

Bangladesh

on the International Stage



Bangladesh on the International Stage



Within a span of eleven years, under the able leadership of Honourable Prime Minister (HPM) Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has excelled itself into the international spotlight as an impressive success story, endorsed by the global leaders and referred to be replicated for many nations striving for making progress. The rise of this country encapsulates a transformative change in all the course of national progress, vindicated in every development indicators.

On human development indices, the country stays well ahead of its South Asian neighbours, on economic front, the country has been predicted to emerge as next Asian Tiger, and for the developing and underdeveloped nations, the country stands out as a strong voice for crucial issues such as climate change.

On the other hand, diplomacy has been effectively used for safeguarding Bangladesh's trade, energy and commercial interests too. Proactive diplomacy has led to expanding overseas markets for Bangladeshi products and workers.

On top of such scores of accomplishments, the country has been sheltering and feeding more than a million Rohingyas, who fled Myanmar more than two years ago. That Bangladesh is helping the world's most persecuted community live safely will never slip away from the pages of global history. The biggest refugee crisis in the world was dealt by HPM Sheikh Hasina with humanity and compassion. Anchored on the motto "Friendship to all, malice to none", she has remained consistently focused on building up a global voice to ensure the voluntary and safe return of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

In this publication, focus has been made on Bangladesh's prominent role on the international stage in 2019 , led by its vocal and prudent Premier, Sheikh Hasina.

Table of Contents

Sheltering the Rohingyas	5
Global Development Goals – MDGs to SDGs	7
Leadership in Global Issues	9
Sheikh Hasina – A Global Leader	12
Blue Economy	15
Trade and Investment	16
Sheikh Hasina’s Influence	17
International Awards and Accolades	18
Global Outlets on Bangladesh	19



SHELTERING THE ROHINGYAS

Bangladesh bearing the burden of 4.7% of the world's refugees

Bangladesh now hosts the biggest refugee camp in the world. Even two years into the exodus of Rohingya people, who were given shelter in Bangladesh after they fled atrocities in Rakhine State of Myanmar, the country continues to come up with all sorts of assistances to them while the extent of how 743,000 Rohingyas are supervised by the host country can be deemed as the biggest humanitarian undertakings in last one decade. Coupled with over 200,000 who were already in Bangladesh from previous spate of violence, the number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh currently stands over 1.1 million.

In this difficult endeavor of looking after around a million people, Bangladesh has teamed up with a number of international organizations, especially the relevant agencies of the United Nations.


While such an unprecedented humanitarian role has earned the Government of Bangladesh specially HPM Sheikh Hasina, international applause and praise, the country has been putting its best to ensure a suitable condition for the return of the Rohingyas in their homeland.



In the face of attempts for repatriation, the Rohingya intended to return to Rakhine but they expressed utter dismay that Myanmar could not report any progress concerning citizenship, rights, and security for their return to northern Rakhine. To ensure an amicable settlement to the crisis, HPM Sheikh Hasina herself has been vocal at all international forums, alongside reaching out global players to place the demands of the Rohingyas for their returne.

“We are continuing bilateral efforts with Myanmar to resolve the crisis. We are also making diplomatic efforts with international and regional forums to mount pressure on Myanmar to take the Rohingyas back,” said the Bangladesh Premier.

However, Bangladesh has shown great compassion by providing shelter to this stateless ethnic group. Now, it's time for the world to cooperate with HPM Sheikh Hasina to ensure a dignified and safe repatriation to end this crisis.



Two years into Rohingya exodus

905,754

Rohingyas in 27 camps
in Teknaf and Ukhiya

482,081

registered by
Govt-UNHCR till
July 2019

Education Support

- 3,54,408 kids provided with education facilities
- 4,903 learning facilities set up for children
- 9,026 teachers engaged

Water and Sanitation

- 54,500 given safe waters in camps
- 148,691 got hygiene kits

Medical Assistance

- 134 basic health units
- 29 health centers operate 24/7
- 8 hospital facilities

