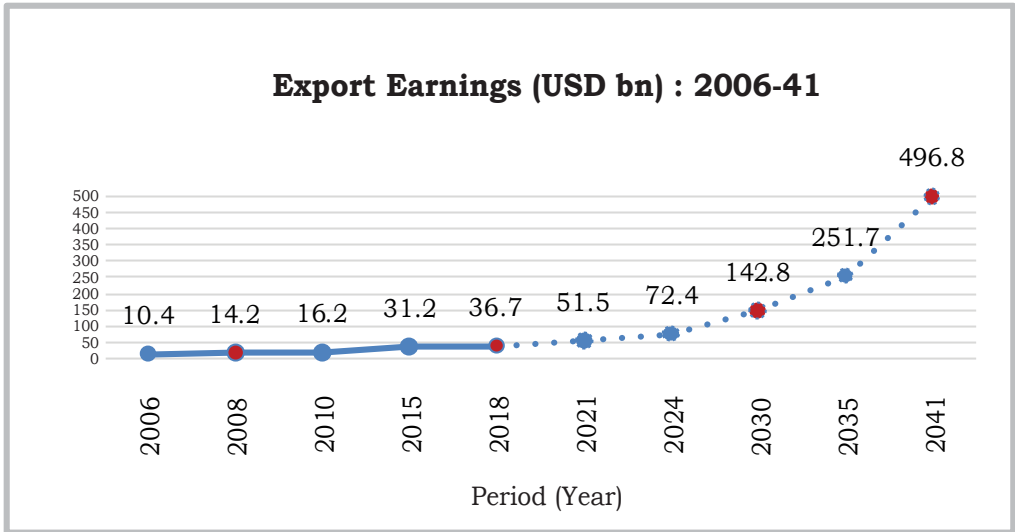
- In 2015, the ratio of working-age population was 66 percent, which will increase to 70 percent in 2030. The rate will decelerate after 2030. All necessary measures will be taken to successfully harness the benefit of this demographic dividend.
- The area of formal jobs will be expanded; emphasis will be laid on training and spread of new technologies to increase the productivity of labour. Scope will be created to turn the savings of elderly population into investments.
- A project is underway to establish technical schools and colleges in 119 upazilas to spread technical education. An additional 389 technical schools and colleges will be established countrywide.
- It is not possible to achieve continuous growth by depending solely on physical input. Knowledge and technology-based production system will have to be ensured to attain an industry-dependent growth.

In order to increase export earnings:

- Export items will have to be diversified and new markets will have to be tapped in. It is tough to expand export markets depending on limited number of products and markets. Measures will be taken to resolve sector-wise problems in order to diversify export.
- The government's support—such as rebates in tariff, tax and VAT, cash incentives etc. to boost export—will be modified and readjusted after analyzing their overall effectiveness as per requirement. Tariff-tax benefits and incentives will get special attention to help flourish knowledge and technology-based industry.

Towards the targets of increasing GDP and investment:

- In order to turn Bangladesh into a high middle-income country by 2030, the GDP growth has been projected at 7.50 percent after the end of the 7th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020 tenure) and the initiatives will be taken to reach GDP growth at 8.3 percent at the end of 8th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).



Towards estimated revenue collection

- The revenue collection will be enhanced after making necessary reforms with respect to income Tax, VAT and Supplementary Duty.
- Making Value Added Tax (VAT) Law rational and implementable, the existing problems will be solved. Imposition of cascading (wrong notion of recurring taxes) will be avoided. The use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) will be increased. Considering success in audit report and ADR, activities to give rewards and incentives to tax officers will be made more effective.
- The extent of income tax will be increased gradually in harmony with earning.
- The tax officers will be imparted training on Business Finance, Accounting, Business Law, International Business and other subjects in different organizations.

Towards making necessary reforms in budget process:

- As part of investment and production-oriented welfare, monthly remuneration will be given to trainees during their skill development training.
- Allocations for Social Safety Net will be increased as per necessity, in which elderly men folks will also be included. The coverage of the existing programme and expenditure for ultra-poor, widow and elderly women will be enhanced.
- To double the Annual Development Programme, that is to say, with a view to spending 9 percent of the total national earning in ADP, the adjustment will be made in the budget strategy. The effective use of

foreign fund will be ensured. The deficit financing from banks will be kept under control.

- New plans will be taken to help a strong private sector capable of graduating more revenue.
- People combining professional expertise and administrative competence shall be appointed, chief executive officers of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) which will enhance efficiency of the two institutions. The decision-making process will be accelerated by curtailing bureaucratic tiers between expert administrative chief and the highest approving authority.
- All necessary steps will be taken to improve rank in Cost of doing Business index.

Towards developing banking and financial sector:

- The effective and sustainable strategy will be determined to lower the ratio of nonperforming loans and implement the Bankruptcy Act. Without hampering the market system, the central bank will keep interest rates under control skillfully by adopting specific strategies.
- The central bank will take initiatives to inspect banks' skill on loan approval and disbursement and liabilities to clients
- The ongoing supervision and regulation of the commercial banks and financial institutions will be made more effective and powerful.
- Bank frauds including loan defaulters will be subdued and all the involved bank officials, loan receivers and culprits will be brought to trial and punished.

To stop money laundering

- Initiatives are being taken to raise awareness on money laundering or capital flight and depositing wealth abroad. The government is taking necessary steps to bring the offenders under law and is being active to curb the crime firmly. In stopping money laundering and terror financing, Bangladesh is the 159th member state of global organization 'Egmont Group', and it exchanges information with some other countries in connection with fighting against money laundering, terror financing and other financial crimes and also coordinates crime control activities. The government has enhanced its organizational ability to stop money laundering and terror financing. Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, as an independent body, maintains communication with global and foreign organizations. With intent to prevent money laundering and recover money siphoned off abroad, an 'inter-agency taskforce' is working.

- Mandatory Crimes Prevention Policies related to the National Strategy Papers 2015-2017 have been taken up to check money laundering and combat terror financing. Priority has been given on preventing laundering of money acquired through tax evasion and crimes, and also on strategy to recover the laundered money. All activities relating to controlling money laundering will go on.

3.9 MEGA PROJECTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The big investment projects are very much essential to expedite the country's ongoing development. With the implementation of the mega projects, all obstacles in the infrastructural sector will be removed, and there will be a dramatic change in the overall economy. Such development projects have been undertaken for the first time in the country's history. The projects are—Padma Bridge, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Rampal Coal-Fired Power Plant, Deep Seaport, construction of infrastructures for rapid public transport services, LNG Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), Maheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative, Payra Seaport, Padma Bridge Rail Link, and construction of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar 129.5-kilometre rail line. The Awami League is pledge-bound to take initiatives and play crucial roles for fast implementation of these mega projects. Once the projects are implemented, there will be enormous development in the country's communication system, power supply and trade. Besides, employment opportunities, earnings and economic growth will see a significant rise.

Success and Achievements

- To accelerate GDP growth, all necessary initiatives have been taken to implement the ongoing eight mega projects.
- Overcoming all sorts of conspiracies and obstacles created by anti-people forces, the 62 percent work of much-awaited Padma Bridge has been completed with own finance at first half of 2018.
- Work on the nuclear power plant is progressing fast. It will be possible to generate 2,400 megawatt electricity from the plant by 2024.
- The Metro Rail construction from Uttara to Agargaon will be completed in December 2019 and the work up to Bangladesh Bank will be in December 2020.
- To minimize pressure on Chattogram and Mongla seaports, a project has been undertaken to construct a deep seaport at Payra of Patuakhali district. For the complete development of Payra port, 19 types of programmes are going on. Loading and unloading of goods have begun primarily through this port in 2016.

- Sonadia deep seaport, Rampal coal-fired power project, and Matarbari Power Plant are now under-construction. LNG terminal is also being implemented. The LNG supply to the national grid has already started.

Objectives and Plan

- **With a view to transforming infrastructure, the undertaking of mega projects and planning of their implementations will be kept ongoing.**
- **Works will be accelerated to implement Padma Bridge rail link and Cox’s Bazar-Dohazari-Ramu-Gundum rail line construction projects.**
- **Matarbari coal port, Bhola gas pipeline and a petrochemical industry construction at coastal region will be implemented.**

3.10 ‘MY VILLAGE—MY TOWN’: EXTENSION OF MODERN CIVIC AMENITIES IN EVERY VILLAGE

The Awami League has always considered villages as their central philosophy for development and prosperity. In the independent country, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman incorporated a promise in Article 16 of the Constitution that the State shall adopt effective measures to bring about a radical transformation in the rural areas through the promotion of an agricultural revolution, the provision of rural electrification, the development of cottage and other industries, the improvement in education, communications and public health, in those areas, so as progressively to remove the disparity in the living standards between urban and rural areas. The present government will undertake a programme and implement it to upgrade every village to town.

Success and Achievements

- The incumbent government’s multidimensional activities -- such as education expansion, increasing opportunities in technical and vocational education and training to increase skilled workforce in agriculture and non-agricultural sectors, development of healthcare, expansion of the extent of financial services sector, development of agricultural technology, electrification, development of rural infrastructure and communication system etc -- have speeded up the village development process. The remittance inflow from expatriate workers is contributing significantly to this process of growth in rural economy.

- Diversity has come to the rural economy. Activities have expanded manifold both in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Apart from putting great importance on agricultural sector, the present government continues to increase investment in non-agricultural sectors like construction of rural infrastructure, rural transports and communication and rural trade and business for expansion.

Objectives and Plan

- **Initiatives will be taken to provide every village with facilities of modern town, including developed roads, communication, safe drinking water, modern healthcare and proper treatment, standard education, developed sewerage and waste management, increasing electricity and fuel supply, computer and high-speed internet facilities, electric equipment and standard consumer goods.**
- **With a view to enhancing electricity and fuel supply and making it reliable, group-based biogas plant and solar panel installation will be encouraged with adequate support on the part of government.**
- **The repairing of machinery and rural automation service will be extended with the setting up of agriculture equipment servicing centres and workshop in village levels, and through these productive employment opportunities will be created by imparting training to rural youths and agricultural entrepreneurs. Side by side, such services in non-agricultural sector, for manufacturing light equipment and doing its marketing, necessary assistance, including loan facilities, will be given to marginal and small entrepreneurs.**

3.11 YOUNG GENERATION: POWER OF YOUTHS, PROSPERITY OF BANGLADESH

The young generation is asset wealth of the country. One-third of Bangladesh's population is young – which is approximately 5.30 crore. The youths are the main force to build 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt of by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Awami League is pledge-bound to reach the goal to turn the country's youth group into a well-organized, orderly and productive force. In the youth development, we prioritize standard education, skill development and employment, physical and mental health, arrangement of healthy entertainment, political and citizen empowerment and a young society free from terrorism, communalism, militancy and drug.

Success and Achievements

- For the last ten years, all possible measures have been taken to make ensure education for youths, their employments and opportunities to help flourish their talents and potentials. The young generation is being educated, skilled, work-oriented and self-reliant through different projects for training, loan facilities, grants and employments.
- For the overall development of the young people, the time-befitting National Youth Policy-2017 has been formulated.
- New youth training centres have been established in eleven districts. The training programmes have been intensified at upazila levels, with a view to creating employment and self-employment opportunities. In last ten years, 24 lac young men and women have been imparted training.
- To inspire the activities of youth organizations, a total of Tk 12.19 crore has been given as grants.
- From the 2009-10 fiscal year, the activities for the implementation of National Service Programme have been going on. So far, 1,93,985 young people have been given training through the implementation of the programme at 128 upazilas of 37 districts in seven phases. Of them, 1,91,650 youths have been given temporary employment for two years in different government and private organizations. At the end of provisional jobs, 83,014 youths have engaged themselves in self-employment.

