

# BANGLADESH

## ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

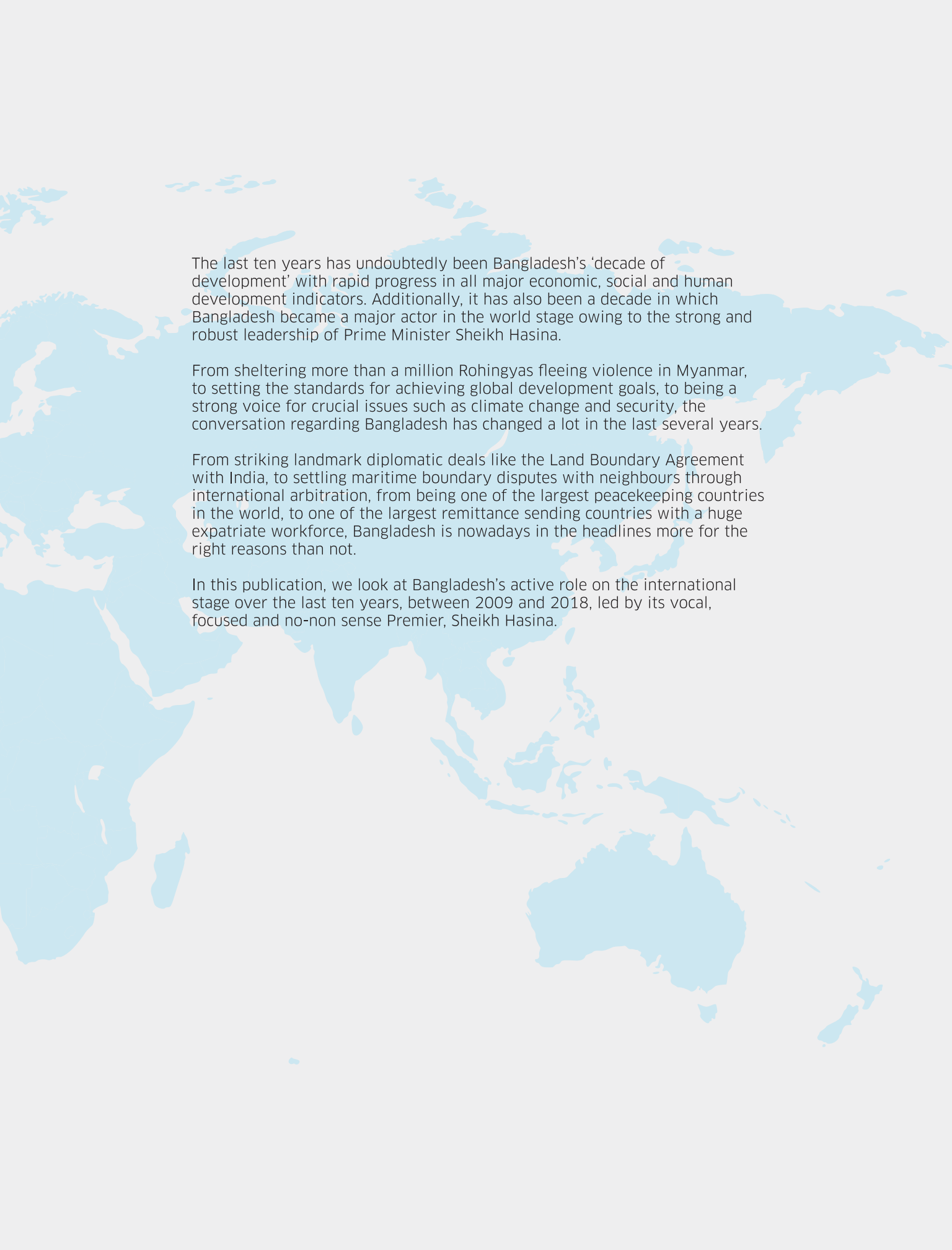
### 2009-2018





# Bangladesh on the International Stage 2009-2018





The last ten years has undoubtedly been Bangladesh's 'decade of development' with rapid progress in all major economic, social and human development indicators. Additionally, it has also been a decade in which Bangladesh became a major actor in the world stage owing to the strong and robust leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

From sheltering more than a million Rohingyas fleeing violence in Myanmar, to setting the standards for achieving global development goals, to being a strong voice for crucial issues such as climate change and security, the conversation regarding Bangladesh has changed a lot in the last several years.

From striking landmark diplomatic deals like the Land Boundary Agreement with India, to settling maritime boundary disputes with neighbours through international arbitration, from being one of the largest peacekeeping countries in the world, to one of the largest remittance sending countries with a huge expatriate workforce, Bangladesh is nowadays in the headlines more for the right reasons than not.

In this publication, we look at Bangladesh's active role on the international stage over the last ten years, between 2009 and 2018, led by its vocal, focused and no-nonsense Premier, Sheikh Hasina.