Food Assistance

- 899,586 provided with food
- 264,550 received cash or support

Nutrition Facts

- 256,192 children got nutrition aids as of July 31, 2019



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS – MDGS TO SDGS

Bangladesh stays on track on achieving SDGs

In pursuant to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh has appeared as a top performer for the country met six out of eight global aspirations under the MDGs while significant progress has been marked in respect of the other two. At the crux of such accomplishment lies the visionary approach and instrumental leadership of HPM Sheikh Hasina for her relentless work to ensure the betterment of the countrymen.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh's poverty rate fell from 82% in 1972, to 17.6% in 2010 and 12.9% in 2016, as measured by the percentage of people living below the extreme poverty line. Based on the current rate of poverty reduction, Bangladesh is projected to eliminate extreme poverty by 2021, the first nation in South Asia to do so. HPM Sheikh Hasina's economic model is one of inclusive development and is reflected in superb human development indicators. Just one example – in 2018, its female labor force participation rate is 45%, while net female school enrolment rate stands at staggering 98%. The World Economic Forum ranks Bangladesh the most gender equal nation in South Asia (ranked 47th, followed by Maldives 106th; India 108th.)



Now that the world has formulated and committed to accomplishing the next set of development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the post MDGs era (2015-2030), the Government of Bangladesh, has put in place a rigorous long term action plans and earmarked a holistic approach for fulfillment of the SDGs.

Interestingly, during the formulation of SDGs, the then UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon consulted HPM Sheikh Hasina for her experience with setting and achieving development goals.

To this end, the intention of the government has been vindicated in the Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020), the most important five year planning instrument of the government, which has accommodated the various targets under the SDGs. Repeatedly, HPM Sheikh Hasina has affirmed that her government is determined to replicate the MDGs successes in the SDGs.

Despite the challenges, Bangladesh is on the right track to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. According to the government's "SDG Bangladesh Progress Report 2018," the country is performing well in various aspects including poverty reduction, gender equality, electricity, sanitation and annual GDP growth. To this end, the Government has adopted the "Whole of Society" approach to ensure wider participation of NGOs, development partners, private sector, media and civil society organizations in the process of the formulation of Action Plan and implementation of the SDGs.

As creation of job opportunities has been attributed to stand out as the biggest

challenge for Bangladesh in attaining the SDGs, the government has planned on generating employment for an increasing labour force by fostering creation of productive and inclusive jobs in the economy. The country has seen a dramatic increase in the size of the labour force in FY2017 when 1.4 million new workers entered the labour market compared to annual average of about half a million new entrants during the period FY2013-FY2016. In terms of percentage change, these figures translate to 1% annual increase in number of jobs between 2013 and 2015-16 and 2.2% annual increase between 2015-16 and 2016-17.





LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL ISSUES

Bangladesh inspires underdeveloped countries

Migration and Refugees

A proposal floated by HPM led the world to 'UN global compact for migration'

While Bangladesh stands out as an exception to the world owing to its robust role in overseeing around 1.1 million of refugees every day, HPM Sheikh Hasina has also earned global acclamation for pitching of a number of action plans at international forums in regards to manage the menace of migration crisis. The historic global deal to manage migration crisis is such an endorsement by the world leaders to HPM Sheikh Hasina's efforts to this cause. Floated by the Bangladesh Premier in her address at the UN General Assembly in 2016, the non-binding 'UN global compact for migration' that focuses on safe, orderly and regular migration for improving international cooperation on all forms of migration, from refugees to skilled workers, was adopted in Marrakesh on December 10, 2018 by a majority of UN states. Moreover, Sheikh Hasina's government has initiated a number of steps to ensure safe and lawful migration from Bangladesh too.

Climate Change

Bangladesh shows the way

Bangladesh in 2014 was ranked number one economy at risk of climate change by the climate change vulnerability index. Yet the country has proven "the most important" message for the world that "development is the best resilience builder", endorsed by World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva. According to her, the country has demonstrated to the rest of the world that even face with its own problems, it can show compassion to those who are fleeing. Moreover, amidst the fact that the country has been featured in The Guardian's recent list of seven climate change



Bangladesh is the best teacher to learn from about climate adaption. You can save property and human lives. This is adaption in action. That is why we are here to learn from you and send message far and wide from Dhaka.

Ban Ki-moon

Former Secretary General
United Nations

hotspots, Bangladesh has made a name for itself as an international leader in climate action, particularly in terms of innovative adaptation to climate change. In 2009, Bangladesh became the first country in the world to create national adaptation programme of action. As part of her accomplishment to offer lessons for the world, HPM Sheikh Hasina hosted a major global climate change meeting of the 'Global Commission on Adaptation' in Dhaka this June, with Ban Ki-moon, former secretary general of the United Nations, Chief Executive Kristalina Georgieva from the World Bank, and President Heine of the Marshall Islands in attendance. According to the Chair of the Commission, Ban Ki-moon, Bangladesh's long-term plan, envisaged by HPM Sheikh Hasina, for the resilience of the delta, Delta Plan 2100, with the help of Netherlands, is one of the best adaptation practices and needs to be shared and replicated across the globe. The world is now recognizing that Bangladesh has moved well beyond the "problem space" on climate change (where most countries are still stuck) and has appeared as the "best teacher" in tackling the real problems of climate change impacts.