Objectives and Plan

Administration, Policy and Budget Formulation

- **The National Youth Policy will be implemented comprehensively through formulation of a well-thought-out action plan.**
- **Separate Youth Division under the Ministry of Youth and Sports will be formed to bring the administrative dynamism in the work for the development and welfare of youths.**
- **The fund allocation for the Ministry of Youth and Sports will be increased. The annual youth budget will be outlined following format of gender-based budget.**
- **A youth research centre will be set up under the Youth and Sports Ministry for research on different subjects related to young people.**

Education, Skill and Increasing Employment

- **There will be more investment in technical education and ICT sector to make education from school to university time-befitting in the face of the challenges of 21st century.**
- **For research in different universities, financial and other supports will be increased. Science and technology will get preference.**
- **The National Service Programme will be expanded to every upazila gradually with a view to creating employments for youths.**
- **There will be youth training centre in every upazila. Apart from imparting training on different trades, these centres will be developed as ‘Youth Employment Centre’.**
- **Two new projects will be undertaken for skill development and employment creation. Under ‘KarmathoProkalpo’ (Hardworking Project), ‘lowly educated/low skilled/unskilled’ youths will be developed as industrious and made a workforce suitable for agriculture, industry and business. Under ‘ShudakshaProkalpo’ (Efficient Project), different action plans will be taken to do away with the imbalance between labour demand and supply.**
- **At the national level, an integrated database, containing information of lowly, moderately and highly educated youths, will be created. Using this, different government and non-government organizations, as per their requirement and qualification of youths, will be able to ask for job application.**
- **The unemployment rate will be brought down to 12 percent by 2023 and shares of agriculture, industry, and service in employment will be 30, 25 and 45 percent respectively. An initiative has been taken to create employment for more 1.50 crore people by 2023. Moreover, during that timeframe, 1, 10,90,000 new people will be added to workforce.**

Self-Employment and Creation of Young Entrepreneurs

- **To increase tendency among youths to become entrepreneurs and self-employed, up to Tk 2 lac collateral-free loan facility is being given on easy terms through Karmasansthan Bank. The loan facility will be expanded in future.**
- **The government facilities, including funding, technology and innovation and so on, will be increased for the young entrepreneurs who will be able to make good impression in their respective fields.**
- **To create young entrepreneurs, a ‘Youth Entrepreneur Policy’ will be formulated.**

Increasing Opportunities for Recreation, Mental Health and Physical Development

- **To ensure healthy recreation for the youths, one ‘Youth Recreation Centre’ will be established in each upazila, where there will be opportunities of different indoor games, mini cinema, library, multimedia centre, ‘literature and culture’ corner, mini theatre etc.**
- **A ‘Youth Plan’ will be introduced to reach internet and technological facilities to the youths at a cheaper rate.**
- **Extremist communal groups and militants primarily target the youths. Therefore, counseling will be given to the youths and the flourish of non-communal ideals of War of Liberation will be expedited among them so that they do not get deviated from the path due to ideological fallacies.**
- **To keep youths free from deadly drug addiction, one ‘Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehab Centre’ will be set up in each district, and allocation will be increased for the private centres.**
- **One ‘Youths Sports Complex’ will be established in each district.**

Civil and Political Empowerment

- **The youths will be engaged in the journey to achieve the SDGs. Their opinions will be taken into cognizance while formulating medium- and long-term plans. Youths from all layers of the society will also be involved into the National Youth Policy implementation monitoring.**

3.12 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

As per Articles 10 and 28 of the Constitution, Awami League is fully committed to establishing ‘women’s participation in national life’ and women’s equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life. The introduction of 6-month maternity leave for would-be mothers and the mandatory rule of writing mother’s name along with father’s name—all are the contributions of Awami League. Bangladesh Awami League will carry on its initiative by women’s empowerment through ensuring women’s participation in all ranges of work with a view to eliminating discriminations against women.

Success and Achievements

- Pursuant to international Conventions including ‘Gender Equality and Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through Empowering Women’, ‘The Convention on the Elimination of all

Forms of Discrimination Against Women' (CEDAW), the 'Beijing Platform for Action' and 'The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child' (CRC), the Awami League government is formulating action plans and implementing them.

- The Awami League government has increased 5 reserved seats for women to total 50, in the National Parliament. In order to create opportunities for women's extended participation in politics, the reserved seats for women in union councils, upazila parishads and pourashabhas (municipalities) have been increased to one-third of the total seats, and a direct election system has also been introduced in there.
- In a bid to ensure women's equal rights in families, the Dowry Prohibition Act 2017 has been enacted to prevent the social curse.
- For her unparalleled role in empowerment women, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred "Planet 50-50 Award" by the United Nations in September 2016. Very recently, 'Global Women's Summit 2018' has also endowed Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with 'Global Women's Leadership Award'.

Objectives and Plan

- **By 2020, the boy-girl ratio in higher studies will be enhanced to 100 percent from existing 70 percent. Provisions will be made for appointing more women in higher positions of administration and other institutions of the state.**
- **To motivate and facilitate the women entrepreneurs, necessary initiatives, including separate banking, credit facilities, technical support and criteria for recommendations, will be made.**
- **Through expanding the 'Joyeeta Foundation', works will be augmented in establishing women as successful entrepreneurs and businesspersons.**
- **Equal wages for both men and women will be ensured, employment opportunities will be created for rural women, and work environment for the women will be improved in all sectors. Women's capabilities will be scaled up through imparting proper education and adequate training.**
- **Appropriate 'Day Care Centres' will be set up at the public institutions, and the private ones, too, will be inspired to this end.**

3.13 POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND REDUCTION OF DISPARITY

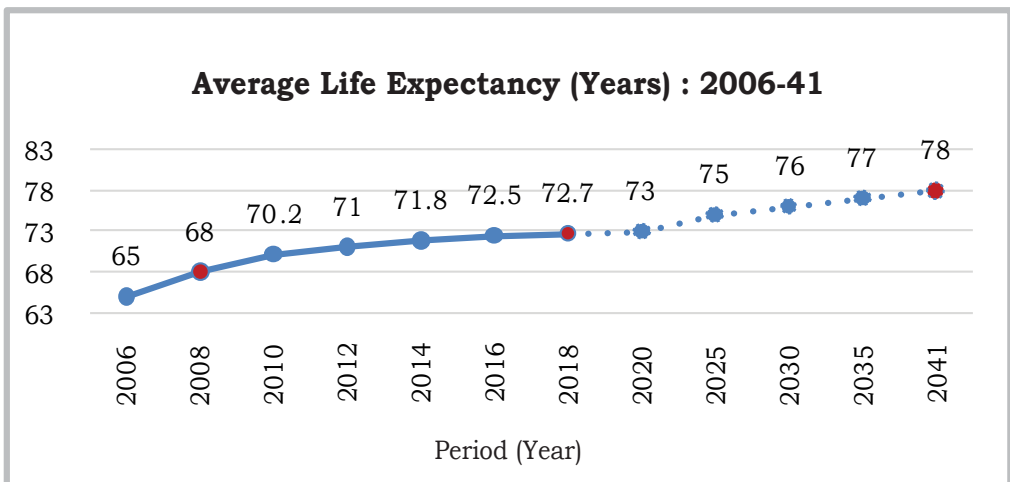
Poverty Alleviation

Poverty, inherited from the foreign rule and oppression in this part of Indian Subcontinent, is the main obstacle to building an enlightened, happy and prosperous Bangladesh befitting the 21st Century. The 'Money Is No Problem' policy during the post-15 August 1975 autocratic regime appeared as the chief hindrance to materialize Father of the Nation's dream—'Bringing smile to the faces of the poor'. During the 1996-2001 tenure of the Awami League government, the country enormously advanced on the way to poverty alleviation. But the nation yet again lost its path. Over the past 10 years, the nation has moved way forward. But there is still a long way to go. Standing on solid foundation of current successes and achievements, a poverty free Bangladesh will be built in the days to come.

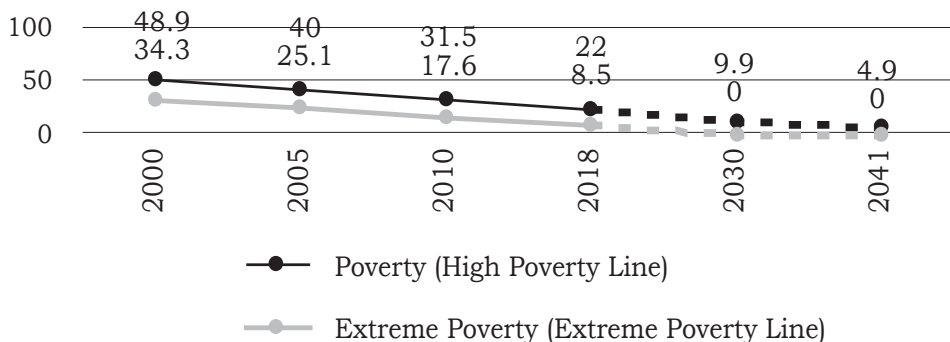
Success and Achievements

- Bangladesh's success in poverty alleviation is being widely lauded including in the international arena.
- As per the commitment Awami League made, the poverty rate in 2018 has come down to 21 percent while the ultra-poor rate is only 11.3 percent.
- A substantial number of social safety programmes, including Stipends for Girls, Stipends for the Physically Challenged Students, Old Age Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Allowances for Widows and Husband's Deserted Destitute, Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar, Ashrayan Projects, Food For Work Programmes, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Char Livelihoods Programme, are being carried out under 'Social Safety Net'. A total of 76 lac 32 thousand individuals and families are being assisted countrywide under 130 social safety programmes.
- Initiatives have been taken to address the housing problem of the socially neglected people in both urban and rural areas. Adequate finance for suitable activities, including housing, in divisional cities and district towns is being allocated to create opportunities for the poor, deprived, neglected and marginalized people.
- A project named 'Employment for the Ultra-Poor' is being currently implemented to ensure food security across the country, including in the ultra-poor areas (Northern, Coastal and Char areas, and *Haor-Baor* etc.). Under this programme, 80-day employments for 8 lac people around the country have been created at a cost of Tk 1,000 crore on an average per annum.

- Currently, a worker can buy around 9-10 kilograms of rice with his/her one-day income, which is the highest in the history of Bangladesh. But, in FY 2006-07, only 3.5 kg rice could be purchased with the same amount of income. In the last 7 years, real wage of workers, compared to rice price hike, has increased more than two times.
- A 'National Social Protection Strategy' has been prepared with a view to accelerating poverty mitigation through making social safety programmes more goal-oriented and implementing them more successfully. Total expenditure on Social Safety sector has been increased, which is 13.28 percent of national budget this current fiscal and 2.34 percent of Gross domestic Product (GDP). In this sector, budgetary allocation in the current fiscal has been enhanced 4.6 times to Tk 64 thousand 177 crore which was Tk 13 thousand 845 crore in FY 2008-09.
- Under the 'Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar' project, a total of 36.39 lac families have been selected as beneficiaries by setting up 75,993 rural development samitees (associations). In these samitees, the total amount of savings deposit made by the members themselves is Tk 1 thousand 3 hundred 66 crore 80 lac, the Welfare Grants (Bonus Incentives) is Tk 11 hundred 55 crore 21 lac and the distributed Recurring Debt Fund is Tk 2 thousand 28 crore 98 lac, while, on the other hand, the samitees have realized Tk 2 hundred 19 crore 77 lac service values.
- From 2009 to 2018, a total of 1,82,039 landless and shelter-less families have been rehabilitated at a cost of Tk 2 thousand 7 hundred crore under the 'Ashrayan Project'. Under the 'Ashrayan Project-2', 1,58,529 families have been granted Tk 1 lac financial assistance each to build a house on their own land.



People Under Poverty Line (% of Population) : 2000-41



Objectives and Plan

- At present, a total of 4 crore 92 lac people are receiving different financial assistances; the allocation in this sector will be doubled in the next 5 years.
- Beggary and vagrancy will be rooted out completely. Poverty rate and ultra-poor rate will be brought down to 12.3 percent and 5 percent respectively.
- By 2023, the number of the poor people will be brought down below 2.2 crore.
- The goal of poverty alleviation will be attained by ensuring at least one regular wage earner for each family.
- The rural community people of the country will be engaged in financial activities by having access to loan through banks including Palli Sanchay Bank.
- Out of the total 8 million borrowers of PKSf, 91 percent are women. Preference for women will be continued in giving all sorts of microcredit.
- The basic need like a house for all will be ensured through expanding the Ashrayan Project even further.

Reduction of Discrimination

Awami League is committed to reduce income inequality between the rich and the poor and also between the rural and the urban areas.

Success and Achievements

- Poverty eradication policies and strategies have been framed, and programmes have also been undertaken in light of those. The programmes incorporating employment, labour productivity and increasing wages, facilitated human capital development for the poor, spreading out microcredit including other credit facilities for different SMEs, enhancing allocation for social safety programmes and improving their effectiveness, health, education, agriculture, and prioritizing rural development including execution of public fund spending are gradually being taken forward.

Objectives and Plan

- **By allocating more funds, the coverage of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programmes will be expanded and strengthened.**

3.14 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION: CERTAINTY OF ATTAINING FOOD SECURITY

Bangladesh has drawn huge global attention due to its unprecedented success in increasing agricultural production and attaining self-sufficiency in food. Ensuring food safety and increasing export of agro-products is one of the key targets of SDGs. Now, we are determined to move forward to ensure increasing food production and earning food and nutrition safety for all.

Success and Achievements

- Due to the government's continuous policy support and supply of quality equipment, production of food grains in the past 10 years has reached about 4 crore 13 lactones, up from 3.5 crore tones during the 2008-09 period. In the world, Bangladesh is now fourth in rice production, third in vegetables production, third in fish production, seventh in mango production, and eighth in potato production. There are possibilities for export of rice after meeting the domestic need.
- Farmers are getting financial assistance through banks. They can now open a bank account with only Tk 10. 9,36,937 bank accounts have been created across the country in the meanwhile.
- We are also moving forward with long pace in exporting vegetables and fruits. The improved varieties of rice invented through agricultural research are being cultivated in at least 20 countries of Asia and Africa.
- With the blessing of Awami League's agriculture-friendly policies, subsidies and technological support and agricultural

extension—and also of media activities—the traditional agriculture has transformed into commercial agriculture, and it is gradually being accepted as a profitable and elite profession. As a result, rural educated youths and women entrepreneurs are being attracted to it in large numbers.