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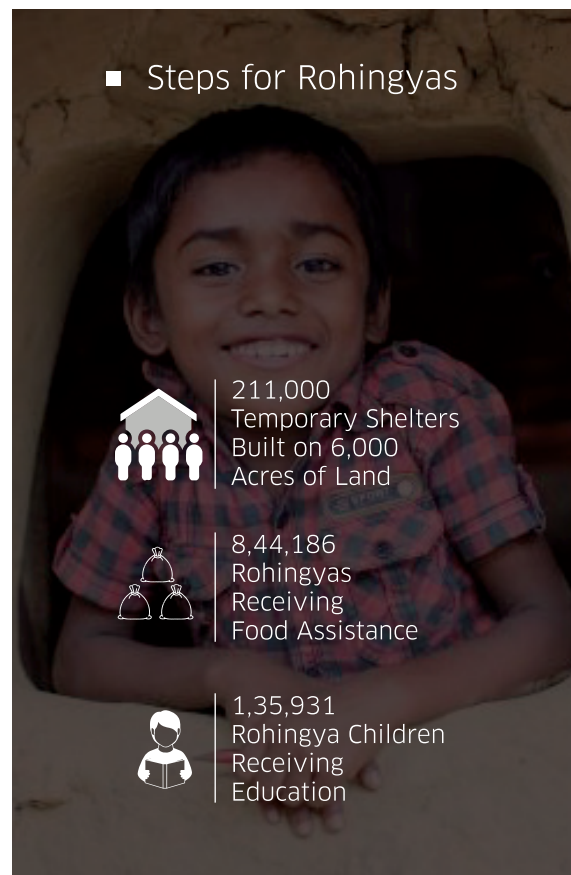


# 1. SHELTERING THE ROHINGYAS

Sheltering the more than one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar fleeing violence and persecution was not only a highlight for Bangladesh in this decade but one of the major humanitarian undertakings anywhere by any country in the last ten years. Since August 2017, 692,984 Rohingyas have taken refuge in the coastal district of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Coupled with the more the 200,000 who were already in Bangladesh from previous spates of violence, the number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh currently stands at around 1.1 million.

Bangladesh, with its limited resources, has been trying to do its best to accommodate this persecuted group. For this humanitarian role, the Government of Bangladesh, especially Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has won international praise and applause. In a comment, Sheikh Hasina revealed why she and her country has taken such a difficult yet humane stance:

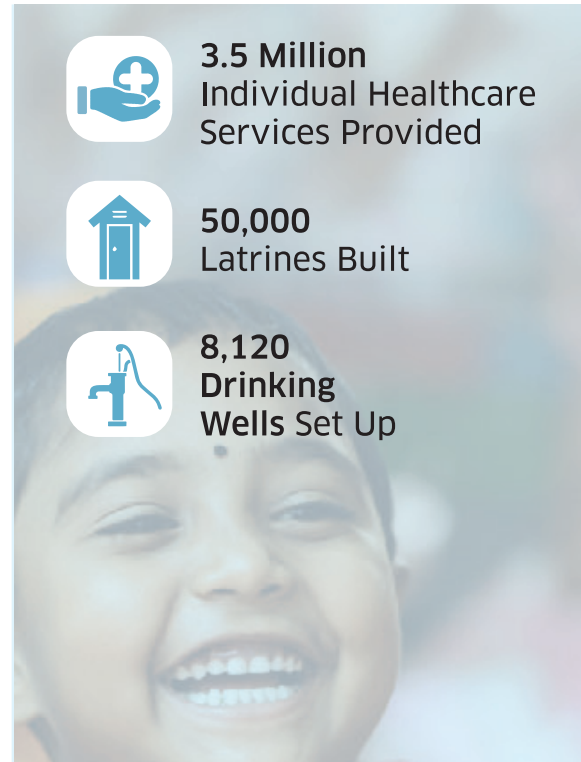
"Our houses were also burnt down in 1971. Our people fled to India when they had nowhere to go. So, we are doing everything in our power to help the Rohingya...If necessary, we will eat one meal a day and share another meal with these distressed people. After all, we are human beings and we stand for mankind..."





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


To ensure better and safer conditions for the Rohingyas, Bangladesh has undertaken a timely plan to voluntarily relocate around 100,000 Rohingyas in Bhashan Char, Noakhali. The process is costing Bangladesh around \$280 million. The Bangladesh Navy has almost finished developing the island with 440 buildings and geographic features to protect them from cyclones, tidal surges and flooding.

However, despite the best of intentions, none of these measures can and should be permanent or sustainable. The only lasting solution in this regard, is the safe and dignified return of the Rohingyas to their homeland in Rakhine, Myanmar.

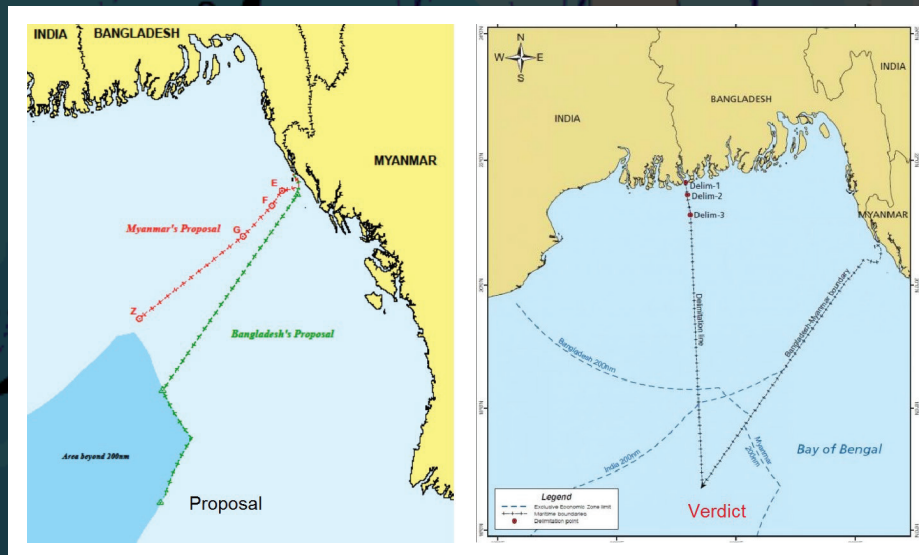


 **3.5 Million**  
Individual Healthcare  
Services Provided

 **50,000**  
Latrines Built

 **8,120**  
Drinking  
Wells Set Up





## 2. SETTling MARITIME BOUNDARIES

In two instances of amicably settling maritime boundary disputes with neighbours, Bangladesh took recourse to international institutions for arbitrating its maritime boundaries with Myanmar and India.