Development Agenda

Bangladesh outperforms South Asian countries in GDP growth rate

On the back of HPM Sheikh Hasina's guidance and leadership, Bangladesh has taken a quantum leap in the field of national progress and evolved out as an instrumental model to push the development agenda for the underdeveloped nations. To this goal, Bangladesh has been elected a member of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) of the United Nations (UN)—for the 2020-2022 term—from the Asia-Pacific region. Through the membership of Ecosoc, Bangladesh will be able to work more intensively in implementing the Agenda 2030 – through various forums, commissions, committees, executive boards and regional forums such as UNESCAP under Ecosoc. Ecosoc, one of the six principal organs of UN, is also the most important platform of the UN system and for that matter multilateral diplomacy – when it comes to development. This will also enable the country to share its best development practices with the rest of the world. Bangladesh will commence its Ecosoc membership from January 2020.

THE SPECTATOR INDEX Total GDP growth in ten years In %	
COUNTRIES	GDP GROWTH
Bangladesh	188
Ethiopia	180
China	177
India	117
Indonesia	90
Malaysia	78

Bangladesh recorded the highest economic growth among a list of 26 countries including the likes of India and China in the last 10 years

The Spectator Index

UN Peacekeeping Missions

Bangladesh 2nd largest contributor to make the world a safer place

Bangladesh is the second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping missions. It currently deploys more than 6,600 military and police personnel to nine peacekeeping missions in Abyei, CAR, DR Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, Mali, Sudan, South Sudan and Western Sahara and 146 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have so far lost their lives on duty. Moreover, the country has made 26 pledges to the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping operations at the 2019 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial meeting. In addition, Bangladesh has also pledged a unit for operational-level Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS), in partnership with the United States. This year, in observance of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, twelve fallen peacekeepers from Bangladesh were honoured by the United Nations for their sacrifices in the line of duty.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Bangladesh marked noteworthy improvement in security index

The zero-tolerance policy adopted by HPM Sheikh Hasina's government to counter violent extremism to prevent the country from becoming a terrorist "safe haven" has earned Bangladesh a round of global acclamation. According to the 2018 Global Terrorism Index, while terror impact on South Asia has worsened on average, Bangladesh showed improvement in security alongside Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh climbed down four spots to the level of countries experiencing medium impact of terrorism, ranking 25th among 163 countries with a score of 5.697 out of 10. "In Bangladesh, for example, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund is supporting training in digital literacy among madrasa students, helping promote critical thinking, and limit the traction and dissemination of online fake news and messages," the report observed.

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2018



In 2017, terrorism had a lower impact in Bangladesh than in the USA

Global Terrorism Index



Bangladesh's counterterrorism operations to date have been relentless and unwavering and more successful than ours.

A top counterterrorism official of United States





SHEIKH HASINA – A GLOBAL LEADER

HPM's high profile international visits

United Nations General Assembly: HPM Sheikh Hasina in particular, had a very high profile participation in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, held in New York in September, 2018. HPM Sheikh Hasina has used her annual speech to the United Nations General Assembly to demand the “immediate and effective” implementation of the agreement signed by Myanmar and the UN to end the Rohingya crisis. She extended her appreciation of the international community for their support in assisting the Rohingya refugees, and said for as long as the Rohingya are not able to return home, they should be able to live in good conditions. “With that in mind, we have started building a new housing facility for them with all the necessary amenities,” she said, while reminding the assembly that the status quo cannot continue. On the sidelines, she also delivered a three-point proposal on the Rohingya refugees to the UN at a high-level event on the Global Compact on Refugees, organized by UNHCR. She then expressed her optimism regarding the Global Compact for Migration, and said Bangladesh expects to see safer, orderly, and regular migration. “The Migration Compact should serve as a living document for protecting the rights of migrants,” she said. The premier also addressed the issues of terrorism



We've commenced our journey from being an LDC to the status of a developing country. The pathway for graduation is inextricably linked with our SDG implementation strategy, which is integrated in our seventh Five-Year Plan

HPM Sheikh Hasina

and drugs, stating that Bangladesh stands firm against terrorism and all organized crime, and that it has aligned itself with the “Global Call to Action on the World's Drugs Problem” mooted by the UN.