Objectives and Plan

- **The successful course of the rapid increase in agricultural production and self-sufficiency in food will be kept unimpeded in a bid to provide nutritious food for all. As per the commitment, subsidies on different agricultural elements will be continued.**
- **To address the labour crisis, easily usable and sustainable agricultural tools will be made available at a minimal cost.**
- **Efforts will continue to offer loans on easy terms, especially agriculture loans without mortgage for the tenant farmers**
- **Agriculture loans will also be made more easily obtainable for the women farmers to cultivate crops in their yards and fields.**
- **The current assistance to cultivate food grains alongside potato, vegetables, oilseeds, spices, various fruits, flowers, different plants-leaves-shrubs, medicinal plants etc will also be continued. To this end, the agricultural extension programmes will be strengthened even further.**
- **Cold storages at local levels, crops processing and a skilled supply chain/value chain will be established. Besides, rural employments will also be generated through different means.**
- **Already, budget allocation for research on agriculture has been increased. Alongside retaining the current course, capacities of the agricultural research institutes will be enhanced. Particularly, research on biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology, protective and specific agriculture, hybridization, GM food etc. will be prioritized.**
- **The results of already decoded genome of Jute and Hilsha will be used for motivation, and assistance will be provided to invent more productive and profitable technologies.**
- **With the aim of ensuring just price for agro-products and commodities, local infrastructure and different associations including farmers' association (FFS), marketing association, cooperatives society and agro business organizations will be strengthened.**
- **Emphasis will be laid on augmenting agricultural production and livelihoods in the adverse weather areas, affected by**

climate change, such as salted areas, Haor and Char areas, hill and Barind tracts, etc. The necessity to meet animal protein alongside earning self sufficiency in grainy foods and to ensure nutrition and food safety are one of the main challenges of the next government. A great section of people are engaged in livestock resources sector.

Fisheries and Livestock

Apart from achieving self-sufficiency in food, ensuring the supply of animal protein, nutrition and food security is one of the main challenge for the government for the next tenure. A large number of people are engaged in important livestock sector.

Success and Achievements

- Animal subsector contributes 14.31 percent to total agriculture sector. This share will be increased.
- The Department of Animal Resources has been producing, distributing and applying vaccines for cattle, ducks and chicken (domestic animals and birds).
- In FY 2017-18 Year, milk, meat and egg productions have reached 94.06 lac metric tons (MT), 72.60 lac MTs and 1552.00 crore respectively, up from 29.50 lac MTs, 19.90 lac MTs and 607.85 crore respectively.
- Bangladesh has also progressed much in the development of Fisheries sector. In the past 9 years, fish production has increased up to 41.34 lac MTs from 27.01 lac MTs.
- To encourage the profitable commercial expansion of and increase in domestic animals and birds rearing and milk production, the AL government has been providing different incentives, loans on easy terms and tax rebate facilities.

Objectives and Plan

- **Necessary steps will be taken to double the number of ducks and chickens in the country by 2023.**
- **Emphasis will be put on minimizing expenses of animal food, medicine and treatment and also on making them easily obtainable. Apart from these, development will be brought into the existing market system to ensure good prices of these products. The waste processing mechanism will also be modernized.**
- **Setting up of small and medium sized dairy and poultry firms, and easy loans for fish cultivation, necessary subsidies,**

technological support and policy assistance will be increased and kept continuing.

- **Facilities, including providing improved varieties of fish fries, fish food, treatment facilities, capital resources and cheaper electricity connections for fish cultivation in ponds and in paddy fields, wherever possible, for further extension of its production will be ensured.**
- **For development and capacity increasing of the Fisheries Sector, necessary measures will be taken for quality improvement in wide-ranging research, managerial development in fish cultivation through engaging farmers, and preventing waste of and caught.**

3.15 ELECTRICITY AND FUELS

Electricity and fuels are one of the key driving forces of a country's economic development and advancement. With a view to ensuring the country's energy security by upholding the national interest, Bangabandhu, through Article 143 of the Constitution, established State's ownership on all domestic fuel and mineral resources. Due to the anti-liberation forces' assuming the State power in the post-1975 period, Electricity and Fuel safety of the country became subject to huge negligence. The situation greatly improved during the 1996-2001 period due mainly to AL's epoch-making steps. But thereafter, both the sectors again fell flat in the face of an indiscriminate looting by the BNP-Jamaat Alliance government. The country is again advancing towards the materialization of Bangabandhu's dream aiming to ensure security in electricity and fuel safety.

Success and Achievements

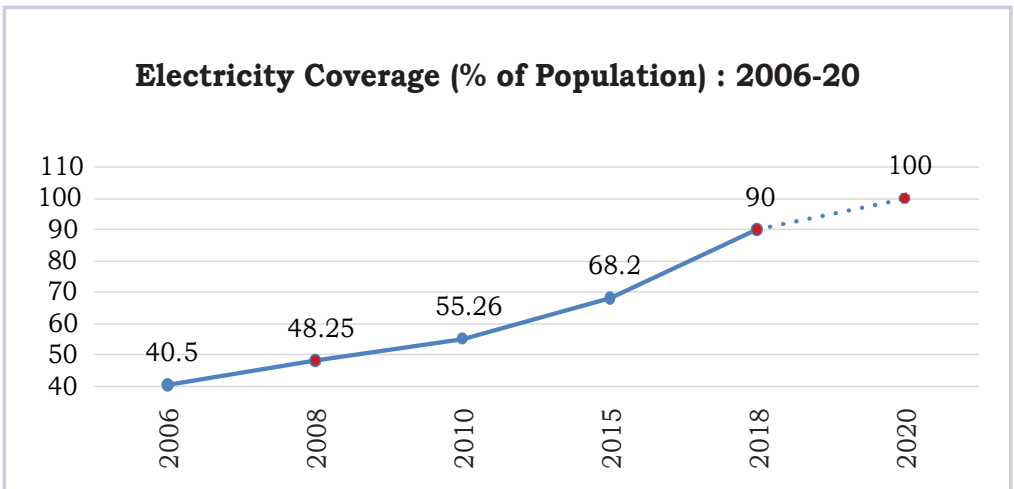
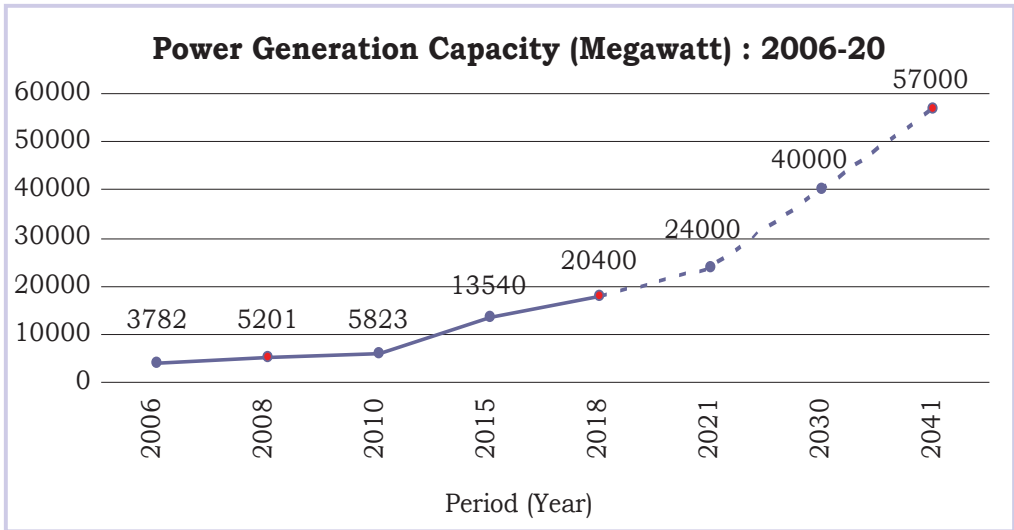
- Works for framing epoch-making plans and programmes and their implementation are well underway. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the only head of government, not only in South Asia but also in the entire developing world, who has established energy security issue as synonymous with the national security.
- Adequate measures have been undertaken to ensure an uninterrupted supply of fuels alongside meeting the increasing for fuel demand.
- Attempts have been intensified to attract more local and foreign investments in the electricity sector.
- The present government has taken the fuel diversification policy instead of the previous governments' wrong policy of over-dependence on natural gas as fuels.

- Currently, per capita electricity production is 464 kilowatt which, in 2008, was only 228 kilowatt, meaning less than half the present amount. Over 90 percent of the country's total population is now have access to electricity facility, which was only 47 percent in 2008.
- The present government's electricity supply capacity is 20,400 Megawatt, including domestic production capacity of 19,240 Megawatt and the import by 1,160 megawatt from India at a cost lower than domestic production cost. In December 2008, only 3,267 Megawatt electricity was produced in the country.
- At present, 55 power plants with a cumulative production capacity of 13,654 megawatt are under construction.
- System loss in the power and energy sector (technical and non-technical) has come down to lowest level thanks to efficient management of the incumbent government.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the first stateswoman in South Asia who has kept emphasizing 'energy diplomacy' in international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels. The groundbreaking event in this sector is the establishment of a cross-border connection in Bheramara (Bangladesh) and Tripura (India).
- Deals have been signed for importing 1,496 and 340 megawatts of electricity from Jharkhand and Tripura respectively. Effective steps have been taken up to import hydro power from Bhutan and Nepal.
- Following the historic maritime adjudication, international oil companies have been appointed to conduct oil and gas exploration in seven marine blocs individually as well as in partnership. With the addition of 500 million cubic feet from Maheshkhali Floating LNG Terminal, the daily production of gas in the country presently stands at 3,250 million cubic feet, which was 1,744 million cubic feet in 2008.
- Four new gas fields (Shrikail, Sundarpur, Rupganj and Bhola north) have been discovered. Four drilling rigs have been bought and one other has been relocated for state-owned exploration company BAPEX.
- A 'Gas Development Fund' was formed in 2011, under which 221 development projects are going on. One more fund titled 'Energy Security Fund' was formed in 2015.
- Construction of 862 kilometers gas transmission pipeline has been completed. Works underway to lay another 357 kilometers transmission pipeline.

- The work of another floating energy terminal with a daily capacity to distribute 500 million cubic feet gas will be completed in April 2019.
- A total of 86.32 lac metric tons of gas has been supplied across the country in 2018, which was 40.43 lac metric tons in FY 2009-10 year.
- LPG distribution has been raised to 7 lac metric tons in 2018 from 45 thousand metric tons in 2009.
- Sandwip, which is cut off from the mainland, has been connected to the national grid through submarine line.
- In order to make electricity affordable for the poor people assistance is being provided at the following rates: Tk 4 per unit under lifeline, for low-income people Tk 3.5 per unit, 88 percent in agriculture, 20 percent of the total electricity bill of agricultural consumers, for middle-income people (users of up to 300 units) 45 percent.

Objectives and Plan

- **A target has been set to produce 28,000 megawatt electricity and construct 23,000 circuit kilometers transmission line by 2023. 100 percent power for all will be ensured by 2020.**
- **Measures will be taken to formulate and implement plans to construct 5 lac kilometers transmission line by 2023.**
- **Two energy hubs will be established in Maheshkhali-Matarbari region and in Payra.**
- **Steps have been taken to distribute LNG equivalent to 5,000 million cubic feet gas by 2023.**
- **More measures will be taken to explore oil-gas in the Bay of Bengal.**
- **In order to ensure uninterrupted energy supply projects including a 130-km Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline from the Shiliguri Terminal in India to Parbatipur in Bangladesh, a 305-km pipeline from Chattogram to Dhaka, a pipeline to bring oil to Chattogram from deep sea, and the ones already initiated will be implemented.**
- **The oil refining capacity of Eastern Refinery Ltd (ERL) will be raised to 45 lac metric tons from the present 15 lac metric tons. Besides, all-out support will be offered in establishing refineries under private investment.**
- **Logical use of the coal resources of the country will be ensured.**



3.16 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The importance of industrialization is immense in building a developed and prosperous Bangladesh. It is essential to create jobs and sources of employment for the innumerable young people of the country each year. The Government continues to emphasize labour intensive small and medium industry-based development strategy in consideration of this reality. Along with it, importance is given to heavy and basic industries, based on which a variety of auxiliary industries will grow.