In July 2014, settling a longstanding India-Bangladesh maritime boundary dispute, the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) awarded Bangladesh 19,467 square kilometres out of 25,602 sq km disputed area in the Bay of Bengal. The verdict was delivered after nearly five years of argument and counter argument by the two nations, spot visit by judges and examination of survey reports. Dhaka lodged the case against New Delhi with the PCA on October 8, 2009.

Earlier, the same international institution, in March 2012, awarded Bangladesh 111,000 square kilometres of exclusive economic zone waters in the Bay of Bengal in a dispute with Myanmar, which includes all resources currently available for exploitation and all resources that may be discovered in the future. The tribunal also awarded Bangladesh a 12-mile territorial sea around St. Martin's Island, overruling Myanmar's argument that it should be divided in half.



Bangladesh is growing in the vision of Bangabandhu under the strong leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

**John Kerry**

former US Secretary of State



Bangabandhu founded Bangladesh and his daughter Sheikh Hasina saved it.

**Narendra Modi**

Indian Prime Minister

As a result of the two-arbitral awards, Bangladesh obtained absolute maritime territory of 1,18,813 square kilometers, 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and an additional area of continental shelf (sea bed) from the coast. The total area falling under the sovereign rights of Bangladesh makes up 81% of the mainland of Bangladesh. It is like that we have got another Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal as the whole area has nearly doubled through it.

The delimitation of sea boundary with Myanmar and India has also opened up a new window of opportunities in terms of harnessing resources and enhancing existing external trade. Marine life, fisheries, energy prospects, minerals, shipping etc. are some of the prospects to be tapped. Thus, Bangladesh now has embarked on the task on harnessing the potential of this 'Blue Economy'.

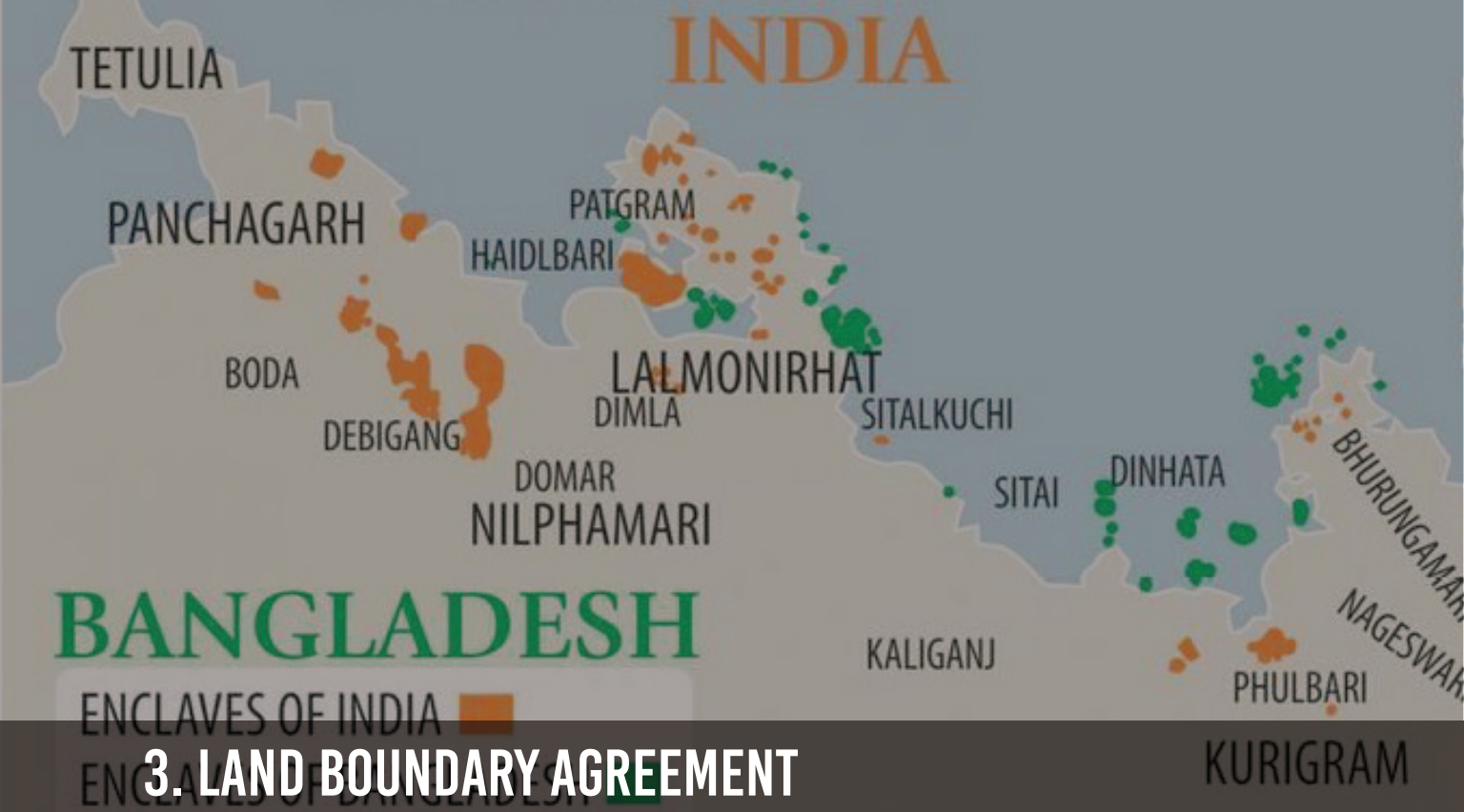
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh has already organized two international conferences on Blue

Economy to brainstorm on the way forward in this regard with local and international experts. Bangladesh is also working with local and international organizations such as World Bank and European Union to better understand what the blue economy is and why it matters.