Munich Security Conference: As part of her maiden overseas tour in the third consecutive term in office, HPM Sheikh Hasina made a three-day official visit to Germany to attend an international security conference there in February. She has joined the 55th Munich Security Conference 2019 along with more than 600 high-level international decision-makers from politics, business, academia, and civil society. She was the first Bangladeshi head of government to attend the

conference in 2017 that discusses current crises and future security challenges. The HPM has been invited this year to address two sessions — “climate change as a security threat” and “health security”.

OIC Summit: Speaking on behalf of the Asia Group at the 14th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Makkah Al Mukarramah Summit titled 'Hand in Hand Towards the Future' in June, HPM Sheikh Hasina urged the OIC to devise a comprehensive strategy to meet the adverse changes in the strategic spaces in a world facing the challenges of economy, ecology and security. She also called for pursuing a course of zero tolerance to terror, deny territories for use by any individual or group for launching any terrorist and extremist agenda and fight it together. Mentioning that poverty still remains the biggest challenge, the premier said it is both a cause and a consequence of ignorance, disasters and erosion of human values. She stressed the need for implementing the "OIC-2025: Programme of Action" through joint Islamic action to address this anomaly. In reference to her generous assistance to hosting more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar despite resource constraints, she sought for all out assistance from OIC member states to mount pressure on Myanmar to create an amicable environment so that those Rohingyas can get back to their homeland.

UAE: In February, HPM Sheikh Hasina made an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, where she held a meeting with a Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. During the visit four deals were signed with the UAE which the government hopes would draw big investments in the sectors for power and economic zones in Bangladesh. She also met Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The Crown Prince assured the Bangladesh Premier of looking into Bangladesh's interest in the labour market and call for investments. She also has visited the 14th International Defence Exhibition or IDEX 2019 in the United Arab Emirates.

JAPAN: Between May 28 and May 30, HPM Sheikh Hasina made an official visit to Japan, where she met her Japanese counterpart and received assurance of the latter to stand by Bangladesh and extend necessary support to help Bangladesh reach its goal to become a developed country by 2041 as it by now has met all the criteria to graduate from Least Developed Country to Developing Country. During her stay, she oversaw signing of \$2.5 billion in official development assistance, or ODA, to fund several infrastructural projects in Bangladesh. Moreover, the Premier also



attended the Nikkei International Conference and put forward five ideas to make a better Asia, saying that Bangladesh wants to resolve the Rohingya crisis through dialogue – and that the crisis is a lesson for the world in overcoming chaos in a peaceful manner.

Finland: In June, during her visit to Finland, HPM Sheikh Hasina sought strong support from the European Union for safe and secured repatriation of the over 1 million Myanmar Rohingya refugees currently sheltered in Bangladesh. During her meeting with the Finland's President Sauli Niinisto, both leaders agreed to work together on the issue of climate change. She also informed the president of the measures her government is taking; including creating a green belt along the coast of the Bay of Bengal and organizing volunteers to offset the impact of natural disasters like cyclones and tidal surges.

China: With HPM (PM) Shiekh Hasina's visit to China from 1 to 5 of July this year, the relations between China and Bangladesh got a noteworthy boost. This was HPM Hasina's first visit to China after she formed the government for the third consecutive term in January this year. Bangladesh being a strategic partner of China, HPM Hasina's visit attracted global attention. China and Bangladesh forged a strategic partnership in 2016. During the visit, HPM Hasina was warmly received by the Chinese leadership as red carpet was rolled to welcome her. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang hosted a special dinner reception in honour of HPM Hasina. Meetings were held with President Xi Jinping and the two leaders discussed issues of bilateral importance. The immediate outcome of the visit was the signing of nine bilateral agreements in the areas including aid for the Rohingyas, economic and technical cooperation, investment, power, culture, and tourism.