Success and Achievements

- Government is continuously providing all kinds of facilities and incentives for the expansion of readymade garments industry. The contribution of domestic industries in this sector is over 80 percent.
- The worldwide ban on eco-damaging polythene and plastic goods has caused great increase in the demand for jute goods. Meanwhile the scientists in cooperation with the Government have discovered the genome of jute and invented the Sonali Bag as a substitute of polythene. The number of jute goods has multiplied from 35 to 285.
- The Government has taken programmes to establish 100 government and non-government Economic Zones in order to ensure availability of land for industrialization. Policy decisions have so far been taken to establish 89 economic zones, of which 14 are in progress. Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) is implementing this programme.
- Creation of waste disposal plants has been made mandatory for each industrial zone.
- A plant for the disposal of leather industry waste has been created in Savar, which will help increase manifold the export of leather goods by fulfilling the conditions of eco-friendly production.
- Various incentives, including tax holiday, are being provided to attract investors from home and abroad. Investment proposals have been received for various economic zones.
- 476 industries were established in the export processing zones during the last ten years.
- 3 Economic Zones have been earmarked for the three friendly countries—China, Japan and India.
- Giving assistance to small, medium and cottage industries, protection of textiles, creation of silk, benarasi and jamdani villages, giving incentives to weavers, blacksmiths, potters and earthenware crafts, and simplification of refinancing of loans are continuing.
- Arrangements have been made for opening separate units for the female entrepreneurs in all banks including Bangladesh Bank and in non-bank financial institutes to accelerate development of female entrepreneurship.
- A plan to introduce credit guarantee scheme has been considered so that the small entrepreneurs are not deprived of bank loan for lack of collaterals.
- The establishment of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), providing various export incentives, increased cash incentives from 2% to 20% for 27 export items, introduction of

One Stop Service and efforts to improve ease of Doing Business procedure are some of the steps taken by the Government.

Objectives and Plan

- **Providing financial initiatives to the export of jute products as a promising sector and its diversification will be continued.**
- **Research expenditures will be increased to encourage domestic researches for innovation of technologies as capital and factors of production for achieving progress in industrialization.**
- **All obstacles for establishing industries—especially land management complications, will be removed.**
- **Reasonable protection and incentives will be provided in cases where there are enough prospects for the production of the goods in the country.**
- **Providing facilities for agricultural processing sector will be given special emphasis.**
- **Improvement and expansion of the garments and textiles sector, ship building industry, leather, toy making, jewelry, furniture and tourism sectors will get the benefits of this programme.**
- **Pharmaceutical industries and the active pharmaceutical ingredient industries producing pharmaceutical raw materials will be encouraged. Decisions taken by the Government to utilize the benefits of the exemptions provided by WTO for the API industries of the non-developed countries until 2032 will be implemented promptly.**
- **PPP rules and management structures will be reformed. BIDA will be made more proactive.**
- **Economic Zones will increase exports by about 40 billion dollars additionally and will provide jobs to about one crore people.**
- **Plans will be taken to establish industrial cities on both sides of the river Padma as in Singapore.**
- **Cluster of small and medium industries based on local raw materials will be established in district and outlying towns. The “One home one Farm” project of the Government will be linked with the small and medium industries clusters.**
- **Initiatives will be taken to manufacture railway bogies and coaches in the country by modernizing Syedpur Railway Workshop.**
- **IT industrial parks will be established in divisional towns and those parks will generate large number of job facilities in the coming five years.**

- **Initiatives will be taken to establish heavy and basic industries for strengthening the industrial base around which will develop modern and new industrial cities.**
- **Science and technology-based industries will be encouraged in the knowledge-based society.**

3.17 LABOURER WELFARE AND LABOUR POLICY

The owner-labourer and the labour-wages relations are the prerequisites for labour productivity, qualitative improvements of goods and for the survival in the competitive world market. Awami League is determined to implement the multilateral steps on labour policy and the welfare of the labourers taken in the light of the Constitution and ILO Convention.

Success and Achievements

- Bangladesh Labour Law 2013, Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015, National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010, Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy 2015, and the Professional Health and Safety Policy 2012 have been enacted.
- The minimum monthly wage of labourers working in the readymade garments industries has been raised to Taka 8,000; it had been Taka 1,662 in 2010 which was raised to Taka 5,300 in 2013.
- Taka 800 crore have been paid as arrear wages/salaries for the years 2017-18 for 61 thousand and 95 labourers and employees of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.
- More than 2000 children of the labourers have been paid about Taka 10 crore as grants for higher education from Labourers Welfare Foundation.
- Steps have been taken to remove disparity in wages between male and female labourers.
- Initiatives have taken to establish two specialized hospitals in Narayanganj and Tongi to provide health care and treatment of job-related diseases.
- Training centres have been increased by 32 and the training capacity has increased 18 times. 19 labour wings have been opened in 18 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and Australia during the period 2009 to June 2018.
- Education, stipend and other reforms have been initiated for the under privileged children in order to eradicate child labour. Child Labour has been banned from readymade garments as well as

frozen fish and shrimp industries. 38 sectors have been marked unsafe for children and child labour has been banned there.

- Agricultural labourers have been recognized as labourers in Labour Law 2013.

Objectives and Plan

- **The basic rights of the industrial workers will be protected.**
- **The system for the maternity leave of 4 months with salary for female workers will be implemented.**
- **The arrangement for providing health care, accommodation, safety in workplace and entertainment to the labourers will continue.**
- **Steps will be taken to provide rationing system along with other facilities in special considerations to labourers, including garment workers, ultra-poor and the landless rural farm labourers.**

Expatriate Welfare

It will be ensured that people going abroad with employment and those seeking permanent livelihood after returning from abroad can secure loan from the Prabasi Kalyan Bank (Expatriate Welfare Bank) at soft terms and low interest.

3.18 EDUCATION

The present-day world is a world of knowledge and science. The success in education of a nation determines the advancement and progress in the standard of living and development of the human qualities of that nation. The present education friendly Government has been stressing education as a high priority sector since the beginning of its tenure. As a result immense success has been achieved in human resources development and expansion of educational facilities.

Success and Achievements

- A suitable and updated education policy has been prepared to create a properly educated, modern, technically knowledgeable and efficient human resource.
- 260 crore 85 lac and 91 thousand text books have been distributed to students at pre-primary, primary, secondary, *ibtedayee*, *dakhil* and vocational levels since formation of government in 2009.
- 4 crore 42 lac 4 thousand students got 35 crore 42 lac 90 thousand new books on the first day of January 2018.

- 77 lac books have been produced in the languages of 5 ethnic groups.
- 1 lac 49 thousand text books and reading materials were printed for the pre-primary and primary students of the small ethnic groups in 2018.
- 9 thousand and 703 copies of Braille text books were supplied to the visually disabled persons for the first time.
- 26 thousand and 159 schools were nationalized and the services of 1 lac 42 thousand teachers were regularized as government servants.
- Pension benefits with arrears have been given to non-government school and college teachers. Taka 757 crore were allocated for 23 thousand 326 teachers as pension benefits in 2017.
- Appointment of 1 lac 65 thousand 225 Assistant Teachers and 4 thousand 400 Head Teachers has been completed. Appointment of 10 thousand Assistant Teachers is under process.
- Head Teachers have been given Class Two status of government officials and the salary of Assistant Teachers has been raised by two steps.
- 37 thousand 672 new posts of pre-primary teachers were created in the primary schools and teachers were engaged.
- 1 thousand 495 primary schools were set up in the areas which had no schools.
- Construction of 1 thousand 151 primary schools, reconstruction and repair of 13 thousand 221 schools, construction 39 thousand and 3 class rooms, construction of 12 new PTIs and expansion of 55 PTIs were done.
- A trust named “Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Trust” was created with the seed money of Taka 1,000 crore to provide stipends to degree level students.
- All students of primary education institutions totaling 1 crore 40 lac were given stipends. Students from Class Six to degree level totaling 2 crore, 55 lac 34 thousand were given stipends and financial assistance of Taka 4,615 crore during the period 2009-10 to 2016-17.
- Digital technology is being used in paying stipends, publishing examination results, admissions, textbook versions, etc.
- 26 thousand 655 multi-media classrooms, and 350 IT labs have been created.
- At least one college and one school have been nationalized in each upazila.

- 10 thousand and 11 educational institute buildings were constructed and an addition of 18 thousand and 680 institutes at an expenditure of Taka 19,948 crore is under progress.
- Construction of one technical institute in each upazila has been taken up and the constructions of institutes in 100 upazilas have been started.
- Construction of 4 engineering colleges and 8 polytechnic institutes- 4 for women among them, have been taken up. Works on 4 engineering colleges are going on.
- 79 thousand 61 teachers of nongovernment secondary schools have been brought under MPO.
- 13,886 teachers of 1673 technical institutes under MPO are getting 100% salary from the Government.
- 335 madrasah education institutes have been brought under MPO in last 10 years. 1 lac 21 thousand 926 madrasah teachers are getting 100% salary from the Government.
- Equivalence between *Quaumi* madrasah education and general education has been established. Daora-e (Takmil) has been declared equivalent to MA degree.
- No law contrary to Quran and Sunnah will be enacted. Instructions and values of all religions will be honoured.
- An Islamic Arabic University has been established.
- Approvals for establishing and starting 14 public universities and 50 private universities have been given during the tenure of the present Government in order to expand higher education. The new public universities include Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University, Rabindra University and the specialized and subject oriented ones like medical, engineering, science and technology, veterinary and animal science, digital, Islamic Arabic, maritime, professional, fashion and textile, etc.

Objectives and Plan

- **Giving highest allocations for education and the proper utilization of the fund will be ensured. The objectives of the education curricula are to create inquisitiveness among the students, acquisition of knowledge and creating better opportunities to learn about the unbiased correct history of the country and the nation.**
- **All out efforts will be taken to improve the standard of education. In consideration of the importance of the knowledge**

of language and mathematics a large project will be taken for the training of the language and mathematics teachers of primary and secondary schools.

- Bangladesh will be made totally free from the curse of illiteracy. The rate of dropout at primary level will be brought down to zero. Dropout was decreased to 20 percent in last ten years. The dropout until Class Eight will be brought down to 5 percent.
- School feeding will be made universal among all schools in the villages and suburban areas and in the schools in low income urban areas.
- The subsidy presently being given to students from primary to higher levels will continue.
- The requirement for recruiting teachers, officers and staff will be merit, qualifications and experience only.
- Stronger steps will be taken to bring the question leakage and copying to an end.
- Encouragement and assistance will be provided to university teachers for research. Allocations for this purpose will be increased. At least one private or public university will be established in each district.
- Curriculum of the madrasah education will be updated and vocational education will be added to religious education.
- Opportunities will be created for the ethnic groups to get education in their own languages and textbooks will be distributed to them free of cost. They will be educated in modern education also.
- Initiatives will be taken to print books for all visually impaired students from primary to university levels. The disabled will be trained into human resources.
- Despite all welfare initiatives including the salary and status enhancement of the teachers there may still remain some disparities in the salary structure of primary school teachers, which will be dealt judiciously in the next term.

3.19 HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY WELFARE

Ensuring health and nutrition services to all is the declared policy of Bangladesh Awami League. Through Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 we want to take the country to a stage which would ensure basic health care and sufficient nutrition so that every citizen enjoys a better-quality life.

Success and Achievements

- During the Awami League Government in 1996-2001 works started for establishing one community clinic for each 6000 people. But in 2001 BNP after coming to power closed them down. However, those have been revived. Rural people are now provided with health care from 16 thousand clinics and medicines of 45 categories are given free.
- Maternal deaths have dropped from 3.48 to 1.72 per thousand live births and the rate of child death has come down 24 from 41 per thousand.
- The average life expectancy is 72.8 years at present. It was 66.8 in 2009.
- Maternal voucher programme has been started in 53 upazilas and in several districts health protection programme insurance for poor people has been started experimentally.
- Child delivery services have been introduced in each community clinic. The process for posting midwives in the union health centres has started and training is being imparted.
- A modern call centre named “Health Window” has been introduced throughout the country. Efforts have been taken to further improve the mobile and online health services through Bangabandhu Satellite. Telemedicine services have been introduced in 60 hospitals.
- Shishu Bikash Kendra has been opened in 22 Government and private hospitals for the benefit of the autistic children.
- 203 Adolescent Friendly Health Corners have been established to ensure adolescent health services. Adolescent friendly health services are being provided by 189 union health and family welfare centres of 14 districts.
- 24-hour child delivery services are available in 2,200 out of 3,131 union health and family welfare centres.
- The international standard 500 bed Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute has been established.
- 1 lac 37 thousand 024 new beds have been added in various health complexes of the country. Hospital beds have more than doubled during the last ten years. The bed and patient ratio is 1:1169 at present, which was 1:2665 in 2006.
- 10 thousand 888 doctors and 21 thousand and 688 nurses have been appointed in last ten years. Recruitment of additional 1 thousand doctors and 8 thousand nurses is being finalized.