Following the passing of the relevant law in 2015, the Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute (BORI) was established in Ramu, Cox's Bazar. From 2017, this institute has been functioning with aim of researching on the various aspects of Blue Economy, among others.

In June 2016, Bangladesh purchased a high-tech ocean research vessel to assess the country's marine resources within its Bay of Bengal boundary. The research and survey ship, built in Malaysia, is equipped with the latest technology for fisheries and other oceanographic research, and is playing a tremendous role in managing the marine resources well and improving the lifestyle of around 500,000 people living in the country's coastal areas who depend on fishing.





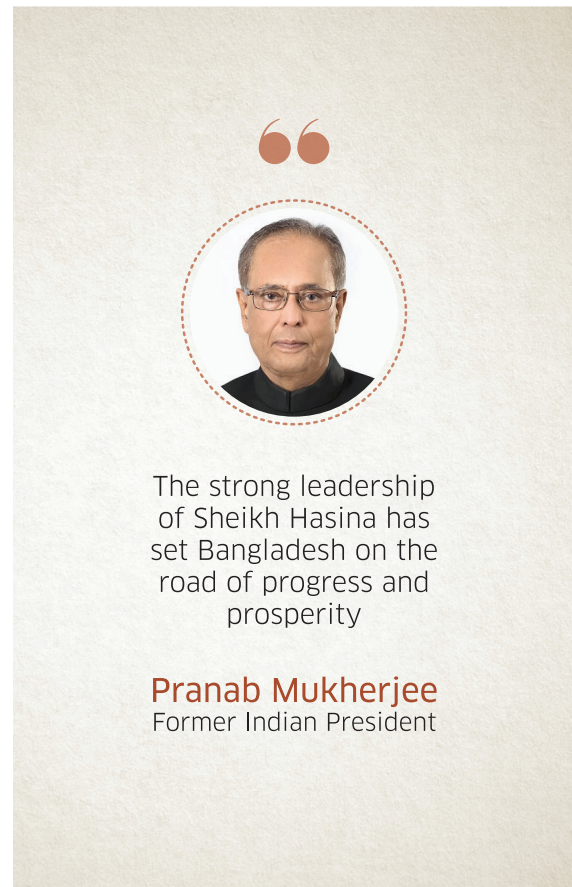
### 3. LAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

The issue of unresolved enclaves between India and Bangladesh was one of the most protracted and longstanding border disputes in the world. This came to a resolution on 6 June 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh when Prime Ministers Sheikh Hasina and Narendra Modi signed the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). The historic agreement facilitated the transfer of 111 enclaves, adding up to 17,160.63 acres, from India to Bangladesh. Conversely, India received 51 enclaves, adding up to 7,110.02 acres, which were in Bangladesh.

Although originally signed in 1974, it was during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh between June 6-7, 2015 that the 2011 Protocol and Instruments of ratification were exchanged. As a result, residents of 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India have been exchanged and enclave residents on both sides of the border can now, for the first time, enjoy the benefits of nationality of India or Bangladesh, as the case may be. It was a watershed moment on the morning of 1 August 2015 as the 68 years of stateless existence for over 51,000 enclave dwellers ended with hopes of a new beginning.

Since the signing of the LBA, Bangladesh has taken a number of economic and social steps to ensure that the new citizens of the enclaves can reap the benefits of citizenship. After carrying

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out surveys, land ownership of the people living in former enclaves have been ensured with handing over of the land records and map documents to the district administration. Measures to ensure healthcare, education and electricity were prioritized and fast tracked soon after the signing of the LBA.

Schools, colleges, roads, culverts, community clinics, places of worships are lighting up the lives of these former stateless people. The Government has also undertaken programmes to employ the people of these areas and rehabilitate the homeless, apart from starting credit programmes. The residents have been issued with National IDs and police outposts and stations have been set up for security. Around TK 200 Crore is earmarked annually in budget for development of the former enclaves.



## 4. REGIONAL COOPERATION

The Awami League Government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has put utmost emphasis in the last ten years on enhancing regional cooperation and connectivity. The policy has been simply. More connectivity means shared prosperity. To that end, Bangladesh has played a key and active role in several regional cooperation forums and initiatives.

**BIMSTEC:** Bangladesh is an active member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which also includes Thailand, Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka, and two landlocked Himalayan nations – Nepal and Bhutan. Bangladesh has used this forum to pursue issues such as climate change, food and energy securities, upgradation of cross-border transport linkages, security and terrorism, and harmonisation and liberalisation of trade procedures etc. From September 2014, Dhaka is the venue of the Secretariat of the BIMSTEC.