Bangladesh hosts 3rd IORA Blue Economy Conference

In September, Bangladesh hosted the third Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Blue Economy Ministerial Conference with HPM Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the event, along side Foreign ministers of Australia, Iran and Sri Lanka are among a group of ministers in attendance. Various areas of blue economy such as aquaculture, marine tourism, private sector's involvement in infrastructure, port network, financial inclusion, the sustainable exploration and exploitation of various living and non-living resources from the seas and tackling the menace of marine pollution and plastic debris were discussed, among others. The main objectives were to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and employment opportunities in the blue economy activities along the Indian Ocean belt. Discussions were aimed at mapping the works that already have been done and also further works that need to be undertaken to secure inclusive and balanced promotion, protection and conservation of the marine resources in the Indian Ocean. The conference adopted the 'Dhaka Declaration' and other documents aimed to illustrate the commitment of IORA member states to further strengthen and deepen cooperation on blue economy priority areas in the years ahead.



Focus needs to be placed to build a unified sustainable blue economic belt in this subcontinent with the help of untapped resources of the sea

HPM Sheikh Hasina





Bangladesh 2nd largest foreign investment recipient in South Asia

Bangladesh witnessed a rapid rise in foreign direct investment in 2019, thanks to a raft of measures put in practice by the government.

Bangladesh registered a record level of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow in 2018, topping the list in South Asia. In 2018, the FDI reached the highest ever level in the country's history at \$3.61 billion, according to World Investment Report 2019 by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The report said FDI in Bangladesh went up by 67.94% in 2018 compared to \$2.15 billion in 2017. According to the report, Bangladesh saw the increase in FDI inflow because of significant investments in power generation and labour intensive industries like readymade garments, and also because of the \$1.5 billion acquisition of United Dhaka Tobacco by Japan Tobacco. According to the UNTACD report, equity investment increased by 108.6% to \$1.12 billion, which was \$0.54 billion, while reinvestment increased by 2.32% to \$1.30 billion. Clearly, investor confidence in Bangladesh has improved, it notes. On top of that, intra-company loans also increased for the same period by 254%, from \$333.24 million to \$1.18 billion.

Moreover, as the country's export earnings reached an all-time high of US\$ 40.53 billion in the just concluded fiscal year (FY), 2018-19, registering a 10.55 % growth over that of the previous fiscal year. The ready-made garment (RMG) sector contributed more than 84% or \$34.13 billion to the total export income in FY 19 while the earnings from plastic products grew by 21.65% to \$119.8 million, pharmaceuticals grew by 25.60% to \$129.95 million, and furniture grew by 18.53% to \$ 74.89 million in the last fiscal.

To take foreign investment and trade to the next level, a host of measures are already laid out by the government. Establishments of special economic zones and incentives to boost up the potential export sectors have been going on full swing.





SHEIKH HASINA'S INFLUENCE

Global spotlight on HPM
Sheikh Hasina growing

Forbes

Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women

HPM Sheikh Hasina has been ranked 26th in this year's Forbes list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. The US-based business magazine published its 15th annual list, available on the website of its Asia edition. In the list, 20 personalities were named in the category of "politics" and Bangladesh premier was sixth among them. "In 2017, [Sheikh Hasina] provided aid to Rohingya Muslim refugees fleeing Myanmar, allotting 2,000 acres of land in Bangladesh for the refugees. "Now she is working on the safe repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar, saying that Bangladesh can't bear the burden of permanent shelter," the Forbes said.



Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinker

HPM Sheikh Hasina has made her room in the list of top 100 global thinkers as the famous US-based Foreign Policy journal came up with

a register of world leading thinkers. "Sheikh Hasina has responded to the greatest security challenge facing Bangladesh with a generosity ...rather than turning away the approximate 700,000 Rohingyas who fled persecution in Myanmar, she welcomed them and allowed them to remain in her country," the journal wrote justifying their decision for incorporating in the list of its Current Issue: Winter 2019. She has been named among the top ten global thinkers in the category "Defense and Security". Referring to the background of the list, the Foreign Policy said they selected the leading global thinkers cautiously considering their stake in shaping the world mind.



Women Empowerment Award

HPM Sheikh Hasina was awarded 'Lifetime Contribution for Women Empowerment Award' on the premises of City Cube-ITB in Berlin on 7th March on the occasion of International Women's Day. Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany Imtiaz Ahmed received the award given by Institute of South Asian Women (ISAW). She won the award for her outstanding contribution to the field of women empowerment as well as her dynamic leadership in South Asian region.



INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

WSIS Award: Bangladesh has won the world's prestigious award in ICT sector – 'World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Prize-2019' for its outstanding contribution to the development of ICT. Besides, eight projects of Bangladesh have won the WSIS Champions Prize in different categories. The projects are the Development of National ICT Infra-network (Info-Sarker) project, Creating Awareness on E-Right to Information (E-RTI) through Community Radio Project, Teachers' Portal, E-Climate justice and resilience through Community Radio in coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh, Geo data to control late blight fungal disease in potato in Bangladesh. The WSIS Prizes recognise individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private-sector companies for leveraging the power of tech towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Best Foreign Participant Award: The Bangladesh High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria has participated in the Kaduna International Trade Fair—organized by the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture. In line with the present government's emphasis on "economic diplomacy," Bangladesh's mission put up a large stall with its own collection of exportables, securing the Best Foreign Participant Award.

UN Risk Award: A Bangladeshi project to build floating houses that can survive floods, earthquakes and storms has won the United Nation's Risk Award 2019. Nandan Mukherjee, designer and planner of the project, received the prestigious award on behalf of Bangladesh at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction conference in Geneva.

IORA vice-chair: Bangladesh has been elected the vice chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for the period of 2019-2021 and the country will serve as the chair of the organisation from 2021 to 2023. The election was held in the 18th meeting of the council of ministers of the IORA, an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.

Vice-President of UNWTO: Bangladesh has been elected vice-president of the General Assembly of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). It has also been elected a member of the UNWTO Credential Committee. With this victory, Bangladesh will perform the responsibility of vice-president in the 23rd session of the UNWTO to be held in Russian Federation this year. Bangladesh is now performing as the chairman of the UNWTO Commission for South Asia.



**NIKKEI
ASIAN
REVIEW**

Khaleej Times
THE ECONOMIC TIMES

GLOBAL OUTLETS ON BANGLADESH

Nikkei Asian Review: The Rise and Rise of Bangladesh

"From mass starvation in 1974, the country has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production for its 166 million-plus population. Per capita income has risen nearly threefold since 2009, reaching \$1,750 this year. And the number of people living in extreme poverty -- classified as under \$1.25 per day -- has shrunk from about 19% of the population to less than 9% over the same period, according to the World Bank."

Khaleejtimes : Bangladesh: A success story in itself

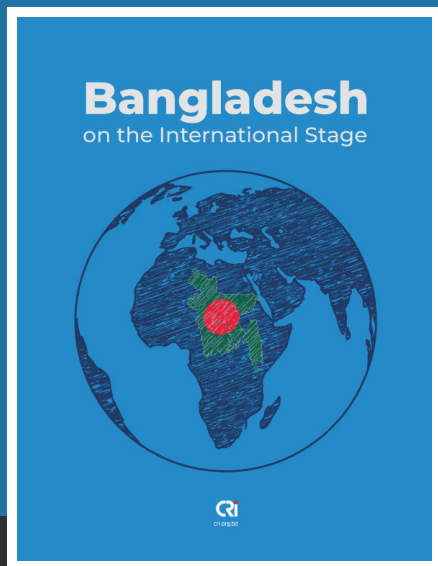
"Bangladesh is second to none in entrepreneurship, and coupled with the reforms that the government has introduced to galvanise the economy, it has worked wonders. Some of the major potentials of macro-economy are inexpensive labour, skilled workforce and an expanding consumer market. This is more than enough to attract foreign direct investment, and Bangladesh in the last two decades has been at the centre point of big-ticket projects from developed countries."

South China Morning Post: Move over, 'Made in China'. It's the 'Made in Bangladesh' era now

"On many fronts, Bangladesh's economic performance has indeed exceeded even government targets. With a national strategy focused on manufacturing -- dominated by the garment industry -- the country has seen exports soar by an average annual rate of 15-17% in recent years to reach a record \$36.7 billion in the year through June. They are on track to meet the government's goal of \$39 billion in 2019, and Hasina has urged industry to hit \$50 billion worth by 2021 to mark the 50th anniversary of what Bangladeshis call their Liberation War."

The Economic Times: At current pace, Bangladesh to end extreme poverty by 2021

"When the Awami League government assumed office in 2009, around 50 million people were poor out of which 28 million fell in the extreme poverty bracket. During previous term of the present government (2009-14), although population growth rate was 1.16% on an average, the number of poor and extreme poor came down to 38 million and 1.57 crore, respectively. 45% of the extreme poor were pulled out of their condition during the past five years."



Bangladesh on the International Stage

Published by Centre for Research and Information(CRI), September 2019

H 2, R 11(New), 32(Old), Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1209

Email: info@cri.org.bd

www.cri.org.bd

CRI Centre for Research
and Information