- Medicines amounting to 98% of the demands of the country are being produced locally. Bangladeshi medicines are now being exported to 145 countries.
- The Government in the present tenure established National Institute of Neuro-science and Hospital, National Ear Nose and Throat Institute and Hospital, Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases and Hospital Chattogram, Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital and Nursing Institute, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Eye Hospital and Training Institute Gopalganj, Institute of Pediatric Neuro-disorder and Autism (IPNA), Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery and Hospital, Sheikh Russell Gastro-liver Institute and Hospital, and National Institute of Laboratory Medicine.
- 111 new government and private medical colleges have been established during this period.
- Medical Universities have been set up in Chattogram, Rajshahi and Sylhet.

Objectives and Plan

- **Making the health and nutrition services available to every citizen of the country will be ensured.**
- **Every person below one year and above 65 will be given health services free of cost.**
- **Medical universities will be established in each divisional city.**
- **The treatment of heart, cancer and kidney will start in every medical college hospital.**
- **At least one 100-bed self-contained cancer and kidney treatment system will be set up in each divisional city.**
- **Health service systems will be made friendlier and fault-free by introducing modern technologies in the health service centres and hospitals. Services of the specialized medical practitioners from home and abroad will be made available online.**
- **The facilities of the community clinics including the building will be modernized.**
- **The improvement and modernization of ayurvedic, unani, indigenous and homeopathic treatments and education will continue.**
- **Increasing the number of doctors, improving the quality of services and the availability of medical persons in the rural health centres will be ensured.**

3.20 COMMUNICATION

Improved efficient and safe communication system is a prerequisite for development. The marks of successes in the implementation of the pledges of the Awami League Government in the communication sector are recognized and praised in all quarters. The communication is considered as an important sector and modernizing it is a priority function. The expansion of roads, rail and water ways for making the systems comfortable and safe and the implementation of reforms are continuing. In 2018-19 an allocation of Taka 45,400 crore was made for communication and infrastructure sector. This is the first time a political party is working in the implementation of a specific plan for roads, railways, airways and waterways communication systems under short and medium term programmes (Vision 2021 and Vision 2041).

Roads, Railways and Airways

Success and Achievements

- 62% construction works for the country's largest Padma Multi-purpose Bridge have been completed meanwhile. GDP of the country will increase by 1.2% after the completion of the bridge. A symbol of long time aspiration, the Padma Bridge will change the living patterns of the people of the southern Bangla and will also brighten the image of Bangladesh abroad.
- The Roads and Highways Department has done solidifying 4 thousand 331 km, widening 5 thousand 171 km, carpeting and seal coat 4 thousand 869 km, DBST 1 thousand 892 km and overlay 8 thousand 158 km for roads and highways during 2009 to 2018.
- 417 km national highways in Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Mymensingh, Nabinagar-Chandra, Rangpur City and Chattogram-Hathajari have been developed into 4 lanes. Developing the Gazipur to Elenga road into 4 lanes is almost complete. The road from Jatrabari to Kanchpur has been developed into 8 lanes. An 80 km long marine drive from Cox's Bazaar to Teknaf has been constructed. The construction of the tunnel under the riverKarnafuli is progressing fast.
- 914 bridges and 3 thousand 977 culverts have been constructed or reconstructed. 7 flyovers and several underpasses have been constructed in Dhaka, Tongi, Cumilla, Chattogram and Feni.
- The construction of a 20.10 km long Elevated Metro Rail from Uttara phase-3 to Bangladesh Bank, planned in order to alleviate traffic congestion problems and develop the environment, is going on in full swing. It will have 16 stations and a commuting capacity of 60 thousand passengers per hour.

- A PPP project for about 46.73 km long Dhaka Elevated Expressway with ramps from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali at Dhaka-Chattogram highway at a cost of Taka 703.11 crore is under implementation.
- The construction work of a 20 km Bus Rapid Transit from Gazipur to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at a cost of Taka 935.12 crore will be completed.
- The Government approved a project for 20 km long Dhaka- Ashulia Elevated Expressway as per agreements with the Chinese Government at an estimated cost of Taka 16,901 crore.
- The Government completed 330.15 km new rail lines, 91 station buildings, conversion to dual gauge of 248.50 km metre gauge lines, construction of 79 new rail stations and 295 rail bridges during last ten years.
- 430 passenger coaches were added to the railway fleet after rehabilitation.
- Port rail sections from Lalmonirhat to Burimari, Kalukhali to Bhatiapara and from Panchuria to Faridpur have been brought under operation again.
- Works done under Local Government during 2009 to 2018 include development of 52 thousand 280 km roads, 75 thousand 773 km new roads, reconstruction of 31 thousand 637 meter bridges, and construction of 3 lac 1 thousand 637 meter culverts.
- 10 new airplanes were bought during this period and buying of 5 new ones is under process.

Objectives and Plan

- **39.24 km Dhaka East West Elevated Highway will be built under the joint initiatives of Malaysia and Bangladesh Governments at an estimated cost of Taka 16,389 crore.**
- **A plan for constructing an elevated ring road around Dhaka and the Eastern Bypass will also be implemented.**
- **Initiatives have been taken for the construction of Dhaka-Chattogram expressway and express railway.**
- **Bullet (speedy) train with the speed to cover the distance between Dhaka and Chattogram in one hour will be introduced. The bullet train system will subsequently be extended to Sylhet, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Patuakhali, Khulna and Kolkata.**
- **The airports in Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chattogram and Barisal will be developed. Construction of the third terminal in Dhaka Shahjalal International Airport, setting up of new radar, and**

construction of a pipeline for supplying jet fuels will be taken up.

- **Cox's Bazaar airport will be converted into the most attractive airport of the country with the capability of landing superior planes. The construction of Bagerhat Khan Jahan Ali Airport will be completed on priority basis.**
- **Meanwhile 'Safe Roads Law-2018' has been enacted. All-out efforts will be taken to bring down road accidents to the minimum by applying this law. Amendments and inclusions will be made in future to this law to make it modernized and more effective.**
- **Taking strict action against drivers without license, modernization of the traffic control system, denying route permit to vehicles lacking fitness, bringing roads and highways under CCTV coverage and programmes for enhancing traffic-awareness of the people will be continued for increasing overall road-safety.**
- **The private sector operation of air planes will be encouraged more.**
- **The ongoing projects of Railway Ministry for communications with the capital city at low costs will be implemented.**
- **Underground rail, metro rail, circular rail and navigable and wider waterways will be constructed in the capital city to solve mass transport problems of Dhaka and remove traffic jams.**
- **Syedpur Airport will be developed into a regional airport, so that the 7 bordering provinces of India along with Nepal and Bhutan can use this airport.**
- **Getting connected to Trans Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway, Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Cooperation (BCIM-EC) communication systems will result in a great expansion of international trades.**

Waterways and Ports

The waterways in Bangladesh have traditionally been considered a safe, less costly, eco-friendly and modest mode of communication since long time ago. 85% of all communications were performed in waterways in the past. There are 24 thousand km waterways in the country of which only 6 thousand km are in use for transport, while it comes down to a half in dry seasons. The recovery of the inland waterways and its maximum utilization is a necessity of the time.

Success and Achievements

- 1200 km waterways have been excavated during 2009-15. Excavations in 53 waterways at a cost taka 11,000 crore are undergoing. 1 thousand 270 km waterways and 3 thousand acres of riverside lands have been recovered so far.
- Mongla-Ghasiakhali route has been excavated to introduce river connections for saving the Sundarbans.
- Mongla Port made a profit of Taka 95 crore during 2017-18. It may be mentioned that the port had suffered a loss of Taka 11.5 crore during BNP-Jamaat rule in 2001-06.
- Ports in Chattogram and Mongla have been modernized and a new sea port has been established in Payra of Patuakhali district.
- A container handling terminal with a capacity of handling 1 lac 16 thousand TEUS has been constructed in the river Buriganga at Pangaon of Dhaka-Keraniganj to transport containers between Dhaka and Chattogram by waterways.
- Awami League government acquired 14 dredgers during 2009-13. During Bangbandhu's rule government had acquired 7 dredgers after the liberation of the country and no further acquisition was made since. The present government has taken a project to acquire additional 20 dredgers at a cost of Taka 2,004 crore.
- Registered river vessels numbered 12 thousand in 2018 to facilitate trades in waterways. The number had been 6 thousand in 2009.

Objectives and Plan

- **10 thousand km waterways will be excavated in the next tenure as a part of the extensive excavation programme. Import-exports will be facilitated by linking internal naval routes with the international ports.**
- **Waterways trading will be increased with India and extended up to Nepal and Bhutan in order to make international trade easier.**
- **Plans have been taken to complete the construction of Matarbari sea port by 2023.**
- **Plans have been taken to construct Bay Terminals at a cost of Taka 17,000 crore for infrastructure development.**
- **4 rivers and canals around Dhaka will be excavated to make them free from pollution and illegal occupations. Navigability will be restored and the river sides will be beautified and developed as tourism spots.**

3.21 REALIZATION OF THE DREAMS FOR DIGITAL BANGLADESH: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Having a place in the forefront in the world context in this digital age is our challenge in the coming days. Our dreams are to implement the visions of Mujib Year- 2020, Digital Bangladesh Year – 2021, SDG Year-2030 and the Developed Bangladesh Year- 2041. The revolutions that are undergoing presently in the digital arena have to be updated and harnessed to produce the digital Bangladesh visualized especially for the young generation.

Success and Achievements

- The realism of establishing digital Bangladesh by 2021 has become clearly visible by now.
- The 4-G mobile technology, after 3-G, has been introduced in the country. SIM registration in biometric system was started to make mobile technology more secure.
- The people in the country are given 200 types of digital services through 5 thousand and 737 digital centres and 8 thousand and 200 e-post offices.
- Optical fiber connections have been extended up to Union levels.
- The number of mobile SIM consumers is 15 crore 41 lac 79 thousand and the number of internet subscribers is 9 crore 5 lac 1 thousand.
- 'Information Window', which has been praised and rewarded internationally as the largest wave portal of the world having 25 thousand websites, was introduced in the country.
- Citizen 'Smart Cards' along with the National Identity Cards and the Machine Readable Passports have been introduced.
- Bangladesh has entered into the age of astronomical sciences by launching the Bangabandhu Satellite-1.
- The young people of the country are being transformed into efficient human resources appropriate for the digital age through trainings and assistances from Learning-Earning, E-power, Hi-tech Park, BCC, BITM, and LICT.
- The export from the digital sector has increased to USD 800 million from 2.6 million.
- Tremendous development has been made in mobile banking. The number of consumers in this system is 6.25 crore at present.

Objectives and Plan

- **5-G will be introduced by 2012-13. Introduction of upcoming technologies like—artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, block chain and IOT will be expedited.**
- **E-passport and e-VISA systems will be introduced.**
- **All-out efforts will be taken to convert education system into digital methods in phases.**
- **All transactions of the financial sector will be digitized.**
- **Export of IT software, services and digital equipment will be increased to USD 7 billion.**
- **Initiatives will be taken to launch Bangabandhu Satellite-2 and setting up of Sub-Marine Cable-3.**
- **The digital capability of armed forces and the law enforcing agencies will be increased.**
- **The costs of using internet and mobiles will be reduced to reasonable levels.**

3.22 CONQUEST OF THE SEA: BLUE ECONOMY—THE OPENING OF THE HORIZON OF DEVELOPMENT

Objectives and Plan

Keeping in view the multidimensional and vast possibilities of the Bay of Bengal, the Government under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman legislated ‘The Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act- 1974’ to establish the rights in the sea within just three years of independence. The unsolved sea border demarcation with India and Myanmar was the major hurdle in establishing our rights in the sea. The peaceful solution of the maritime borders with India and Myanmar is a golden fruit of the diplomatic successes of the people’s leader Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh has established its rights in all economic zones within 200 nautical miles and the continental belt outside it with Myanmar and similarly up to 354 nautical miles and the continental belt with India. Bangladesh has acquired a sea area of total of 118,813 square km, which is about 80.51% of the mainland.

The resources in the sea, which is called blue economy, have opened a new horizon of development of Bangladesh. Unlimited prospects are there in sea ports, navigation, fishing, marine plants, oil and gas, mineral resources, new lands/chars surfacing in the waters, sea tourism and others for growth and employment. Awami League Government has meanwhile taken up programmes for the maximum utilization of the blue economy or the sea resources. The programmes will be implemented in full swing on priority basis in the next tenure.

3.23 CLIMATE CHANGES AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Among the countries adversely affected by climate changes and facing serious risks Bangladesh is at the top of the list. The position of Bangladesh and the steps taken by it in facing the challenges of climate changes, global warming, and the protection of environment have been highly acclaimed by the world community. Taking more courageous and farsighted plans and steps in facing those challenges is a call of the moment.