**BBIN:** Bangladesh is part of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-Indian-Nepal (BBIN) initiative, which envisages seamless road connectivity between these four countries. In January this year, India, Bangladesh and Nepal have agreed on the text of the passenger protocol, the document detailing procedures for cross-border movement of buses and private



Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal(BBIN)  
Motor Vehicle Agreement

vehicles. Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have already ratified the Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) and have agreed to start implementation of the MVA among the three signatory countries. Given that Bhutan has expressed its inability to presently join the initiative due to domestic compulsion, Bhutan has been given the option to join later. Around 600 KM of roads are being developed by Bangladesh as part of this and other connectivity initiatives.

**BCIM-EC and OBOR:** Bangladesh officially became part of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative in October 2016 during the landmark visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping when the two countries signed several deals worth \$21.5 billion. The most relevant aspect of the OBOR for Bangladesh is the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC), which is a sub-regional initiative for economic cooperation among the four countries to develop multimodal connectivity that would link East, Southeast and South Asia. The economic corridor is also known as the Southern Silk Road. Around 600 KM of roads are being developed by Bangladesh as part of this and other connectivity initiatives.

**Japan and BIG-B:** The Bay-of-Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative is the 'centrepiece' of Tokyo's cooperation in Dhaka. During Premier Shinzo Abe's landmark visit to Dhaka in September 2014, he floated the idea to Bangladesh as part of his grand design of combining the two oceanic regions - Pacific

Ocean and Indian Ocean - for more geo-political space to boost its economy and promised \$6 billion support under the project. Already under this project, Bangladesh has signed a billion dollar deal with Japan for construction of a port at Matarbari, Cox's Bazar.

**Trans Asian Railway and Asian Highway:** Bangladesh has joined the Trans Asian Railway network. The Trans-Asian Railway is an initiative by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Now Bangladesh is developing its rail to make it adequate to join this connectivity framework. In September 2016, Bangladesh signed a loan deal with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for \$1.5 billion for the construction of 102km of railway connecting Cox's Bazar to the railway network of Bangladesh and then connecting with Myanmar as part of the Trans-Asian Railway. Bangladesh is also developing 600 km of roads to connect with the Asian Highway.

HPM Sheikh Hasina with BIMSTEC leaders at 4th BIMSTEC Summit, Kathmandu, Nepal, August 2018



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## 5. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS - MDGS TO SDGS

Bangladesh was one of the few countries, which demonstrated outstanding success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Unsurprisingly, the country and its leader Sheikh Hasina has won a number of international awards in recognition of such successes. By the end of 2015, when the 15-years deadline for the MDGs came to an end, Bangladesh was on the right track in achieving most of the MDGs targets. Bangladesh met six out of eight global aspirations under the MDGs and has made significant progress in the respect of the other two. Bangladesh met several targets of the MDGs like reducing headcount poverty and poverty gap ratio, attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education, reducing under five mortality rate, containing HIV infection, children under five sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets, detection and cure rate of TB and others.

The country also saw remarkable progress in reducing the prevalence of underweight children, increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases. Bangladesh is also progressing fast as regards hunger-poverty reduction, employment generation, increasing primary school



Sheikh Hasina's leadership in socioeconomic development and ensuring gender equality is unmatched and also an example for the world to follow

**David Cameron**  
Former British Prime Minister



Sheikh Hasina has demonstrated leadership and vision in achieving MDGs in her country and setting an example for the world to follow

**Sir Jim Bolger**  
Prime Minister  
Special Envoy of New Zealand

completion and adult literacy rates, creation of decent wage employment for women, increasing presence of skilled health professionals at delivery, increase in correct and comprehensive knowledge on HIV/AIDS, increase in forest coverage, and coverage of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

As a result of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's experience with setting and achieving development goals, she was specifically consulted by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for formulating the next set of goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for the 2015-2030 era. Prime Minister Hasina is one of the few world leaders in power who was present during the meeting that finalized the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Bangladesh is currently aiming to lead the charge towards SDGs by example and has already started long term, mid-term and short-term efforts to replicate its MDGs successes in the SDGs.

Bangladesh has already started the process to implement the targets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Firstly, the country has accommodated the SDGs in its medium and long-term national development plans. Bangladesh integrated the 2030 Agenda in its 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). This offered a tremendous opportunity to implement the 2030 Agenda, while reflecting the priorities of the SDGs in the national plan.

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 formulation of the Action Plan and implementation of the SDGs. To spearhead the process, 'SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee' has been formed at the Prime Minister's Office to facilitate and implementation of SDGs Action Plan.

**Mapping of Ministries:** Bangladesh has clearly identified the responsibilities of the ministries and agencies to achieve the SDGs. Bangladesh has mapped out lead, co-lead and associate ministries against each target of the SDGs. This mapping exercise is expected to reduce duplication of efforts, enhance synergy and help formulate action plans.

**Data gap analysis:** Bangladesh Planning Commission conducted a review of various means of data generation in the country. It reveals that Bangladesh has data for 70 indicators and partially available data for 108 indicators but need to devise new mechanism for data mining for the remaining 63 indicators.

**National Monitoring & Evaluation Framework:** Bangladesh is in the process of finalizing a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for SDGs implementation. This framework will have a macro level web based data repository system to facilitate data collection, analysis, progress tracking and reporting. This is available for all to see in [SDG.GOV.BD](http://SDG.GOV.BD)

**Action Plan to achieve SDGs:** The Government is preparing an action plan for implementation of the SDGs in alignment with the 7th Five Year Plan. Respective ministries are working towards translating the particular targets into actionable projects/programmes/activities in this regard.