Success and Achievements

- 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' was prepared in 2009. 145 work plans in 44 programmes were taken up under this Plan to face issues regarding food security, disaster management, infrastructure, research works, curbing emissions of greenhouse gases and capacity building.
- Government has, by its own resources, established a USD 400 million Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund under which 440 projects are being implemented.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in its 21st convention in December 2015 took the Paris Declaration for keeping the rise of temperature below maximum 2 degrees, or 1.5 degrees if possible. Bangladesh is a signatory of that agreement.
- 18 million or about 11 percent of the population are getting the benefits of solar power. Solar water pumps are being encouraged in agriculture in place of diesel pumps. 2 million improved cooking burners have been distributed among villagers.
- Coastal green belts were established in coastal areas for minimizing losses due to cyclones and tidal waves and the forestation activities are being done in the newly raised lands in seas and river mouths.

Objectives and Plan

- **17% people of the country will need to be moved away to new places if the rate of global warming persists as at present. Requisite plans and programmes in that respect will be taken up.**
- **Funds for Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund established in 2010 will be enhanced to give supports to the affected people.**
- **Increasing the area of productive forest to 20% against 13.10% of 2015, improving the quality of air in Dhaka and other major**

cities and preparing clean air law, introducing zero emission of industrial waste, recovery and protection of marshy lands following the laws on the protection of water bodies, and growing 500-metre wide green belts along the coastal lines are the plans for the next term.

- **Initiatives will be taken to implement the Ganges Barrage Project to expand irrigation facilities, prevent salinity and to make sweet water available in the river basins including the Sundarbans.**
- **Short- and long-term projects will be taken to protect the natural environment of the vast water bodies (*haors*) and downstream areas.**
- **Green growth strategy will be applied in all development works.**

3.24 CHILD WELFARE

Children are our future hopes. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman incorporated the nation's duties and responsibilities for the welfare of children in the Constitution. 17th March, the birthday of The Father of the Nation has been made the Children's Day. The Awami League Government took policies and programmes giving due importance to the safety and the physical and mental growth of the children during the last ten years.

Success and Achievements

- Bangabandhu had made law for the children in 1974 and made primary education compulsory. The present Government has achieved much success in implementing that policy.
- 'World Children's Day' and 'Children's Rights Week' are being observed at national levels to ensure the rights and safety of the children.
- National Children's Policy- 2011 and Children Law- 2013 were prepared and are implemented.
- Various programmes including Street Children's Day, National Female Child Day, Prevention of Child Marriage Day along with programmes with autistic and other special need children are being observed.
- The law for the Prevention of Child Marriage- 2017 was enacted. The incidence of child marriage below the age of 18 and below the age of 15 had been 66% and 32% respectively. In 2017 the incidences came down to 47% and 10.7% respectively.

Objectives and Plan

- **The various measures for strong social safety and health, education, vocation and various activities taken in order to end child labour will be strengthened and expanded.**
- **Children will not be allowed to be used in political activities, forcibly or under enticement. Ending child torture will be ensured and the disparity towards the female child will be eliminated.**
- **Rehabilitation of street children arrangement for safe accommodation, creating children's home for poor and rootless children, and vocational training alongside compulsory primary education will be improved and expanded.**

3.25 WELFARE OF THE DISABLED AND THE AGED

Disabled

The disabled persons are the part of the society. There are 16 lac disabled persons in the country. Bangladesh Awami League has taken programmes for developing the talents of the disabled and bringing them to normal lives, which will be improved further and expanded in future. Meanwhile a proposal on creating awareness on autism and their welfare has been passed nationally and in the United Nations at the initiatives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed Putul.

Success and Achievements

- The Disabled Welfare Foundation Law was passed in order to bring them to the mainstream society. 10 lac disabled persons are getting allowances and 90 thousand disabled students are getting stipends.
- Various national and donor assisted programmes including the setting up of the Autism Trust especially for the autistic children have been taken up. Fairs are arranged under Government initiatives for display and marketing of goods produced by the disabled.
- 103 disabled services and support centres have been introduced. The number of beneficiaries is 3 lac 76 and thousand 642. 20 thousand disabled persons were given loans and grants amounting to Taka 10 crore.
- Free of cost 'Special Schools for Children with Autism' have been opened in 10 divisional cities of the country. 600 disabled persons have been given training in technical, sewing, music and dance, and arts and crafts subjects.
- Job Fairs were arranged for the disabled persons to provide jobs for them.

Dalit and the Neglected Groups

- The special allowance of the hermaphrodites has been raised to Taka 600 from Taka 500 under the programme for the improvement of their living standard. The allowances for the gipsy and other backward groups have been increased to Taka 500 from Taka 400.
- All backward groups including gipsy, *harijan* and *dalit* will be given opportunities to live better lives.

Objectives and Plan

- **Health, education, respect and safe future of the autistic children will be ensured. Education, employment, communication and medical treatments of the disabled persons will be made easier and special steps will be taken to establish their social respect.**

The Welfare of the Aged

The number of the aged people is rising continuously as the average life span of the people in Bangladesh is increasing. The number of elderly people in Bangladesh was 1.13 crore in 2011. It is increasing at the rate of 4.41% annually and the present number is 1.30 crore which is 8% of the total population. In recognition of their contributions to the family and the society the Government is continuing its works on protecting the basic rights, honour and respect of the aged people.

Success and Achievements

- The Government has prepared ‘Senior Citizen Rules’ and ‘National Policy for the Aged’ and enacted ‘Law for Supporting Parents- 2013’.
- A provision for ‘integrated pension scheme’ is envisaged in the 7th Five-Year Plan, in which the introduction of the national social insurance and private voluntary pension are under consideration.

Objectives and Plan

- **Steps will be taken to extend the number of inclusion and the amount of assistance under ‘Social safety network’ programme.**
- **Income generating activities for aged in possible cases, separate chapters in the text books on the social responsibility and awareness about the aged people, earmarking seats/ spaces for the aged in transports and residential establishments, expanding geriatric healthcare at grass roots levels, aged-friendly entrances in hospitals, airports, buildings and transports are the steps to be taken up in the next tenure.**

3.26 THE WELFARE OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND REALIZATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LIBERATION WAR

The freedom fighters are the greatest offspring of the nations. Awami League is pledge bound to spread the history and the spirit of the liberation war from generation to generation, prevent any distortion of the history of the liberation war, protect traditions and memories, implement any programme giving respect and honour to the freedom fighters, and above all, ensuring overall welfare of the freedom fighters.

Success and Achievements

- The construction of the Victory Monument of the Liberation War in Suhrawardy Uddyan was completed as per the original sketch, and the construction of memorial museum, eternal flame and the memorial column has also been completed.
- The retirement age of the freedom fighters in government services has been fixed at 60.
- Construction of freedom fighter complexes has been completed or nearly completed in 53 districts and 383 upazilas.
- Honorarium for the Freedom Fighters has been raised in phases to Taka 10 thousand per month from Taka 900 in 2009. Besides, two festival allowances at the rate of Taka 10 thousand are also given. The number of recipient freedom fighters has increased from 1 lac to 2 lac in phases.
- The allowances of 7 thousand 838 members of the families of injured freedom fighters of various categories, shaheed families and Beer Shrestha families have been increased by 52%. The Government has provided for the subsistence and free medical treatments of the freedom fighters at old age and given opportunities to freedom fighters of 60 years old of travelling free by rail, buses and launches as honoured citizens.

Objectives and Plan

- **The actions taken by the Government in order to implement the aspirations for freedom and the pledges of the war of liberation, re-establishing the dignity of the best heroes of the nation-the freedom fighters, state recognition of their contributions, increasing the allowances of the hard-up freedom fighters, maintenances at old age and free treatments will continue.**
- **Protecting the memories of the liberation war everywhere across the country, preventing the distortion of history, and special actions for displaying the real history of liberation will**

be continuing. Marking the killing fields and mass graves, collecting the names and whereabouts of the martyrs and building monuments will continue.

3.27 CULTURE

It is culture through which civilization, humanity, universality and nationalism flourish. Culture played a vital role in building and spreading the nationalism of the Bangalees, in achieving the freedom and in establishing the pro-liberation forces in the state and society after the changeover of '75. Awami League is committed to give full supports in practising and disseminating the culture.

Success and Achievements

- International literary festivals are being held at the initiatives of Bangla Academy.
- 'International Digital Cultural Archive' and 'Digital Art Directory of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy' were established.
- Bangladesh National Museum is continuing with the collection of artifacts related to the history, tradition and natural history, conservation and display of items, and research activities.
- 'Bangladesh Bhaban' has been established in Shantiniketon.
- 'Bangladesh Corner' has been set up in the International Buddhist Museum in Candy of Sri Lanka.
- During 2009-17 Hasson Raja Academy, Pallikabi Jasimuddin Shangrahashala, Kangal Harinath Jadughar, District libraries, Cultural Academy for small ethnic groups and district shilpakala academies were constructed, archaeological sites were dug, and physical infrastructures were modernized through 96 projects, of which 25 were already completed, at a cost of Taka 525 crore 14 lac.
- International Mother Languages Institute was established with an aim to protect, appreciate and nurture different languages of the world.
- Bangladesh Folk and Crafts Foundation is working on the protection and development of indigenous culture.
- Public libraries are being built in 39 districts at a cost of Taka 122 crore, and divisional and district shilpakala academies at a cost of Taka 1,224 crore.
- Cultural functions, protection of mother tongue and alphabet, publication of books, making of albums and documentaries were done for development and protection of culture of the small ethnic groups in 7 districts.

- 11 thousand 476 cultural persons were paid allowances amounting to Taka 14 crore 35 lac.
- Festival bonus to government employees was introduced in order to encourage observance of Bangla New Year.

Objectives and Plan

- **The policies and programmes followed by Awami League Government for protection and development of secular and democratic traditions of Bangalee culture will continue.**
- **State patronization will be increased in the efforts to develop Bangla language and literature, arts and crafts, music, drama, yatra, films and all branches of arts including creative publications.**

3.28 SPORTS

The physical and mental development of the youths is developed by the practices and trainings of sports. Sports play a great role in keeping the youths away from terrorism and drug addiction and creating manpower with healthy bodies and courageous minds. Awami League is committed to produce talented sports persons, efficient sports trainers, infrastructure for sports and a sports loving nation, and is working in this line.

Success and Achievements

- Bangladesh has occupied a proud position in world cricket in both male and female departments. In football too, we have a good position in the SAARC region. Government supports are being strengthened for developing the standards of other games including hockey.
- Training programmes have been taken for talented players sorted out from grass root levels in 31 sports events under special assistance by the Government.
- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Under-17 Gold Cup Football Tournaments have been arranged at the national level.
- Talented players are coming out from remote villages through competitions as arranged under Bangabandhu Gold Cup for boys and Bangamata Gold Cup for girls at primary levels.
- Government has taken steps to build a mini stadium in each upazila at a cost of Taka 5,564 lac.
- Sylhet divisional stadium has been converted into an international standard cricket stadium. International test matches are being arranged there.

- Sports infrastructure has been built in BKSP to provide trainings in table tennis, taykoando, karate, ushu, and volleyball.

Objectives and Plan

- **The elated position of Bangladesh in world cricket will be consolidated further. All efforts will be taken to improve other sports including football and hockey to get to international levels.**
- **Planned initiatives will be taken for the development of sports management, improvement of infrastructural facilities and expansion of training facilities.**
- **Sports and physical exercises will be included in education curricula from primary to the highest level in every institution for the development of physical and mental health of children, adolescents and youths.**

3.29 SMALL ETHNIC COMMUNITIES, RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND BACKWARD POPULATION

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu gifted to the people a free country and ensured in its Constitution equal rights and honour for all citizens including religious minorities, small ethnic communities and undeveloped people. An effort was made to misguide the nation with Pakistani ideology by amending the Constitution after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family in 1975. By passing the 15th Amendment in 2011, Awami League has restored the four basic principles of the state stipulated in the Constitution of 1972. As a result of ensuring the equal rights for religious minorities and the people of the small ethnic communities, the constitutional obligations to end the discriminatory behaviour against small ethnic groups and protect their lives, properties, religious institutions and lifestyle and cultural individuality have been further reinforced. The slogan ‘To each his own religion, but festivals are for all’—reflects this motto.

Success and achievements

- Necessary measures have been taken to protect the lands, forests, water bodies and other resources belonging to the religious and ethnic minorities.
- A significant number of projects have been launched to develop the hill tract districts. Programmes have been taken to preserve topographical features, forestry, rivers and waterbodies, livestock, flora and fauna, and hilltops in the three hilly districts.

- Special projects have been launched to develop the tourism industry, food processing industry and other small industries including the traditional cottage industries.
- The activity started by the Land Commission to ensure the rights of the small ethnic communities in the plain lands has been advanced.
- Several steps have been taken to amend the law about 'Vested Property' and solve problems created by this law.
- Regional committees and district committees have been assigned different tasks to implement the Peace Treaty in the hill tracts area. Steps have been taken to continue this process of empowerment.
- The government has decided to provide the owner of lands a compensation which is three times the actual price of land, similar to the procedure followed in the plain lands.

Objectives and Plan

- **The rights of the real owners of the land will be reinstated by Vested Property Amendment Act.**
- **'National Minority Commission' will be formed and Special law will be enacted for effective protection of the rights of the minority.**
- **Land Commission's work including taking special measures to protect the rights of the small ethnic communities' lands, waterbodies and forestry in the plain lands, will continue; system to provide the children from the small ethnic communities, and Dalits, and tea garden workers with special quotas and facilities in education and job sectors will continue.**
- **All the discriminatory laws will be rescinded and unlawful practices against the minorities and small ethnic communities will be abolished.**
- **While their rights will be given recognition, projects to protect and develop their languages, literature, culture and lifestyles distinctive of the small ethnic communities and other minority groups and to develop them in a balanced way will be launched and implemented on a priority basis.**

3.30 FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA AND UNHINDERED FLOW OF INFORMATION.

Awami League is committed to ensure the freedom of the media and unhindered flow of information. Unhindered freedom of the media has already been established in the light of Article 39 of the Constitution. All the branches of the media have flourished on a large scale. The

country enjoys a free flow of information through 33 TV channels (44 licensed), 16 FM Radios (28 licensed), 17 Community Radios (32 licensed) and numerous newspapers and online news portals.

Success and Achievements

- The ninth Wage Board for the journalists has been announced. Effective steps have been taken for journalists at all levels to get benefit therefrom.
- Many journalists are being given financial and medical assistance through Journalist Welfare Trust. Assistance as such will be continued.
- The best will be done to ensure that the ‘Digital Security Act’ doesn’t come in the way of journalism and intervene with free flow of information. All the stakeholders will be consulted in this regard.
- With a view to creating opportunities for institutional education for working journalists, Masters course has been introduced at Bangladesh Press Institute besides ‘diploma’ courses. Also, a diploma course has been introduced at the National Mass Communication Institute. Press Institute of Bangladesh has started on-line training course which has enabled hundreds of journalists to receive expert training from home.

Objectives and Plan

- **A project will be taken up to build residential flats for the journalists. Funds will be provided to build the proposed 21 storied building for the National Press Club.**
- **A section of people try to create unrest in the society by spreading rumors through the social media. Effective steps will be adopted to detect rumors and spread the truth to overcome this problem.**
- **National Mass Media Commission will be formed to prevent yellow journalism in all the branches of mass media and ensure people’s right to know the truth. Assistance will be provided to develop responsible journalism and to develop news media.**
- **Journalists will be encouraged to engage in investigative journalism by means of the Right to Information Act. Necessary training will be provided in this regard.**
- **Safety of the journalists and news-workers will be ensured while discharging professional responsibilities.**
- **Discriminatory policy in patronizing the newspapers by providing government advertisements and politicization will be discontinued; and newspapers will be declared as an industry**

and supported by government accordingly. Laws friendly to the mass-media will be enacted. No law will be misused against journalists and mass-media.

- **In addition to the current ones, new initiatives will be taken for the welfare of professional journalists.**

3.31 DEFENSE: SECURITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND PROTECTION OF INTEGRITY

Our security forces are stronger now compared to any time in the past. Their capacity has been significantly enhanced for internal control, discipline, administration and management. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formulated Defense Regulations in 1974 with the aim of increasing the capability of the armed forces for protecting the integrity, sovereignty and safety of the country. Awami League's policy based on that regulation—to keep the armed forces above all controversies—will be continued on the basis of the regulation.

Success and Achievement

- In addition to equipping the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force with modern weaponry, vehicles and technology, measures have been taken to boost expertise of members of armed forces. Government is now preparing and implementing 'Forces Goal 2030'.
- Three cantonments have been established in Sylhet, Ramu (Cox's Bazar) and Barisal. A few other units have been formed including three infantry divisions and Padma Bridge Composite Brigade.
- New generation tanks, self-propelled guns, modern tank destroying weapon, most modern helicopters, locating radars etc. have been procured to modernize and increase combat capabilities.
- For the first time in the country's military history, a fully three-dimensional Navy, and a new Naval command has been established by procuring maritime patrol aircrafts, helicopters and submarines and military warships made in our own shipyard, as well as imported ones. On the other hand, the process of establishing a full-fledged naval base in Patuakhali is advancing fast.
- Most modern equipment including surface to air missile have been added to Air Force for the first time to enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the Air Force and to fortify the air defense system of the country. Modern war planes and helicopters have also been added to the fleet.
- Bangladesh Aeronautical Centre has been established for due upkeep of the war planes and other equipment with economy.

- Bangladesh is at the top of the countries that send soldiers for the United Nation's peace-keeping missions. Our soldiers participating in UN peace-keeping forces have been praised throughout the world for their unparalleled contribution in peace-keeping. Their role as such has enhanced the image and goodwill of the country. Post-retirement leave for the members of the defense forces has been raised from six months to one year.
- The rate of family pension for deceased members of the defense forces has been increased from 30 percent to 100 percent.
- The ranks of JCOs in the army and their equivalent in navy and air force has been declared as first class. Notably, 20 percent of the salary given as house-rent has been kept unchanged. The rank of 'sergeant' has been upgraded from third to second class.
- Employees of SSF, PGR, DGFI, NSI, RAB and BGB of grade 10 and below have been entitled to 'risk allowances'.

Objectives and Plan

- **The current process of modernizing Army, Navy and Air Force will be continued in tandem with global trend in all respects.**
- **The internal control, discipline, administrative and management capabilities of the defense forces will be upheld. The policy of recruitment, placement and promotion on the basis of seniority, merit, skills and competence will be strictly complied with.**
- **Implementation of the multifaceted plan for education, medical treatment, accommodation and retirement benefits for the members of armed forces will be continued.**
- **Efforts will be continued to maintain and expand opportunities to participate in the United Nation's peace-keeping missions.**
- **Programmes for the welfare of the members of the armed forces will be continued besides development and modernization of the armed forces as and when necessary.**

3.32 FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The foreign policy followed by the government of Bangladesh Awami League has enhanced the image and goodwill of Bangladesh in the international circle. Bilateral, regional and international relationships with all the countries have been strengthened in the light of the Father of the Nation's motto 'Friendship with all, Enmity with none', as also embedded in Article 25 of the Constitution. Bangladesh is now holding its head high in the world, overcoming the labels of 'corrupt', 'terrorist

state' and 'dysfunctional state', earned during BNP-Jamaat regime. Economic diplomacy is being given priority in the national interest.

Success and Achievements

- No militancy, international terrorism, and separationist forces receive the patronization on the land of Bangladesh.
- Resolving the litigation with Myanmar and India on maritime boundary is a huge milestone of success of our foreign policy.
- A long enduring issue has been resolved by land boundary demarcation with India and exchange of enclaves. Resolving border related issues with the neighbouring countries has set up an illustrious example in the current global scenario. After stalemate of a prolonged period since the Land Border Treaty 1974 was signed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi, 17,160.63 acres of land in 111 enclaves are now part of Bangladesh's territory. Friendly relationship with India has been intensified and the scope of multifaceted cooperation widened.
- Bilateral and international diplomatic initiatives are being carried out continuously in repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.
- Bangladesh is actively participating in all the important forums including SAARC, BIMSTEC D-8, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Cooperation and Asia Europe Meeting as a part of initiative to diversify scope of international cooperation at the regional, sub-regional and international levels.
- Doors for multifaceted cooperation with ASEAN nations as well as Russia and China have been opened.
- 'Empowerment of the People and Development Model' conceived for the worldwide democracy, development and peace, tabled by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been adopted unanimously at the 66th General Assembly of the United Nations. The concept of 'Culture of Peace' tabled by Bangladesh has also been adopted in the same year.
- A proposal by Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to create 'Autism Awareness' around world has been adopted by the UN General Assembly.
- Twenty one overseas missions and sub-missions have been set up to widen diplomatic efforts.

Objectives and Plan

- **Bangladesh will play a leading role in peaceful settlement of any international dispute.**

- **Cooperation with India will be continued in all the sectors including sharing the waters in the Teesta and other common rivers. Bilateral trade and security cooperation with India will continue. Cooperation with India-Bhutan-Nepal will be continued for generating hydroelectricity and for basin-based joint management of the common rivers.**
- **No militant, international terrorist and separationist force will be allowed within the Bangladeshi territory. A leading role will be taken in establishing the South Asia taskforce for fighting terrorism and militancy.**
- **Friendship and development cooperation with Russia, China and ASEAN countries will be further strengthened.**
- **Bangladesh's relationship of development cooperation with United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Canada and other developed nations will be intensified and diversified.**
- **Mutual fraternal relationship and development cooperation with the Muslim world together with Middle-eastern countries will be made stronger. Bangladesh will play a vital role jointly with these countries in matters of security and in fight against terrorism. The solidarity of the 'Muslim ummah' will be strengthened. Financial transaction within the structure of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be invigorated. Ties with African and South American countries will be boosted.**
- **Initiatives to establish better interaction and close relationship with Australia and Pacific Ocean region will be continued.**

The Rohingya Crisis

Bangladesh Awami League—a political party imbued with humanitarian spirit—is naturally sympathetic to the causes of Rohingyas. Notwithstanding severe financial and other limitations in accommodations refugees, rootless Rohingyas who fled homeland to escape genocide and ethnic cleansing were given shelter.

- Government mobilized food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, childcare and security for the Rohingyas.
- In response to government's initiative, different countries and United Nations, Commonwealth, OIC and other international organizations expressed unity with the Rohingyas and extended their help.
- Bangladesh government is trying to reach a peaceful and sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis by carrying out

constructive dialogue with many friendly countries, international organizations and United Nations.

- In September of 2017, the Hon'ble Prime Minister tabled a five-point proposal at the UN General Assembly aiming to solve the Rohingya crisis in an amicable way. As per the Hon'ble Prime Minister's directives, bilateral discussions are being held with a view to repatriating the Rohingyas back to their home permanently with dignity and safety. In the meanwhile, different bilateral agreements with Myanmar have been executed successfully in relation to Rohingya repatriation.
- Considering the need for assistance of the international community, Bangladesh has involved concerned UN agencies in this process of permanent repatriation of Rohingyas.

3.33 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Non-government organizations will be self-ruled and be run according to their own regulations. The right of NGOs to conduct activities in the areas of reduction of poverty, socio-economic development and small credit, following own regulations will be continued. However, government will evaluate the achievements and failure of registered NGOs.
- Voluntary activities of non-government organizations will be coordinated with those of government and local governments. Accounts and activities of financing organizations will have to be transparent and accountable to local people and concerned government agency.
- A non-government organization will cease to enjoy any benefit as an NGO and will be subject to laws of the land if it chooses to invest in industry and commerce, subject to government permission. The portion of their profit that is spent for the welfare of people will be exempt from taxes as provided in taxation laws.

4. ACHIEVING MDG AND SDG (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (2016-2030)

The Awami League government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took the initiative of implementing Millennium Development Goals (2001-2015) set by UN. As BNP-Jamaat alliance grabbed power in 2001, MDG programmes stalled. When Awami League was elected to power again, MDG programmes gained momentum. Bangladesh was acclaimed as a 'role model' in the world by achieving four targets, viz., eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality and improvement of maternal health. United Nations and different international agencies awarded Bangladesh for these glorious achievements. Bangladesh achieved commendable success in four other goals, viz., universal primary education, control of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensuring of environmental sustainability and developing global partnership for overall development.

SDG implementation plan and steps undertaken

Towards the later stage of MDG programmes, United Nations adopted on 25 September 2015 another 15-year long Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030. All SDG goals have been reflected in the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh.

Government has adopted appropriate administrative measures to implement programmes for SDG. Measures include formation of a high-powered implementation and review committee; specifying short-term, mid-term and long-term targets for all the ministries; developing an Implementation and Evaluation System; formulation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; formulating a SDG finances strategy; presentation of voluntary National Report 2017 in United Nations; adoption of Whole Society Approach that includes NGO, civil society, journalists, athletes, youths and development partners and people from all walks of life, so to say.

SDG contains 16 goals and 169 targets. Important welfare-oriented targets to be achieved during 2015-2030 SDG period are noted below:

Economic Development: a) Reduction of poverty level from 24.3 percent to 9.7 percent; and reduction of extreme poverty level from 12.9 percent to below 3.0 percent. b) Provide electricity to hundred percent population (78% of the population used electricity in 2015). c) Increase employment in industrial sector to 25% (It was 14.4% in 2015-2016).

Child and Maternal welfare: a) Malnutrition to be reduced from 16.34% to 10% or even below. b) Retarded growth of below 5-year old children to be

reduced from 36.1% to 12%. c) Nutritional deficiency related infirmity and growth problems of children to be reduced from 12% to 5% or even below. d) Child mortality rate to be reduced from 181 to 70 (per 100,000 births). e) Presence of trained health worker during child delivery to be raised from 82.1% to 80%. f) Ensure hundred percent Birth Registration (37% in 2012-2013). g) Number of adolescent mothers to be reduced to 50 from the existing number of 70 (per thousand). h) Hundred percent children to be covered under immunization programme (78% in 2014). i) Marriage below 15 years for girls to come down to (23.8% in 2012-2013); number of married women in 20-24 years age-group to be reduced by 10%.