**Bangladesh has conducted a detailed study titled "SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective"** to determine the financing needs for SDGs implementation with a view to mobilizing internal and external resources. According to the study, Bangladesh requires \$928.48 billion additionally from 2017 to 2030 to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Assimilation of SDGs targets in Performance Agreement:** Bangladesh has introduced Annual Performance Agreement (APA), a results-based performance management system, across the whole spectrum of public sector assessing individual and ministries/agencies performance.



## 6: LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL ISSUES

Under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, not only Bangladesh has had a vocal leader well versed in critical issues in the last ten years, but the developing world too had a robust voice on the most pressing subjects.

### Women Empowerment

Prime Minister has been a long-standing advocate of women's rights and empowerment both at home and on the international stage. At home, she has been credited for incredible successes in recent years as regards women's education, women's economic empowerment, women's political empowerment, tackling child and early marriages, preventing violence against women, eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and extending the various social security allowances for women.

As a result, countries, which are still struggling in this issue, look up to Bangladesh and its leader Sheikh Hasina for guidance. Due to her contributions to women's multi-faceted development, empowerment and securing their rights, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Government has won a number of prestigious international awards in recent years.



Sheikh Hasina has demonstrated an exemplary commitment for women empowerment, rooting out militancy and terrorism, and strengthening democratic institutions

Princes Anne,  
daughter of UK's Queen Elizabeth II



Sheikh Hasina is the symbol of liberal progressive global leadership and her government's steps to protect child rights, especially the girl child, are praiseworthy

Anthony Lake  
UNICEF Executive Director

## Migration and Refugees

In addition to her laudable humanitarian role in sheltering the Rohingyas, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is playing a vocal and active role on the international stage addressing the topics of migration and refugees for quite some time. In international circles, Sheikh Hasina is a relentless advocate for ensuring safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration. With the country's limited resources, Sheikh Hasina's Government is continuing to bear its responsibilities for a large number of refugees and displaced people from Myanmar stranded in Bangladesh for years. Her government is investing in their security, health, education and skills.

Sheikh Hasina's Government also has taken a number of steps to ensure safe and lawful migration abroad from Bangladesh. For playing an active role in safeguarding the interests of its overseas and migrant workers, Bangladesh was elected as the Chair of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2015 and hosted the 9th GFMD Summit in Dhaka in December 2016.

## Climate Change

Bangladesh is a country, which stands to lose most due to the adverse impacts of climate

change. Keeping this in mind, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recent years has been a vociferous proponent of taking concrete international actions to guard against such affects. In the international arena, she has been advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable countries to the developed nations for extending the help and resources promised, including technological assistance. Bangladesh was also instrumental in the international negotiations leading up to the climate change agreement during COP21 in Paris in 2015. In September 2016, Bangladesh became one of the first countries in the world to ratify the Paris climate change agreement.

Previously, Bangladesh played a bright role in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. Under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, Bangladesh became part of the "Vulnerable 20" or "V20", which is a group of 19 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The aim of the group is to ensure greater cooperation to foster increase in public and private finance for climate action. In September 2016, Bangladesh became the chairman of a new coalition named "Delta Coalition", bringing some low-lying countries together aimed at preventing floods and rendering urban deltas resilient against climate change.



## Leading Developing Nations

Bangladesh has always been a vocal voice on behalf of the developing world in international forums. A key role was played by Bangladesh in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015. In October 2015, Bangladesh was unanimously elected the new Chairman of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This Bureau works with the UN Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, coordinating programmes for the LDCs. Since becoming a member of the LDCs back in 1974, Bangladesh has always remained an active member promoting and protecting the interests of the member countries. As a result, the LDCs and their friends praised Bangladesh's Presidency at their Annual Ministerial Meeting in September 2016 at New York.

## ICT for Development

Since 2009, Sheikh Hasina has been spearheading the 'Digital Bangladesh' initiative in Bangladesh. The aim was to harness the power of technology to enable the people of her country to turn around their lives. Pursuant to that, her office, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) established the Access to Information (a2i) programme with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She has helped set up over 5,000 Union Digital Centers (UDCs) which is providing 200 types of free digital services to people across the country, especially in the rural areas.

In order to make public services and information more accessible to the people, she has helped set up the largest government website in the world, which hosts 25,000 websites under one platform for instant information dissemination among the people. These, along with other initiatives, which is helping the country's development through harnessing the power of ICT, has won Bangladesh and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a number of international awards in recent times. In fact, other countries too are now trying to replicate the vision of Bangladesh. In 2015, Bangladesh signed a deal with its South Asian neighbour, Maldives, to help it build a "Digital Maldives" in the style of the concept of 'Digital Bangladesh'.



Sheikh Haisna is a woman of courage and is a strong voice on the globe in women empowerment. It is her able leadership that made Bangladesh a champion in the field of global education first initiative.

**Irina Bokova**

UNESCO Director General



Sheikh Hasina is a pillar for women's rights in South Asia

**Marie-Claude Bibeau**

Canadian Minister of International Development



Bangladesh advanced much in establishing "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Your (Sheikh Hasina) role in establishing world peace and security is praiseworthy.

**Ban Ki-moon**

former United Nations Secretary General



## Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Since coming to power for the second time in 2009, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Government has declared a "zero-tolerance" policy towards terrorism and violent extremism. For dismantling the home-grown terrorist networks and regional and international outfits aiming to use Bangladesh's soil for mounting attacks inside the country and elsewhere, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Government have been highly praised on a regular basis by numerous countries, world leaders and international and regional organizations.