Education: a) 10% of primary teachers to receive training b) Vocational training to be imparted to 30% youth (currently 14%) c) Man-Women ratio at the university level to reach 0.80 (currently 0.65) d) 1 percent of GNP to be spent on research (currently 0.3%).

Public Health: a) Financial allocation in health budget to be increased to 15% from current allocation of 13.7% b) 100% safe sewerage (currently 61%) and 100% supply of safe drinking water (currently 87%) to be achieved.

Empowerment of women: Representation of women in Parliament to rise to 30 percent (currently 16.7); 33 percent of local government members to be women, elected directly.

All out efforts will be taken to achieve the above-noted targets.

5. DELTA PLAN 2100

The largest delta of the world Bangladesh faces the biggest threat due to climate change and natural disasters. A 100-year-term 'Bangladesh Delta plan 2100' has been formulated to encounter development challenges amid climatic repercussions. In the light of delta management experiences in the Netherlands, experts of Netherlands and Bangladesh jointly formulated the plan in 2018.

It is basically an adaptation-based technical and economic plan formed on studying the impact of development of water resources management, land use, influence of environmental and climate changes and of their interactions. This planning document takes into account different environmental and climate disasters and incorporates adaptation to such climatic and deltoid changes to achieve higher and sustainable growth.

This plan will help Bangladesh achieve the status of middle-income country in 2030 and developed one is 2041. The Delta Plan will create a framework of coordination among short-term, mid-term and long-term plans up to 2100.

6. GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP OF SHEIKH HASINA

Development of a country relies on the proportionate amalgam of political commitment, leadership and regulations. Efficient translation of election pledges of last two terms into reality resulted in graduation of Bangladesh from low-income to a middle-income country. This unprecedented achievement in development indices can well be attributed to the indomitable courage, initiative, creativity and farsightedness of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She placed the country at a unique global height with dignity and honour. In contemporary politics, Sheikh Hasina—the daughter of Bangabandhu—emerged as the strength and asset not only of Awami League but of the country as a whole. She is currently an extraordinary voice in the global sphere. Her firm moral strength, bold leadership, alarkticity in decision making and, above all, her liberal humane attitude made her immensely popular home and abroad. Her significant contribution to many sectors including food security, environment protection, empowerment of women and inspiring youths and containment of militancy achieved her a number of international awards and accolades.

- In April 2018 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received Global Women Leadership Award 2018.
- For her unique leadership and humanitarian policy in accommodating a huge number of Rohingya refugees, Inter Press Services (IPS), a global news agency, awarded the Prime Minister International Achievement Award.
- Global Hope Coalition, a network of a non-profit foundations, based in New York, Zurich and Hong Kong, gave her '2018 Special Distinction Award for Outstanding Achievement.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been hailed as Mother of Humanity nationally and internationally for this important and humanitarian approach to Rohingya Refugees.
- In September 2016 the United Nations crowned her with Planet 50-50 Champion and Agent of Change Award for her special contribution to gender equality and women empowerment.
- IFRC gave her special certificate of distinction and a 'crest' for harvesting commendable successes in the area of disaster management.

- In 2015 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won International Telecommunication Award for application of Information and Communication Technology in sustainable development.
- In 1999 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the coveted Ceres Medal from the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN as a recognition of her battle against hunger.
- FAO accorded Bangladesh 'Diploma Award' for achieving unprecedented success in reduction of poverty and malnutrition. However, the highest recognition in the area came in 2015 when Sheikh Hasina was crowned with FAO Achievement Award. It is a recognition of her towering success in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG).
- In 2018 she received Peace Tree memento from UNESCO for her special contribution to women's education and their empowerment.
- South-South Award 2013 was conferred on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her significant contribution to natural food security and reduction of poverty.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also achieved world acclaimed Indira Gandhi Medal 2009, Netaji Memorial Medal 1999 and M K Gandhi Medal 1998.
- Deshratna Sheikh Hasina's contribution towards enhancing global peace is universally known. UNESCO awarded her with Felix Hye Boyani Medal for peace in recognition of her contribution to restore world peace and harmony across the world.
- Her extra-ordinary merit and smart leadership also received reorganization of the academia. She was conferred Doctor of Laws from the University of Boston and the University of Waseda Japan; Doctor of Liberal Arts from the University of Abertay Dundee; the title of 'Destikottom' from the Visva-Bharati University; Doctor of Laws from the Dhaka University and Doctor of Science from the Bangladesh Agricultural University. She also received honorary degrees from the People's Friendship University of Russia, St. Petersburg University, Australia National University, Catholic University in Brussels, Dauphine University in France and Tripura Central University in India.
- In reorganization of Sheikh Hasina's sharp intelligence and bold leadership, the Fortune magazine of United States in its March 2016 issue identified her as the 10th 'most powerful leader' in the world. She was also identified to be the lone women leader across OIC member-states.
- Forbes Magazine placed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 26th in its list of the most powerful women of the world.

- Apart from merit and competence, her honesty has also received word-wide recognition. An international research organization 'Peoples and Politics' studied head of states and head of governments of 173 countries. Sheikh Hasina occupied the 3rd position in the list of 173. Her luminescent leadership transcends today the national frontiers and places her in ranks of word leaders.

Like Father of the Nation Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was the skillful artisan and promoter of the Bangalee nationhood, her blessed daughter, chief of Awami League, is an unparalleled leader in the development journey of Bangladesh. She transcends the geographical frontiers of world peace has been gloriously recorded, not only as political diplomacy, her enviable success in economic diplomacy is applauded by all. Her development thinking for the people of the country and her well articulated plan achieved trust and confidence of development partners of the world.

Bangladesh is a role model for economic growth which has made it a desirable development destination for the foreign investors. Sheikh Hasina sets out the course of Awami League and is the primary navigator of Awami League's 'boat'. Her recognition as the unparalleled leader of the developing world has installed profound confidence and bursting zeal in the psyche of the countrymen. Sheikh Haisna remains the uncontestable leader of Awami League for leading the future governments of the country.

We firmly trust successful implementation of 'Bangladesh on the March towards prosperity' will be possible under her competent guidance as a continuation into previous manifestos.

7. A CLARION CALL TO THE COUNTRYMEN

Dear Countrymen,

Bangladesh's expedition along the luminescent path of development will complete a decade in near future. During two consecutive terms over last 10 years we have relentlessly strived to materialize the pledges we had made to the people of the country. It is your absolute support and cooperation that have enabled us to implement the 'Charter of Transformation' of 2008 containing promise for the right to vote and elimination of hunger, and the pledge of 2014 to 'march ahead towards peace, democracy, development and prosperity'. This credit not only goes to our government elected by you. You—the people of Bangladesh from all walks of life—equally share this pride. We extend to you warm whole-hearted felicitations and wish you the best on behalf of Bangladesh Awami League.

All powers belong to the people – according to Constitution. We hope our efforts and development programmes will receive due consideration at your end, and you will vote for Awami League once again for the next five years for the sake of overall welfare of the country, and, for securing peace and prosperity. Bangladesh Awami League has endeavoured to earn the confidence of people through sincere efforts. It has succeeded to establish Bangladesh as an unprecedented role-model in the eye of the world by engendering people's participation in an inclusive process of development. A symbiosis of the government, Awami League and people was developed which has to be strengthened and consolidated in the light of the spirit of the war of liberation. Today, Bangladesh has emerged as a 'development miracle' in the global sphere as also recognized by the United Nations. Today, it has been established beyond doubt that every time Awami League comes to power, people bag some gains. Awami League—a pro-people political party—taps and opens up all hidden opportunities of livelihood and prosperity for the common people of the country.

You may please remember that in the Election Manifesto of 2008 we had dedicated our electoral pledge 'Vision 2021' for building a bright future for the new generation. In the same vein, we bequeathed 'Vision 2041'—our Election Manifesto of 2014—to the new generation, vibrant with life and energy. Today we can discern how the young men have stood up once again with heads held high like the freedom fighters of 1971. Therefore, on this occasion, the Election Manifesto is a pledge to materialize particularly the dreams of the new generation. We believe

that the young men and women of the country striving to achieve a 'digital Bangladesh' will steer this pledge towards the desired goal in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. We firmly believe that the key to future prosperity of Bangladesh lies in the power of the youth. In the past we had always been with the countrymen including the young generation. We continue to be with them now, and we shall certainly stand by them in future.

We seek your vote in our favour for the five years to 2023. In the meanwhile, we shall celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation and the Golden Jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh, which came into existence in 1971 as dreamt by him. We hope, you will strongly patronize these grand events as you always stood by us over the past decades. Our mission is a developed Bangladesh; patriotism is our driving force, and 'Service to the People' is our working motto. We have firm conviction that you will evaluate performances of our government and vote Bangladesh Awami League to the 11th Parliament of the country and, thereby, give us another opportunity to serve the country. It is on record that the Government of Awami League has been able to achieve immense progress in the social, economic, political and cultural spheres. However, continuity of the government is necessary to make these achievements sustainable and consolidated and to take the benefits within the reach of every citizen of the country. We want to return to power through a free and fair election and complete the remaining tasks taking all of you together with us.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

You have observed that we do not believe in just lip-service. We mean to work wholeheartedly for the welfare of the people. This time our strategic emphasis lies on sustainable investment and inclusive development. Government and private investments will be increased with this end in view. The education and service sectors will be expanded. The young generation full of youth and energy will be transformed into skilled manpower capable of contributing to nation-building. Modern civic amenities will be created in every village of the country. Mechanization of agriculture will be done to reduce the burden of menial labour and boost per capita productivity of the toiling mass. We shall undertake to modernize the agriculture to provide sufficient food and nutrition for everyone. We have eradicated Manga (famine) from north Bengal. This time, we shall eradicate the residual poverty from the country forever. Good healthcare for all and quality education will be provided at every level. Modern civic amenities will be extended to every village of the country: thus 'My Village Will Be My Town'. Priority will be given to the implementation of megaprojects that

have already been launched and to the extraction of marine resources which will be the driving force for future development. As an auxiliary to this step, we are pledge-bound to introduce digital system at all levels and to achieve power and fuel security.

Insha'Allah, after returning to power with your verdict, we shall uproot militancy, terrorism, drugs, communalism and corruption from the soil of the country and consolidate democracy and the rule of law. We are pledge-bound to develop women representation at all levels of the society and empowerment of women. Our goal includes ensuring peace, discipline and prosperity by developing a service-oriented public administration and citizen-friendly police force.

We are strongly against politics of division, violence, arson, blockade and anarchy. For the sake of uninterrupted continuation of the process of growth and development, we have to endeavour for national unity on the basis of four national principles embedded in the spirit of the liberation war. Let us put hand in hand and build up a Bangladesh where all basic needs of the people will be met, a domestic system will thrive with space for everyone and social justice will be ensured. Let us join our hands to build up a Bangladesh where all will have equal rights and freedom to observe respective religions; where women will enjoy equal rights and opportunities; and where the youth will get an appropriate environment for creative development of their innate faculties. Let us work together for a Bangladesh with rule of law and guarantee of human rights, good governance with rural-urban disparity removed and pollution mitigated. We seek to build up a welfare state which is also non-communal, progressive, scientific and liberal. We call upon you to strengthen Awami League and its leader Sheikh Hasina with a view to ensuring the process of unprecedented development that we have launched and maintained over last ten years.

Insha'Allah, this occasion too, there is public upsurge in favour of Awami League and its symbol BOAT. We cannot forget that it is 'boat' that gave us the right to speak in the mother tongue: Our independence came the same way. Your vote for boat has enabled the country to achieve food autarky. It is AL's 'boat' by virtue which Bangladesh has progressed into 'developing Bangladesh'. It is 'boat' that steered Bangladesh to the nuclear age. The country could enter the Satellite era because of 'boat'. We appeal to you: please forget all differences and, for the sake of the country and its people, vote unitedly for the 'boat' of Haque-Bhasani-Suhrawardy, the 'boat' of Bangabandhu, and the 'boat' of Sheikh Hasina.

Come along and participate in the process of implementation of the vision of million of martyrs. Build up the Golden Bengal long

envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. To sum up, we need your support once again. We need your vote for the sake of Bangladesh in its March towards prosperity. Cast your vote in favour of 'boat'. We pray to Allah for your good health and wellbeing.

Joy Bangla.

Joy Bangabandhu.

Long live Bangladesh.

Pledges and Undertakings of Janonetry Desharatna

Sheikh Hasina

President of Bangladesh Awami League

—

“Shall go away that we must.

Go I will – but as long as I breath

Shall remove the garbage from the earth even at the cost of life

I shall leave this earth habitable for the child.

That is my firm commitment to the newborn”

—Sukanta Bhattacharya



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