The comprehensive annual 'US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism' has consistently praised Sheikh Hasina's Government in Bangladesh for its successes and efforts to take the fight against terrorists and violent extremists. Due to the global nature of

the threat, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Government has been working with its partners abroad on an international, regional as well as bilateral levels including in areas such as legal and justice frameworks, intelligence sharing and capacity enhancing. Bangladesh's successes in tackling terrorism financing and money laundering have also received international praise.

## UN Peacekeeping

As of 30 April 2018, Bangladesh is the second largest personnel contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions with 6,992 police, military experts and troops on the ground in various conflict-ridden parts of the part. There are multiple instances of Bangladeshi peacekeepers laying down their lives in the service of world peace. In terms of troops and police contributions, Bangladesh is currently the fourth largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions around the world.



Bangladesh  
is now a brandname  
in peacekeeping

**Atul Kharev**  
UN Under Secretary  
General of Department of  
Field Support (DFS)



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## 7: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The last ten years has witnessed a massive influx of foreign direct investment into Bangladesh as well as rising export earnings to a widening number of countries owing to an extended export basket.

Bangladesh received foreign direct investment worth \$2.798 billion in the just concluded 2017-18 fiscal year. Only ten years ago, the net inflow of FDI into Bangladesh was less than \$1 billion. Year-on-year from 2009 to 2018, the rise in FDI inflow has been noticeable and with it the efforts of the government.

To attract more foreign investment and streamline the processes, Bangladesh opened a new agency in September 2016, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). The new body was formed by merging the the Board of Investment (BoI) and the Privatisation Commission. A 17-member committee headed by the Prime Minister and other senior ministers, bureaucrats and industry stakeholders, regulate BIDA. BIDA is now working tirelessly to improve Bangladesh's ranking in the 'Doing Business Index', with the aim of pushing the country in the top 100 within the year 2021.

Bangladesh is also experiencing a golden age of external trade and commerce. Bangladesh's

annual export earnings now stand at US\$34.8 billion which was less than half only ten years ago standing at US\$15.6 billion. While readymade garments continue to dominate, other sectors such as pharmaceuticals, leather, ceramics, handicrafts, ICT etc. are also on the horizon and on the rise. Imports have also witnessed a corresponding and healthy rise in the same period, with annual import now standing at US\$47.0 billion increasing from US\$22.5 billion in 2009.

To take foreign investment and trade to the next level, the Government has embarked on a plan for a huge number of special economic zones across the country. The mission is to establish 100 economic zones in 30,000 hectares of land by 2030. Establishment of 76 economic zones has been approved so far and the Hon'ble Prime Minister herself has inaugurated 10 of them. Foreign and local investors have started setting up industries in these zones. Development works of additional 26 economic zones are under way. It is expected that after the establishment of the economic zones, export earnings will increase by additional US\$40 billion and 10 million more jobs will be created.



## 8: SUCCESS IN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

Earnings sent by Bangladeshis working abroad are a principal source of foreign currency earning by the country. Total remittance received by Bangladesh in fiscal year 2017-18 was \$14.98 billion, which was only \$7.9 billion in the 2007-08 FY. The biggest factor in this burgeoning rise in remittance earnings is the number of Bangladeshis who have went abroad with jobs in the last ten years.

According to the Bangladesh Government's Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, a total of 51, 98,914 (more than 5.1 million) male and female Bangladeshi workers have been able to fetch overseas employment between 2009 and 2017. In 2018, the Awami League Government is planning to send more 1.1 million workers abroad with jobs. Currently about 13 million Bangladeshis are employed in 162 countries and they remit annually around US\$ 15 billion to the country.

As a result of the current government's successful labour diplomacy, Bangladeshi workers have secured overseas employment in 165 countries. All 3 data cited has broken all previous records, during all previous governments. These successes came despite the global economic recession and unrest in Middle East and North African labour markets for Bangladeshi workers. To ensure only legal and safe migration, the Government has formulated

a strict law against human trafficking. Additionally, 29 labour wings are working aboard in key diplomatic missions to assist Bangladeshi workers with their issues.

The fact that the Government of Bangladesh is running a number of programmes to impart essential skills training to overseas job seekers has also contributed to the success. There is now at least one vocational training centre in every district of the country. During 2009-2017, 1.75 million people aspiring for going abroad for jobs have been trained in these training centres. The government is helping to develop skilled workers in 48 different trades and also has 70 technical training centres (TTC) for such development. It is also constructing 40 training centres at upazila level with 50 more in the pipeline. The Government is providing foreign language training to overseas job seekers from across the country.





## 9: SHEIKH HASINA'S INFLUENCE

### Fortune's World's Greatest Leaders

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was named in the Fortune Magazine's 2016 annual list of the World's Greatest Leaders. The magazine published the list of 50 top leaders in politics, business and activism in March 2016 this year. Sheikh Hasina was No. 10 in the annual ranking. The magazine states that Sheikh Hasina is the only female leader among the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states to make it to the list. It adds

"Hasina has deftly navigated the competing demands of Islamic tradition and women's rights...She has committed Bangladesh, the nation with the world's fourth-largest Muslim population, to securing legal protections for women and helping them attain more education, financial freedom, and political power...About 30% of adult women in Bangladesh now have at least a secondary education and the nation scores better on the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index than any other South Asian country..."

### UNEP's Champion of the Earth

In September 2015, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the highest environmental accolade of the United Nations, the Champion of

the Earth, in recognition of her government's far-reaching initiatives to address climate change. According to UNEP: "Serving as Prime Minister of Bangladesh - one of the world's least-developed countries - Sheikh Hasina has proven that investing in climate change is conducive to achieving social and economic development".

### Foreign Policy's Leading Global Thinker

In December 2015, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made it to the exclusive club of 100 leading global thinkers of the world as determined by the influential Washington-based journal Foreign Policy. She was named among the 13 top global thinkers in the category "Decision-Makers" for her outstanding contribution to addressing the issue of climate change. Every year, Foreign Policy magazine recognizes the world's pre-eminent thought leaders in its annual issue, "100 Leading Global Thinkers".

### Forbes' Most Powerful Women

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina features regularly on the annual Forbes' Magazine's list of "The World's Most Powerful 100 Women". In the latest such edition of 2018, Sheikh Hasina was listed as the 30th most powerful woman in the world.

# 2018 Global Summit of Women Creating Economies of Shared Value



## 10: INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Over the years, Sheikh Hasina and her government has received a number of awards, accolades and recognition for various aspects of her leadership.

The following are some, but not all, of such awards:

2018

Global Women's Leadership Award for "outstanding leadership in advancing women education and women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, Asia and the Asia-Pacific region" at the Global Summit of Women 2018, Sydney, Australia.

2016

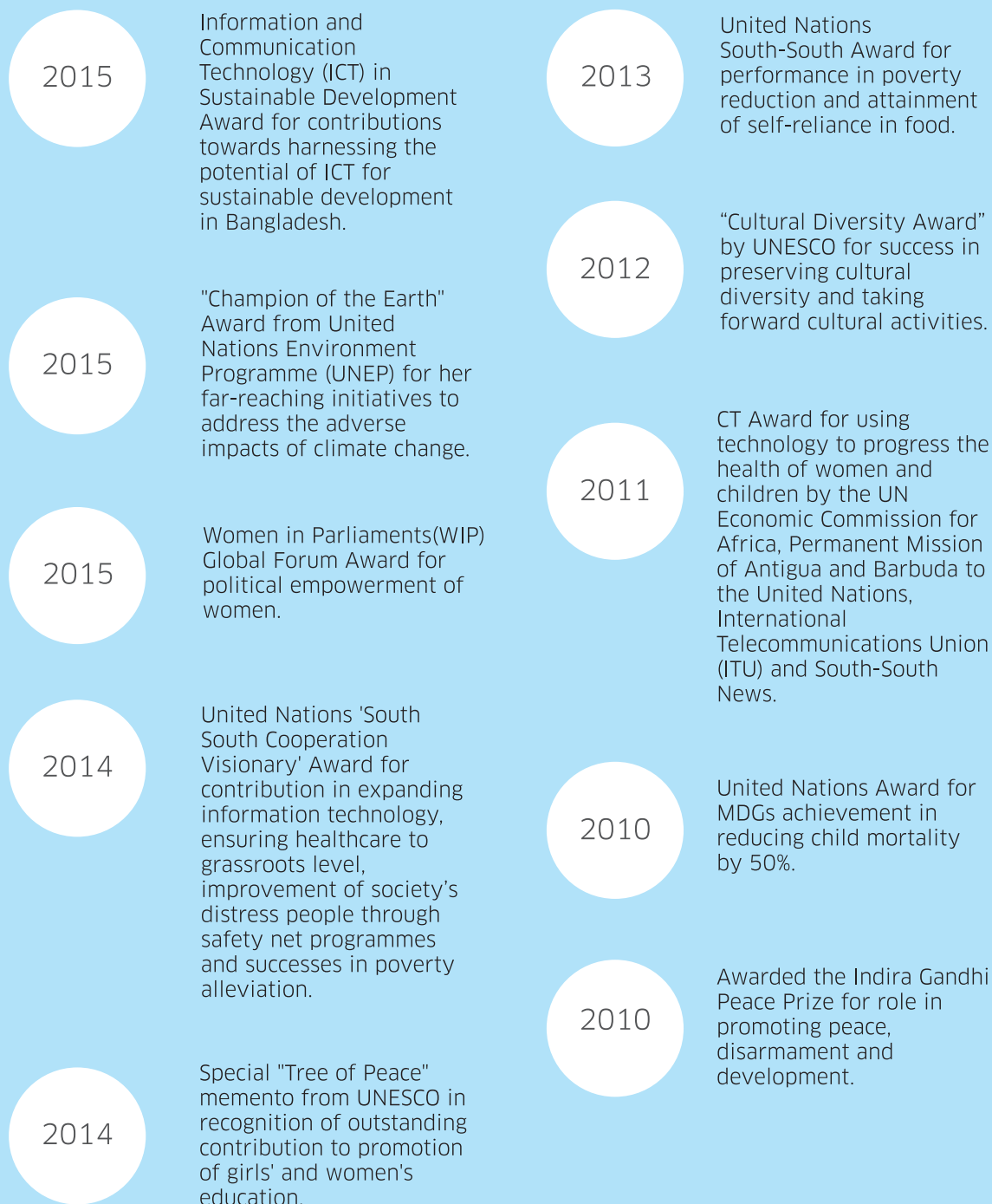
"Planet 50-50 Champion" and "Agent of Change" Awards from Global Forum for Development and United Nations (UN) Women for outstanding contributions to women empowerment.

2018

UN Office for South South Cooperation and UNESCO award for building social innovation partnership through South-South Network for public service innovation

2016  
2014

For consecutive three years, a2i programme under the Prime Minister's Office has won the world's most prestigious award for excellence in information technology, the "World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)" Award for its various IT related initiatives, which have significantly contributed to the uplift of people's lives in Bangladesh.



# 11: DECADE IN IMAGES







## Bangladesh on the International Stage 2009-2018

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